



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING

STUDY SESSION MINUTES

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022, 1:00 PM

201 S. Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86303
Council Chambers

Phil Goode, Mayor

Cathey Rusing, Mayor Pro Tem

Brandon Montoya, Councilman

Eric Moore, Councilman

Jessica Hall, Councilwoman

Steve Sischka, Councilman

Clark Tenney, Councilman

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF THE PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION HELD
ON JUNE 28, 2022, IN THE 201 S. CORTEZ STREET PRESCOTT, AZ 86303 COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Goode called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Phil Goode	Mayor
Cathey Rusing	Mayor Pro Tem
Jessica Hall	Councilwoman – arrived at 1:10 p.m. & participated via Zoom
Brandon Montoya	Councilman
Eric Moore	Councilman
Steve Sischka	Councilman
Clark Tenney	Councilman - excused

3. DISCUSSION

- A. Prescott-Caborca Sister City Committee 50th Anniversary Committee Presentation and Update.

Economic Initiatives Manager Ann Steward introduced members from the Sister Cities Committee and stated that it has been a pleasure to assist the Committee. It is the hope that this presentation will help with a better understanding of the program and possible funding beginning in FY2024.

Sister Cities Committee President Noel De Sousa provided a presentation to Council. The organization would like city leaders to feel they are part of the organization. They are a 501(c)3 run exclusively by volunteers.

Committee Mission is: Focuses community interest in building a better climate toward world understanding; fulfills the desire of the citizens of the Prescott area to learn about the people of “Heroica” Caborca, Sonora, Mexico through reciprocal visits and cultural and educational exchange programs.

Sister Cities Committee Member Will Fisher added that Prescott was voted the best overall program in our population bracket by Sister Cities International.

Characteristics of Caborca:

- * Population - 67,600
- * Tohono O'odham Indians
- * Gulf of California, Sea of Cortez
- * Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Caborca
- * Hot Desert Climate
- * Food - Crab Expedition, Asparagus, Beef Cattle known as the best in Mexico, table grapes, raisins and wine
- * Gold & Silver Mining
- * Universidad de Sonora

Mr. De Sousa discussed that cities are selected because of similarities they have with one another. Cultural exchange is one of the main focus points and a number of events are organized throughout the year. Typically try to meet four times per year, though COVID has limited that in the past few years. This is the 50th Anniversary year for the organization and would like Council to be involved in the events.

Mayor Pro Tem Rusing thanked the group for their presentation and asked if they carry an insurance policy for coverage of fraudulent apps and if they can submit a profit/loss statement.

Mr. De Sousa said they do have insurance, though he doesn't know about the expense of a CPA for review of a profit/loss statement but they could certainly provide one as part of their budget process.

Councilman Moore thanked the group for their time and efforts and commented that he would like to be involved in any events and efforts.

Mr. Fisher said he will keep everyone updated.

Mayor Goode thanked Mr. De Sousa and Mr. Fisher and wished them luck.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

B. Presentation and Discussion Regarding City Council Attendance Policy and Updates to the Council Rules of Procedure.

City Clerk Sarah Siep provided a presentation to Council regarding an inquiry from Council earlier this year related to the City's attendance policy. Staff has reviewed the Charter and the Council Rules of Procedure as it relates to attendance and absenteeism at Council Meetings. The City Clerk's Office also reached out to other jurisdictions for their policies related to attendance. While many jurisdictions have references similar to the City of Prescott's related to attendance, none specifically reference "consent". Staff's recommendation in these reviews is to include language referencing the Charter within the Council's Rules of Procedure with some more specific definitions to address attendance and hold further updates to be part of the overall Charter Review and Amendments at a future election.

Mayor Goode thanked staff for looking into this matter, it was difficult to define what we currently have in place. Overall intention is to review the City Charter, but in between time Council Rules of Procedure would prevail and this would be an appropriate time to clarify that issue.

Ms. Siep read through the suggested revised language.

Mayor Goode commented that allowances for emergencies would be appropriate in the language.

Councilman Montoya asked for clarification about of the addition of the Council Subcommittees to the language and definitions. He feels this is a good step forward.

Ms. Siep and City Attorney Joseph Young confirmed that staff felt it was appropriate to include the Subcommittees so the members are held to the same standards and that absences at Subcommittee Meetings would be considered separately from absences at Council Meetings.

Mayor Good asked staff to provide more specific language related to the Subcommittees.

Mayor Pro Tem Rusing suggested inserting language regarding "in case of emergency".

Mr. Young said staff can address those suggestions. He added that, in large part in 1979 Council would not have met three times in one day, so staff is attempting to address some of the issues related to this policy having been established many years ago.

Mayor Goode concurred.

Councilman Moore asked if proposed Charter amendments would be on the 2023 ballot.

Ms. Siep responded that it was not likely. Review of the Charter, similar to the General Plan, is complex and must be done thoroughly. She stated that 2025 would be more appropriate.

Mayor Goode concurred.

Councilman Montoya asked if there is a definition of “attendance” for example virtual options.

Ms. Siep responded that it could be added in if Council desired to have that included, but it is not already there.

Mr. Young stated that he would like the Council’s feedback on that, however, based on the City Charter it would be difficult to prevent someone from participating via Zoom and the Council could get in a sticky situation if they didn’t allow a member to vote via Zoom.

Mayor Goode expressed his concerns with inadequacies in electronic participation, particularly during an E-Session when they cannot share materials electronically. Allowing attendance in this matter can be less than adequate. He would like to have that looked into further.

Mayor Pro Tem Rusing stated that of all representatives at the Federal, State and County it is local Council representation that is most impactful and in her opinion Zoom participation should be limited.

Mr. Young said the Council can set limits or not allow Zoom at all if they chose to do so.

Councilman Sischka said he has concerns about Zoom participation in Executive Sessions because you don’t know who is in those meetings with the member of Council. He added that the consecutive meetings section is confusing to him.

Mr. Young said it does concern him as well, but that is a decision for the Council. They could decide that you can Zoom in for regular meetings but not Executive Sessions but it would have to

be uniform and would have to be established by the Council. One day of meetings would be one meeting and we can have the language reflect that, so it is more obvious.

Mayor Goode added that when you run for and are elected to City Council you are expected to represent the voters and should attend the meetings and study the issues and make good decisions.

Councilman Montoya stated that his understanding was that per the Charter each meeting is it's own, and in his opinion the expectation needs to be clear.

Mr. Young confirmed that the language of the Charter would allow a person to miss two meetings/attend, miss two/attend etc. We need a procedure, but the specifics of it need to come from the direction of Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Rusing also brought up texting during public meetings, she stated that it looks inconsiderate and could be a quorum issue. She would like to see that addressed.

Mayor Goode said that is a different issue, but we could address that in the Charter review.

Councilman Sischka asked staff to talk about the add section for the Call to the Public.

Ms. Siep read additional suggested revisions related to the Call to the Public having been added to the Voting Meeting Agendas.

Mayor Goode asked if it is necessary to have that in the Council Rules of Procedure.

Staff responded that it is not but would be at the desire of Council.

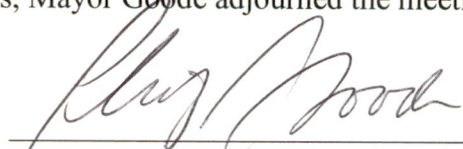
Councilman Moore and Mayor Pro Tem Rusing stated that they would like to have it included.

Council consensus to bring forward the revisions to the language at one of the July voting meetings for approval.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Goode adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.



PHILIP R. GOODE, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah M. Siep
SARAH M. SIEP, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council Study Session of the City of Prescott, Arizona held on June 28, 2022. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 13 day of July, 2022.



Sarah M. Siep
Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk