

MINUTES

JOINT CITY/COUNTY WORK SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
211 WEST ASPEN AVENUE
4:00 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Mayor Evans called the Flagstaff Work Session of June 17, 2013, to order at 4:01 p.m.

Notice of Option to Recess Into Executive Session

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the City Council and to the general public that, at this regular meeting, the City Council may vote to go into executive session, which will not be open to the public, for legal advice and discussion with the City's attorneys for legal advice on any item listed on the following agenda, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3).

2. **ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers present:

Flagstaff City Council
VICE MAYOR EVANS
COUNCILMEMBER BAROTZ
COUNCILMEMBER BREWSTER
COUNCILMEMBER ORAVITS
COUNCILMEMBER WOODSON

Coconino County Board of Supervisors
SUPERVISOR BABBOTT
SUPERVISOR FOWLER
SUPERVISOR METZGER
SUPERVISOR RYAN

Councilmembers absent:

MAYOR NABOURS
COUNCILMEMBER OVERTON

CHAIRWOMAN ARCHULETA

Others present: City Manager Kevin Burke, County Manager Mike Townsend, Interim City Attorney Michelle D'Andrea.

3. **Public Participation (Non-Agenda Items Only):**

Public Participation enables the public to address the council about items that **are not** on the prepared agenda. Public Participation appears on the agenda twice, at the beginning and at the end of the work session. You may speak at one or the other, but not both. Anyone wishing to comment at the meeting is asked to fill out a speaker card and submit it to the recording clerk. When the item comes up on the agenda, your name will be called. You may address the Council up to three times throughout the meeting, including comments made during Public Participation. Please limit your remarks to three minutes

per item to allow everyone to have an opportunity to speak. At the discretion of the Chair, ten or more persons present at the meeting and wishing to speak may appoint a representative who may have no more than fifteen minutes to speak.

None.

4. Joint Recognition of Agencies Responding to Meteor Crater Incident.

Vice Mayor Evans presented Certificates of Appreciation to the responders of the Meteor Crater Incident in January 2013.

Certificates were presented to:

Coconino County Search and Rescue
Maricopa County Mountain Rescue Posse
Department of Public Safety Rangers
Guardian Air
Flagstaff Fire Department
Meteor Crater Enterprises
ACE HomeCo

5. Presentation on Walnut Canyon.

Coconino County Government Relations Manager Joanne Keene provided a brief history of the Walnut Canyon study and introduced Lisa Leap, Acting Superintendent for Flagstaff Area National Monuments, who provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Walnut Canyon Study which addressed:

- ▶ BACKGROUND
- ▶ WALNUT CANYON STUDY AREA
- ▶ ACT DIRECTS TO ASSESS
- ▶ SPECIAL STUDY PROCESS
- ▶ MARCH 24-25, 2011 WORKSHOP
- ▶ OPTIONS NOT CARRIED FORWARD
- ▶ CRITERIA FOR NEW NPS UNIT
- ▶ NPS BOUNDARY EXPANSION
- ▶ CRITERIA FOR BOUNDARY EXPANSION
- ▶ OPTIONS CARRIED FORWARD
- ▶ CONGRESSIONAL SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
- ▶ CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTION
- ▶ AZ STATE TRUST LANDS SECTIONS 10, 20, 22, 28, and 30
- ▶ NEXT STEPS

Supervisor Metzger asked for Ms. Leap to explain the difference between what might be recommended as a result of the study and the National Park expansion of the boundary that would be a separate action.

Ms. Leap explained that expansion can take its own track; it has an entire internal process. Expansion is outside the scope of this study because NEPA process would have to be followed. At the beginning of the process it was determined that expansion would not be included due to the required NEPA process.

Supervisor Metzger clarified that during the meetings people did not fully understand that if the study goes forward as is, it would not eliminate the opportunity for park expansion. Park expansion is still available should it fulfill the NEPA and other requirements.

Councilmember Barotz noted that when the report is complete and it has gone through its entire process up to the secretaries, it is possible they could choose not to act on it. Ms. Leap agreed and suggested that it is up to the Park Service to keep pushing it forward and not to forget about it when it leaves the office.

Supervisor Babbott asked for clarification on when in the process options were eliminated. Ms. Leap responded it was at the 2011 workshop where the different options were shuffled around and eliminated.

Supervisor Babbott suggested that Proposition 119 represents some good opportunities moving forward to protect higher value properties and asked Ms. Leap if there was additional information about linking state and federal agencies to get the mechanics of how the exchanges of Proposition 119 make that work. Ms. Leap stated that she is not part of those discussions and has little information. She did indicate that there is some work going on down south in relation to this and will be following that process to see how things are done and what might be able to be done going forward.

Supervisor Metzger requested that a list of the most common questions and answers be created as a handout for reference by the public.

6. Update on *Flagstaff Regional Plan: Vision 2030*.

Comprehensive Planning Manager Kimberly Sharp addressed the Flagstaff City Council and the Coconino County Board of Supervisors to coordinate the Regional Plan review schedule. She said it is important to pin down the schedule for the public hearings as a legal notification has to be mailed to all residents.

Ms. Sharp outlined the outreach over the last 60 days. There were over 700 comments gathered during this time. It is important to note that every single group that was presented to brought up a single issue...they were concerned that City voters are able to vote on the plan in the spring but the County is not.

Councilmember Oravits asked for clarification on the City Council and Board of Supervisor voting process, whether the vote is done together or individually. Mr. Burke offered that the group has been leaning towards each entity voting on their own for the plan. However, the discussions are expected to be substantive and allow for the flushing things out if necessary and the proposal of changes. It still does remain a question though.

Councilmember Oravits expressed concern with County residents not being able to vote on this plan. There is an issue of representation that has to be considered, two jurisdictions are being blurred. There is discussion already in the next legislative session to make changes at the state level because of this complication.

Mr. Burke offered that the Council will have to call the question for the May ballot by December; any fix in the next legislative session is going to affect this process. Staff will

be proceeding under the assumption that there will be votes by both elected bodies and finally the City voters at the election.

Vice Mayor Evans stated that the two joint meetings with the City Council and Board of Supervisors will be the time to collectively address and discuss any concerns or changes.

Ms. Sharp indicated that if there are substantial changes to the plan it must go back to the County Planning and Zoning Commission. It is possible that this may happen and it will be important to have a Plan B in place because of the significant time impact.

Supervisor Babbott stated that the time to get the two chambers thinking about agreement is as soon as possible; a two-week window may not be enough time, if the adoption action is very close to the discussion there may not be enough time to make changes.

Vice Mayor Evans suggested that Plan B would be to put the Regional Plan on the November ballot instead of May.

Supervisor Ryan added that the important piece is having the City Council vote last. The City Council and Board of Supervisors are trying to offer as much opportunity possible for people to comment on the Regional Plan. The Board of Supervisor meetings are an opportunity for County residents to offer their thoughts, opinions, and ideas.

Mr. Burke offered that the Regional Plan University is a great opportunity to learn about the content of the plan. During the sessions staff reviews the content with elected and appointed officials to get a better idea on areas that may want to be discussed/debated at a future time.

Vice Mayor Evans stated that the university classes are open to the public as well.

7. Presentation on the Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience.

Stormwater Manager David McKee introduced the Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience (AWWE) team: Rick Miller, retired Wildlife Biologist; Tom Makin, President of Arizona Wildlife Federation; Shelly Shepard with Game and Fish; Jessica Gist with Game and Fish; Jean Tribianou with Coconino County; and Lauren with the Coconino National Forest.

Ms. Gist offered a PowerPoint presentation on the Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience. She stated the AWWE sees Flagstaff as a model and hopes to move this program to other communities.

- ▶ A SHARED VISION
- ▶ AWWE
- ▶ THE BIG PICTURE
- ▶ WATCHABLE WILDLIFE NETWORK
- ▶ AZWATCHWILDLIFE.COM
- ▶ STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Makin continued the presentation.

- ▶ ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF AWWE
- ▶ DATA SOURCES

Ms. Gist continued the presentation.

- ▶ INTEGRATING WITH BUSINESS
- ▶ WHAT MAKES AWWE UNIQUE
- ▶ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- ▶ AWWE BENEFITS THE COMMUNITY IN MANY WAYS

City Council and Board of Supervisors expressed their support of the project.

Supervisor Metzger urged the group to keep in mind and consider the impacts of the increased visitation, good and bad; impacts such as road maintenance, illegal dumping and law enforcement.

Supervisor Babbott suggested an outreach campaign to the outdoor providers and retailers in the area.

Supervisor Ryan noted that ADA access information should be included in the materials and communicated to the public. Ms. Gist stated that the information provided on the site does offer information on access but the group is looking to reach out to impacted groups for input.

9. Update on Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project.

Mark Brehl, Wildland Fire Leadworker for the Flagstaff Fire Department, offered a PowerPoint update on the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP).

Mr. Brehl noted that the project is well on track and all partners are putting forth a great effort.

- ▶ STATUS UPDATE
- ▶ PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR PLANNED ACTIVITIES (MAP)
- ▶ PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR MORMON MOUNTAIN (MAP)
- ▶ ORGANIZATION
- ▶ DEMO UNITS
- ▶ NEPA TIMELINE – 2013
- ▶ NEPA TIMELINE – 2014
- ▶ KEY MESSAGES
- ▶ QUESTIONS

Mr. Burke reported that on Friday, June 14, 2013, the City was able to pick up the agreement from State Land and State Forestry allowing the commencement of planning and treatment on State Lands within the Watershed Protection Project area. Mr. Brehl added that the State is conducting a current Conditions Report to help prioritize treatment in those areas.

Supervisor Ryan offered the assumption that since the State uses a different process some of the State pieces of land would be first to move forward. Mr. Brehl responded

that the State could move forward first, but the process is new for them as well and the partners will be working together to work it all out.

Councilmember Woodson clarified that the work is being done separate to the 4FRI project, but also in conjunction with it. He inquired as to the progress of the work being done outside this project in relation to 4FRI.

Erin Phelps, United States Forest Service Project Manager for the FWPP, offered that 4FRI has compiled all of the received comments and they are still refining information for the final EIS. It is believed that the projects will be running concurrently in different areas. She has spoken to the 4FRI leadership about prioritizing treatment areas especially around Mormon Mountain since the FWPP is treating such a small portion of that area.

Councilmember Woodson asked for a five year outlook timeline for the 4FRI project to parallel with the FWPP

Supervisor Fowler asked for more information about the activities associated with the demo project. Mr. Brehl offered that the prescription for the area is going to be thinning focused on removing diseased, dead, or dying trees. The demos will be carried out on a much steeper slope to analyze how the equipment operates under the conditions. This will help to determine if the equipment is viable for other areas of the project with similar terrain. Different treatment methods are also being analyzed to determine effectiveness in the given area.

Supervisor Babbott requested that the elected officials be invited to these demonstrations. Mr. Brehl stated that the group had discussed having a tour during operations but it looks to be too dangerous. They are considering having a tour post treatment. Supervisor Babbott asked for this to be reconsidered in order for officials to have a good comprehension of the activities that are being carried out.

Supervisor Babbott asked for the acreage total of the Dry Lake Hills area that has gone through NEPA. Ms. Phelps stated that 1800 acres have gone through NEPA; some were identified as no treatment and hand thinning only due to the presence of spotted owls and rugged terrain.

Supervisor Metzger asked if the plan involved using the spider and the plans for dealing with the slash. Mr. Brehl stated that the spider is not a local piece of equipment so they are looking for local capacity for equipment that can handle the steep slopes. The intent is to try to figure out what can be done with the slash and material on steep slopes when it cannot be removed. It will be treated on site with the use of windrows and piling and different methods which would likely involve burning of the slash piles on site.

10. Informational Items To/From Chairman, Supervisors and County Manager/Mayor, Council and City Manager.

Supervisor Ryan thanked the City Council for meeting with the Board of Supervisors and appreciated that the meetings show different collaborative efforts in the community.

He also congratulated City Attorney Michelle D'Andrea on her appointment.

Supervisor Babbott encouraged the City Council and Board of Supervisors to look for efficiencies with resources such as shared facilities and opportunities to collaborate on planning and operations.

Supervisor Babbott also requested a freeform policy discussion on regional economic development opportunities.

Councilmember Barotz reported that last Friday, she and City staff members McKenzie Jones, Sustainability Specialist, and David McKee, Stormwater Manager, traveled to Phoenix to the Arizona Historic Preservation Conference to accept the Governors award. The grand award winner was Pinal County for the restoration of their courthouse. Councilmember Barotz was happy to represent the City and the County in accepting this award.

Councilmember Barotz reported that on June 29, 2013, there will be an event at Picture Canyon to celebrate the great milestone in City and County history. Remarks will start at 9:30 a.m. with a tour earlier.

Councilmember Brewster reported that Secretary of State Ken Bennett will be in Flagstaff on Thursday to talk about Arizona Economic Development.

Supervisor Fowler provided an update on the highway to Page. The N20 on Navajo Nation Coppermine Road had a ground breaking and is scheduled to be paved by August 19. In the meantime people are still traveling the 98 to get to Page.

Vice Mayor Evans shared her delight in having the Board of Supervisors here at the meeting and appreciated the opportunities for discussion.

11. **Adjournment**

The Flagstaff Joint City Council / County Board of Supervisors Meeting of June 17, 2013, adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK