



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020, 2:00 PM

Council Chambers, 201 South Cortez Street

Prescott AZ 86303

(928) 777-1272

Greg Mengarelli, Mayor

Billie Orr, Mayor Pro Tem

Steve Blair, Councilman

Phil Goode, Councilman

Cathey Rusing, Councilmember

Alexa Scholl, Councilwoman

Steve Sischka, Councilman

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION MEETING OF THE PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL HELD ON JANUARY 28, 2020, in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 201 SOUTH CORTEZ STREET, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mengarelli called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Greg Mengarelli	Mayor
Billie Orr	Mayor Pro Tem
Steve Blair	Councilman
Phil Goode	Councilman
Cathey Rusing	Councilmember
Alexa Scholl	Councilwoman
Steve Sischka	Councilman

3. DISCUSSION

A. Water Trend Analysis Update from Gary Woodard

Consultant Gary Woodard provided a presentation to Council regarding the city's potable water production trends which are seen by many municipalities throughout Arizona. Over the last two years water has flat-lined despite the 3.3% population increase, conservation efforts continue as well.

Goals:

- * Develop detailed understanding of current water supply and demand patterns, including
 - Examining data at the individual customer level
 - Separating indoor vs outdoor demand
- * Examine recent trends in numbers and types of customers and per-customer usage
- * Model water demands and supplies based on statistical analysis of patterns and trends in order to

- Forecast out to the year 2030
- Support Scenario Analysis

In looking at usage there is various information available at the household level, Mr. Woodard also worked with the County Assessor's Office to pull data over last several years, used census numbers and statistics from the conservation program, rate study and annual reports by AZ Department of Resources, etc. Most of the water that is pumped goes to sewer and watered customers and is used for recharge and or golf course, there are areas where water escapes such as evaporations, metered outdoor evaporation, reclaimed golf irrigation, indoor uses to septic, potable system leaks, indoor uses on sewer, recharge basin evaporation and unmetered uses.

One of the most important steps the city can take to continue preservation of water is to create policies that will begin in 2020, or going forward, to enhance conservation efforts or supplies and many have been discussed and put into place already. Additional factors including growth and status of drought can and will impact water usage.

Promising areas to improve water budget include:

- * Enhanced conservation focusing on outdoor demand
- * Reduce amount of turf
- * Enhance conservation of indoor demand for customers on septic systems
- * Reduce number of customers on septic
- * Increase CII water customer efficiencies of use
- * Reduce leaks on customers' side of water meter (difficult to do because you cannot be sure on the amount)

Each of these can be done incrementally over time.

Four Factors driving per customer declines in Prescott Demand:

- * Changing demographics
- * Active conservation efforts
- * Passive conservation in existing homes
- * New homes tend to be highly water efficient

Under conservative assumptions Prescott's current water demand is forecast to be essentially flat through 2030. There are factors beyond the city's control that could impact the water budget and there are over a dozen policy options which exist under the model.

Councilmember Rusing asked for clarification on scope of the project and what areas where examined if households only within city limits were looked at.

Mr. Woodard stated that everyone who receives city of Prescott water was included in the data, such as the Tribe, Chino Valley areas that are served, and portions of the expansion area not exclusively within city limits

Councilman Sischka asked Mr. Woodard to discuss how long it takes recharged water to return to the aquifer and what percentage we are able to reclaim.

Mr. Woodard commented that a great deal of testing is done at recharge facilities to determine recharge time, and that typically it takes days, weeks and at most months but certainly not years. He said that 40-50% reclaim is on the very low side and reiterated that septic customer usage is not reclaimed so that is an area that should be looked at.

City Manager Michael Lamar stated that a reclaim percentage of approximately 95% has been discussed in the past and asked if that is accurate.

Mr. Woodard confirmed that approximately 90-95% is generally typical.

Councilman Goode asked about projections for growth over the next ten years and how that information is calculated, and what other communities are finding as additional ways to reduce outside metering.

Mr. Woodard commented that growth at 1.5-2% is based on an average of 1.6% over the last several years. The best way to manage indoor usage is to get customers on sewer, other communities are also encouraging the use of greywater though this is the least efficient way, and additional conservation efforts like rebates for switches to more efficient appliances are optimal. Additionally communities like Maricopa and Pima are seeing results from mandating that when a home on septic is sold appliances must be updated and also putting in xeriscape landscaping.

Councilman Blair asked about the possibility of looking at "city zones" in efforts to get septic customers onto city system, as well as messaging to encourage people not to use water during specific times when we will be checking the system to seek out leaks on the customer end. He also asked about what types of benefits can be seen from septic systems replacements.

Mr. Woodard commented that was a great idea and one that he has pushed to a number of clients he is working with. He stated that the water model will show the various types of benefits for a number of options including septic system replacements.

Mayor Pro Tem Orr thanked Mr. Woodard for his time and frank answers regarding recharge, she also asked about reservoir evaporation and whether there are any technologies to save that.

Mr. Woodard stated that there are, however, he has not looked closely at that or who would receive that extra water but it would be important to know. In addition you would want to look at the effects on wildlife and recreation in using such technologies.

Doug McMillan, member of the public, addressed Council regarding the water supply. He stated that he believes there is an imbalance in incoming and outgoing water in the aquifer because most of it is from a stored volume in volcanic units which reside in

cracks in the basalt and spaces between lava flows, there is uncertainty in stored volume that we have. If we increase our water demand then we are taking on a risk.

Leslie Hoy, member of the public, addressed Council correcting her statement from the radio this morning regarding acre feet of overdraft. Additionally she asked about what she thought were contradictory statements regarding the flat lining of water versus usage spikes over the last several years and which was the correct information. She also asked what the acre foot figure is for usage for all customers including residential and commercial, and why the projections are only for 10 year periods and not longer.

Gordon Bond, member of the public, addressed Council regarding the excitement he has in being able to see the model and the opportunity to look ahead and see the impact on the aquifer from proposed policy changes. He asked that the model be used and shared with the public.

Mr. Woodard commented that new demands are offset by older homes becoming more efficient and that all questions will be answered with a review of the model. With regard to the 10 year projection, Mr. Woodard stated that uncertainties like updates to appliance efficiencies, population variations and more make it difficult to accurately project beyond 10 years.

Mr. Lamar commented that the model will be provided for the public, but they will not have the same access as staff with respect to specific account information and other confidential information.

Mr. Woodard provided a review of the water model and showed Council and the public how numbers would vary based on changes to sewer, population changes and more.

Mayor Mengarelli commented that the model exceeds his expectations in how intuitive and interactive it is and that this will be an invaluable tool for the city moving forward.

Mr. Lamar also reminded Council that Mr. Woodard will take the time to train staff on how to use the model, and once everyone is up to speed, they will work with the public on how to review it as well.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Mengarelli adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

GREG MENGARELLI, Mayor

ATTEST:

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 Meeting of the City Council of the City of Prescott, Arizona held on the 28th day of January, 2020. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2020.

AFFIX
CITY SEAL

Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk