

PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA
OCTOBER 17, 2006

A STUDY SESSION OF THE PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2006, in the Prescott Municipal Building, 201 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona.

Mayor Simmons opened the meeting at 3:07 P.M. and asked City Clerk Elizabeth Burke to call the roll, which was as follows:

Present:

Mayor Simmons
Councilman Bell
Councilman Lamerson
Councilman Luzius
Councilman Roecker
Councilwoman Suttles

Absent:

Councilman Blair

□ SUMMARY OF CURRENT OR RECENT EVENTS

Manager Steve Norwood reminded the audience there would be a free household hazardous waste disposal event on Sunday from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the transfer station and 300 to 500 residents were expected to take advantage of the service.

Mr. Norwood introduced Tacy Bowman, who was completing her Masters Degree at Arizona State University and was deciding whether to pursue a career in Public Administration.

I. PROCLAMATION:

A. October 21, 2006 – *American Walk for Diabetes Day*

Mayor Simmons read the proclamation.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Adoption of Ordinance No. 4562 - An ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Prescott, Yavapai County, Arizona authorizing the sale of surplus property.

Administrative Services Director Mic Fenech explained staff was seeking authorization to place a number of vehicles on the Internet auction website of Rene Bates Auctioneers; these vehicles and equipment were no longer needed, had been replaced or soon would be replaced due to age or condition. The

internet auction had been successful in the past and the auctioneer contract provided a 10% commission to the auctioneer.

B. Approval of license agreement with the Prescott Chamber of Commerce for the use of ten parking spaces in the City-owned lot located directly south of the Chamber, in exchange for providing visitor services to the community.

Administrative Services Director Mic Fenech explained the proposed license agreement with the Prescott Chamber of Commerce was for the use of ten parking spaces in the parking lot south of the Chamber location; Yavapai County used 20 spaces and the remaining 10 spaces might be leased to others.

Speakers:

Howard Mechanic, 309 Bloom Place – questioned the exchange of parking spaces for visitor services and asked what services were being provided.

David Maurer, CEO of the Prescott Chamber of Commerce, responded to Mr. Mechanic's question saying the Chamber had provided services to the City for many years, and those services included providing information to visitors and callers relating to relocation questions; over 32,000 people walked into the Chamber each year, and the Chamber sent out over 7,000 relocation packets and 3,500 brochures at no charge to the city; most other cities had contracts with their Chamber organization to provide these services and the parking lot was at one time operated by the Chamber for the City.

C. Approval of purchase of a Caterpillar 420D Backhoe-Loader from Empire Machinery in the amount of \$97,492.06, utilizing the competitively bid contract of Coconino County.

Public Works Director Craig McConnell explained the backhoe-loader was a replacement piece of equipment for Wastewater Operations; the existing backhoe was 15 years old and the new equipment was budgeted through the Vehicle Replacement Fund.

D. Approval of application for grant funds in the amount of \$60,000.00 to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for continued operation of the Tri-City DUI Task Force.

Police Deputy Chief Mike Kabbel explained the Police Department was notified on October 3, 2006, that a new application round for grant funding was available to pay for officer overtime and employee-related operating costs to be used during the national "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest" model program. The application had to be submitted within three days and that had been done. Staff was requesting formal approval (ratification) of that application submission.

E. Approval of Final Plat of Estrella Hills, ten lots on 13 acres, located west of Meadowridge Road and North of Estrella Road, zoned Single-family SF-35 (FP06-017).

Community Development Director Tom Guice explained Estrella Hills consisted of 10 lots on 13 acres and the final plat was consistent with all city codes and regulations.

Councilman Roecker asked if the traffic calming condition was required and Mr. Guice replied it was an option the Council could include as a condition of approval for the final plat and that would appear on the agenda next week if desired.

F. Tamarack Estates:

- 1. Adoption of Ordinance No. 4563 - An ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Prescott, Yavapai County, Arizona rezoning property located west of Blooming Hills Estates between Tamarack Lane and Delano Avenue for Tamarack Estates from Single Family SF-35 to Single Family SF-18 (RZ06-001).**
- 2. Approval of Preliminary Plat for Tamarack Estates, 12 lots on 6.5 acres, located west of Blooming Hills Estates between Tamarack Lane and Delano Avenue (SP06-002).**
- 3. Approval of Water Service Agreement for 4.2 acre feet annually for Tamarack Estates, 12 lots on 6.5 acres, located west of Blooming Hills Estates between Tamarack Lane and Delano Avenue.**

Community Development Director Tom Guice explained the this was a request to put a 12-lot residential subdivision on 6.893 acres; the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the rezoning request from SF-35 to SF-18 and the preliminary plat; the Water Allocation Committee approved the annual allocation of 4.2 acre feet of water.

G. Adoption of Resolution No. 3784 – A resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Prescott, Yavapai County, Arizona approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Prescott Valley and the Town of Chino Valley for professional services with Errol L. Montgomery & Associates, Inc. for analysis of U.S. Geological Survey reports.

Big Chino Water Ranch Project Manager Jim Holt explained the resolution would approve participation with Chino Valley and Prescott Valley in securing a contract

to hire Errol L. Montgomery and Associates to analyze two U.S. Geological Survey reports pertaining to the Verde River Watershed; the two reports were entitled “Hydrogeology of the Upper and Middle Verde River Watersheds, Central Arizona” and “The Verde River Headwaters, Yavapai County, Arizona”.

The two reports contained data and conclusions which could impact the water resource management strategies for this area. The approach and scope of the reports did not consider the water management needs and interests of the Prescott Active Management Area communities; Montgomery and Associates would evaluate the hydrologic significance of the new USGS studies and would verify or otherwise identify assumptions or conclusions in concert or conflict with other reports; and facilitate understanding the implications on long term management strategies. The USGS information was scientific and was peer reviewed but did not address the areas safe yield goal.

The contract was in an amount up to \$30,000 which was being shared with the other two communities; Prescott Valley and Chino Valley had already approved the agreement; Prescott Valley would be the lead agency for contract administration. Each of the three communities would put in “up to \$10,000”.

Councilman Luzius made the following points:

- there were five members in the Upper Verde Coalition - Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Dewey-Humboldt, and Yavapai County and the \$30,000 should be split 5 ways;
- the USGS reports should be above reproach; they provided clear and concise information;
- the City contributed over \$350,000 over the past eight years to the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee to help fund the coordinator position;
- the City was being asked to contribute another \$10,000 to have someone study the reports;
- he was against it.

Jack Wilson, 1514 Eagle Ridge – Asked:

- (1) the projected start and end dates? (A draft report would be prepared within 4 months and the entire project report in 6 months and the consultant would begin immediately);
- (2) the consultant previously prepared a study for Mort Fletcher for the proposed Yavapai Ranch and did the City of Prescott receive a copy of that report? (No, it was a private property study)
- (3) would the consultant provide their report to the USGS before publication? (It hadn't been requested but didn't see a problem with that occurring.)

Ashley Fine, 207 Congress Avenue – questioned the need to hire a consulting firm to evaluate the USGS reports regarding the Upper Verde River; this was a questionable use of City resources as the reports had been through a rigorous peer review process already; the conclusions of the reports didn't conflict; 80% to 86% of the base flow of the Upper Verde River came from the Big Chino aquifer; pumping would de-water the first 24 miles of the Verde River; a better use of the funds would be to prepare a measurable, concrete and enforceable mitigation plan or habitat conservation plan, and an environmental impact study and all should be done prior to the construction of the pipeline; there needed to be more research and there was money available through the Verde River Partnership to study ecological, wildlife, botanical, population, and hydro-geological issues; if the municipalities joined the Verde River Partnership it would expedite the allocation of funds and move the studies forward; however, the quad-cities chose to remain isolationists; and yet the action taken by the cities would have widespread effects on all the communities in many ways; everyone had a legal and moral obligation to protect the Verde River and an investment in resources and access to more information was important.

Howard Mechanic – there was confusion at the meeting of the Upper Verde Protection Coalition; Bill Myer, a hydrologist, said the confusion was not in the reports but with the participants in the meeting; Supervisor Springer said there were conflicts within the reports, yet Jim Holt stated the reports were good reports; the reports came up with different information but not conflicting information; no public comment was allowed until after the decision was made to ask the three municipalities to join in on the project; the scope of work for this consultant contract all questioned the reports findings and were designed to take the reports apart; the consultant would charge each city \$1,000 to make a public presentation if invited to do so; the U.S.G.S. should look at the report before it was presented in public; if the USGS had peer review, the consultant should also have peer review; the State had set up, with State funds, a Water University or Institute to do studies of this type to assist areas around the State with aquifer problems; he suggested finding out if there was any money available to study the Verde River Basin to find out the implications of pumping water from the Big Chino.

Mr. Holt replied he wasn't aware if the Water Institute would be interested or capable of doing such a study. Mr. Mechanic suggested the Council should have that information and find out if money was available before awarding this contract.

- H. Notice of Public Hearing (October 24) for consideration of a liquor license application from Alejandro Garcia, Agent for Garcia and Sanchez Partnership, for a new Series 12, Restaurant, license for Casa Sanchez Restaurant, located at 1459 West Gurley Street.**

Clerk Elizabeth Burke explained the Public Hearing would be held next Tuesday for a liquor license application for Casa Sanchez at 1459 West Gurley Street. The restaurant was changing ownership.

- I. Approval of Minutes of the Prescott City Council Regular Voting Meeting of October 10, 2006.**
- J. Selection of items to be placed on the Consent Agenda for the Regular Voting Meeting of October 24, 2006.**

Items selected for the Consent Agenda – Items A, B, C, D, E, F, and I.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Prescott City Council, Mayor Simmons ADJOURNED the meeting at 3:47 PM.

The Mayor and Council took a short break and reconvened the Special Meeting/Executive Session which had been recessed at 3:00 P.M.

ROWLE P. SIMMONS, Mayor

ATTEST:

ELIZABETH A. BURKE, City Clerk