



Minutes City Council Issue Review Session March 1, 2007

Minutes of the Tempe City Council Issue Review Session held on Thursday, March 1, 2007, 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Hugh Hallman

Vice Mayor Hut Hutson

Councilmember P. Ben Arredondo

Councilmember Barbara J. Carter

Councilmember Shana Ellis

Councilmember Mark W. Mitchell

Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

Mayor Hallman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Call to the Audience

Sue Lofgren, Rio Salado Commission, re: Item #5, stated that merging the Rio Salado Commission with the Parks and Recreation Board would be counter-productive. The report states that the recommendations should be discussed with appropriate staff and members of each board and commission and reviewed by the City Manager and City Council. No discussion has happened with the Rio Salado Commission. She asked Council to keep them informed.

Mayor Hallman explained that this is an Issue Review Session and no action will be taken. This is where the process simply begins.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Task Force Report

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND is available in the City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenters: Diversity Manager Rosa Inchausti; ADA Accessibility Specialist Cindy Brown

City Manager Will Manley summarized that the purpose tonight is to bring this report to Council and at some point, formal Council acceptance will be required. This is a very important subject and the City has legal obligations.

Rosa Inchausti added that Title 2 of the Americans with Disabilities Act oversees state and local government and requires self-evaluation of policies, services and programs. That evaluation is required to be filed within the city and be accessible to the Department of Justice at any time.

Cindy Brown summarized that several years ago, the Department of Justice started a program entitled "Project Civic Access" where different cities were audited to determine compliance with Title 2. In Arizona, Flagstaff, Sedona, Tucson and Fountain Hills have been audited. Cities are selected based on size, location in relation to tourist destinations, and universities. She used the Flagstaff questionnaire to question the different City departments. She also looked at the different problems identified in the other cities. The citywide task force work took about one year to complete. The study revealed that the City is doing well concerning programs and services. Across the board, everyone wanted to provide accessibility and did so when requested, but they didn't always know how. Specific department recommendations were made with a target date. Some have already been done.

Mayor Hallman recommended returning to Council in January of 2008 for acceptance and adoption of the recommendations.

Councilmember Arredondo recommended making a presentation to each Council committee prior to January of 2008.

Vice Mayor Hutson stated that it has taken a year to put this together, and it will take more than a few days for him to read it before he agrees to approve it.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked what staff recommends in terms of an on-going assessment process.

Ms. Brown responded that at least every five years some kind of review should be done and the review would look at any updates on any added programs and services.

Councilmember Shekerjian added that when staff returns in January to reveal how well the recommendations are being met, staff could also give an idea of when it should be reviewed again.

Mayor Hallman suggested a rolling process, department by department.

Councilmember Arredondo suggested that staff have a tour of the new police facility to make sure it is meeting all of the guidelines. He asked staff to report their findings in a Friday packet, with a memo signed by both staff and Police Chief Ryff.

Ms. Inchausti explained that new facilities are looked at during the preliminary plans. Departments now know that Cindy Brown is a resource so as new programs and services are produced, staff contacts her. This initial report has been an extensive process, but from here on out, it will be an update process.

Councilmember Shekerjian clarified that this report is about processes and not facilities. She asked if there is some point where staff looks at facility issues.

Ms. Brown responded that she is part of the preliminary plan process, so she reviews preliminary plans for everything private and public. If the City is doing a capital improvement project, she is typically included in the entire process. Staff is also currently doing a review of standing facilities.

Mayor Hallman added that there is a notation in the Parks and Recreation section that had to do with inadvertent exclusions. People need to understand there are certain instances in which disability may require an exclusion. He asked about the reference to the "Adaptive Recreation Department."

Ms. Brown clarified that Adaptive Recreation is a division of Parks and Recreation, rather than a department.

CONSENSUS

- Referred to each Council Committee to examine, based on their scope of work.
- Staff directed to return to IRS during the year if they choose, or return with a final update in January 2008 for adoption.

Follow-up Responsibility: Rosa Inchausti

Water and Sewer Development Fee Review Development Services Fee Structure

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenters: Water Utilities Manager Don Hawkes; Development Services Manager Chris Anaradian

Item #3 and Item #4 were combined for consideration.

Mayor Hallman noted that in Water and Sewer Development Fees, there were two methods applied for determining fees. One is a cash flow approach. The other involves issuance of bonds. One assumes bonds are issued only when necessary and the other assumes bonds are issued on everything up front. It says we adopted the cash flow approach, but that's based on the fact that is how we actually finance it. Although the fees are being increased, some would like a greater increase. The State law precludes that, however, and we have to apply a fair approach to development fees.

CONSENSUS

- Staff was directed to go forward with the new Water and Sewer Development fee schedule.
- Staff was directed to move forward to develop a new Development Services Fee schedule.

Follow-up responsibility: Don Hawkes, Chris Anaradian

Board and Commission Consolidation and Recommendations

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenters: City Attorney Andrew Ching

Andrew Ching summarized that the former City Attorney reviewed the various boards and commissions and made recommendations regarding which current boards and commissions could be consolidated, as well as other necessary revisions. Staff asks for the opportunity to more fully staff this task through the affected departments and for the opportunity for the affected boards to also have additional input.

Mayor Hallman clarified that it is recommended that this go to the committees, to the extent they are affected by any of the recommendations, talk to staff members whose committees are affected, and then, to the extent appropriate, go to the affected boards or commissions as the final concepts come together. Staff would then return for another IRS presentation in the next 120 days.

Councilmember Arredondo added that during the 120 days, there would be time for Council to submit, as individual councilmembers, any concerns.

Councilmember Carter stated that Council should send a message that we are not looking to exclude anyone, for less public input, that we are looking for the ability to streamline and take some of the burden off staff.

Mayor Hallman clarified that the goal is to make the activities of the boards and commissions more effective and meaningful. Over the last decade, he has heard citizens feeling they are not being heard because the City has moved past some activities. We need to make good use of our residents' time. We did this with the Bicycle Committee and the Transportation Commission. Staff went to those two commissions and the commissions agreed. No one lost their position as a commissioner when we merged the commissions and, over time as terms ended, it reached its stabilized membership. That worked well and everyone feels they are more productive. The Rio Salado Commission and Parks and Recreation Board is another example. Most of the development issues are now resolved, and yet the Rio Salado Commission is only looking at one element, and the Parks and Recreation Board is not looking at that piece. It would be nice if all the people involved in those parks would look at them together.

Councilmember Carter asked if it would make sense to start at the committee level.

Mayor Hallman clarified that Mr. Ching has asked to take it back, complete it to a better position, and bring it back to Council. In that process, he needs to go to the boards and commissions currently described in the report, and see if there are other commissions that should be considered. If Council has any other ideas, they can give them to Mr. Ching. Mr. Ching will bring the staff in who are involved, then go to the commissions involved, and then come back to Council.

Councilmember Ellis asked for a definition of a standing committee.

Mr. Ching responded that the report does not define a standing committee.

CONSENSUS

Staff directed to create process to go forward. Go to committees, talk to staff stakeholders, gather Council concerns, and return to an Issue Review Session in 120 days with recommendation on whether or not this should be undertaken, and if so, how best to proceed.

Follow-up Responsibility: Andrew Ching

City Facility Naming

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – City Manager Will Manley

Will Manley summarized that staff recommends that the City Council handle the naming of public facilities on a case by case basis.

Mayor Hallman added that the recommendation is for the City Council to control the process, and to the extent it is appropriate, Council can call on a board or commission or other organization to give help or referrals. Otherwise, the City Council will make these decisions.

Councilmember Arredondo added that the City Manager's Office or designee should pass that direction on to the boards and commissions for complete understanding.

CONSENSUS

The City Council will control the process and if Council seeks input or requests assistance, Council will make a referral to a board or commission or other organization for assistance.

Follow-up Responsibility: Andrew Ching

Formal Council Agenda Items

No agenda items were discussed.

Future Agenda Items

None.

Mayor's Announcements/Manager's Announcements

City Manager Will Manley introduced the new Assistant Chief of Police Ray Hardy.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.