



Minutes Tempe City Council Summit August 16, 2008

Minutes of the Council Summit held on Saturday 16, 2008, beginning with an 8:00 a.m. continental breakfast at the University Club, North Room, 2nd Floor, 425 E. University Drive, Tempe, Arizona.

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Hugh Hallman
Vice Mayor Shana Ellis
Councilmember P Ben Arredondo
Councilmember Mark W. Mitchell
Councilmember Joel Navarro
Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian
Councilmember Cory Woods

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Charles Meyer
Assistant City Manager Jeff Kulaga
Mayor's Chief of Staff Mike Crusa
City Clerk, Jan Hort

GUESTS PRESENT:

Elizabeth Hill AZ Ombudsman Citizen's Aide

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hallman at 8:30 a.m.

Open Meeting Law

Ms. Hill explained the State Omnibudsman's role in public records as one of investigations and recommendations. Whereas, the Attorney General's Office has enforcement authority.

Ms. Hill presented information on the open meeting laws and answered questions put forth by council members. The legislative intent of the open meeting laws is to maximize public access to the government process; open deliberations and proceedings to the public; prevent public bodies from making decisions in secret; and to resolve any uncertainty in favor of openness. All public bodies must comply including: standing committees, special committees, advisory and subcommittees.

It was clarified that an exception to the 24 hour notice of a meeting is met when an announcement at a properly noticed meeting is made to recess and resume within 24 hours including an announcement of the agenda items to be covered or in an emergency.

Based on questions addressed to Ms. Hill and discussion among council, staff was directed to make the following changes to agendas:

- Add a general standing statement to the agendas stating that members may use technological devices to attend
- Add a statement to the Formal Council Agenda regarding the ability to adjourn to an Executive Session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice on any item on the agenda.
- Add a statement to agendas that members of the public body may attend in person or by telephone conference call
- Add a statement to the Council and Mayor calendar that this is a courtesy notice of events only and that business will not be conducted at any listed events unless an agenda of specific matters to be discussed, considered or decided at the meeting has been posted for a specific event listed on this calendar.

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Meeting temporarily adjourned a 9:55 a.m. for Executive Session
Meeting reconvened at 10:50 a.m. The departments managers joined the Summit
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Goal Setting

Discussions continued from Friday's Council Summit discussion of priority issues. The following was added to the list of issues:

Human Services (Crossover to Housing)

- Homelessness: Sources, Characteristics
- Drug use
- HOPE

During discussions on priorities, several values appeared to apply across all Council tasks and it was determined that these values be included in the Council Committees' work plans.

Educational Partnerships

- Joint use of facilities
- Other joint efforts
- Lobbying excess utilities
- National League of Arizona Cities
 - Youth, education and families

Partnering

- Tie memberships to committees in both directions
- Intergovernmental components

Celebrate successes

Cross department work

- Community Relations

Determine Legislative elements

- Federal, State

The Councilmembers were asked to summarize issues from their respective committees that need to be included in the list of priorities.

Councilmember Shekerjian in regards to the Education, Technology and Economic Development Committee wanted to be sure that finding ways to partner with the school districts for after school programs, moving forward on technology with a constituent services focus as well as a focus on reviewing and evaluating contracts to determine value added services that the City is receiving or not receiving.

Councilmember Ellis spoke of the Transportation, Housing, and Environments Committee which included: alternative transportation options such as the Orbit bus, light rail, the canal bank project, coordination of regional and local transportation decisions, affordable housing program support for the homeless as well as the ability to obtain housing by families, the housing trust fund, housing need partnerships and environmental sustainability projects.

Councilmember Mitchell outlined the Tourism and Recreation Committee's tasks in regards to hotel/conference center opportunities, meeting spaces, hometown facilities, events in relation to economics, safety and neighborhoods, field needs.

The challenge of the Finance, Economy and Veterans' Affairs Committee is to determine where we go from here. That is, business retention and the types of businesses desired, opportunities, cost effective technology to distribute services to the community and OPEB.

Councilmember Arredondo in speaking on behalf of the Public Safety and Quality of Life Committee, asked staff to name five things that would make Tempe even better. He distributed a copy of the list to each council member. These encompassed issues relating to Community Development, Community Services, the Fire Department, Neighborhood Services, Parks and Recreation, the Police Department, Public Works, and the Tempe Community Council. They need to determine objectives and measurements as well as resources available and what is achievable.

Mayor Hallman added that the Social Services and Culture Committee, having been given a new focus in past year, have several items to be included in the list. These include:

- Vihel
- Library

- Downtown library/museum
- Historic museum
- Elements
- TCC
- Economic development

Closing Comments and Remarks

Mayor Hallman will go through the past work plans to determine what has been left off the list of tasks to include on the committees' FY08/09 work plans. He will review those and the issues discussed over the past two days to work the items into committee structures.

However, he maintains, there are larger pieces to the puzzle which may need to be made into working groups in themselves. These include: the CCD COW – Mill and Lake District, sustainability, and how to set up the aesthetics of the community.

Upon setting of the committee structures, committees will be tasked with creating a work plan (objectives), determining measurements and resources (where) and reporting meaningful achievements.

The Council Summit was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Jan Hort
City Clerk