



WATER COMMISSION
November 17, 2011

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Paul Turner
John Nowakowski
Bob Shinham
Dick Kersey
Jeff Oravits
Hanna Cortner
Karin Wadsack
Lindsay Wagner
Jim McCarthy

MEMBERS ABSENT

Brian Ketter

STAFF PRESENT

Brad Hill
Marion Lee
Ryan Roberts
Vince Knaggs
Mark Sawyers

OTHERS PRESENT

Ann Marie Zeller
Cynthia Pardo
Alicia Femanack
Moran Henn
Betsy Hamill
Andy Bessler
Rudy Preston
Alicyn Giffin

I. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, Paul Turner, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 15, 2011

Moved by Bob Shinham and seconded by Dick Kersey that the minutes of September 15, 2011 be approved. Discussion on the motion: Chair, Paul Turner requested to add “yes” or “no” votes for people making the motion (page 5 & 6). Motion passed on a unanimous vote.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Snow Play – Vince Knaggs

A majority of City Council members directed staff to send out a request for proposal (RFP) for a potential snow play area in the vicinity of McMillan Mesa. Vince Knaggs indicated that Brian Grube, Recreation Services Director is the Project Manager for the Snow Play. There was one respondent to the RFP and it was determined the proposer met the minimum qualifications. Staff has met with the proposer on several occasions to begin the DRB process and also begin lease negotiations. Originally the intent was to get the RFP out in time to have an operating snow play area as early as this winter season. Given the complexity of this project and the sensitivity regarding reclaimed water and snowmaking the proposer has made the decision (if awarded the lease) to postpone construction until June of 2012 and subsequently postponing the opening date until November 2012.

Vince presented a PowerPoint of the development. The proposed Snow Play Area may include the following:

- Tubing runs
- A lift system to transport participants back to the top of the runs.
- Potential snow making equipment (use of reclaimed water will be required).
- A structure and outdoor deck to accommodate admission ticket sales and food/merchandise sales.
- Seasonal parking areas and drop-off/pick-up area (400/500 vehicles).
- Portable restroom facilities.
- Resource removal and grading as necessary to establish the tubing runs and parking areas.

The timeline is as follows:

- October/November 2011 -Staff presentations to Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- November 2011- Proposer Public Forum
- November/December 2011 – Reclaimed Water Forum
- December 2011 – Lease Agreement to Council for Action
- January/February 2012 – Complete Final Site Plan to satisfy DRB requirements
- February/March 2012 – Obtain conditional use permit from Planning and Zoning Commission
- May/June 2012 – Vendor is looking to begin construction by late May early June in order to be ready for 2012/2013 winter season.

Brad indicated that once the Water Policy is completed (which will include reclaimed water), it will come back before the Water Commission, formally in January and to Council in February.

The Commission had a few questions on an article published in the paper on how reclaimed water will be treated. Mark Sawyers indicated staff has not received an official application by the developer and does not know how the reclaimed water will be treated. The developer has had conversations with staff according to the response to the request for proposals. The developer is not in a position to apply for any approvals because the City Council has not granted a lease of the land that would be contingent upon a conditional use permit. Staff does not have a full application to know exactly what is proposed regardless to reclaimed water or not. The City Council is planning a Reclaimed Water Forum on Dec 5th and they will discuss the complete Water Policy on Tuesday, Dec. 13th. Once the application is actually filed after the Water Policy is set, if the developer chooses to go forward it should go before Council in February.

The Water Commission addressed that they did not make any recommendations on the Water Policy which is going to Council for approval. Furthermore, the Water Commission does not know anything about the use of reclaimed water for Snow Play, other than newspaper articles in terms of wastewater usage. Before City Council considered the contract for Snow Play, the Water Commission should have made recommendation on the use of reclaimed water, similar to Snowbowl. The Commissioners are aware that Council can do what they wish. Paul indicated the agenda item is for information only and no decisions will be made. Snow Play is not the only issue; it's the fact that there are rules and policies already established on the use of reclaimed water.

Jim McCarthy commented that the City is paying customers to conserve water, but they plan to use a lot of reclaimed water for recreational purpose which doesn't make sense. John added that if Council wants to approve Snow Play, why bring it back to the Water Commission.

There were a few public comments against the use of reclaimed water for Snow Play.

The Water Commission asked if they will review the concept of using reclaimed water for the Snow Play before it goes to City Council. Mark indicated that the City Manager wants to conclude the water policy by early January on this particular topic and weather it comes back before the Water Commission is between Brad Hill and the City Manager. Brad indicated staff does not have any formal information so it cannot be brought back before the Water Commission.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS TO/FROM THE CHAIR, COMMISSION OR STAFF

- A. The Commission welcomed a new member, Karin Wadsack.
- B. Water Policy – Financial (Council v. Water Commission) – Ryan Roberts

The water policy has been reviewed by the Water Commission and City Council earlier this year. At the last Water Commission meeting, the Commission asked for a review of the redline changes made by City Council to what the Water Commission approved on June 2nd. Ryan

reviewed and compared the changes that Council approved as the language that the Water Commission approved on June 2, 2011. He noted the financial policy language will be incorporated to the final complete book that staff will submit to the Water Commission and City Council for approval. The Commission addressed a few more changes:

- Add “bonds” to fund Capital to Policy A 3.5 (last sentence)
- Edit the whole policy

C. Inner Basin Update – Brad Hill

Brad displayed maps and pointed out that the project is split into two - upper and lower part. A portion of the water line was relocated on the lower end.

D. Sewer Rates

Ryan discussed the newspaper article “Error found in the sewer rate” indicated the key point the amount of reduction is estimated at \$800,000 annually on the residential/multi-family side. It would cost the average resident roughly an additional \$1.25 per month to make up the deficiency, but the Flagstaff City Council decided on Tuesday not to adjust the utility fees until at least 2014. The model is correct but data on multi-family/residential was inputted wrong which resulted in this error.

Instead, City officials will use funds set aside for replacing aging vehicles as well as money set aside for the stalled Rio de Flag flood control project to sustain sewer plant operations at current service levels.

Ryan said at the Council Retreat this week, Council made “Replace of water meter with radio reads” a priority.” Kevin proposed instituting surcharges for Water Meters and Water Resources. With water meters, starting 2016, replace 10% of water meters which requires \$300,000 a year. The cost will make the Utilities short on capital, so to catch up impose a \$1.31 per month surcharge. With Water Resources, ADWR levied changes to Arizona cities for their operations. If state renews its \$82,000 surcharge, pass it on as \$0.36 per month per account. Staff will continue to explore these options. There is no problem with Water and Reclaimed water revenue.

Hanna urged the Paul Turner, Chair to meet with the City Manager to discuss certain alternatives and options (surcharges & meter replacements) taken directly to City Council without Water Commission recommendation. The Water Commission would like to see some of these items come before the Commission.

The Commission requested to add on the next agenda item (ACTION item): Discussion and recommendation by Water Commission for future items they would like to see come before the Water Commission.

E. Water Reuse Forum – Dec. 5th at 6:30.

National and state experts will provide un-biased information about the current state-of-the science, treatment technologies and best management practices pertaining to reclaimed water. This is NOT a debate however; interested citizens will have an opportunity to submit written questions for the experts to answer that evening.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Jeff Oravits moved to adjourned and seconded by John Nowakowski. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.