

## MINUTES

JOINT CITY/COUNTY WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2013  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
211 WEST ASPEN AVENUE  
4:00 P.M.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nabours called the Joint City/County Work Session of November 18, 2013, to order at 4:02 p.m.

#### Notice of Option to Recess Into Executive Session

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the City Council and to the general public that, at this regular meeting, the City Council may vote to go into executive session, which will not be open to the public, for legal advice and discussion with the City's attorneys for legal advice on any item listed on the following agenda, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3).

### 2. ROLL CALL

#### **Councilmembers present:**

Flagstaff City Council  
MAYOR NABOURS  
VICE MAYOR EVANS  
COUNCILMEMBER BAROTZ  
COUNCILMEMBER BREWSTER  
COUNCILMEMBER ORAVITS  
COUNCILMEMBER OVERTON  
COUNCILMEMBER WOODSON

Coconino County Board of Supervisors  
CHAIRMAN RYAN  
SUPERVISOR ARCHULETA  
SUPERVISOR BABBOTT  
SUPERVISOR METZGER

#### **Councilmembers absent:**

SUPERVISOR FOWLER

Others present: City Manager Kevin Burke, County Manager Cynthia Seelhammer, City Attorney Michelle D'Andrea, County Attorney Bill Ring.

### 3. Public Participation (Non-Agenda Items Only):

*Public Participation enables the public to address the council about items that **are not** on the prepared agenda. Public Participation appears on the agenda twice, at the beginning and at the end of the work session. You may speak at one or the other, but not both. Anyone wishing to comment at the meeting is asked to fill out a speaker card and submit it to the recording clerk. When the item comes up on the agenda, your name will be*

*called. You may address the Council up to three times throughout the meeting, including comments made during Public Participation. Please limit your remarks to three minutes per item to allow everyone to have an opportunity to speak. At the discretion of the Chair, ten or more persons present at the meeting and wishing to speak may appoint a representative who may have no more than fifteen minutes to speak.*

None.

#### **4. Project Updates.**

##### **Ft. Tuthill Entrance**

Coconino County Parks Construction Manager Jeff Stein offered a PowerPoint Presentation on the Ft. Tuthill Entrance.

- ▶ OVERVIEW
- ▶ PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS
- ▶ COUNTY, CITY, AND ADOT MAINTENANCE AREAS
- ▶ TREE REMOVAL
- ▶ COCONINO COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES-FUEL WOOD PROGRAM
- ▶ FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS
- ▶ SHADE STRUCTURES AT ROGERS LAKE COUNTY NATURAL AREA
- ▶ GRUBBING & ROUGH GRADING
- ▶ UNISOURCE GAS LINE RELOCATION
- ▶ APS POWER LINE RELOCATION
- ▶ PROJECT STATUS

Mr. Stein explained that there are two roundabouts on the east and west alignments. The preliminary phasing is going out to bid in early December. The northbound configuration off of I-17 remains the same. Supervisor Metzger asked how many lanes there will be in each of the roundabouts and what is in the center. Mr. Stein offered that each roundabout will be one lane and a hydro seeded interior. Supervisor Metzger asked how pedestrians and bicyclists will be accommodated. Mr. Stein stated that there are sidewalks and pedestrian lighting available at each of the roundabouts.

Councilmember Oravits asked when the estimated completion date is. Mr. Stein stated that the project was estimated at 21 months but most of the major construction work will be done in 2014.

Chairman Ryan noted that the original Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) design was a diamond shape; the roundabouts have reduced the land requirement which is a good thing.

##### **89A Closure**

Coconino County Public Works Manager Andy Bertelsen stated that design is underway for the project and ADOT is hopeful to begin construction by next summer and they predict a year-long construction period. BIA route N-20 has been paved and is useable and currently being used as an alternate route to Page from Flagstaff.

Mr. Bertelsen also reported that ADOT is looking at a hard closure of 89A for a pavement preservation and rock scaling project. The closure will be from the overlook of Oak Creek Canyon to approximately the pump house wash (or the bottom of the switchbacks) from the day after Memorial Day weekend through July 2, 2014.

### **Transportation District/Sales Tax Question Update**

Coconino County Manager Cynthia Seelhammer reported that the County is facing a significant shortfall in revenue. There has not been an increase in the gas tax for over 20 years and the State has shifted the gas tax away from the counties and cities over the last five years. Road maintenance issues have had to be funded at a lower level. Over the past five years, the County has reduced costs in a number of areas in an attempt to set aside funds for road maintenance. It is estimated that if road maintenance were performed now there would have to be cuts of 35-40 percent and there would be no more capital improvements or paving maintenance. A Citizen Advisory Committee was formed for transportation; it consists of approximately 33 different individuals. The committee is very engaged and they are asking great questions; it is hoped that this group will generate some possible options for solving the transportation issues. One option that is being looked at is a possible sales tax increase that would help fund the transportation improvements that are needed.

Mayor Nabours asked if the proposed sales tax would apply across Coconino County and include the City of Flagstaff and if the City would get a portion of the sales tax based on population for road maintenance. Ms. Seelhammer indicated that no determinations have been made as of yet. All of that information would be well discussed and decided by the Board of Supervisors.

Councilmember Brewster asked if the sales tax proceeds would assist with County snowplowing. Ms. Seelhammer responded that snowplowing is a separate issue and would not likely be included.

Mayor Nabours asked if this tax would be for structural issues as opposed to maintenance issues. Coconino County Deputy Public Works Director Lucinda Andreani offered that the revenue would be available to cover operations, maintenance, and some capital; however, the first priority is maintenance and operations. If there is funding beyond maintenance and operations that would go to capital projects.

Councilmember Woodson stated that under state statute counties have the ability to impose a half cent tax. Ms. Andreani stated that the County does have that authority but it must be approved by the voters first.

Mr. Burke stated that the City situation is almost identical to the County's. A Council goal of maintaining the existing infrastructure was established some time ago. Staff has done an inventory of the roads and what the conditions currently are and what it would take to bring them up to standard. To get existing streets up to standard it would take \$50 million and \$4 million ongoing.

The City was down to less than a million dollars for ongoing street maintenance. The City started looking at different ideas and the option of a possible sales tax is being discussed. It has not been settled on and the City Council has directed the Manager to host a Citizen Advisory Committee for transportation which would be in addition to the

Transportation Commission. The City has a little more time because a sales tax election for the City can only be held at a general election which would be November of even years.

Additional expenses are being researched as staff is analyzing utility infrastructure to identify water, sewer and stormwater lines that may need to be replaced under those streets that are in need of improvement. The idea is not to improve the street only to tear them out to do utility improvements. Additionally, sidewalks are another issue. The City is supposed to repair curb and gutter as well as make them ADA compliant when doing street improvements. This is another additional expense. There have also been inquiries to improve the bicycle safety component.

The City is in the process of conducting its Citizen survey and a question is included about a transportation sales tax. Staff anticipates having those results soon.

## **5. Flagstaff Regional Plan 2030: Place Matters – Public Hearing #1.**

Mayor Nabours opened the Public Hearing.

Planning Director Jim Cronk gave a brief history of the Regional Plan process beginning in 2008 with the appointment of a Citizen Advisory Committee made up of 2/3 City residents and 1/3 County residents. The committee met from 2009-2013 with many meetings and open houses, public meetings and study groups. The committee worked for about four years to develop a rough draft that was sent out to the public for input. There were over 700 comments received and what is before the Council is the public hearing draft which incorporated a lot of changes from the public.

The following members of the Citizen Advisory Committee addressed the Council and Board of Supervisors:

- Jerome Naleski
- Nat White
- Carol Bousquet
- Ben Anderson

Comments received included:

- The CAC came to a lot of consensus on many of the items.
- The last three to four chapters were rushed.
- The Regional Plan is a great historic document.
- The concepts, ideas and direction are good and are a representation of the community.
- With regard to compact development, the group discussed the problem of spreading out quicker than filling in. The idea is that it costs all taxpayers to grow out; the economics is to be as compact as possible and utilize what is existing.
- The compression of the last few chapters was in part, due to meeting fatigue and it was important to put pressure on the group to complete. The committee had initially started with the Land Use chapter at the beginning and it has gone full circle to revisit again at the end. Things changed over the years and it brought a different lens on how to look at land use.

- The Regional Plan process is probably one of the most democratic processes that Flagstaff has ever seen.

Planning and Engineering Section Manager of the Arizona State Land Department Mark Edelman addressed the City Council and Board of Supervisors to comment on the Regional Plan. While overall in support of the plan, there is one small disparity in Section 30 which is State land located between Continental Country Club and the Coconino National Forest. The Citizen Advisory Committee chose to designate Section 30 as-is and to leave it outside the City's Urban Growth Boundary while designating Section 20 as Suburban-Future. It is unknown if Section 20 can accommodate the planned densities and activity center. The State Land Department is requesting that Section 30 be assigned as Suburban-Future and the Urban Growth Boundary be extended to include the section.

Mayor Nabours asked what would happen if the plan goes before the voters and fails and if there are any sanctions from the State for not updating the plan as required. Ms. D'Andrea explained that should the plan fail with the voters, the Regional Plan that is currently in place would continue to apply. Additionally, there is no specific remedy listed in the statutes should the plan go without update.

Supervisor Metzger stated that if the plan fails the County Comprehensive Plan would cover the balance of the County.

The following individuals addressed the Council and Board of Supervisors:

- Tish Bogan-Ozman
- Charlotte Welch
- Richard Miller
- Marilyn Weissman
- Gabor Kovacs
- Michelle Thomas
- Sat Best

Comments received included:

- New and credible information on natural and cultural resources should be added to the maps online when they become available.
- Land use and redevelopment versus historic preservation is a concern.
- This is a well written and well documented plan.
- This is a vision for the City, it is not a directive. It is a chance for Flagstaff to come together and talk about where the City wants to go in the future.
- Supportive of compact development because of the affordability, the closeness to public transportation and commercial services, limiting the carbon footprint and preserving open space.
- Do not expand the urban growth boundary as there is plenty of land to build on without further expansion.
- More work is needed on the maps.
- The plan should promote the maintaining of the quality of life and health of all residents.
- Traffic volume will increase and it will need to be dealt with.

A break was held from 5:32 p.m. through 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Nabours closed the Public Hearing.

**6. Public Participation**

Gabor Kofax, resident, addressed the City Council and Board of Supervisors with a request that all public meetings begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**7. Informational Items To/From Chairman, Supervisors and County Manager/Mayor, Council and City Manager.**

Supervisor Babbott stated that having a diverse group of people on the Citizen Advisory Committee is good; not everyone walked away 100% satisfied but the process of compromise was upheld.

He said both agencies are suffering with the same challenges in transportation and maintenance. Partnerships for improvements are going to be necessary moving forward, there needs to be strong collaboration between the City and County.

The City Council and the Board of Supervisors offered thanks to all who have put work in to the Regional Plan and all those who have given input.

Supervisor Archuleta stated that the Board is looking forward to working with the City on the APS substation. The area is the gateway to the City and Fort Tuthill so it is important that the County and City work together to develop a design that is conducive to Flagstaff and the community.

Councilmember Woodson stated that he and Supervisor Ryan belong to the Rural Transportation Advisory Council; their goal is to make sure that for rural Arizona funding is equitable to what Phoenix and Tucson get. The big goal is to restore funding, and possibly increase funding.

**8. Adjournment**

The Flagstaff Joint City Council/County Board of Supervisors Work Session of November 18, 2013, adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK