



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Study Session Minutes

Approved by Mayor and Council
on February 22, 2023.

Date of Meeting: May 19, 2022

The Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson met in study session remotely through Microsoft Teams on Thursday, May 19, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Romero at 11:04 p.m.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Mayor Regina Romero
Vice Mayor Lane Santa Cruz (Ward 1)
Council Member Cunningham (Ward 2) (arrived at 11:16 a.m.)
Council Member Kevin Dajuhl (Ward 3)
Council Member Nikki Lee (Ward 4)
Council Member Richard G. Fimbres (Ward 5) (electronic attendance)
Council Member Steve Kozachik (Ward 6)

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

ABSENT:

None

STAFF:

Michael J. Ortega, City Manager
Michael Rankin, City Attorney
Suzanne Mesich, City Clerk

1. **Executive Session – City of Phoenix, City of Tucson et al. v. Expedia, Inc., et al., Arizona Tax Court Cases TX2014-000470, 00471, 00472, 00474, and 00475 (City Wide and Outside City) SS/MAY19-22-98**
3. **Executive Session – Discussion of the City of Tucson’s Position Regarding Ongoing Issues Arising out of the Colorado River Shortage; Discussion of Potential Negotiations with Other Central Arizona Project (CAP) Customers and Water Rights Holders Concerning Actions to Enhance System Conservation Relating to Lake Mead (City Wide and Outside City) SS/MAY19-22-105**

It was moved by Vice Mayor Santa Cruz, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Council Member Cunningham absent/excused), to enter into Executive Session as noticed on the agenda.

RECESS: 11:05 a.m.

RECONVENE: 12:47 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: All present

STAFF: All present

Executive Session was held from 11:17 a.m. to 12:31 p.m.

It was moved by Council Member Dahl, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to return to open session.

2. Mayor and Council Direction Regarding Executive Session – City of Phoenix, City of Tucson et al. v. Expedia, Inc., et al., Arizona Tax Court Cases TX2014-000470, 00471, 00472, 00474, and 00475 (City Wide, Outside City) SS/MAY19-22-99

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to authorize the City Attorney to proceed as discussed in Executive Session to include acceptance of the partial settlement proposal.

3. Executive Session – Discussion of the City of Tucson’s Position Regarding Ongoing Issues Arising out of the Colorado River Shortage; Discussion of Potential Negotiations with Other Central Arizona Project (CAP) Customers and Water Rights Holders Concerning Actions to Enhance System Conservation Relating to Lake Mead (City Wide, Outside City) SS/MAY19-22-105

(This item was taken out of order and considered with Item #1.)

4. Mayor and Council Direction Regarding Executive Session – Discussion of the City of Tucson’s Position Regarding Ongoing Issues Arising out of the Colorado River Shortage; Discussion of Potential Negotiations with Other Central Arizona Project (CAP) Customers and Water Rights Holders Concerning Actions to Enhance System Conservation Relating to Lake Mead (City Wide, Outside City) SS/MAY19-22-106

It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, that the Mayor and Council authorize and direct the City Manager, City Attorney and staff to proceed as discussed in Executive Session, and to engage in negotiations with the Gila River Indian Community, the City of Phoenix and other necessary and appropriate parties in order to create agreements that could help forestall a Tier 2B shortage declaration through cooperative System Conservation. The Manager, Attorney and staff are authorized to negotiate terms consistent with those discussed in Executive Session; but are directed to bring back any negotiated agreements to the Mayor and Council for consideration and approval.

5. City Manager's Report and Update on COVID-19; Ongoing City and County Mitigation Measures; Funding and Appropriations; and Related Legal Matters (City Wide and Outside City) SS/MAY19-22-97

Information was provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager, who fielded and answered questions.

Discussion ensued; no formal action was taken.

6. Discussion on the Adoption of the FY 2022/2023 Tentative Budget (City Wide) SS/MAY19-22-103

Information and presentation were provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager, who fielded and answered questions on the passage of Proposition 411, setting the expenditure cap, recommended budget discussion items, and supplemental process and next steps. The presentation also included discussions about employee compensation, parks and pools, transit fares, community wireless program, and PSPRS, as well as the Mayor and Council budgets, Pima Animal Care Center (PACC), environmental services capital program and use of fund balance, climate action plan, ARPA community grant process, affordable housing, economic development, human resources, employee health insurance and community safety, health and wellness.

Discussion ensued.

It was moved by Council Member Lee, duly seconded, to adopt the City Manager's recommendation for Plan B, giving a flat rate of \$2013 per employee that most heavily weights the impact of the overall investment towards the city's lowest-paid employees, with the exception of all Tucson Fire Department commissioned members ranked Fire Captain and below to receive 3%, which is in line with their current step system, work with the Labor Council and return to the Mayor and Council with a formula in place on how the City of Tucson determines cost of living increases for future fiscal years, and for the City Manager's team to study the wage and compensation structure throughout the City.

Discussion continued.

The motion was carried by a voice vote of 5 to 2 (Council Members Fimbres and Kozachik dissenting).

RECESS: 2:15 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:30 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: All Present

STAFF: All Present

7. Presentation from Technicians for Sustainability on their Residential Solar Program for Low-Income Residents (City Wide) SS/MAY19-22-100

Introductory comments were provided by Council Member Kevin Dahl.

Information and presentation were provided by Kevin Koch, Technicians for Sustainability (TFS) Co-Owner, Solar & Battery Powered, who fielded and answered questions on renewable energy for low-income homeowners in the area.

Discussion ensued.

It was moved by Council Member Dahl, duly seconded, to direct the City Manager to return to the Mayor and Council in 90 days or less with recommendations on how the City can begin the Residential Solar Program of low-income household.

Discussion ensued. It was requested by the City Manager that staff return within 120 days since there was only one meeting in July and to allow for more time for the process. The motion maker and seconder were in agreement with the 120 days.

Discussion continued.

The motion was carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0.

8. Thrive Expansion Update and Recommendation (City Wide) SS/MAY19-22-101

(This item was continued at the request of staff.)

9. Compensation Disputes FY2023 Compensation Plan (City Wide) SS/MAY19-22-104

Introductory comments were made by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager.

Information was provided by Elsa Quijada, Human Resources Interim Director, who fielded and answered questions on the requirements by the Tucson Charter regarding the Annual Compensation Plan, Mayor's Compensation Hearing, and follow-up to the disputes filed during the hearing. She advised the Mayor and Council that depending on their talks with the two labor groups, they had the option for arbitration and appeal with the Mayor and Council and that could be scheduled by the next meeting on June 7, 2022.

Discussion ensued; no formal action was taken.

10. Pima Association of Governments (PAG) Management Committee Recommendation to the PAG Regional Council and Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Technical Management Committee Recommendation to the RTA Board (City Wide) SS/MAY19-22-102

Introductory comments and information were made by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager and Samuel Credio, Department of Transportation and Mobility Director, who fielded and answered questions regarding items discussed: RTA's performance and audit recommendations, project prioritization and plan development, and the downtown links.

Discussion ensued; no formal action was taken.

11. Updates on State and National Legislation and Regional Committees (City Wide) MAY19-22-94

Information was presented by Andrew Greenhill, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, who fielded and answered questions.

Discussion ensued; no formal action was taken.

12. Mayor and Council Discussion of Regular Agenda (City Wide) SS/MAY19-22-95

No items were identified.

13. Mayor and Council Discussion of Future Agendas (City Wide) SS/MAY19-22-96

Council Member Cunningham requested that discussion on opening City swimming pools be moved up to the next meeting in June.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:45 p.m.

AUDIO RECORDING AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE FOR TEN YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THIS MEETING.


MAYOR

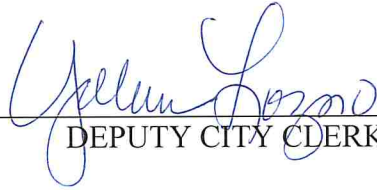
ATTEST:

PRO-TEMPORE


CITY CLERK

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned, have read the foregoing transcript of the study session meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, Arizona, held on the 19th day of May 2022, and do hereby certify that it is an accurate transcription.



DEPUTY CITY CLERK

SM:yl