

MINUTES
LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, May 29, 2020

Zoom

MEMBERS

President

Christian Price, Mayor, Maricopa

Vice President

Cathy Carlat, Mayor, Peoria

Treasurer

Douglas Nicholls, Mayor, Yuma

Tom Brady, Mayor, Bullhead City
Craig McFarland, Mayor, Casa Grande
Kevin Hartke, Mayor, Chandler
Doug Von Gausig, Mayor, Clarkdale
Robert Uribe, Mayor, Douglas
Coral Evans, Mayor, Flagstaff
Jenn Daniels, Mayor, Gilbert
Jerry Weiers, Mayor, Glendale
Georgia Lord, Mayor, Goodyear
Thomas L. Schoaf, Mayor, Litchfield Park
Ed Honea, Mayor, Marana

John Giles, Mayor, Mesa
Greg Mengarelli, Mayor, Prescott
Gail Barney, Mayor, Queen Creek
W.J. "Jim" Lane, Mayor, Scottsdale
Sandy Moriarty, Mayor, Sedona
Daryl Seymore, Mayor, Show Low
Rick Mueller, Mayor, Sierra Vista
Mark Mitchell, Mayor, Tempe
Bob Rivera, Mayor, Thatcher
Anna Tovar, Mayor, Tolleson
Regina Romero, Mayor, Tucson

*not in attendance

President Christian Price called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He then led the Executive Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

President Christian Price requested a motion on the adoption of the minutes. Mayor Kevin Hartke moved to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting; Mayor Ed Honea seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. LEGISLATIVE POLICY UPDATE

League President Christian Price welcomed League Legislative Director Nick Ponder to provide the legislative policy update.

State Legislature Update

Legislative Director Nick Ponder explained to the Executive Committee that the legislature officially adjourned Sine Die on May 26, 2020. This means the effective date for the few bills that passed will be August 25, 2020. Mr. Ponder stated the legislative team was on track for a successful session this year. Many bills that were aggressive towards local government had been defeated, including; a bill attacking municipal litigation, changes to prime contracting statutes, and changes to the residential rental statutes. Significant progress was also made on League legislative resolutions, particularly on short-term rentals, Executive Session security measures, and funding for blight. However, these measures died with preliminary suspension of session, which happened on March 20. When the Legislature returned in mid-May, the League was able to ensure that the Executive Session Security Measures Bill passed through Rules Committee and was voted on floor; it will go into effect August 25. This allows for a council meeting moving to special session to discuss issues about physical or IT security without being in a public setting. The League was also on pace to get HB 2144 passed, getting a municipal seat on the State Liquor Board; it was on calendar for the Senate, but they immediately voted to adjourn the Legislature upon return.

Federal Legislature Update

Legislative Director Nick Ponder reminded the Executive Committee that due to timing with the legislative session and the historic lack of federal legislative participation from the League, engagement in the CARES Act was not possible. This initially allocated \$139 billion to state and local governments. Through the National League of Cities, the League pushed for a lower threshold for direct distribution, opposed to the proposed population threshold of 500,000 and above. This unfortunately was unsuccessful. As a result, 88 cities and towns had to get money through the state. The next course of action was to help influence treasury guidance on how the CARES Act money was spent. Letters from State House and Senate Majorities were received and sent to Secretary Mnuchin; additional; letters were obtained from Arizona Senators McSally and Sinema. The League also worked with the NLC on this. The League asked to require that states distribute funds on a per capita basis to local governments, as well as allow for flexible utilization of the CARES Act money to include local budget support. The initial guidance from Treasury was not favorable in these requests; legislative delegation has continued to push to ease restrictions.

League legislative efforts also extended to replenishing the payroll protection program. After the passing of the additional payroll protection program money, efforts were focused in encouraging the Governor's office to promptly come up with guidance and distributions of the \$1.86 billion received in CARES Act money. League officers sent a letter to the Governor's office on May 7 asking for collaboration with the League and swift distribution of CARES Act money. After the Governor met with mayors across the state, the League also sent suggestive distribution models to the Governor's office. Additionally, the League worked with National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, U.S. Conference of Mayors, NCSL, National Governors Association to advocate for additional local assistance in the next package. A letter was put together on this federal assistance and was signed in support by 78 Mayors. The League also continues to work with the previous named stakeholder groups on the Cities are Essential Campaign and continue to be in discussion with Senators Sinema and McSally on these issues.

Mr. Ponder expressed his appreciation for League Staff for taking on a new role in federal legislation.

Mayor Coral Evans asked if there has consideration to advocate for the smaller cities and towns for more funding since the smaller cities and towns got \$115 per resident and larger cities and towns got \$175 per resident.

Mr. Ponder answered that it has not yet been considered to approach the Governor on this item.

Mayor Jim Lane mentioned there needs to be a question and explanation for why the cities and towns under 500,000 are getting less and what access the cities and towns might have to funds the counties are getting.

Mr. Ponder also mentioned that the Governor's Office will be allocating \$150 million to distribute for PPE costs, taking over the application process for reimbursement, as funds through FEMA take a long time. This means the money from FEMA would be directed to the state after they fronted the distribution of funds to cities and towns directly.

Mayor Carlat inquired about Treasury releasing new guidance for relief fund stating the state should share a percentage of the portion with cities.

Mr. Ponder answered the guidance was received this morning and is being reviewed.

Executive Director Tom Belshe let the Executive Committee know that the Governor's Office is allowing managers and finance directors to meet and ask technical questions about distribution of funds.

COVID Website and Social Media

League President Christian Price welcomed League Deputy Director Rene Guillen to provide the COVID website and social media update.

Deputy Director Rene Guillen expressed his appreciation for Legislative Director Nick Ponder and the Legislative team's hard work.

Deputy Director Rene Guillen explained to the Executive Committee that the League created a microsite, accessed through the League's current website, featuring COVID-19 resources for cities and towns to help keep them informed. The League recently added a FEMA section to assist cities and towns when registering for the CARES Act disbursement. Rene Guillen recognized the League's graphic designer, Jonathan Howard, for his hard work creating materials and content. The League has pivoted during this time to supply federal information to cities and towns.. There were many partnerships made with non-municipal stakeholders such as small business support with Small Business Association; the League shared webinars the federal government was holding to assist small businesses. Another example is Red Cross who had an unfortunate drop in blood donations. The League also worked with the American Red Cross to help get information out about donating blood and supported YMCA in getting the word out to government employees for services they have. Additionally, the League supported the Census, pushing Arizona residents to fill it out.

Deputy Director Rene Guillen invited Communication and Education Associate Samantha Womer to present.

Communication and Education Associate Samantha Womer explained what a unique position the League has been put in with the general public due to COVID-19. The League has been working

closely with HighGround to promote cities and towns through social media. The League created informative infographics to highlight Executive Orders and CDC guidelines, which were distributed both via social media and in printable form. Many videos have been created during this time on topics like small business support, city and town innovation, and easy-to-understand Executive Order information. These have come out to be some of the League's highest impression posts. One video shared nationally was about the Census, which garnered a lot of attention. In the spring the League planned many recognition weeks to highlight different jobs within municipalities. Furthermore, the League created a micro-campaign called AZ Cities Care. Ms. Womer shared slides with the Executive Committee showing the success of the campaign and social media posts over the last few months.

Executive Director Tom Belshe circled back to the first part of the Legislative Update, mentioning there were some questions regarding the money being distributed by the Governor's Office in relation to the gift clause; the League will be looking into these questions so they can provide guidance.

3. 2020 LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

President Christian Price called upon League Deputy Director Matt Lore to provide an annual conference update

Deputy Director Matt Lore informed the Executive Board that is recommended by staff to cancel the 2020 League Annual Conference, which is explained in the memo of the meeting materials. With so many unknowns, including budgets, capacity limits, and the urgency of needing to make a decision, the officers agreed this would be the best option. The League, with the assistance of the City of Glendale, was able to make a deal with the hotel, which is the largest expense of the conference, to have the 2022 conference in Glendale and receive no penalty.

President Christian Price requested a motion on the cancellation of the 2020 League Annual Conference. Vice President Cathy Carlat moved to approve the cancellation of the 2020 League Annual Conference; Mayor Georgia Lord seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. LEAGUE BUDGET FOR 2020-2021

President Christian Price called upon League Treasurer and Budget Subcommittee Chairman Mayor Douglas Nicholls.

Mayor Nicholls pointed the Executive Committee to the budget, which reflected the cancellation of the Annual Conference. Mayor Nicholls expressed his gratitude towards Deputy Director Matt Lore for his hard work with the hotel and avoiding a large cancellation penalty. Additionally, Mayor Nicholls thanked Executive Director Tom Belshe for reducing dues by 15% for the cities and towns. While there is a small reduction in the fund balance League Staff has also decided to hold salaries, meaning no raises proposed for this fiscal year. The data analysis position has been put off for hiring at this time. The budget committee met on May 19 and approved this budget to be recommended to the Executive Committee.

President Christian Price requested a motion on the 2020-2021 budget and membership dues reduction. Mayor Mark Mitchell moved to approve the 2020-2021 budget and membership dues reduction; Mayor Ed Honea seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION

President Christian Price noted due to time the resolutions will not be read but are included in the meeting materials. President Price invited Executive Director Tom Belshe to talk about the resolutions.

Executive Director Tom Belshe noted the appreciation from the League to Mayor Mitchell and Mayor Honea for their time on the Executive Committee. Mayor Mitchell was a former Executive Committee President.

President Christian Price asked the Executive Committee to provide a motion to approve a Resolution of Appreciation for Former Mayors and League Executive Committee Members Mark Mitchell and Ed Honea.

Mayor Doug Von Gausig moved to approve a Resolutions of Appreciation for Former Mayor Mitchell and Honea; Gail Barney seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Mark Mitchell expressed his appreciation for all of the Executive Committee during his time.

6. LIFE MEMBER NOMINATION

President Christian Price welcomed Executive Director Tom Belshe to discuss the Life Member Nomination.

Executive Director Tom Belshe informed the Board that Former Mayor Mark Mitchell is being recognized as a Life Member due to his service as a president on the Executive Committee. Mr. Belshe shared his appreciation for Mayor Mitchell's hard work especially in the business community.

The Executive Committee unanimously approved the nomination.

President Christian Price asked for a motion to adjourn the Executive Committee Meeting at 11:43am and move into the League Property Corporation Meeting.

Mayor Bob Rivera moved to approve to adjourn the Executive Committee Meeting at 11:50am and move into the League Property Corporation Meeting; Vice President Cathy Carlat seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


PRESIDENT