

MINUTES
LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
League of Arizona Cities and Towns
1820 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS

President

Cathy Carlat, Mayor, Peoria

Vice President

Douglas Nicholls, Mayor, Yuma

Treasurer

Greg Mengarelli, Mayor, Prescott

Craig McFarland, Mayor, Casa Grande
Kevin Hartke, Mayor, Chandler
Alexis Hermosillo, Mayor, El Mirage +
Paul Deasy, Mayor, Flagstaff +
Brigette Peterson, Mayor, Gilbert
Jerry Weiers, Mayor, Glendale
Georgia Lord, Mayor, Goodyear +
Cal Sheehy, Mayor, Lake Havasu City +
Thomas L. Schoaf, Mayor, Litchfield Park +
Ed Honea, Mayor, Marana
Christian Price, Mayor, Maricopa

John Giles, Mayor, Mesa
Kate Gallego, Mayor, Phoenix +
Stephanie Irwin, Mayor, Pinetop-Lakeside
Gail Barney, Mayor, Queen Creek +
Tom Murphy, Mayor, Sahuarita
David Ortega, Mayor, Scottsdale
Sandy Moriarty, Mayor, Sedona +
Rick Mueller, Mayor, Sierra Vista
Mila Besich, Mayor, Superior +
Corey Woods, Mayor, Tempe +
Regina Romero, Mayor, Tucson +

*Not in attendance

+ Attended via Zoom

President Cathy Carlat called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. She then led the Executive Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

President Cathy Carlat requested a motion on the adoption of the minutes. Mayor Hartke of Chandler moved to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2021, Executive Committee Meeting; Mayor Tom Murphy of Sahuarita seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. LEGISLATIVE POLICY OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

President Cathy Carlat of Peoria introduced and welcomed Legislative Director Nick Ponder to provide a legislative policy overview.

HB 2893 Phoenix Lawsuit Results - Legislative Director Nick Ponder recounted discussion on major challenges of the legislative session from the July 29, 2021 Executive Committee meeting. These challenges include inclusion of policy in the budget, which the League believed was unconstitutional and grounds for litigation. Nick Ponder welcomed Nancy Davidson to give a summary on the legal outcomes of the Phoenix lawsuit against the state. Nancy explained that Phoenix was successful in its lawsuit. The lawsuit details HB 2893 on requirements of civilian review boards and an expansion of SB1487 which includes a statute to investigate complaints on administrative and council policies and withhold state shared revenues if cities or towns violate state law. The Arizona Superior Court found the bill unconstitutional on the grounds that it did not follow the single subject rule, and voided provisions of the bill while leaving other parts of the bill intact. The case was appealed and affirmed in the Arizona Supreme Court. Nancy reported that several other budget reconciliation bills were also voided or had provisions voided by the courts from other entities who brought lawsuits forth on the basis that the bills had nothing to do with the state appropriation of funds.

Legislative Director Nick Ponder reflected that many legislators have agreed with the supreme court decision on this bill since it will likely prevent individuals from holding the budget hostage in future budget sessions over bills that have already failed in committee. However, the legislator who added the language to HB 2893 plans to bring forth the same bill with the expansion of SB1487 in the next legislative session. Legislative Director Nick Ponder suggested that this bill will likely not pass in the next session. He also recommended the League of Arizona Cities and Towns should not negotiate on SB1487 as the expansion will be more detrimental than asking for modifications.

Legislative Director Nick Ponder agreed with executive committee members and Executive Director Tom Belshe on the drafting of a resolution for this bill if a good opportunity arises this year for the League to take a formal stance. Executive Director Tom Belshe reminded the committee that the resolution committee convenes in April.

Legislative Body Changes - Legislative Director Nick Ponder shared changes in the legislative body in terms of departures and resignations. There are still four seats that need to be named. Nick also reported that by the start of 2023, there will be an additional seventeen changes, on top of expected changes from redistricting. League staff will continue to provide updates on these changes.

Resolutions – Resolution issues will include fireworks, amending budgets, water waste and water districts, homelessness, and affordable housing. Nick stated that we expect antagonistic legislation on permitting and zoning for cities and towns, liquor sales, tobacco and vaping, telecommunication statutes, and taxation of vehicle purchases for out of state residents. Nick stated that we have set up a taskforce of subject matter experts on each topic.

Legislative Director Nick Ponder asked for any questions. Mayor David Ortega of Scottsdale stressed the importance of opposing the permitting and zoning legislation and supporting local control. Mayor Ed Honea of Marana brought up the issue of sober living homes and rehabilitation housing in neighborhoods and their ability to operate. Mayor Craig McFarland of Casa Grande asked about sales tax and road tax on electric vehicles and related legislation.

Executive Director Tom Belshe stated that there is concern over the sunset review for the Model City Tax code, which means we can expect antagonistic legislation that attacks city and town's flexibility in

collecting sales tax in their jurisdiction. League staff intend to aggregate data on the importance of the Model City Tax Code in preparation of the review.

Executive Director Tom Belshe shared that League staff is putting together a survey to share with legislators in advance of providing endorsements. The survey involves questions about general principles of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns and will help guide the returns on endorsements to the cities and towns.

President Cathy Carlat of Peoria asked the executive committee to skip to agenda item 4 and 5 and return to agenda item 3 later in the meeting.

3. LEAGUE POLICY DISCUSSION

President Cathy Carlat explained that four items have been shared for consideration. If the committee wishes to move forward with any of the four items, language will be drafted for the next annual business meeting.

Additional Executive Committee Meetings

Committee members have requested additional executive committee meetings exclusively dedicated to legislative updates to increase awareness of key issues and provide direction to League staff. This item was brought forward by the cities of Tucson and Phoenix.

The item was presented and feedback from the executive committee was given to move forward with monthly zoom meetings during the legislative session and review after the session to observe if the structure worked or not for the committee. There was general agreement to create a structure for mayors to weigh in, if necessary, by sending out calendar meetings in advance. If there is a point in time where League staff feels that officer feedback is not enough to move forward and need to meet sooner than the monthly meetings, they will do their best to schedule a meeting and try to get a quorum. The executive committee agreed also that there should be some flexibility to cancel the meeting.

League staff will create a structure and language and present it to the committee at the next committee meeting.

Officer Communication

This item pertains to formal communication between officers. The request is to require letters signed by either two or three officers must first receive executive committee approval if the letter takes the position pending legislation that is different than the formal position by the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. This item was brought forward by the cities of Tucson and Phoenix.

The item was presented and feedback from the executive committee was given stating that a letter is only the official stance of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns if it has official letterhead. If a letter does not have the League of Arizona Cities and Towns letterhead, then it is a Mayors-only letter, and does not reflect the official position of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns.

Officer Terms

This item pertains to the length of officer terms, specifically requesting to change the length of terms from two years to one year, beginning with any officer elected or appointed after November 10th, 2021.

The purpose of this request is to increase participation among mayors who may serve in officer roles. This item was brought forward by the cities of Tucson and Phoenix.

The item was presented and feedback from the executive committee was given stating that two-year officer terms work well for the League of Arizona Cities and Towns since the constitution was established in 1937. They would like to explore options on whether it is necessary for officers to sit in all three chairs for two years each before becoming president, or potentially adding another officer position and changing to 1-year terms. The committee requested to know how officer tenure is handled in other League of Cities and Towns. Executive Director Tom Belshe explained that other Leagues have varying terms and varying amounts of officers. Tom stated that since officer terms are a constitutional issue, it will need to be voted on by the entire League membership.

League staff will put language together on one-year terms to be reviewed by the executive committee at the next committee meeting.

Officer Partisan Composition

This item pertains to creating a goal of bipartisanship composition of League officers. The request would be to make standard that one officer be of a different political party than the other two officers. The purpose of the request is to ensure interests from all around the state are represented by mayors who sit at the officer level. This item was brought forward by the cities of Tucson and Phoenix.

The item was presented and feedback from the executive committee was given to not go forward with a bipartisan officer composition. Overall feedback was that most cities are nonpartisan and do what is best for their cities and towns as elected representatives despite any party affiliation.

4. RECAP OF 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Deputy Director Matt Lore gave the update on the League Annual Conference. The conference had attendance from eighty three out of the ninety-one cities and towns in Arizona. The net revenues totaled \$187,000.000 dollars. Matt Lore informed the committee that next year's conference will be held at the Renaissance in Glendale. Matt let the executive committee know if they have any topic or speaker suggestions, to please let staff know. Matt asked for any questions from the executive committee. Mayor Tom Murphy of Sahuarita asked if there was any surprising survey feedback. Deputy Director Matt replied that there was no surprising feedback. Executive Director Tom Belshe and President Cathy Carlat of Peoria extended their thanks and gratitude to staff that made the conference possible.

5. CITY AND TOWNS WEEK 2021 AND SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Deputy Director Matt Lore welcomed Member Services Associate Rachel Claffey to give an update on two social media campaigns the League put on this year. Rachel Claffey informed the committee that this year we held our 20th annual Cities and Towns week. The purpose of the week is to provide citizens with information on services and programs provided by cities and towns and help to introduce elected officials to residents. The week was a success as the League distributed a packet of proclamations and creative posts that cities and towns may share on social media.

Member Services Associate Rachel Claffey also gave an update of the League social media scavenger hunt at the 2021 League Annual Conference. The purpose of the scavenger hunt was to increase

audience and user generated content on social media. Participants earned points per post shared on all social media platforms, resulting in three scavenger hunt winners. She informed the committee those digital impressions and engagement have tripled since 2019, so the League plans to continue this program in the future.

6. 2020-2021 AUDIT UPDATE

Executive Director Tom Belshe encouraged the committee to review the audit report shared in the packet and ask any questions they have. He reported that there were no findings in the audit report. Tom thanked office manager Sandy Morari who works with the contracted accountants and auditors to help put the audit together. Tom stated that the League is comfortable with it's internal controls and is careful about spending. Tom shared that the League is at the end of it's contract with the current auditors. League staff will compile a request for proposals for the next audit and return to the committee with recommendations at the next meeting.

President Cathy Carlat called for a motion to approve the audit report. Mayor Rick Mueller of Sierra Vista made a motion to approve the audit report; Mayor Kevin Hartke of Chandler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

7. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

President Cathy Carlat of Peoria read the resolution expressing the appreciation of Mayor Greg Mengarelli for his dedicated service to the League of Arizona Cities and Towns and to local government in Arizona. Greg Mengarelli served the citizens of Prescott for four years as Mayor, served the executive committee from 2019- 2021, treasurer from 2020 to 2021, and on various League committees during his time.

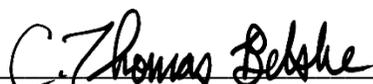
Vice President Doug Nichols of Yuma motioned to approve the resolution; Mayor Christian Price of Maricopa seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

President Cathy Carlat called for a motion to hold an Executive Session. Mayor Christian Price of Maricopa motioned to move into the Executive session; Mayor Brigitte Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW

The Executive Committee moved into the Executive Session at 12:42 p.m. The Executive Committee adjourned Executive Session at 12:48 p.m.

The Executive Committee adjourned the Executive Committee meeting at 12:49 p.m.


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


PRESIDENT