

MINUTES
LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
League of Arizona Cities and Towns
1820 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS

President

Douglas Nicholls, Mayor, Yuma

Vice President

Kevin Hartke, Mayor, Chandler+

Treasurer

Mila Besich, Mayor, Superior+

Ken Budge, Mayor, Bisbee
Craig McFarland, Mayor, Casa Grande
Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Mayor, Clarkdale+
Alexis Hermosillo, Mayor, El Mirage*
Paul Deasy, Mayor, Flagstaff*
Brigitte Peterson, Mayor, Gilbert
Jerry Weiers, Mayor, Glendale
Joe Pizzillo, Mayor, Goodyear
Cal Sheehey, Mayor, Lake Havasu City+
Tom Schoaf, Mayor, Litchfield Park
Ed Honea, Mayor, Marana

John Giles, Mayor, Mesa
Jerry Bien-Willner, Mayor, Paradise Valley
Cathy Carlat, Mayor, Peoria*
Kate Gallego, Mayor, Phoenix+
Stephanie Irwin, Mayor, Pinetop-Lakeside+
Tom Murphy, Mayor, Sahuarita
David Ortega, Mayor, Scottsdale
Sandy Moriarty, Mayor, Sedona+
Rick Mueller, Mayor, Sierra Vista+
Corey Woods, Mayor, Tempe
Regina Romero, Mayor, Tucson*

*Not in attendance

+ Attended via Zoom

President Douglas Nicholls called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He then led the Executive Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

President Douglas Nicholls requested a motion on the adoption of the minutes. Mayor Brigitte Peterson of Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting; Mayor Tom Murphy of Sahuarita seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. RECAP OF 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

President Douglas Nicholls introduced and welcomed League Staff to provide a recap of the conference.

Executive Director Tom Belshe introduced Deputy Director Matt Lore to share the update on the post-conference survey results and financial report.

Deputy Director Matt Lore shared that the overall conference revenue earned the organization \$738,000 and the net revenue was just short of \$268,000 making it the highest grossing conference to date. A total of approximately 1,460 attendees was recorded with 84 of the 91 cities and towns represented. The following year's conference will be held in Tucson again at the Starr Pass from August 28th – September 1st. League staff opened the floor for suggestions or discussions concerning the conference, but no comments or questions arose.

3. CITIES AND TOWNS WEEK 2022 AND SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Deputy Director Matt Lore shared to the committee that the 2022 Cities and Towns Week marked the 21st celebration of Arizona Cities and Towns officials and programs which started in 2002. This year's theme centered on "City and Town Champions" with a focus on municipal elected officials and staff. Many cities and towns celebrated the week through social media channels or through events, city or town halls, newsletters, and proclamations.

League staff shared an overview of the report by HighGround, who is contracted to supplement social media and advocacy efforts, for committee review. The new AZ Neighbors program was created to promote the resources provided by the Housing Committee.

4. 2021 – 2022 AUDIT REPORT

Executive Director Tom Belshe reported that there were no findings in the audit report. President Douglas Nicholls proposed a motion to adopt the audit. Mayor Honea approved the motion; Mayor Woods seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. UPDATE ON ADVANCING ARIZONA'S ECONOMY AND ABOR'S EFFORTS TO ENHANCE UNIVERSITY & MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS

Executive Director Tom Belshe introduced John Arnold from the Arizona Board of Regents to discuss workforce development projects being created. The Board of Regents representative presented issues that are facing the state in regard to education in hopes to partner with local government to alleviate these issues. The Board of Regents acknowledges changes in the economy, the nature of work in the state, and that there is an increase in the number and percentage of jobs that require a four-year degree as a minimum education requirement. Current outputs show that while many students plan to receive a four-year degree, there is a low number of students who finish their education. Potential reasons for the disconnect between aspirations of students and their parents to achieve their goals and the actual data suggests limited financial and geographical access for many students. The Board of Regents has plans to diversify their higher education products such as changing admission requirements and implementing a state college type of product. The Board is continuing their efforts in partnering with community colleges through their A++ project and K-12 schools. The Arizona Promise Program seeks to create an

expanded and targeted financial aid process for Pell Grant eligible students. The launch of the Teachers Academy Programs and Military Spouse initiative creates policies so that students do not have to pay tuition and fees if they meet program requirements. The Community Grants program creates partnerships with state agencies to identify a problem, receive funding, and work with university faculty to solve the problem together.

Discussion ensued surrounding the topic of veteran tuition rates, the value of education, PFAs, in-state versus out of state students, guidance counselors, and teachers as advocates for higher education.

6. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION/ LIFE MEMBERSHIP

President Douglas Nicholls asked for a motion to approve a resolution of appreciation for Mayor Sandy Moriarty of Sedona for her dedicated service to local government. Mayor Tom Murphy of Sahuarita moved to approve the resolution of appreciation; Mayor Craig MacFarland of Casa Grande seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. President Douglas Nicholls asked for a motion to approve a resolution of appreciation for Mayor Rick Mueller of Sierra Vista for his dedicated service to local government. Mayor Ken Budge of Bisbee moved to approve the resolution of appreciation; Mayor Ed Honea of Marana seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. President Douglas Nicholls asked for a motion to approve a resolution of appreciation for Mayor Cathy Carlat of Peoria for her dedicated service to local government. Mayor Ed Honea of Marana moved to approve the resolution of appreciation; Mayor Brigitte Peterson of Gilbert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

President Douglas Nicholls asked for a motion to approve the nomination of Past President Cathy Carlat as a Life Member. Mayor Tom Murphy of Sahuarita moved to approve the Life Member Nomination; Mayor Corey Woods of Tempe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. COUNTY SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION REGARDING NEW BENEFITS TO PSPRS

Executive Director Tom Belshe presented a resolution that was adopted by the County Supervisors Association asking that new benefits for the PSPRS pension system only be adopted after careful consideration and actuarial work be done related to the increase of employer contributions. He also pointed out that PSPRS should not be in a position to advocate for such benefit increases as this is not their role. Mayor Mueller supports the sentiment stated by Executive Director Tom Belshe.

President Douglas Nicholls calls for a motion of the adoption of the resolution. Mayor Craig McFarland of Casa Grande moved to approve the adoption of the resolution; Mayor Ken Budge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. LEGISLATIVE POLICY OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Executive Director Tom Belshe introduced Tom Savage to speak on general election predictions and how the results will affect future endeavors. Tom Savage introduced a new addition to the team, legislative associate Marshall Pimentel Election predictions include republicans maintaining majority in the Senate and gaining an additional seat in the House.

The intergov retreat will discuss housing as the Housing Supply Study Committee will resume meetings on impact fees and supply chain issues on November 29th. Economist Jim Rounds will conduct a housing study report to provide further information. Tom Savage reviewed various tax issues, lobbying restrictions for local governments, and a homelessness ban on urban camping that have a possibility of changing in the coming year. The Municipal Tax Code Commission is at risk for becoming obsolete so efforts will be made to increase support.

An issue that is predicted to change is the matter of local partisan elections which would require local elections to claim a party on their ballot. In regards to the issue of vacation rental regulations, Mayor Moriarty called for an increase in regulation efforts with Mayor Woods seconding the sentiment.

Executive Director Tom Belshe announced efforts to increase resources provided to members on housing and various other issues and the introduction of a third legislative associate who will focus on further research gathering for members. A proposal for a new training program provided by League staff was presented by Executive Director Tom Belshe focusing on providing guidance to former members to run for the state legislature. After discussion by the Committee, it was concluded that the League is to find a third-party organization to conduct the training.

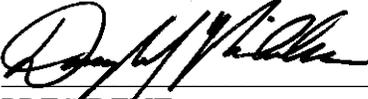
President Douglas Nicholls asked for a motion to hold an Executive Session to discuss Item #9 on the agenda, Mayor Peterson of Gilbert approved the motion; Mayor Woods seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Executive Committee Meeting recessed at 11:52 a.m.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW

After a brief recess, the Executive Committee moved into the Executive Session at 12:15 p.m. The Executive Committee adjourned Executive Session and reconvened in regular session at 12:58 p.m. Mayor Bridgette Peterson of Gilbert made a motion to approve the Executive Director's employment contract as amended in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Corey Woods of Tempe and it carried unanimously.

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


PRESIDENT