

# MINUTES

## LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, November 9, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.  
League Office Building  
1820 West Washington, Phoenix

#### MEMBERS

##### President

Doug Von Gausig, Mayor, Clarkdale\*

##### Vice President

Mark Mitchell, Councilmember, Tempe

##### Treasurer

Jay Tibshraeny, Mayor, Chandler

Marie Lopez Rogers, Mayor, Avondale  
Gilbert Lopez, Councilmember, Coolidge  
Lana Mook, Mayor, El Mirage  
John Lewis, Mayor, Gilbert  
Elaine M. Scruggs, Mayor, Glendale  
John Salem, Mayor, Kingman\*  
Mark Nexsen, Mayor, Lake Havasu City  
Thomas L. Schoaf, Mayor, Litchfield Park

Ed Honea, Mayor, Marana  
Scott Smith, Mayor, Mesa  
Kenny Evans, Mayor, Payson  
Bob Barrett, Mayor, Peoria\*  
Greg Stanton, Mayor, Phoenix  
Harvey Skoog, Mayor, Prescott Valley  
Lynne Skelton, Vice Mayor, Sahuarita  
W.J. "Jim" Lane, Mayor, Scottsdale  
Rob Adams, Mayor, Sedona  
Rick Mueller, Mayor, Sierra Vista  
Bob Rivera, Mayor, Thatcher  
Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor, Tucson\*  
Alan Krieger, Mayor, Yuma

*\*Not in attendance*

Vice President Mark Mitchell called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. He welcomed everyone and led them in the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice President Mitchell then recognized the new members of the committee, Mayor John Lewis of Gilbert and Mayor Ed Honea of Marana. He also noted that a member of the Executive Committee, Councilmember Gerry Whipple passed away suddenly on October 29. President Mitchell also noted that Ken Huish, former mayor of Kearny and past Executive Committee member passed away recently as well. Members of the Executive Committee took a moment to recognize the passing of Gerry and Ken.

#### **1. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Vice President Mitchell asked for review and approval of the minutes as presented. Mayor Evans moved that the minutes of the August 29, 2012, Executive Committee meeting and the August 30, 2012, business meeting be approved as amended. Mayor Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **2. TPT WORK GROUP REPORT**

Vice President Mitchell recognized League Deputy Director Tom Belshe to provide an update on the TPT work group. Mr. Belshe said that the group is working with the business community and cities and towns to provide recommendations to simplify the tax code. He noted that some of the issues they are working on include: removing language on the green sheets and outdated options and making changes to the online retail category. The group is also looking for the state to do an annual renewal for state licenses. Mr. Belshe also discussed the progress on the sales tax portal already passed in state law. He added that the portal will be set up by a private vendor to make tax remittance easier for businesses in self-collecting cities. Finally, they are looking at different categories of tax, including retail sales, to find any differences from the state's tax base and to seek more uniformity.

Mr. Belshe informed the committee that the state has come to an agreement with Amazon.com on the collection of tax on online sales made in the state. Cities and towns will start to collect tax on the retail category of distributed items based on the point of delivery from Amazon. This will begin in February 2013. Finally, Mr. Belshe said that there are only three meetings left with the task force, so the Municipal Tax Code Commission should expect more meetings in the upcoming year as they work through these issues.

After the presentation, some of the members of the Executive Committee expressed concerns regarding issues on the sales tax. Mr. Belshe indicated that they are working on several of the issues that have been expressed to be of concern to cities and towns.

## **3. LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND LOOK AHEAD**

Mayor Mitchell recognized League Executive Director Ken Strobeck to provide the legislative report. Mr. Strobeck informed the Executive Committee that today is Mr. Ogsbury's last day as the League's legislative director. Then Mr. Strobeck directed the report to League Legislative Associate Dale Wiebusch to talk about the outcome of the elections and the status of some League resolutions. Mr. Wiebusch noted that as November 9, there were still 600,000 uncounted ballots in the state. He then reported on legislative leadership and trends in the incoming Legislature.

Mr. Wiebusch then turned to the René Guillen, League legislative associate, to update the committee on the municipal policy statement. Mr. Guillen noted that the legislative team is working on changes to the municipal policy statement and that the 2013 statement will be an easier read for all audiences. In addition, staff is also working on the 2013 legislative poster and calendar. All three publications should be available within the next month.

## **4. LEAGUE ANNUAL SURVEY RESULTS**

League Communication and Education Director Matt Lore reported on the results of the League's 11th annual survey. Mr. Lore first explained the background of the use of the survey. He then noted that they received 114 total responses. Mr. Lore gave a brief report on the survey responses and noted that the full survey with comments was available in the Executive Committee's packets.

## **5. LEAGUE TRANSPARENCY**

Vice President Mark Mitchell recognized Executive Director Ken Strobeck to provide an update on the issue of League transparency. Mr. Strobeck gave a presentation on the League's current meeting notice and transparency process, and included recommendations to formalize this process.

After Mr. Strobeck's presentation, Vice President Mitchell turned the floor over to Mayor Jim Lane. Mayor Lane recognized the efforts the League had put forth to comply with greater transparency and stated he would like to formalize these recommendations through a motion to adopt League staff's meeting notice and transparency recommendations with the addition that the fifth bullet point include materials presented and supporting documentation provided in a timely manner. He also expressed an interest in forming an ad-hoc committee to study and make recommendations for improvements to the League's constitution, to be presented at the annual business meeting.

After discussion from the Executive Committee, Mayor Kenny Evans made a motion that the League Executive Committee continue to operate in an open and transparent manner by formalizing, through adoption, staff's recommendations and to include in bullet point five, the provision of providing supporting material in a timely manner. The motion was seconded by Mayor Lane and passed unanimously.

After further discussion, Vice President Mitchell called on Phoenix Councilmember Sal DiCiccio to provide brief comments to the Executive Committee.

## **6. REPORT ON LEAGUE COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

League Education and Communication Director Matt Lore provided an update on the League Communications Subcommittee on behalf of Mayor Salem, chair of Communications Subcommittee, who could not attend the meeting. Mr. Lore said that they are working with a PR firm, Ideas Collide, to revamp the League's previous outreach campaign and that the new campaign will launch in 2013. In addition, Mr. Lore noted that the League is continuing to work with Scutari & Cieslak on their ongoing media outreach.

## **7. RECAP OF 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE; FUTURE CONFERENCE LOCATIONS**

League Education and Communication Director Matt Lore updated the committee on the outcome and attendance of the League annual conference. Mr. Lore highlighted the survey responses that are used to improve the conference. Mr. Lore also noted that they are exploring the 2014 conference sites in the city of Phoenix.

## **8. 2011-2012 AUDIT REPORT; AUDIT FIRM CONTRACT**

Vice President Mark Mitchell called on League Executive Director Ken Strobeck to give an update on the audit report. Mr. Strobeck said that the League had a clean audit and that their contract is up with CliftonLarsonAllen. He said that the firm has proposed a flat rate for the next three years to continue its audit contract.

Vice President Mitchell asked for a motion to approve the annual audit report. Mayor Skoog moved that the audit report be approved. Mayor Rivera seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Vice President Mitchell asked for approval of a new three-year contract with CliftonLarsonAllen. Mayor Rivera motioned to approve the audit contract. Mayor Lopez seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Finally, Vice President Mitchell recognized Mayor Elaine Scruggs, noting that this was her last meeting as a member of the Executive Committee. Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers was also recognized as the incoming president of the National League of Cities.

Seeing no further business, Vice President Mark Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

  
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

  
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PRESIDENT