

# MINUTES

## LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, August 20, 2008  
Marriott Camelback Inn  
Paradise Valley, Arizona

#### MEMBERS

##### President

Boyd Dunn, Mayor, Chandler

##### Vice President

Robert Walkup, Mayor, Tucson

##### Treasurer

Larry Nelson, Mayor, Yuma \*

Marie Lopez Rogers, Mayor, Avondale  
Gilbert Lopez, Councilmember, Coolidge  
Byron Jackson, Mayor, Eloy

Steve Berman, Mayor, Gilbert  
Elaine M. Scruggs, Mayor, Glendale  
Jim Cavanaugh, Mayor, Goodyear  
Monica Badillo, Mayor, Hayden  
Paul Loomis, Mayor, Oro Valley  
Greg Stanton, Councilmember, Phoenix  
Harvey Skoog, Mayor, Prescott Valley  
Mary Manross, Mayor, Scottsdale  
Gerry Whipple, Councilmember, Show Low  
Robert Strain, Mayor, Sierra Vista  
Mark Mitchell, Councilmember, Tempe  
Bob Rivera, Mayor, Thatcher

\*Not in attendance

President Dunn called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

#### 1. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mayor Walkup moved that the minutes of the May 23, 2008 Executive Committee meeting and the summary of the July 3, 2008 League Officers special meeting be approved. Mayor Rivera seconded the motion and it carried.

#### 2. BUDGET PROVISION RE: \$29M "CONTRIBUTION" TO STATE GENERAL FUND

President Dunn stated that due to time constraints, agenda item #5 regarding the budget provision contribution would be moved to the beginning of the agenda. He then recognized Ken Strobeck to give a brief overview of the issue.

Ken stated that while shared revenues were protected in the recently passed state budget bills, there was one new section that requires counties, cities and towns to deposit nearly \$30 million into the state general fund. He stated that the League officers questioned the legality of this section in light of Prop. 108. In addition, they questioned the troubling precedent of the state being able to command local governments to deposit their locally-raised sales tax funds into the state general fund. In July, League officers authorized the League staff to retain legal counsel to develop possible options in response to this provision.

Ken stated that after interviewing numerous law firms, the League has retained Perkins Coie Brown & Bain. He stated that they are here today to discuss the provision with the Executive Committee.

Mayor Skoog made a motion to recess the meeting and go into an Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) to receive advice from legal counsel. Mayor Strain seconded the motion and it carried. The Executive Committee went into Executive Session at 12:30 p.m.

After discussion in Executive Session, the Executive Committee reconvened at 1:20 p.m. Mayor Loomis moved to authorize the League attorneys to communicate the League's concerns to the state leadership regarding the unconstitutionality of Section 47 of HB2209 and to use all legal processes to resolve the issue. Mayor Walkup seconded the motion and it carried.

### **3. POSSIBLE CHANGES TO RESOLUTIONS PROCESS**

President Dunn asked Ken Strobeck to discuss the possibility of policy committees as a method of creating the League's policy agenda.

Ken stated that there have been complaints about the length and usefulness of the current process, though this year's ran smoothly. The current policy submission process doesn't always generate high priority policy goals, which prompted Ken to ask Cheyenne Walsh, Legislative Associate, to present some research on other League's policy committee processes to the Executive Committee for discussion. Ken introduced Cheyenne to present her findings.

Cheyenne referred committee members to the policy presentation in their committee packets. She gave a history of the current resolutions process, which has existed for many years with modifications over the years.

Cheyenne then explained the current resolutions process, in which the League solicits policy proposals in April/May from all cities and towns. After the submission deadline in mid- June, a Resolutions Subcommittee meets to discuss and categorize the resolutions into recommended actions for the full Resolutions Committee. The full Committee meets at the Annual Conference in August to act on the proposals. Their action is ratified at the Annual Business Meeting. Passed resolutions are used by staff to create the Municipal Policy Statement for the upcoming legislative session.

Cheyenne discussed the benefits of the current process; it is relatively simple, members are familiar with it, every city has the opportunity to be involved and it requires a moderate amount of staff time. She stated the issues with the current process are a lack of overall cohesiveness/strategy, and it lacks a process to amend the policies once they are adopted, creating static policy goals.

Cheyenne stated that an alternative to our policy process is a policy committee system, which is utilized by many state leagues for policy development. Her research found that common praise of a policy committee system stemmed from the increased policy discussion, more member involvement/feedback, a more strategic and cohesive agenda and it provides a forum for amending policies. Issues that arise with policy committee systems are generally procedural (appointments, scheduling, how often to meet, etc.) and that they are considerably more staff intensive than our current process.

Cheyenne discussed the policy committee processes of the Georgia, New Mexico, Minnesota and California Leagues in detail.

Cheyenne then asked the Committee for feedback on the concept of policy committees. President Dunn suggested that the Committee discuss if policy committees were something the Committee is interesting in implementing and if so, appoint a subcommittee to further discuss the details. Discussion ensued

regarding the usefulness of policy committees and their impact on our current process. President Dunn suggested that special committees could be appointed as necessary but a standing policy committee process may not be useful. He asked staff for a proposal about how special committees could be created and utilized.

Ken stated that he brought this subject to the Committee to get feedback and heard that the consensus appears to be that no major changes are needed. He offered to work with a subcommittee of the Committee or with his staff to suggest small changes to the current process than may address some of these issues.

Councilmember Stanton asked if part of this discussion was getting more members involved and expressed an interest in hearing other suggestions at the retreat. President Dunn asked that staff bring a special policy committee presentation at the November meeting.

#### **4. NLC BOARD CANDIDATE REQUESTS**

President Dunn stated that Executive Committee member Mark Mitchell, Councilmember, Tempe, is a candidate for the National League of Cities Board and is requesting endorsement of his candidacy from the League of Arizona Cities & Towns.

Mayor Loomis moved that the League of Arizona Cities & Towns endorse Councilmember Mark Mitchell's candidacy for the National League of Cities Board. Mayor Rivera seconded the motion and it carried.

#### **5. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

President recognized Jeff Kros, Legislative Director, to give a report on the Legislative session.

Jeff stated that in addition to the budget, there were a number of other policy issues to arise out of the legislative session that are important to cities and towns. He briefly mentioned three key items including the new DPS Crime Lab fees, the employer sanctions law, and the impact fees bill which was vetoed by the Governor.

Jeff stated League staff has compiled these and other bills into the New Laws Report and will be making presentations to cities and towns across the state.

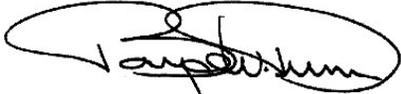
#### **6. OTHER BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Dunn announced that the Executive Committee retreat has been scheduled for September 18-19, 2008 at the Embassy Suites Phoenix-Scottsdale. Ken noted that the format would be very similar to the last Executive Committee retreat and that more information, including an agenda, would be forthcoming.

President Dunn asked if there was any other business. Seeing none, he called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion and it carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

  
PRESIDENT