

MINUTES

LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, February 11, 2011
League of Arizona Cities and Towns
1820 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

MEMBERS

President

Robert Walkup, Mayor, Tucson

Vice President

Doug Von Gausig, Mayor, Clarkdale

Treasurer

Mark Mitchell, Councilmember, Tempe

Marie Lopez Rogers, Mayor, Avondale
Gilbert Lopez, Councilmember, Coolidge
Byron Jackson, Mayor, Eloy
Elaine M. Scruggs, Mayor, Glendale
Fernando Shipley, Mayor, Globe*
John Salem, Mayor, Kingman

Mark Nexsen, Mayor, Lake Havasu City
Thomas L. Schoaf, Mayor, Litchfield Park
Scott Smith, Mayor, Mesa*
Kenny Evans, Mayor, Payson*
Bob Barrett, Mayor, Peoria
Claude Mattox, Councilmember, Phoenix
Harvey Skoog, Mayor, Prescott Valley
Lynne Skelton, Mayor, Sahuarita*
W.J. "Jim" Lane, Mayor, Scottsdale
Rob Adams, Mayor, Sedona
Gerry Whipple, Councilmember, Show
Low*
Bob Rivera, Mayor, Thatcher
Alan Krieger, Mayor, Yuma

**Not in attendance*

President Walkup called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

President Walkup welcomed everyone and took a few minutes to recount recent tragic events in Tucson. President Walkup invited the Mayors in attendance to join with him in signing the Mayor Civility Accord. President Walkup and the City of Tucson were commended by the Committee.

1. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

President Walkup asked for review and approval of the minutes as presented. Mayor Krieger moved that the minutes of the November 5, 2010 Executive Committee meeting be approved. Mayor Lane seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. LEGISLATIVE REPORT / BUDGET UPDATE

Mayor Walkup asked League Executive Director Ken Strobeck to introduce John Arnold of the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting and Page Gonzalez, local government policy advisor to the Governor in order to present to the Committee a State budget update. John Arnold detailed the many factors impacting the State budget. Included in the presentation was a segment explaining the difference

between the large increase in State expenditures and the much more modest increase in State revenue between fiscal years 2001 and 2010. Areas of the state budget that could potentially undergo further cuts were discussed, including areas that may affect cities and towns. John finished his presentation, was thanked, and a discussion ensued. President Walkup informed the committee that before the legislative report was presented, he would be moving to agenda item number 3 for a presentation on survey results.

3. REPORT ON LEAGUE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY / COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

President Walkup asked Ken to introduce the next speaker. Ken welcomed Paul Bentz of ArizonaHighGround and asked him to present the findings of the public opinion study commissioned by the League. Paul explained the study sampled 500 likely voters and had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent. The poll was largely focused on state revenue sharing, but included myriad topics dealing with state and local government issues. Among the findings, the survey showed: by a 2-1 margin, Arizona voters are more confident that cities and towns do a better job than county and state governments when comes to balancing their budget; more than 65 percent of respondents support state shared revenue; an overwhelming majority of voters ranked city services like police, fire and emergency protection, as well as maintaining streets and roads as critical; and cities and towns are seen as the economic engine which generate revenue, create jobs, and maintain a high quality of life across Arizona. After the findings were presented, Paul was thanked, and a short discussion ensued.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Committee next returned to agenda item 2 and Ken asked League Legislative Director Jim Ogsbury to give a Legislative Report. Jim provided an overview of the First Regular 2011 legislative session. The Legislature has introduced 1,334 bills; of these the League is currently tracking approximately 200 that have potentially significant impacts on cities and towns. Some of these bills consist of freezing the municipal distribution of state shared revenue, eliminating the model city tax code and restrictions on a municipality's ability to impose impact fees. Additionally, there is a package of bills specifically mandating certain management procedures for Arizona's largest cities. After the session, Jim plans to travel across the state and work with some of our smaller communities to increase their legislative awareness. In the meantime, it is recommended that everyone be actively involved at the Legislature; that includes registering in the Request to Speak system. This is important in mobilizing to influence legislators. Members can contact the League with any questions.

4. ADOPTION OF FY 11-12 DUES

Ken informed the Committee that it was time for the annual adoption of League Dues. Ken offered two fee schedules; option A which would adjust the rates to slightly below the adopted 2006 fee schedule, and option B which would return the rates to the original 2006 adopted schedule. President Walkup opened the floor for comment and a brief discussion covering the pros and cons of each option ensued. Mayor Salem moved that option B as presented by Ken be approved. Mayor Rivera seconded the motion and it carried with one objection from Councilmember Claude Mattox.

5. RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION

President Walkup asked for a motion to approve two Resolutions of Appreciation for outgoing Executive Committee members Jim Cavanaugh and Boyd Dunn in order to officially thank them for their dedicated service to local government in Arizona. Mayor Adams motioned for approval of the Resolutions of Appreciation, Mayor Schoaf seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. LIFE MEMBER NOMINATION

Ken explained that former presidents of the League who are no longer serving in elected office are traditionally accorded Life Membership, and former President Boyd Dunn is now eligible for that honor. President Walkup asked for a motion to approve the Life Membership Resolution for Boyd Dunn. Mayor Rivera motioned for approval of the resolution, Mayor Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

7. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT(S)

Ken mentioned that the Committee now has three vacancies, and the process for filling those vacancies is outlined in the League Constitution. Ken presented a letter of interest sent by Mayor Jay Tibshraeny of Chandler informing the Committee that he would like to be considered for one of the current vacancies. President Walkup asked the Committee for a motion to approve the appointment. Councilmember Mattox motioned for approval, Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Walkup asked if there was any other business the Committee wished to discuss. Mayor Krieger spoke to the Committee about his attendance at the US-Mexico Border Mayors Conference. Highlights of the conference included US border mayors expressing their hope that ports of entry to the United States would be made more efficient. The border mayors hoped efficiency in the flow of legal crossers would help bolster local economies. Additionally it was stressed that a priority be made to promote new infrastructure and commerce development along the US-Mexico border. Mayor Krieger was thanked by the Committee for his participation in the meeting.

President Walkup asked if there was any other business, and seeing none adjourned the meeting at 12:13p.m.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PRESIDENT