
This document was created from the closed caption transcript of the May 4, 2021 City Council Work Study meeting and has not been checked for completeness or accuracy of content.

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CALL TO ORDER

[Time: 00:00:04]

Mayor Ortega: I call the May 4th city council work study session to order. City Clerk, Ben Lane, can you please conduct the roll call.

ROLL CALL

[Time: 00:00:15]

City Clerk Ben Lane: Thank you, mayor. Mayor David Ortega.

Mayor Ortega: Present.

Clerk Ben Lane: Vice Mayor Betty Janik.

Vice Mayor Janik: Present.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Councilmembers Tammy Caputi.

Councilmember Caputi: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Tom Durham.

Councilmember Durham: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Kathy Littlefield.

Councilmember Littlefield: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Linda Milhaven.

Councilmember Milhaven: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Solange Whitehead.

Councilmember Whitehead: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: City Manager Jim Thompson.

City Manager Jim Thompson: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Deputy City Attorney Joe Padilla.

Deputy City Attorney Joe Padilla: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Acting City Treasurer Judy Doyle.

Acting City Treasurer Judy Doyle: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: City Auditor Sharron Walker.

City Auditor Sharron Walker: Here.

City Clerk Ben Lane: And the Clerk is present.

[Time: 00:00:41]

Mayor Ortega: The work study sessions provide the less formal opportunity for the mayor and the council to discuss a topping and get into our questions and refinements. In this case, it's for the general plan 2035.

Can you imagine in 30 days we will have this done and voted on. I am so thrilled by this. Now, accordingly, at this point, I will turn it over to Erin Perreault and planning and development director. Take it away, Erin.

ITEM 1 – DRAFT GENERAL PLAN 2035 UPDATE

[Time: 00:01:21]

Erin Perreault: Thank you, Mayor and council. Next slide, please.

Tonight is the last in the series of work study sessions on the draft general plan. After this evening -- well, this evening, I will be asking for any final comments that you do have on the draft general plan.

We will turn that draft into a final draft general plan that we will take on May 12th to the planning commission for their recommendation hearing. They will make a recommendation to that plan to the city council which we will bring back on June 8th for adoption of that plan. Next slide, please.

Moving into the plan, it has eight chapters and 23 elements and 17 are state mandated and seven or community created. Next slide, please. In terms of Chapter 1, it includes three elements, the land use element, the -- which is state mandated in two community created elements, character and design that we had since 2000 in our general plan and another one, arts, cultures and creative community that is new to this draft. Next slide, please.

In terms of the first element, the character and design element, we had this in the plan since 2001. Next slide, please. Some of the major additions are identifying the downtown core on the character types map, and we have clarified the language based on our last work study session discussion that includes the downtown core is identified, described and defined by specific boundary in the old town Scottsdale character area plan. Next slide, please.

This almost also includes at proved character areas that we have currency in Scottsdale and includes future areas based on what we heard from the community. Of course, those future character areas will have to go through public processes of their own, and council adoptions to become approved character areas in the future. Next slide, please. At this time, I will pause and see if there's any further input that the council has on this element, before I move into the land use element.

Mayor Ortega: I see no council hands up. So we will continue.

Erin Perreault: So moving into the land use element, it is state mandated. It includes our general plan amendment criteria and of course the future land use map. One item we did add a new goal, based on community input, and council discussion, that talks about protecting the Scottsdale airport. There's very little content about the Scottsdale airport currently in our general plan. Next slide, please.

In terms of the land use element, it establishes the future land use map which you see the current one on left that has been updated since 2001 through minor or major amendment processes per state statute, and then on the right is the currently proposed map, with a new land use that we have discussed over a series of work study sessions, which is the desert rural land use north of deer valley

road. Next slide, please.

In terms of the amendment criteria, moving forward, we -- you can see the previous amendment criteria on the top left of the screen. The first criteria is change in land use. What this land use matrix sets out is whether it's a major or minor process depending on what land use you are changing from or to. This has been modified in the draft general plan, first to include that new proposed desert rural land use, but also to break out some individual land uses that were previously grouped together in land use categories and those include natural open space, developed open space, rural neighborhoods, urban neighborhoods and resorts and tourism.

So they are no longer grouped with other land used. They are standalone land uses within this matrix, which is a change. Next, amendment criteria. Next slide, please, is the area of change or the amount of acres that it takes to trigger a major amendment in Scottsdale, based on a land use request to be changed. Currently on the left, those areas highlighted in yellow, it's 15 acres and 10 acres roughly south of the cap canal. What is proposed in the plan, in the draft plan is 10-acre city-wide now so that is an adjustment in the plan. Next slide, please.

We maintain the character area and water, wastewater infrastructure criteria that we currently have our plan. We have made no changes to those. Next slide, please. The plan also introduces three new major amendment criteria, one is to -- if there's a proposed change to the criteria amendment themselves, or the land use category definitions, that could trigger a major amendment moving forward.

If there's a proposed land use plan that also expands the current growth area or proposes a new growth area, that could trigger a major amendment under this new criteria and then finally if there's modification to a general plan land use overlay category that we currently have in the plan, that could be a major amendment process as well. Next slide, please.

[Time: 00:07:02]

In terms of the land use element, over the weekend and over the past couple of weeks, since the last work study session, we have received some community input. And so one suggested land use that staff is also recommended and we have checked with the airport director, you can see on the screen here, it's just a slight adjustment to the language and clarification to the language.

So we are looking forward direction from sound hill on -- from council on that advice. And I believe Vice Mayor Janik and councilman Durham had a land use one that they may want to speak to and I would open it up to see if there's any other discussion about the land use development at this time.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. I see that as LU-7.1, and I'm in agree with that. Typically, we -- if we can structure in other requirements within the airport area. Is there any other comment at this point? I see Councilmember Milhaven.

Councilmember Milhaven: I'm just wondering if we should reopen the conversation around desert rural since I know there were several meetings.

Vice Mayor Janik: Most definitely. And I was going to wait until we got into character and culture. But it is a very important aspect that we need to address. I regret to say that the state land use department or the state -- yeah, the land decided that neither our suggested one for residential land use category or changes on pages 56 and 57 were acceptable.

And the reason the second proposal was not acceptable because it adds an additional burden to the process, because going from desert rural to rural is a minor amendment which is an additional burden that did not exist in the past. It is not my wish to challenge the state land department, or to challenge the state. So I would recommend that we drop the category desert rural neighborhoods and it collapses back into rural neighborhoods.

[Time: 00:09:30]

And I would ask then -- that means there's a couple areas that we need to go back and change -- a couple of areas that we need to go back and change the wording on. You could include a little bit of desert rural in the neighborhoods just the description that it's one home per acre, but it also includes our largest lots that are horse properties to explain it more. And one other thing that needs to be noted, when this goes from 5 acres to 1 acre it still is a zoning change.

So the council will still be able to vote on it. So we not lost the ability to decide how we want to proceed. So I would like to make sure that council is in agreement.

Mayor Ortega: Yes, why don't we just give a nod to what you said. There's two parts. The first part was just acknowledging the rural neighborhoods is in and not these for desert rural. The second part then, this is automatic is just that --

Vice Mayor Janik: Oh, I'm sorry. The terminology. Just when you describe rural neighborhoods, just include that there's another aspect of property which is the larger lots of 3-acres and 5 acres and horse properties and it adds to the diversity of our city so we have a little bit of a recognition of it. So thank you. Thank you, mayor.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you had.

Councilmember Durham: And --

Mayor Ortega: Councilman Durham.

Councilmember Durham: And Erin mentioned that -- or Vice Mayor Janik and I have aggregated a number of comments from some constituents, and whittled them down and forwarded them down to Erin and I think everyone should have a package of those on their desk now. The first one here is on page 46.

This was originally a typo, where it says the city's goal is a regional cultural center.

It should have been role. That's typo that doesn't make a huge change but has survived and we changed it back to role.

Vice Mayor Janik: Is everybody comfortable with that change?

Councilmember Milhaven: If I might, all of this looks like it's grammatically and reform. So I'm okay with all the changes in that packet. I don't know if anybody else -- we can just do that in one fell swoop. Everybody is good.

[Time: 00:12:16]

Councilmember Durham: Okay. There is one substantive type issue that Erin will address on natural area open space and natural open space. And I think err sin going to address that.

Mayor Ortega: Then let me call on Erin to discuss that?

Erin Perreault: So mayor and council, over the weekend, some of the citizen comments you received in an eight page comment section had conclusion about natural open space which is a dedicated land use in the general plan basically you see light green on the land use map, it's the major outcroppings that are sensitive lands that we would like to see as natural open space.

Oftentimes when a developer comes in, they will give us a hillside or a conservation easement to maintain those and they don't get developed. The natural area open space is in our zoning ordinance and that is associated with the environmentally sensitive land order ordinance and that's what we see folks in track form dedicate as natural open space which is to basically stay in a natural state on their property.

So that's the difference between the two and there was some crossover confusion. The general plan focuses on natural open space, not natural area open space, so it's general plan distinctions there. So hopefully that helps in the comments that came in from that citizen.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you for that clarification. And we will move on. Thank you.

Erin Perreault: Next slide. In terms of the arts culture and creative community element. We have not had this element since 2001. So it is new. And we haven't received any substantial comments sin the last time we discussed this. So I'm happy to open it up to see if there's any other suggests from the council at this time.

Mayor Ortega: I see no hands.

Erin Perreault: Next chapter, the five state mandated, open space, environmental planning, conservation, water resources and energy. Next slide, please in terms of the sustainability and environment chapter, there was a suggestion and some of the comments we received over the weekend from the community members just kind of clarifying more about the role of the environmentally

sensitive lands and that's an ordinance and staff is suggesting based on language that's under in our ordinance that this be added to the plan in the introductory text and we would -- introductory text and we would ask for agreement on that.

Mayor Ortega: See some nods.

Erin Perreault: Moving into the open space elements. This is a state mandated element. Most of the content has been moved over since the 2001 general plan. We have identified very specifically for open space types in Scottsdale for the community. To make a distinction between preserve and natural open space in our current plan, preserve is identified as natural open space. So the council has made that distinction in this draft plan. Next slide, please.

Staff agrees to making these changes to 4.4. So we would be looking for council agreement and any other input that council has at this time on the open space element.

[Time: 00:16:21]

Mayor Ortega: I see no hands up. So will give that nod thank you.

Erin Perreault: Next slide. The next slide is environmental element. Next slide. The past few weeks within the last month, we have heard, and council has received quite a bit of input on not having climate action goals and plans from a number of different citizens.

What staff has done is crafted a goal that does focus on climate impacts, with supporting policies, based on that community input for your consideration this evening for addition into the draft plan. Admittedly, a number of these policies and the content are also in other elements of the plan. But clearly, the community is looking for it to be housed under one goal as well. Even though there's redundancy, it's better to include this goal in polities in the plan.

Mayor Ortega: I'm okay with that redundancy, redundancy, redundancy.

Erin Perreault: Moving on. Next slide. Is the conservation element. Next slide, please.

In terms of the conservation element, this was a suggestion and staff agrees to also include maximizing the use of native plants for landscaping because that is a way of better water conservation, not native plants are certainly not good in terms of water conservation themselves. So it was a good clarification suggested by one of our citizens. And we are looking for head nods on including that. Next slide, please.

In terms of the water resource element, we didn't have any substantial citizen comments since we discussed this previously. We would be looking for anything from council that may be a modification or an addition.

Mayor Ortega: I see none. Continue.

Erin Perreault: The energy element last element in this section and we are looking for any final inputs council would have this evening for a final draft plan.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you.

Erin Perreault: Moving into Chapter 3 is the collaboration and engagement section. It has one element that this community created around community involvement. We did not receive any additional comments from the community. And so we would be looking for anything that council may have.

Mayor Ortega: Okay. Seeing no other comment, continue.

Erin Perreault: Next slide. Moving into Chapter 4. This is the community well-being chapter. It does have three state mandated elements, housing, recreation, and safety. As well as one community created element which is the healthy community element. Next slide, please.

In terms of the healthy community element, it's new to the plan and it's not included in the general plan currently. We haven't received any additional comments from the community on it and we would look for any suggested changes you may have.

Mayor Ortega: Seeing none.

Erin Perreault: Next slide, the housing element is state map dated. We haven't received any substantial comments about the housing element. So we would look for any changes you might have at this time.

[Time: 00:20:10]

Mayor Ortega: Continue.

Erin Perreault: Next slide, please. The next slide is the recreation element. It is state mandated. Next slide, please. There was some question why the preserve was referred as a park in the draft general plan. It's because the 2015 community services master plan denotes not only the preserve but the Pinnacle Peak park. And staff is recommending clarifying that in the plan with the language that you see in orange. And also updating that clarification on the map as well. Next slide, please.

We have the safety element. We have no other suggestions, and we would look for anything that the council may have for the final draft.

Mayor Ortega: Continue.

Erin Perreault: Next slide, Chapter 5, the connectivity chapter. It has two state mandated elements, circulation and bicycling. Next slide, please. In terms of the circulation element, next slide.

It is state mandated, and we did receive some citizen comments over the welcome just looking to men parking somewhere in the circulation element so staff was suggesting that that could be added here to

policy 1.2, and so we will look for any input that council may have on that.

Mayor Ortega: It looks good. Thank you.

Erin Perreault: The bicycling element state mandated. It's definitely includes more information than we have in the current plan today with regard to bicycling. We don't have any other suggested edits so we would be looking to council if you have any final recommendations for this element.

Mayor Ortega: All clear.

Erin Perreault: Next slide, please. Chapter 6 is the revitalization element. It includes six state mandated elements, neighborhood preservation and revitalization, conservation, rehabilitation and redevelopment.

Growth areas and cost of development, public services and facilities and public buildings. Next slide, please. In terms of neighborhood preservation and revitalization, we do not have any suggested changes there and we would be looking to see if council has any additional information to add to this element.

Mayor Ortega: No comments. Continue.

Erin Perreault: Next slide. That's also the case with this element, conservation rehabilitation and redevelopment, we are looking for any council direction at this time.

[Time: 00:23:05]

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Continue.

Erin Perreault: And the next slide, please. The growth areas element is state mandated. Next slide, please. One addition to the growth area, again is similar to the character types map. In the growth areas map, we also indicate the downtown core and have included that clarifying language here as well in this element. And I would open it up to any other modifications council might have at this time.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Continue.

Erin Perreault: Next slide, this is the cost of development element, and I would open it up to any input council may have.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Continue.

Erin Perreault: Next slide is public services and facilities, followed by public buildings. For both of those, I would open it up. We have no substantial comments from the community or staff with regard to these final elements.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Continue.

Erin Perreault: Next slide, please. Next slide, please. Next, we are moving into Chapter 7. It's the innovation and prosperity chapter. It includes three community-created elements, economic vitality that we had in the plan since 2001 and two new ones, tourism and education. Next slide, please.

In terms of the economic vitality element, we don't have any suggested changes for you to consider but would look to see if you have any suggested modifications at this time.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. All clear.

Erin Perreault: Next slide, please. Next slide. The education element as I said is new. Created by the council, actually. Next slide, please. We did receive some community comments and a few suggestions. One is to revert back to the original language of encourage on EDU-1.3.

There was some questioning about how we support versus just encouraging it from a community standpoint. And then also a suggestion to move EDU-1.5 back to the healthy community element, based on how that actual policy reads. And then relocating a new element that was suggested by council just recently in a previous work study session, just relocating that under goal edu-4, in terms of how that text lines up nicely together with that goal.

So we would be looking for any agreement on those changes from council and then ask for any other additions you might have.

Mayor Ortega: I see positive nods.

[Time: 00:26:03]

Erin Perreault: Moving on. Next slide, please. Chapter 8 is the implementation chapter. This is new to the plan. We do not have an implementation chapter currently. It helps explain to the community how the general plan is implemented in a variety of different ways and would be responsible for that implementation. Next slide, please.

There was confusion based on the white text and the second bullet with regard to the explanation of exactions in the funding section of this portion of the plan. And so in working with legal staff, we have reworded it to make more clear and how the actions could be a funding type of source for the general plan. So we would be looking for any consent to that modification.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you, yes.

Erin Perreault: Next slide, please. And then, of course, we have also added based on the new education element, some items that we already do from a city organization standpoint, with regard to supporting education and we have identified those and who is responsible for those in the organization in the implementation -- for those in the organization in the implementation chapter already. I will open it up to see if there's any other additions for the implementation chapter.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Proceed.

Erin Perreault: Next slide, please. Finally, the appendix section of the plan which includes abbreviations, glossary, related plans and documents, photo credits and labels and acknowledgments and that concludes my presentation and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mayor Ortega: Council woman Whitehead.

Councilmember Whitehead: Well, I just want to say, a huge thank you to all of my colleagues and too being, you Erin and quite a bit more staff. So very, very nice.

Vice Mayor Janik: I would like to add my thanks to Erin for a phenomenal job along with her staff this is a very arduous task and I'm so happy we're near the end. So thanks for everything you have done. And so council too for all of their assistance.

ADJOURNMENT

[Time: 00:28:28]

Mayor Ortega: Well, I'm also looking forward to our next sessions to on completion. We may need to post -- perhaps we can jot this down, clerk lane, perhaps we need a posting of a council get together at the old town tavern upon completion of this. So with that, we are adjourned. Thank you so much.