

SCOTTSDALE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

WORK STUDY SESSION NOTICE AND AGENDA



COUNCIL

David D. Ortega, Mayor
Tammy Caputi
Tom Durham
Barry Graham

Betty Janik
Kathleen S. Littlefield
Solange Whitehead

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

City Council meetings are also televised on Cox Cable Channel 11 and streamed online at ScottsdaleAZ.gov (search "live stream") to allow the public to virtually attend, participate telephonically, and listen/view the meeting in progress.

4:00 P.M. MARKED AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL WORK STUDY SESSION

City Hall Kiva Forum, 3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard

Call to Order – 4:02 P.M.

Roll Call – All Present

One or more members of the Council may be attending the Work Study Session by telephone, video, or Internet conferencing, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431(4).

Pledge of Allegiance – Councilwoman Littlefield

Work Study Sessions: Work study sessions provide a less formal setting for the Mayor and Council to discuss specific topics, at length, with each other and City staff. Work study sessions provide an opportunity for staff to receive direction from the Council and for the public to observe these discussions.

Public Comment: To provide an opportunity for public input yet continue to maximize the amount of time available for the Council to have focused discussions, spoken comment (maximum of five speakers) is being accepted on the item(s) on tonight's work study session agenda. To sign up to speak, please click [here](#). Request to speak forms must be submitted no later than 90 minutes before the start of the meeting.

If you have thoughts or suggestions on the work study session item(s) you would like the Council to consider, you are encouraged to submit your written comment(s) electronically by clicking [here](#). Written comments that are submitted electronically at least 90 minutes before the meeting will be emailed to the Council and posted online prior to the meeting.

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PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY MAY REQUEST A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION BY CONTACTING THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT (480-312-2412). REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE, OR AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW TIME TO ARRANGE ACCOMMODATION. FOR TTY USERS, THE ARIZONA RELAY SERVICE (1-800-367-8939) MAY CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE (480-312-2412).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.SCOTTSDALEAZ.GOV/COUNCIL/MEETING-INFORMATION

WORK STUDY SESSION

1. Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force Recommendations

Request: Presentation, discussion, and possible direction to staff regarding the results of the Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force's work and recommendations to Council. The Task Force's recommendations include a proposed ballot measure to replace or extend the expiring 0.20% transaction privilege tax rate at a reduced rate of 0.15%, and a proposed ordinance to allocate the 0.15% tax revenues for the preservation and maintenance, including police and fire protection, of city-wide parks and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, and for improvements to the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt and other city parks and recreational facilities, such as WestWorld.

Presenter(s): Cynthia Wenstrom, Chair, and Raoul Zubia, Vice Chair, Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force; Nick Molinari, Community Services Assistant Executive Director; William B. Murphy, Assistant City Manager; Jeff Walther, Chief of Police; Kroy Ekblaw, Preserve Director; Tom Shannon, Fire Chief; and Sonia Andrews, City Treasurer

Staff Contact(s): Gina Kirklin, Finance Director, 480-312-5006, rkirklin@scottsdaleaz.gov

– Mayor Ortega opened public comment on this item.

– Pruitt Layton spoke in support of the Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force recommendations and how the park system would benefit from this tax. Michael Vreeland spoke in support of the Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force recommendations and the increased quality of life brought through open spaces. Kristen Parrish spoke in support of the Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force recommendations and the need to extend the tax due to increased construction prices and maintenance costs. Maryann McAllen spoke in support of the Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force recommendations and the need for safety and maintenance, including the Indian Bend Wash. Teresa Quale spoke in support of the Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force recommendations and the need for ongoing maintenance.

– Mayor Ortega closed public comment on this item.

– Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force Chair Cynthia Wenstrom and Vice Chair Raoul Zubia, Assistant Police Chief Richard Slavin, Community Services Assistant Executive Director Nick Molinari, Assistant City Manager Bill Murphy, Preserve Director Kroy Ekblaw, Fire Chief Tom Shannon, City Treasurer Sonia Andrews, Enterprise and Finance Director Gina Kirklin, and City Clerk Ben Lane gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force recommendations.

– There was Council consensus on the following items:

- Staff to prepare responses to the following questions. After the information is received, Councilmembers can request the City Clerk poll the Council to see if there is consensus to add another Work Study Session. The following questions will be addressed by staff:
 - Staff to provide additional information regarding the current Parks, Preserve, and WestWorld Department operating budgets and how much these budgets would increase if voters passed the ballot measure.
 - Staff to provide additional information on what the allocations would be like if the tax revenue received was higher or lower than what was expected.
 - Staff to provide clarification on the proposed allocation for WestWorld debt service.
 - Staff to provide additional information on the historical Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) program investment rate; how much CIP funding is used for the city's parks, Preserve, and WestWorld each year; and how this would CIP program be affected if voters passed the ballot measure.

- Staff to provide additional information related to increased security needs to ensure adequate safety precautions are in place.
 - Staff to provide additional information on charter changes as compared to code changes.
 - Staff to prepare another draft option for the ballot language substituting the word “extend” with “replace”.
 - Staff to research whether the ordinance language could include a requirement that any future changes to the ordinance would require a super majority vote of the City Council.
 - Staff to research if 25 percent related to WestWorld debt service funding could be minimized to avoid possible delays related to city parks and Preserve projects.
 - Staff to provide additional information on the 2004 0.15% tax and what it can be used for.
- Councilmembers made the following observations and suggestions:
- There are many unfunded improvements identified through the various Master Plans for the city’s parks.
 - There is a great deal of wear and tear on the parks through the years and there have been lessons learned to make future improvements and repairs last longer.
 - The city received excellent public feedback on the Citywide Mater Plan through various outreach methods.
 - Improvements need to be made around WestWorld to improve traffic circulation.
 - The Parks Department still has not returned to prerecession staffing levels despite many new facilities and services being added to the Department.
 - Maintenance is important to take care of the assets that the city has acquired to ensure they are usable in the future.
 - The city has received many complaints about the loss of trees and saguaro cactus in the medians.
 - Native tree canopies provide needed shade, which is an additional method for reviving a park, as additional shade increases park use.
 - Calls for service in the Preserve are more technical during higher temperatures.
 - The allocations of the funds received could possibly be amended by a future ordinance.
 - While some funding is allocated to the various operating budgets for maintenance, there are many improvements that remain unfunded, or certain maintenance is being deferred.
 - There are unintended consequences if sufficient funding is not received that can create more significant issues in the future. For example, it costs more to fix broken items than it does to maintain these assets.
 - Visitors pay sales tax not just from those traveling more than 50 miles, but also from neighboring cities when they come to Scottsdale.
 - There is a concern regarding paying debt service for WestWorld using a portion of the 0.15% tax at the possible expense of the park maintenance.
 - Whenever budgets are tight, the first cut is made to maintenance functions, which is why it is important to support these recommendations to maintain what we have.
 - The proposed 0.15% tax provides dedicated funding for needed improvements and maintenance.
 - There is a shift in focus from purchasing preserve lands to maintenance and improvement needs for our parks and Preserve.
 - The open spaces and amenities in the community are an important part of the quality of life for the residents of Scottsdale.
 - There will likely be limited space on the ballot for multiple ballot measures for the November General Election.
 - Due to the limited space on the ballot, the ordinance would not be printed on the ballot, but would be included in the city’s publicity pamphlet, on the city’s website, and the county’s informational pamphlet.
 - The percentages in the draft ordinance should be determined before going to the voters since the ordinance is referenced in the language.

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- **An additional work study session may be needed.**

Adjournment – 7:22 P.M.

– Councilmember Graham made a motion to adjourn the Work Study Session. Councilwoman Janik seconded the motion, which carried 7/0, with Mayor Ortega; Vice Mayor Whitehead; and Councilmembers Caputi, Durham, Graham, Janik, and Littlefield voting in the affirmative.