

Meeting Minutes

City Council Work Session

December 6, 2021 | 5:00 p.m.
Council Chambers Conference Room
88 E. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kevin Hartke at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Council Attendance

Mayor Kevin Hartke
Vice Mayor Mark Stewart
Councilmember OD Harris
Councilmember Terry Roe
Councilmember René Lopez
Councilmember Christine Ellis
Councilmember Orlando

Appointee Attendance

Josh Wright, Acting City Manager
Debra Stapleton, Assistant City Manager
Dawn Lang, Deputy City Manager/CFO
Kelly Schwab, City Attorney
Dana DeLong, City Clerk

Staff in Attendance

Ryan Peters, Strategic Initiatives Director
Alexis Apodaca, Governmental Relations Coordinator
Cori Harris, Mayor and Council Communications Manager
Matt Burdick, Communications and Public Affairs Director

Discussion

1. Presentation and Discussion of the City's Legislative Agenda to Provide Guidance for Advocacy Activities at the State Legislature during the 2022 Legislative Session.

MAYOR HARTKE called for a staff presentation.

JOSHUA WRIGHT, City Manager, said the legislative session is right around the corner and staff wanted to discuss some of the major issues being discussed at the state legislator and some of the City's guiding principals to be as nimble as possible as legislation is introduced.

RYAN PETERS, Strategic Initiatives Director, presented the following presentation.

- 2022 State Legislative agenda
- 2022 Session Overview
 - Opening Day
 - Themes
 - Ongoing Information

ALEXIS APODACA, Governmental Relations Coordinator, continued the presentation.

- Legislative Principles
 - Protect Local Authority
 - Preserve Local Revenues
- Fiscal Sustainability
 - Support retention of State-Shared Revenue at current levels
 - Protect local authority to determine appropriate revenue sources
 - Encourage Legislature to evaluate impact of unfunded mandates

VICE MAYOR STEWART asked if there is a way to recoup the sales tax loss if it changed to a consumption tax.

MS. APODACA said it would not be as simple as recommending tax increases. Each city has a different makeup of their tax streams, and the League is very good at having conversations to see if there is a consensus that could be reached with the Governor's Office and minimal impact to cities and towns.

MR. PETERS said the League is very sensitive to sales tax as it is what we rely on, so when the State effects that there are a lot of phone calls the City receives.

MS. APODACA continued the presentation.

- Economic Development
 - Support efforts that enhance Chandler's economic competitiveness
 - Support diversification of economic development tools
 - Protect local authority on development projects

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if there was any discussion about using the same funding or additional funding.

MR. PETERS said the focus is growing the current pot that is available.

MAYOR HARTKE said with TSMC qualifying as a mega corporation and if Samsung would have been here, we would have had a lot more looks at the Title 42 dollars. Mayor Hartke said they pay

more than other cities to have a company like Intel when it comes to infrastructure. It is a good program.

MS. APODACA continued the presentation.

- Neighborhoods
 - Support policies that strengthen the quality of life in neighborhoods
 - Protect rights of citizens to actively engage in public policy

MAYOR HARTKE said there would be an opportunity again this year working with the Arizona League of Cities and Towns to get on a committee to make these recommendations. Mayor Hartke said Chandler has sponsored some that have turned into legislation. Usually there are four committees in different regards, and it is a great opportunity to get more engaged and make recommendations.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if the rentals were starting to be longer terms and hopefully the industry was getting the message that they must police themselves.

MR. PETERS said that is what is bringing them to the table. There are some conservative legislators that are for more legislation around this.

MS. APODACA continued the presentation.

- Public Safety
 - Preserve and enhance the ability of local governments to strategically plan for and respond to emergencies
- Transportation
 - Support regionally coordinated transportation planning
 - Support the update to the Regional Transportation Plan that is funded through a voter approved regional sales tax
 - Oppose efforts that limit local control in the transportation decision-making process

COUNCILMEMBER HARRIS asked if the transportation plan would help expand into south Chandler.

MAYOR HARTKE said that is part of another project that has City self-funded. This would impact busses and maybe connect Chandler to Phoenix and possibly have circulars as well for students in South Chandler. There is a lot to look at and to make sure that Chandler is not just a donor City. The West Valley has a lot of concrete they want to lay that could have consumed this entire budget.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if there were additional dollars for disability and senior ridership.

MAYOR HARTKE said there is a mix of dollars as part of the City's program and dollars from the region are folded into a larger pot.

MR. PETERS said yes, the regional transportation plan in place and is going to be expanded, has a significant investment in ride choice and paratransit services.

VICE MAYOR STEWART said there are a lot of people coming into Price Corridor, and from an infrastructure standpoint are they able to get more dollars or is this strictly bus and paratransit.

MAYOR HARTKE said they tried to put forward a circular as a significant business park, but it did not gain traction as they had hoped. Mayor Hartke said they would continue what they can do regarding streets and potentially their own circular.

MR. PETERS said they are programmed for an additional investment for Loop 202 and arterial improvements for Alma School. Mr. Peters said they are looking at this resource and local resources to look at a circular. Mr. Peters said it has come up about the light rail expansion to Chandler but no, it is not identified as a mode here in Chandler.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked for more explanation about the light rail.

MR. PETERS said staff at Valley Metro and Chandler has spent time on a number of transit studies which looked at alternatives and express buses were the most appropriate for Chandler. There are some other factors that need to happen for that type of investment to be realized.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if there was anything about a commuter rail.

MR. PETERS said it was a topic of conversation but there are a lot of other projects.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said there are projects currently being built under this bill and asked if other projects would be put on the table as projects are completed.

MR. PETERS said the infrastructure transportation packages are done every five years but there are other funding opportunities as well.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said for this to be successful due to government distrust right now, the more they can get stakeholders involved to get them a better service or better ride, they would be in a better place for a dialogue.

MR. PETERS said he agreed, they are also considering there is a lot of construction happening right now and they need to consider everyone's needs.

MAYOR HARTKE said part of the infrastructure bill there is a renewed conversation about a Phoenix to Tucson rail, it would not go through Chandler, but it might be close enough to be advantageous.

MR. PETERS said Amtrack has been advocating for a route to service this need.

MS. APODACA continued the presentation.

- Land Use Planning
 - Protect local authority in land use planning
 - Support efforts that promote orderly growth
 - Oppose efforts that impede growth management
- Water and Environmental Resources
 - Support wise use of Natural resources
 - Protect City's investment in safe and reliable water resources and wastewater services


MR. PETERS said Chandler is a leader in legislative advocacy and if there are any legislators calling, we want to trade in on the value that Council brings. Mr. Peters said if Council has any questions to reach out to staff.

COUNCILMEMBER HARRIS asked about Transportation and when the League did their study, was the conversation about the light rail about not having a way to join from one city to another. Councilmember Harris said the Price Corridor was going to have a lot of people and it is always congested.

MR. PETERS said the biggest roadblock is there is no connection and there is no interest to even get a connection through Chandler. The constructability would be challenging and there would need to be significant investment on the undergrounding of utilities in the area.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

ATTEST: 
City Clerk


Mayor

Approval Date of Minutes: January 13, 2022

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Work Session of the City Council of Chandler, Arizona, held on the 6th day of December 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this 13th day of January, 2022.

Dana R. D'Long

City Clerk

