

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Deasy called the Special Work Session/Town Hall of September 24, 2021 to order at 1:00 p.m.

The Council and audience recited the pledge of allegiance and Councilmember McCarthy read the Mission Statement of the City of Flagstaff.

2. **ROLL CALL**

NOTE: One or more Councilmembers may be in attendance telephonically or by other technological means.

PRESENT:

MAYOR DEASY
VICE MAYOR DAGGETT
COUNCILMEMBER MCCARTHY
COUNCILMEMBER SALAS
COUNCILMEMBER SHIMONI
COUNCILMEMBER SWEET

ABSENT:

COUNCILMEMBER ASLAN

Others present: Deputy City Manager Shannon Anderson and City Attorney Sterling Solomon

3. **Alternate Response Model and Care Center Discussion**

Mayor Deasy provided some welcoming remarks and turned the time over to staff for a presentation that covered the following:

ALTERNATE RESPONSE TOWN HALL
WELCOME
WHERE DID THE THOUGHT OF AN ALTERNATE RESPONSE PROGRAM BEGIN?
PURPOSE OF AN ALTERNATE RESPONSE MODEL
ALCOHOL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RELATED CALLS
WHAT MODELS INFLUENCED THE IDEA OF AN ALTERNATE RESPONSE MODEL?
WHERE ARE WE NOW IN 2021?
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WHY CONSIDER AN ALTERNATE RESPONSE MODEL?
ALTERNATE RESPONSE CARE CENTER
DISCUSSION

The floor was open to public comment and dialogue. The following individuals spoke on the topic:

- Barbara Tait
- Mandy Gebler
- Tallerita Rogers
- Ross Altenbaugh
- Matt Eckoff
- Sandi Flores
- Fawn Toya
- Charlie Odegaard
- Lauren Lauder
- Dorothy Gishie
- Jamie Whelan
- Devonna McLaughlin
- Vanessa Lawson
- Micah Schwartz
- Peggy Spurlock

There were other members of the public who spoke, but names were not given or were inaudible.

The following comments were received:

- Having somewhere to sleep should be a welcomed behavior.
- There should be some place to rest and socialize.
- Provide access to computers and the ability to get one-on-one support services.
- More resources are needed to assist people with low digital literacy.
- The libraries are well suited for computer access and job search assistance, this may not be a service specifically needed in a care center.
- The care center is more of a crisis intervention center versus a long term treatment facility.
- I am concerned that we are looking outside of the state when there are perfectly good models that are working here in the state of Arizona.
- Flagstaff Shelter Services provides nearly all the basic services discussed today; the City needs to meaningfully invest in the homeless shelter.
- Money is better spent on getting people out of homelessness and into permanent housing.
- Urge you to think long and hard about making homelessness and poverty comfortable for people, let's focus on finding them steady income and housing.
- The model has not laid out who it will be serving, how many people it will be serving, and how.
- There is funding available to hire a facilitator to have a community led conversation about how to spend ARPA funding and how to do it in a meaningful way to solve homelessness issues.
- ARPA funding can be used to resuscitate some of the problems we have here around homelessness and really talk about housing in a meaningful way that solves problems for people or it can use to start something that cannot be sustained.
- The idea of putting bond resources behind this is a challenge; we couldn't pass a housing bond but we are going to try for a bond to get a facility when we already have facilities in town.
- Service providers need to be included in the committee, there needs to be input from those who will be providing services.
- Unless you really, truly understand in a clear perspective of what is happening on the streets right now with the population you are talking about, your plan is going to fail.
- Guardian Medical Transport transported 4,325 intoxicants in the past twelve months.
- This is a population that can be difficult at times. Paramedics are often assaulted during response to these types of calls. That is something that needs to be considered as you send crisis workers out into the field.

- This concept is to be applauded; there is a lot more work to do but we are heading in a positive direction.
- It is important that consideration is given to people's voice and dignity in how their needs are addressed.
- The RARE Assessment should be considered as a tool in working with people.
- Transparency and coordination is needed as this process moves forward.
- People need someone to listen, a place to rest, food, and clean clothes; when they are unable to get those things it creates barriers to further assistance.
- To get things done, it takes political will and that takes a lot of hard work, takes a lot of relationship building, and a lot of collaboration to see a benefit to our community.
- There is space for a sobering center at the shelter; instead of taking people into the hospital or jail they could be held in a safe space where they can sober up and get access to resources and assistance.
- The crisis and the detox services are really important long term and we need a sustainable model otherwise it will be something that is not effective in facilitating change.
- When clients are housed, we see less interventions; a significant focus should be on finding permanent housing.
- There are huge gaps in the array of services that we are trying to provide with this single solution; it has to be more holistic than that.
- This community has organizations that provide the services that we're looking for, and if we can all come together and merge and come up with collective solutions we could solve a lot of the issues that we that were talking about.
- My health is your health, and there's no greater lesson in this conversation than that and that if you have neighbors in your community who do not have somewhere to sleep, that is a negative health outcome for our entire community.
- More data is needed on calls for service and service provider data.
- Please make sure that your Housing Section is involved in future conversations about the program going forward.
- Please include the library along with all the social service providers represented here.

4. **Adjournment**

The Work Session/Town Hall held September 24, 2021, adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK