

City Manager's Report

Sept 7, 2023

Council and Colleagues, greetings. These reports will be included in the City Council packet for Council Work Sessions. The reports are intended to be informational, covering miscellaneous events and topics involving the city organization. This Report will include, as attachments, the summer update from Community Development, the summer update from Information Technology, and the August PROSE update.

In no particular order ...

Water Services

We regularly see updates from our Water Services Division, but here are a couple of items that need to be brought to the Council's attention at this time.

2024 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

The City of Flagstaff received an invitation from Senators Kelly and Sinema to submit project requests to be included WRDA. This biennial bill is the primary authorizing legislation for civil work studies, projects, and programs carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Due to a tight deadline, City staff considered the opportunity and submitted the following request for the 2024 WRDA process:

1. **Request Title:** Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWTF) - Infrastructure and water resources resiliency project - \$4,800,000
2. **Description of Request:** The request is to work with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) to advance a basis for the design and project layout for an advanced wastewater treatment facility. The facility will treat wastewater through an advanced treatment process ahead of a potable reuse project. Preparing water for indirect or direct potable reuse is a significant step toward groundwater resource resiliency. The City also requests authorization through ACE to construct the project.

Flagstaff, a population of 80,000, is a regional hub for commerce, tourism, and higher learning and is about halfway to build out. About two-thirds of the City's treated effluent, from 3,000 to 4,000 acre-feet per year, is discharged to the Rio de Flag wash as uncommitted wastewater effluent. This substantial volume totals about half the water delivered as potable water annually. Therefore, the City of Flagstaff desires to construct an advanced water treatment facility that provides a water source for reuse. This water management benefit would significantly reduce or augment groundwater pumping from the C-aquifer. The cost to build an AWTF is estimated at roughly \$300 million.

3. **Does this request modify a program or authority included in a previous WRDA bill? If so, please explain.** No
4. **Supporting Organizations:** The City is working on letters of support from anticipated community partners, including Friends of Flagstaff's Future and the Flagstaff Water Group.

Advance Water Purification Technical Advisory Group

The City of Flagstaff, Water Services Division, has been approached by the City of Phoenix and City of Scottsdale to sign on in support of the attached letter providing comments on some of the recommendations coming from the Advance Water Purification Technical Advisory Group (created by ADEQ to review potential rulemaking considerations). Director Shannon Jones is circulating a draft for review internally and by our outside legal counsel. Stay tuned.

Bureau of Reclamation Proposed Project

"City staff are working on a letter to Congressman Crane's office about a Bureau of Reclamation project and the details will be included in the September 19th agenda for Council consideration." This will give us time to update the staff summary to reflect any feedback we receive from the Bureau of Reclamation next week.

Watershed Alliance for the Rio De Flag

Ed Schenck and I met with a couple members of the proposed Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag (WARF) on Sept 6 to discuss the formative documents that will soon be going back to the Water Commission and eventually to the City Council. It was a very productive meeting and things are moving forward.

Fire Department

- Fire personnel were able to participate in a rare training opportunity with Guardian ground, Guardian air, DPS, FUSD and Coconino County is an extrication of a school bus drill. A big shout out to Chief Callander and Engineer Denham for the countless hours developing and planning the drill. Approximately 300 people joined to observe the drill. (photo below)



- A few personnel changes over the summer break, Captain Seth Gregar has been newly assigned to the CARE/EMS Captain position, Mark Adams joined the team as the new Wildland Community Risk Reduction Specialist and Casey Gonzales was promoted to Fire Captain, we had 2 new Firefighters graduate from the academy – Silas Spencer and Jacob Sansone, Bryor Nittmann is a new Wildland Fire Engineer.
- Flagstaff Fire Department participated in the ChildHelp Flagstaff fundraiser with Captain Felts as the celebrity chef and the even raised over \$100,000 for the charity. They also participated in the recent Climb to Conquer cancer raising money to help those fighting cancer.
- Chief Gaillard and Battalion Chief Oltrogge attended a roundtable discussion on Strengthening Arizona’s Wildfire Response and Protecting Wildland Firefighter Pay with Senator Kyrsten Sinema (see picture that follows ... please note that the City Manager is the only one sporting a necktie and sports jacket).



Human Resources

- The team is working on rolling out an updated in-person new employee orientation to welcome new City staff. The new format is anticipated in mid to late September.
- Human Resources & Risk Management are in the process of updating the website pages including the landing page for prospective applicants.
- The classification and compensation team have been busy analyzing the City’s pay structure and policies to bring forward recommendations to positively impact the City’s ability to recruit and retain talented personnel.

Police Department

- The Police Department had some exciting personnel changes over the summer break, Tammy Truman was promoted to a Lead Police Records position hired five Police Aides – Andre Easter, Dylan Larson, Trevor Beaver, Kaleb Baughn, and Illiana Draper, and 7 new Officers – Kyle Sabo, Connor Twomey, John Long, Connor Simmons, Carson Knott, Andre Martin, and Logan Kane.
- Lt Hernandez attend the Arizona Association Chief of Police Law Enforcement Summit where he was recognized as an Accredited Command Executive.
- Flagstaff Police Department hosted a multi-agency training on Human Trafficking presented by the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network.
- FPD attended the County Fair to conduct outreach and recruit new Officers.
- The High Country Training Academy Graduation of Class 2 was conducted on August 24th. It was well attended. Congratulations to the many new graduates, who will be assisting the City PD, the County SO, the NAU PD, White Mountain Apache Tribal Police, and Yavapai County SO.



Public Works

- The solid waste team is working with key partners downtown on collections infrastructure in the area.
- Distributed smaller planter boxes in the Aspen Alley this week to promote pedestrian use in the area.
- Public Works has used this summer weather well by completing signs and paint markings projects, concrete repairs and replacements, asphalt patches, and light repairs with new LED infrastructure. You can see the completion of many of these projects around town – thank you Public Works!

- Solid waste is continuing to see bagged recyclables, plastic bags, and styrofoam contaminants in the recycling. The team has been partnering with Sustainability and Public Affairs to get the word out to the community and ask for their help in reducing contaminants.
- Public Works, FFD and Water Services worked together to provide a tour to Congressman Crane’s office on the City’s efforts to maintain forest health and mitigate the risk of post-wildfire flooding. (picture on right).
- The traffic signal crew installed a speed sign on Linda Vista. This was done primarily as a preemptive measure as the City Clerk has recently moved into this neighborhood.



Rural Transportation Advisory Council

City staff are working with MetroPlan to submit a funding request as part of a bill that will be put forward by the Rural Transportation Advisory Council (RTAC) to the state legislature during the 2024 session. Staff have formulated a request for \$15M for the Lone Tree Corridor Improvements. The Lone Tree Overpass (LTO) and Corridor Improvements will create a new north-south widened roadway connection extending Lone Tree Road between Butler Avenue to the south and Route 66 to the north. The roadway will be on a grade-separated bridge that will go over the BNSF Railway main line corridor and the United States Army Corps of Engineers’ future Rio de Flag Channel. This new overpass and corridor improvements will provide connectivity, traffic congestion relief on streets like Milton Road, San Francisco Street, and Beaver Street, and improved mobility to surrounding neighborhoods.

The LTO Project will be the first community project to implement the City’s newly adopted Active Transportation Master Plan. The overpass connection will also complement the community’s need for multi-model options with bicycle and pedestrian access points connecting to the Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS). City staff will continue collaborating with MetroPlan to support this request throughout the 2024 state legislative session.

Neighborhood Liaison Position

I'd like to provide you with a brief update regarding the Neighborhood Liaison position. In 2016 the City entered into an IGA with NAU for the creation of a Neighborhood Liaison position to foster relationships in Flagstaff at the neighborhood level. Since that time, both NAU and the City have significantly grown and expanded their outreach programs, and the City has established a variety of engagement efforts designed to meet the ever-evolving needs of the community.

The City has notified NAU that it will be concluding its participation in the IGA for the Neighborhood Liaison position at the end of the 2024 fiscal year (June 30, 2024). NAU has communicated that this does not affect the future of the Neighborhood Liaison position and that

the position will continue to function within NAU's Office of External Affairs. Furthermore, NAU and the City will continue to maintain our close working relationship through open and frequent communication. The City will continue its neighborhood outreach and engagement efforts through a variety of channels and stands ready to assist Northern Arizona University and the Office of External Affairs in this area as available.

We remain grateful to Northern Arizona University and its leadership and staff for a fruitful partnership throughout the duration of this IGA.

That's a Wrap! Thank you.