

City Manager's Report

March 6, 2025

Council and Colleagues, greetings. These reports are intended to be informational, covering miscellaneous events and topics involving the city organization. This report is brief and appended by a monthly update from Prose (February) and quarterly update from Water Services. Also, the Sustainability monthly newsletter for March can be found at this link: [March 2025 FSO Newsletter](#).

Groundbreaking

The city had representation at a recent groundbreaking at Liv Sky Cottages at 2701 Woody Mountain Road on Tuesday, February 18th. It was a beautiful day. Lots of excitement in the air as progress is moving forward on this very important project.

This project will include 207 rental units that will include 20% affordable housing. We could be seeing phased completion of project in 2025-26. Photos below:



2025 Athena Awards

The Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce announced the recipients of the 2025 Athena Awards this on Friday February 21st at the High Country Conference Center. It was very well attended and the city had excellent representation by elected officials and staff.

Jennifer Nordstrom, the owner of Jen Nordstrom Accounting, was honored with the private sector Athena Award; Cindy Payne from Cancer Support Northern Arizona received the public/nonprofit sector Athena Award; and Kimberly Gutierrez from The Bluffs Senior Living and Sarah Heemstra from Coconino Community College were named the Shining Star Emerging Leaders. Congratulations to these individuals for their amazing accomplishments, and congratulations to the Chamber for another excellent event!

The Honorable Governor Katie Hobbs served as the keynote speaker for the event, engaging on a number of topics, and guest speaker John Gartin, the director of NAU Career Development, presented on AI and Generative AI, demonstrating some pretty amazing tools real-time. Photos below:



Budget Team Process:

It has been arduous, as the Budget Team goes through its Divisional Review process as it does this time every year. We have been meeting at Core Services (thanks to Public Works for hosting) on a daily basis since February 19th. We are making progress, but it is challenging to say the least.

Factoring heavily into our discussions are the stated priorities for the City Council, and of course, our Priority Based Budgeting tool. I want to thank the Budget Team, and specifically, members of our Finance Team (inclusive of Rick Tadder, Brandi Suda, Heidi Derryberry, John Comer, Amir Saya, Tammy Ryan, Tom Johnson, Glorice Thousand, and Anne Thompson). We have met with all the divisions and are now spending much time crunching numbers and working the magic.

Council, we will be retreating with you again on Thursday, March 27th, to discuss capital projects. Stay tuned on details.



That's all for now, Council. Onward and upward ...