

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, HELD JUNE 14, 2011, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS BUILDING, 826 NORTH MAIN STREET, COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA.

---

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Joens called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Diane Joens, Mayor  
Karen Pfeifer, Vice Mayor  
Jesse Dowling, Council Member  
Tim Elinski, Council Member  
Ruben Jauregui, Council Member  
Linda Norman, Council Member  
Terence Pratt, Council Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Doug Bartosh, City Manager  
Steve Horton, City Attorney  
Matthew McLean, Deputy Clerk  
Richard Faust, Community Services General Manager

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF:

PRESENTATION REGARDING THE COTTONWOOD AREA TRANSIT TAXI VOUCHER PROGRAM BY KATHY CHANDLER, PARA-TRANSIT MANAGER FOR THE NORTHERN ARIZONA INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Mr. Faust introduced Kathy Chandler from the Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Transportation Authority.

Ms. Chandler described the taxi voucher program to the Council. The voucher program allows a disabled senior patron to request a voucher to be used with the local taxi companies to receive transportation when they are unable to receive transit assistance from the current paratransit bus. These trips could include trips to medical appointments, trips with animals and shopping trips. NAIPTA will print vouchers for patrons to use with local taxi companies. The funding is provided with Federal 5317 grants and a two year partnership with Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG). The program is going to be starting on July 1, 2011.

Council Member Elinski asked how the program works.

Ms. Chandler stated a person needs to be disabled and a senior. They have found that most

seniors usually have a disability and can qualify for the voucher program. The patron would call up and ask to be signed up for the taxi voucher program and would order a packet of taxi vouchers. One of the measures they have to prevent fraud is they print the vouchers with a pick up address and a destination address. This will allow NAIPTA to monitor the costs of the trip.

Council Member Pratt asked if the criteria to establish a disability would be similar to obtaining a handicap license.

Ms. Chandler stated she believed it would be similar.

Council Member Elinski asked how this would be beneficial for the taxi companies.

Ms. Chandler stated this would give the taxi companies more business and they would send in the vouchers for payment. NAIPTA also pays a 15 percent gratuity to the taxi company. She also stated part of this program is providing group trips. Elaine Bremner from the Verde Valley Senior Center will be conducting a survey at the Senior Center to find out what kind of trips they would like attend.

Mayor Joens asked if they have talked with or are working with Verde Manor since there is a large population of seniors there.

Ms. Chandler stated they have already planned a trip to the casino. She is working with Sherry Daniels from NACOG, and she wanted to work with Catholic Social Services, the Manor, and other places to plan trips. She is hopeful to have two trips planned a month. They are only looking for Council support in moving forward with this program.

Council Member Pratt stated his recommendation is to go forward and this is a great program.

Council Member Norman stated Elaine Bremner called her this afternoon and she had planned on attending the meeting, but couldn't make it, but this is a great program.

PRESENTATION REGARDING HOW HIRING DISABLED WORKERS HELPS THE COMMUNITY BY MIKE COSENTINO (REPRESENTING DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY).

Mr. Cosentino stated he works for Elite Community Services, which contracts with DES. There are several other contractors with DES also for the same type of service and they work with vocational rehabilitation DES clients. He wanted to encourage the city to consider some of the clients he has as a job developer. He works with disabled clients to find jobs. He has found that disabled employees are hugely loyal and extremely able after proper training, and more likely to stay on the job. His services are available to the employer for communication issues or training issues. Right now he has five clients, and four are cleared for part-time work, with one for full-time.

Council Member Pratt stated one of the shops he shops at has hired the disabled, and it is always a pleasant experience.

Mayor Joens stated they live for that job and it is so important to them.

Council Member Elinski asked if Mr. Cosentino's clients are mentally disabled or physically disabled.

Mr. Cosentino stated it is usually a combination, but right now most of them are physical. Their physical disability will almost always manifest some emotional problems.

Mayor Joens stated the Council appreciated his presentation.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Norman moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mayor Joens, and carried unanimously. The work session adjourned at 6:25 pm.

---

Diane Joens, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Matthew McLean, Deputy Clerk

#### CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a work session of the City Council of the City of Cottonwood held on June 14, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called, and that a quorum was present.

---

Matthew McLean, Deputy Clerk

---

Date