

SUMMARY REPORT
OF THE CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING HELD JANUARY 7, 2013, AT 9:00 AM,
AT THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING LOCATED AT 191 SOUTH 6TH STREET

This summary is a statement of legal actions taken by the Cottonwood City Council at a strategic planning meeting pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02(D), and is being provided as required by A.R.S. § 38-431.01(D.).

Council Members Present: Mayor Joens, Vice Mayor Karen Pfeifer, Council Members Tim Elinski, Linda Norman, Terence Pratt, and Jesse Dowling.

Council Members Absent: Ruben Jauregui.

CITY COUNCIL ONLY PLANNING & LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION

The Council discussed how to communicate better with the public and having each council member write a “My Turn” article for the newspaper each month on a rotating basis regarding different city matters; the desire to be better informed as to the status of city projects so they can answer questions from members of the community when asked; the council prioritizing sidewalk projects; the desire for the city to become more bike and trail friendly; and the manner in which the business registration renewal notices were sent out late and how they had received complaints from the public regarding the short time period to renew and the registration fee increase.

Mr. Bartosh informed the Council that Mr. Gehlert had handed in his resignation effective at the end of June and until that time had stepped down to a planner position, and that the community development manager position was being advertized.

Ms. Jiménez gave an update on the teen center committee progress and stated a teen center summit would be held on January 26 at the recreation center to get the community’s input on the feasibility of developing a teen center in Cottonwood.

FIVE YEAR CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. Bartosh indicated the council had received a copy of the city’s five-year accomplishment list, and there was no discussion held regarding the list.

FOCUS ON SUCCESS UPDATE

Economic Development Manager, Casey Rooney gave an update on the Focus on Success Economic Development Strategic Plan. This year’s focus would be on creating a brand for the city and working on the fourth year of the Focus on Success Plan.

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Development Services General Manager, Dan Lueder, reviewed the status and progress of the city’s capital projects.

VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

The Council concurred on leaving the exiting Mission Statement as is and placing the discussion of ideas for updating the Vision Statement on a future council meeting agenda.

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

George Gehlert, Planner, reviewed the process of updating the city's General Plan and the public information meetings regarding the General Plan that had been held to date. After the update of the General Plan is complete it will be placed on a ballot in 2014 for approval by Cottonwood voters.

2012-13 BUDGET UPDATE

Jesus R. Rodriguez, Administrative Services General Manager, gave a budget update. He indicated major revenue sources were up 3.38 percent and bed tax revenues were even with fiscal year 2012.

DEVELOPMENT & UPDATE OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Staff and the Council reviewed the 2012 Strategic Initiative Goals; some of which were removed because they had been completed. A few new goals were added and the Strategic Initiatives and Goals will be placed on a future council meeting agenda for input from the public and formal approval.

COUNCIL ONLY DISCUSSION—REVIEW OF RETREAT DISCUSSIONS

The Council discussed the impact of H.B. 2826 on council terms and the city attorney indicated it would be up to the legislature to make any changes to the bill. The council discussed with Mr. Rodriguez the business registration renewal notices which they felt could have been handled in a better manner; the possible water and sewer rate increases; and the permanent base adjustment (Home Rule) that would be discussed at the next regular council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The strategic planning meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.