

Sustainability and Economic Vitality (SEV)

Council Committee Meeting Minutes
Virtual and In-Person Meeting in City Council Chambers
31 East 5th Street
August 21, 2023
1:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Councilmember Chin at 1:07 p.m. with Vice Mayor Adams and Councilmember Chin both attending in person.

2. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES

A. May 24, 2023 SEV Meeting Minutes

Approval of the May 24, 2023 SEV Meeting Minutes was moved by Vice Mayor Adams, seconded by Councilmember Chin, and approved unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - The committee welcomes public comment. According to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the Committee may only discuss matters listed on the agenda. Matters brought up by the public under public appearances that are not listed on the agenda cannot be discussed by the Committee. A 3-minute limit per person will be in effect.

A. Comment Cards Submitted

A total of 5 comment cards were submitted. Two spoke virtually, two spoke in person, and one was entered into the public record.

- David Sokolowski of Tempe virtually voiced his concerns that adopting the IgCC might increase rent prices when they are already too high.
- Elizabeth Stewart of Tempe virtually requested that the IgCC be mandatory, not voluntary.
- Page Gray of Paradise Valley appeared in person to offer his business services in helping to reduce water waste in private and public pools in Tempe.
- Kim Gaffney-Loza of Tempe voiced her support, in person, of adopting the IgCC.
- Kevin Brown of Tempe submitted a comment card to request that Tempe consider banning all non-functional/purely decorative grass.

4. COMMITTEE SESSION ITEMS

A. Current Items and Updates

1. Office of Sustainability and Resilience Update

Sustainability and Resilience Director Eric Iwersen and Deputy Community Development Director Mike Baxley, along with consultant Greg Kinkel from Quest Energy, provided an update on the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) proposal. Updates include:

Eric, Mike, and their consultant Greg provided an update on the proposal they are developing to incorporate the IgCC into Tempe developments. Eric outlined their draft process, presenting to Council and Council Committees within the last year, currently in the public feedback phase of the process, and formalizing the draft they intend to take before Council for adoption this fall.

Eric then went on to state that while the developer portion of the IgCC will start out as voluntary participation, they will be formally asking council to adopt the IgCC on all municipal building projects moving forward.

Mike explained that the IgCC is not new, but an expansion of existing building codes, with a goal to include nature and climate as major considerations in the process. It is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the lifespan of buildings, reduce the heat island effect, promote tree cover and structural shade, improve heat resiliency, reduce water consumption, reduce construction waste, and improve access to EV charging, among other goals.

Eric then introduced Greg Kinkel, who updated the committee on three different municipal building projects which have incorporated the IgCC – Clark Park, Fire Station #2, and the Tempe Municipal Operations Center - and what lessons they have learned from those projects in drafting Tempe's IgCC code, such as removing requirements that don't align with our climate or cost needs and providing flexibility for implementation.

Eric outlined next steps for the IgCC process, including using Tempe municipal buildings as a model for IgCC construction moving forward, toward a goal of possible incentives and mandatory adoption.

2. Water Utilities Division Update

Interim Water Resources Manager Tina Sleeper and Deputy Municipal Utilities Director - Water Craig Caggiano provided an update on Tempe's current and future water supply.

Tina gave an update on Tempe's current water portfolio and security, as well as our drought resiliency and preparedness efforts.

Tina explained that Tempe was given a designation of "Assured Water Supply" from the Arizona Department of Water Resources for the diversity of our water resources portfolio, the investments we've made in our water infrastructure, and our robust water conservation program. This State regulation designation is important because it assures Tempe to have legal, continuous water supply for the next 100 years, including current and projected demand for both Tempe and the Town of Guadalupe, and is renewed every 15 years. Tempe was last renewed in 2010 and is in the middle of submitting for review and a 2025 designation.

Water sources into Tempe include surface water reservoirs being fed by both the Salt and Verde rivers which are maintained by SRP, as well as a portion of the Colorado River, via the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal, and groundwater. Tempe's investments into our water infrastructure in the 1960s and the 1980s allow us to receive most of our water supply from renewable surface water and help us reduce our dependency on groundwater. As water quality standards have become more stringent over the years, Tempe continues to invest in infrastructure upgrades to keep pace with the required treatments for surface water and provide Tempe with water that meets the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Our drought preparedness includes a robust water conservation program for over 30 years now and educating the public on water usage. As the city's population has increased by 20% since the year 2000, our water usage has decreased by roughly the same amount because of these efforts.

B. New Items for Consideration

1. *No new items were presented for consideration.*

C. Announcements

1. *There were no announcements.*

5. NEXT MEETING DATE: September 18, 2023

6. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m. by Councilmember Chin.