



City Council Weekly Information Packet

Friday, June 18, 2021

Includes the following documents/information:

- 1) City Council Events Schedule
- 2) State and Federal Update & Grant Opportunities
- 3) Park After Dark
- 4) Engineering & Transportation Department Update



City Council Events Schedule

June 18, 2021 thru September 29, 2021

The Mayor and City Council have been invited to attend various community meetings and public and private events at which a quorum of the City Council may be present. The Council will not be conducting city business, nor will any legal action be taken. This is an event only and not a public meeting. A list of the community meetings and public and private events along with the schedules, dates, times, and locations is attached. Organizers may require a rsvp or fee.

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Fri	June 18	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	African American Advisory Committee Juneteenth Community Celebration Location: Tempe History Museum (Outside) 809 E. Southern Ave. Tempe, AZ
Fri	June 25	7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Do Something Good for Your Neighbor/Senior Independence Breakfast Fundraiser Location: Grace Community Church 1200 E. Southern Tempe, AZ
Sat	June 26	10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Streetscape and Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP) Manual Virtual Meeting tempe.webex.com Event number: 187 258 7570 Event password: STEP To join by phone, call 1-408-418-9388 Access code: 187 258 7570
Mon	June 28	Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Streetscape and Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP) Manual Virtual Meeting tempe.webex.com Event number: 187 025 0662 Event password: STEP To join by phone, call 1-408-418-9388 Access code: 187 025 0662
Fri	Sept 17	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Omni Hotel & Conference Center Groundbreaking Location: Southeast Corner of Mill & University 7 E. University Dr. Tempe, AZ
Fri	Sept 17	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	2021 Tardeada Private Reception Location: Tempe History Museum

			809 E. Southern Avenue Tempe, AZ
Wed	Sept 29	5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Save the Date: 38th Annual Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards Location: Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Event

06/18/2021 EF

MEMORANDUM



TO: Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Andrew Ching, City Manager
FROM: Marge Zylla, Government Relations Officer
DATE: June 18, 2021
SUBJECT: State and Federal Update & Grant Opportunities

Below are summaries of recent actions and announcements at the state and federal level:

- U.S. Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee Testimony
- Governor Executive Orders
- State Legislative Update

Please let me know if there are follow-up questions for Tempe's federal lobbyist. Also, please let me know if Tempe staff members are pursuing federal grants so we can arrange for letters of support from our Congressional delegation.

U.S. Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee Testimony

Mayor Woods testified at the before the 6/15/21 U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs to highlight the city's vital infrastructure strategies, including innovative affordable housing and public transit initiatives.

The hearing, *21st Century Communities: Local Leaders on the Infrastructure Needs Facing America's States, Cities, and Towns*, included elected officials from across the country.

Mayor Woods addressed subjects including Tempe's need for affordable housing, efforts to address homelessness, public transit initiatives, sustainable growth strategies, vital public-private partnerships, the city's proactive financial response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for Congress to send more of Tempe's federal tax dollars back to Tempe to fund expanded affordable housing, public transit and other infrastructure initiatives.

Press release available at [this link](#). The video of the committee hearing and the written testimony is available at [this link](#).

Governor Executive Orders

The Governor has issued a number of Executive Orders in 2020 and 2021. They can be found at [this link](#). One Executive Order was issued this week: Protecting Student Access to Public Higher Education.

State Legislative Update

Today is the 159th day of the 2021 state legislative session. As of today, 1,774 bills have been posted, 409 have passed the Legislature, 381 have been signed by the Governor and 27 have been vetoed by the Governor.

Via the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Bulletin, 6/18/21

Legislative Update

Today is the 159th day of the session. The Legislature focused its attention this week on providing relief for the communities affected by ongoing wildfires. Last week Governor Ducey issued a call for a special session on wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery, and the Legislature convened on Tuesday. By Thursday afternoon, the single bill introduced, which appropriates \$100 million and 122 additional staff positions for fire emergency and mitigation responses, passed both chambers with strong bipartisan support. Now that the special session has adjourned sine die, the Legislature's focus shifts back to the budget and potential conclusion of the regular session.

State Budget

With only 13 days remaining in the fiscal year, pressure is mounting for lawmakers to agree on a state budget and prevent a government shutdown. Though there was speculation that there had been progressing towards an agreement, with the potential for a vote this week, legislative leadership ultimately decided to adjourn and reconvene Monday afternoon. Representative David Cook (R-Globe) and Senator Paul Boyer (R-Glendale) have publicly opposed the initial tax plan and continue to negotiate with leadership to secure concessions that will, among other priorities, protect city and town shared revenues and provide more funds to reduce state debt obligations.

Wildfire Special Session

On Wednesday, the House and Senate Natural Resources Committee held a joint committee session to consider HB2001 and SB1001. The bills are mirror measures to provide nearly \$100 million for wildfire initiatives. The measures allocated \$75 million to the Department of Fire and Forestry Management Provides for fire suppression-related expenses, including post-fire hazard mitigation. This funding is available to reimburse local governments for costs related to fire emergency response, sheltering, wraparound services, public infrastructure damage, and other support activities. [HB2001 appropriations; fire suppression](#), sponsored by Representative

Gail Griffin R-Hereford, was signed into law today by Governor Ducey, which will make these funds available immediately for statewide fire suppression and hazard mitigation activities.

Links to Media/Social Media

Recent statements, articles and op eds on the topic of the flat tax proposal:

This [Associated Press article](#) outlines the most current, available information regarding the progress on the state budget negotiations.

Background on the income tax discussion

The budget bills, as introduced, included tax provisions would result in an estimated annual revenue loss to Tempe of \$9.6 million when the tax is fully in effect. As noted in earlier memos, the cities continue to advocate for a solution that would hold municipalities harmless from revenue reductions at the state level. If the state reduces overall income tax revenue without increasing the proportion that flows back to cities to fund local needs, then cities' budgets across the state will be reduced.

Much of the revenue in the state is generated from cities and towns, the state collects that revenue and then there are agreements that some of the revenue collections are distributed back to cities and towns. For income taxes specifically, these are voter-approved local revenues (VALR) from a long-standing agreement that cities would not have city-specific income taxes and that the state would collect the income tax revenue generated in cities and towns and then distribute those revenues back out to the municipalities. VALR represents an important portion of the resources that municipalities count on to provide services and contribute to the quality of life for residents and businesses. If income tax revenues are reduced statewide, the proportion of VALR that is a portion of the overall revenues could be raised in order to maintain a consistent level of VALR resources coming to the cities. Local governments have been advocating widely that holding the cities harmless within tax proposals are crucial for safe, well-functioning municipalities.

Bill Tracking

There has not been any activity on the bills on the tracking list that typically is attached to this memo. The tracking list will be included next week as movement on legislative proposals resumes.



Park After Dark

In partnership with The City of Tempe, Downtown Tempe Authority is excited to present a new summer event. We have often posed the question, “would people come out during the summer?” We know that patios are still active and Arizonans are hardy, so why do we avoid summer programs?

At the end of a particularly dry spell for our local business economy and for our residents, the pandemic is providing a drive for the re-emergence of gathering, so we figure the time is now to test the summer event. There’s no doubt that our 170 street level locally owned businesses can use the heightened awareness after the past 15 months. Let’s stay top of mind to our residents and visitors and offer an activity – that can be adapted for both families and adults – during our summer evenings in downtown Tempe.

So what do we propose? The 6th Street Park area surrounding City Hall is beautiful, centrally located, and well shaded. Park After Dark is a 13 week Saturday evening series from June 19 through September 11 starting at dusk each week. Guests can enjoy a variety of large scale interactive games, small musical groups, a beer and wine garden with some special programming sprinkled in. Examples of games could include miniature golf, lawn bowling, ping pong, corn hole, bocce and other yard games. Special programs include a Juneteenth celebration, dancers, and more.

Event Details:

What:
“Park After Dark”

When: Saturdays
starting June 19th

Where: 6th Street
Park at City Hall,
Downtown Tempe

Time: 7pm – 10pm

Who: Both families
and adults, looking
for an activity
before/after dinner

What to expect?
Games, drinks,
music, beer & wine
garden, special
programs.

Why? Just
because it's hot
doesn't mean we
can't enjoy our
summer evenings!

Other Information – important details for the success of the event & our stakeholders:

- Recovery promotion post COVID – Seizing the time as we emerge from the pandemic to create an opportunity for downtown engagement will keep Tempe top of mind to our community and encourage them to return to our downtown for their shopping and dining needs.
- Business support – Included in the promotion of this activation would be a marketing campaign that incentivizes dinner and shopping in downtown prior to coming. This will be achieved by giveaways for guests who bring a receipt to the event from a downtown merchant that they supported that day.
- Utilizing an underused space – 6th Street Park is a beautiful downtown park that could be programmed more regularly and this event could create greater awareness that would lead to other park events in the future.
- Capitalizing on a previously untapped season – We are often weary of doing an event in the summer months due to our heat, and yet our community members are hardy and likely eager to get out, especially after the past year. This pilot will allow us to test the aptitude of our residents for summer programming in a shaded beautiful park in our downtown.
- Partnership and leveraging resources – Downtown Tempe Authority will utilize our own staff for the development of the programming, the ongoing planning efforts, marketing of the event and the cleaning of the event. Other components will be achieved in partnership with The City of Tempe.
- An event for everyone – Whether you are a college student looking to play ping pong before going out for the evening, or a family looking for some fun summer activities after dinner, everyone can participate in outdoor games and we can encourage dining and shopping before and after the event.
- Easily spaced for social distancing – Even with the loosened restrictions around COVID, some people may still be weary of gatherings. With the park being such a vast outdoor space, it is the perfect event that will ease people into gathering and allow for distance. Without tightly programming timing, people will be able to come and go as they please allowing for a free flowing event.
- Support for local musicians and artists – Some weeks there will be a market component and live musicians on site. Musicians will be paid a standard rate for their performance and the selling opportunities will provide needed exposure for local makers.



Streetscape and Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP) Manual

Tempe is updating its Streetscape and Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP) manual, focusing on what type of neighborhood approval process should be required to install different traffic mitigation devices.

The current manual, finalized in 2008, was presented to City Council at the September 17, 2020 meeting. After receiving direction from the Council to update the STEP manual, the city hired a consultant to help guide the process.

The consultant was tasked with reviewing the existing manual, creating and leading discussions with a stakeholder advisory group, reviewing similar policies in peer cities and developing recommendations for Tempe STEP Manual updates.

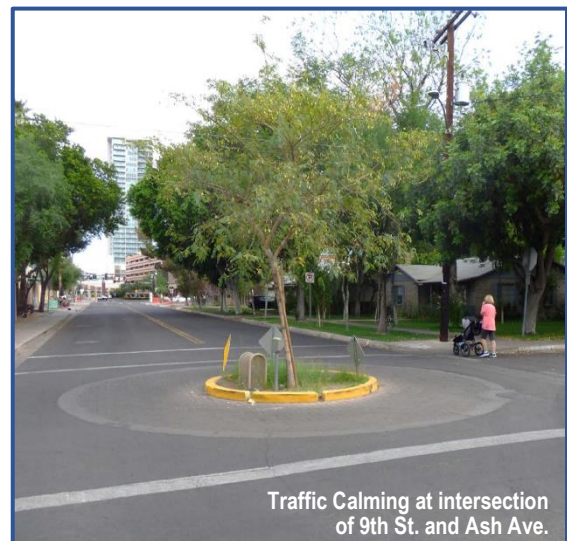
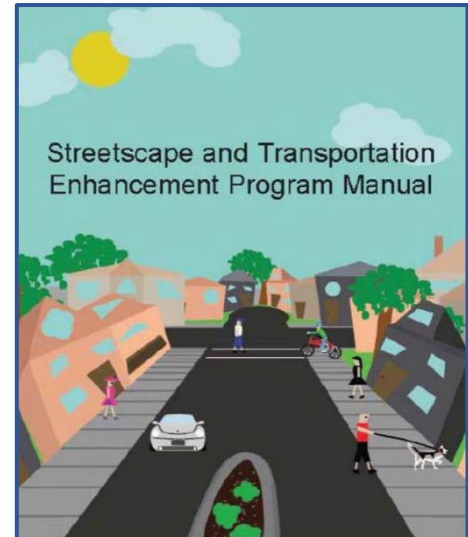
Findings have been presented to the stakeholder advisory group and city staff. In addition, draft recommendations have been developed to address the following process elements:

- Non-response from a property owner
- Rental vs owner response
- Funding criteria
- Consensus requirements
- Speed thresholds
- Alternate communication methods/automation

The findings and initial recommendations will be presented at two virtual public meetings:

- Saturday, June 26th, 10:30a
- Monday, June 28th, 12:00n

Online public comment will be open from June 26th through July 12th. Additional project information can be found at tempe.gov/STEP.



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