



COUNCIL MINUTES

September 9, 2021

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower-level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on September 9, 2021, at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

John Giles
Jennifer Duff
Mark Freeman
Francisco Heredia
David Luna
Julie Spilsbury
Kevin Thompson

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Dee Ann Mickelsen
Kelly Whittemore

Mayor Giles conducted a roll call.

1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the September 13, 2021, Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

Deputy City Attorney Kelly Whittemore reminded Council on Item 3-c, **(A tobacco store is requesting a new Series 10 Beer and Wine Store License for Match One Smoke Shop LLC, 507 East University Drive, Suite 7; Stephanie Felix Figueroa, agent. There is no existing license at this location. (District 4))**, on the September 13, 2021, Regular Council meeting agenda, that a yes vote will constitute disapproval of the liquor license.

Business License and Revenue Collection Administrator Tim Meyer explained the applicant owes fees to the City and does not have a current certificate of occupancy, and because of those reasons staff are recommending denial of this license. He commented attempts have been made to contact the applicant on at least three occasions.

In response to a question from Mayor Giles, Ms. Whittemore confirmed voting yes on the consent agenda is a recommendation against issuing the license and a disapproval notice would be sent to the State Liquor Board.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Thompson regarding how the business can operate without a certificate of occupancy, City Manager Christopher Brady indicated he will have staff investigate the status and will have Code Compliance follow up.

Water Resources Advisor Brian Draper introduced Assistant City Attorney III Bill Taebel and displayed a PowerPoint presentation regarding Item 5-c, **(Approving, and authorizing the City Manager or designee to sign an Agreement to Share Costs Among Various Participating Entities (including the City of Mesa) and the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District associated with seeking approval for temporary deviation from the water control plan for operation of flood control space in Modified Roosevelt Dam. (Citywide))**, on the September 13, 2021, Regular Council meeting agenda, to provide the background to Council. **(See Attachment 1)**

Mr. Draper stated this year is the 25th anniversary of the modification to the Roosevelt Dam and the cost-sharing agreement seeks approval to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers to temporarily utilize five feet of the 25 feet of flood control space that was created during the modification of the dam. He informed Council that currently their water operations plan requires any water that goes in that space to be evacuated within 20 days and that offers no beneficial use downstream.

Mr. Draper commented the original Roosevelt dam was built in the early 1900s and during the late '80s and early '90s, many cities and governmental agencies pulled together monies to expand the dam an additional 77 feet. He remarked the dam is now 357 feet high with a gain of almost 2 million additional acre feet of water. He said the City received a portion of the New Conservation Space (NSC), which is water that the City can use anywhere within the City of Mesa. He explained the flood control space is used when there is excess runoff that fills into the space, which is required to be evacuated; and safety of dam space is used in the event of a thousand-year flood to protect the dam and downstream users. (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Draper stated the focus is on utilizing five feet of the flood control space, which sits on top of the NCS, by entering into the temporary deviation with the Corps and the Bureau. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Draper reported five feet of space will give the City 108,000 acre feet of water. He added there are many participants that want to join the temporary cost-sharing agreement. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Draper indicated under the current plan, water must be evacuated within 20 days and the cost-sharing agreement will allow the water to be kept for up to 120 days, giving all the participants in this agreement time to put the water to use rather than flowing downstream with no beneficial impact to the community. (See Page 5 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Draper stated the total cost is approximately \$1.5 million and Mesa's share is just over \$53,000. He remarked Mesa will be able to access up to 4,800 acre feet of water per fill and under the five-year agreement will have the opportunity to fill the space three times. He said the open market costs for long-term storage credits can go as high as \$10,000 an acre foot and pointed out the cost savings to the City of Mesa by gaining temporary access to water. He mentioned if the pilot program works and there are no environmental impacts and no structural impacts to the modified dam, this could become more of a long-term permanent source of water. He added there will be additional costs to modify the water operations plan, but this plan will

provide drought mitigation and the ability to meet the economic growth that is happening in the city. (See Page 6 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Draper responded to an inquiry from Mr. Brady regarding the availability of Salt River Project (SRP) water by advising that due to the robust monsoon season, the Verde and Salt River capacity is up to 70%, and the lakes have also gained capacity. He explained NCS, which is a reoccurring cheap source of water that can be used anywhere in Mesa, was utilized this year and if all goes as planned will be refilled again.

In response to a question from Mayor Giles, Mr. Draper commented during the test period the integrity of the dam will be checked, as well as the environmental component to make sure the cultural features surrounding Roosevelt Lake are not impacted.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Heredia regarding the percentage split of water received by the City from SRP and the Central Arizona Project (CAP), Mr. Draper indicated the split is 60/40 now, using more CAP than SRP.

Councilmember Freeman commented that CAP water is cleaner so there are fewer input costs to cleaning the water. He asked whether there are any federal requirements pertaining to the elevation.

Mr. Draper replied that the elevations for NCS, flood control, and safety of the dam are designated in the water operations plan.

Mr. Brady stated the City of Mesa is fortunate to have two different water sources which provides flexibility. He remarked that discussions are underway to gain additional sources to diversify the City's portfolio and plan for the future.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Heredia regarding Item 4-a, **(Five-Year Term Contract with Five Years of Renewal Options for Medical Transport Billing Solution Software (Addition) for the Business Services and Mesa Fire and Medical (MFMD) Departments (Citywide))**, on the September 13, 2021, Regular Council meeting agenda, Business Services Department Director Ed Quedens introduced Management Assistant II Tom LaVell and indicated most of the billing has transitioned over to the five in-house staff; however, Daisy Mountain is still handling a small portion of the billing through the end of the year. He mentioned staff is using the Daisy Mountain billing system until the new software is ready.

2. Discuss and provide direction on the selection process for the next City Clerk.

Mayor Giles announced City Clerk Dee Ann Mickelsen will retire in January 2022. He noted that Ms. Mickelsen has been with the City of Mesa 24 years, spending 8.5 years as City Clerk. He remarked Ms. Mickelsen won City Clerk of the Year approximately a year ago. He commented the City Clerk is a position that is hired by Council rather than the City Manager per the City Charter.

Mr. Brady informed Council during the previous recruitment for City Clerk, Council decided against utilizing a headhunter and focused on candidates that are familiar with local government and Arizona laws. He stated the job was posted for 60 days and listed the places the job will be posted. He mentioned Human Resources (HR) narrowed the applicants down to the top 10, whose resumes were presented to Council, and Council then chose five or six to interview. He remarked an interview panel consisting of a neighboring City Clerk, a representative from the Public Safety

Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS), the City Attorney, a former elected City official, and the City Manager was formed to meet with the candidates by phone and select the top four. He added the four individuals then met with Council for in-person interviews.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Luna regarding the timeline, Mr. Brady said the goal is to have a decision made before the end of the year. He advised with Council direction, notice will go out and HR will select 10 candidates to move forward in the process, during which time an interview panel will be picked to choose the three or four candidates to present to Council so a decision can be made by mid-December.

Responding to a question from Mayor Giles regarding the reasoning behind having a PSPRS representative on the panel, Ms. Mickelsen discussed her role as the secretary to the local Public Safety Board and the role the Clerk's office plays in Public Safety retirements, adding the previous City Clerk recommended that a member of the PSPRS board serve on the panel.

In response to a question from Councilmember Thompson inquiring about the possibility of reducing the job post opening from 60 days to 30 days considering the holidays, Mr. Brady expressed concern with the timeframe of getting the notice into the publications. He suggested 45 days with the goal of getting the list of 10 candidates to Council at the beginning of November.

Mayor Giles said the ideal circumstance would be to have the new hire in place by January so there was some overlap before Ms. Mickelsen's departure.

Ms. Mickelsen concurred that if the selection was made by the first meeting in January that there would be sufficient time for a smooth transition. She emphasized that the Clerk deals with elections, records management, public safety, and there is a lot of legal background related to Arizona laws, recommending the recruitment be statewide for that reason. She indicated the Arizona Municipal Clerks Association (AMCA) and the League of Arizona Cities and Towns are good recruitment sources to attract candidates.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Freeman asking for Ms. Mickelsen's recommendation on the posting time needed, Ms. Mickelsen said 30 to 45 days is an acceptable compromise. She added she will post the job opening on the Clerk's listserv.

Mr. Brady summarized that the 10 candidates will be brought to Council on November 1, 2021, the panel will begin interviewing the following week and reduce the number to five or six, and Council will conduct in-person interviews after Thanksgiving.

Mayor Giles provided consensus for the process with recruitment open for 45 days to err on the side of transparency.

3. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Mayor Giles – AYSO Red Mountain Soccer Complex opening night

Vice Mayor Duff – Sustainability Panel on city resiliency

Councilmember Spilsbury and Vice Mayor Duff toured the House of Refuge in East Mesa.

Vice Mayor Duff and Mayor Giles attended the Alice Cooper Solid Rock Teen Center grand opening.

Assistant Fire Chief James Johnson commented that the City of Mesa donated a fire truck to East Valley Institute of Technology's (EVIT) fire sciences program. He said EVIT is a great program for the community.

Mayor Giles, Vice Mayor Duff, and Councilmembers Spilsbury and Luna were attendees at the Arizona League of Cities and Towns conference where Councilmember Luna was recognized for eight years of service.

Councilmember Luna announced Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Falcon Field will be celebrating its 80th anniversary. He invited the community to attend.

Vice Mayor Duff and Councilmember Freeman attended the Historic Preservation Board meeting where the annual preservation awards were presented.

Councilmember Spilsbury reported the Mesa Arts Center season opening is Friday, September 10, 2021, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. and the 9/11 Commemorative ceremony will be held Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the Mesa Amphitheater.

4. Scheduling of meetings.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the schedule of meetings is as follows:

Monday, September 13, 2021, 5:15 p.m. – Study Session

Monday, September 13, 2021, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Meeting

5. Convene an Executive Session.

It was moved by Councilmember Spilsbury, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, that the Study Session adjourn at 8:15 a.m. and the Council enter into an Executive Session.

Carried unanimously.

5-a. Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, salaries, discipline, dismissal, or resignation of a public officer, appointee, or employee of the city. (A.R.S. §38-431.03A (1)):

1. City Clerk Review
2. City Auditor Review

(The Council adjourned the Executive Session at 8:57 a.m. and reconvened the Study Session.)

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

JOHN GILES, MAYOR


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ATTEST:


DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

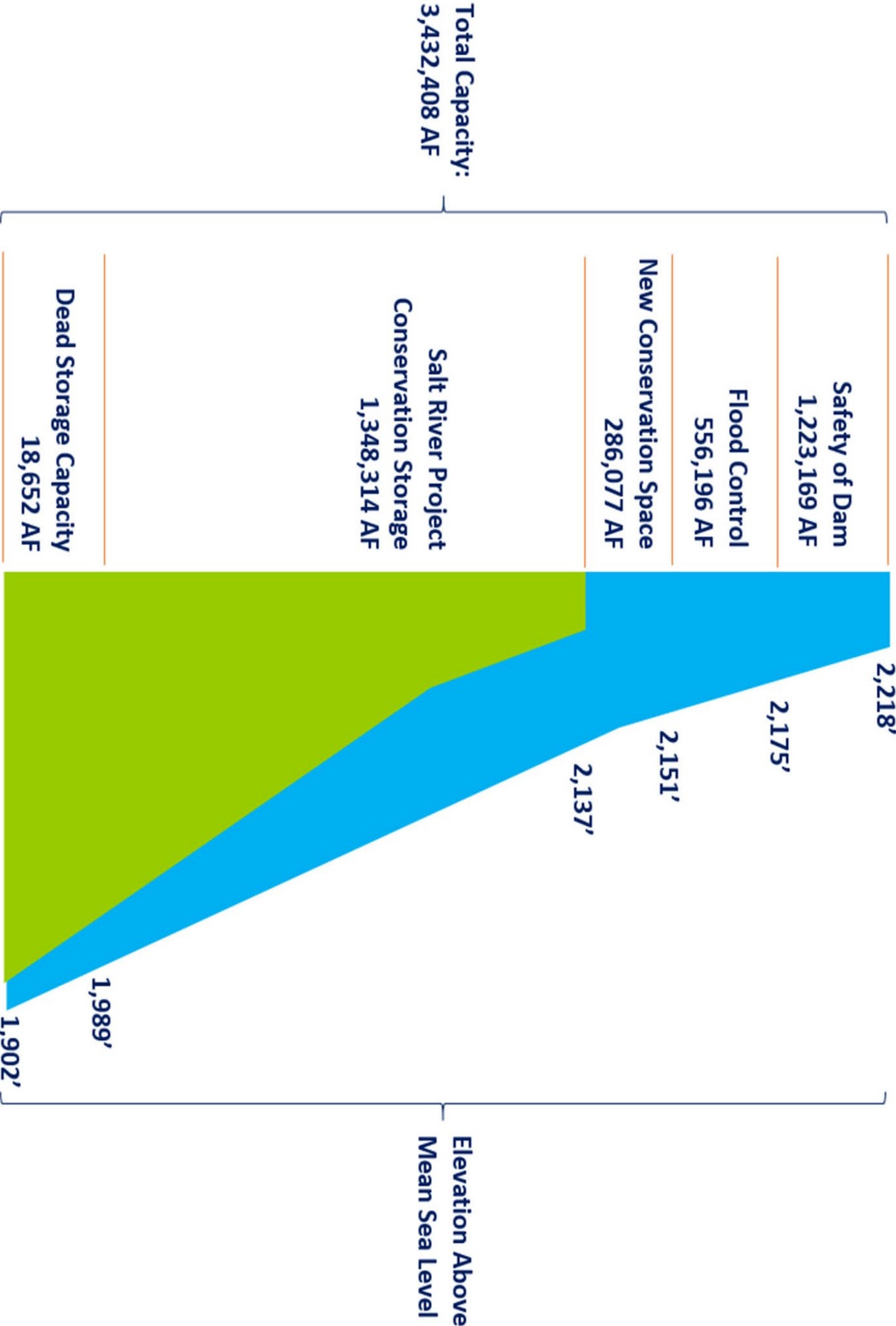


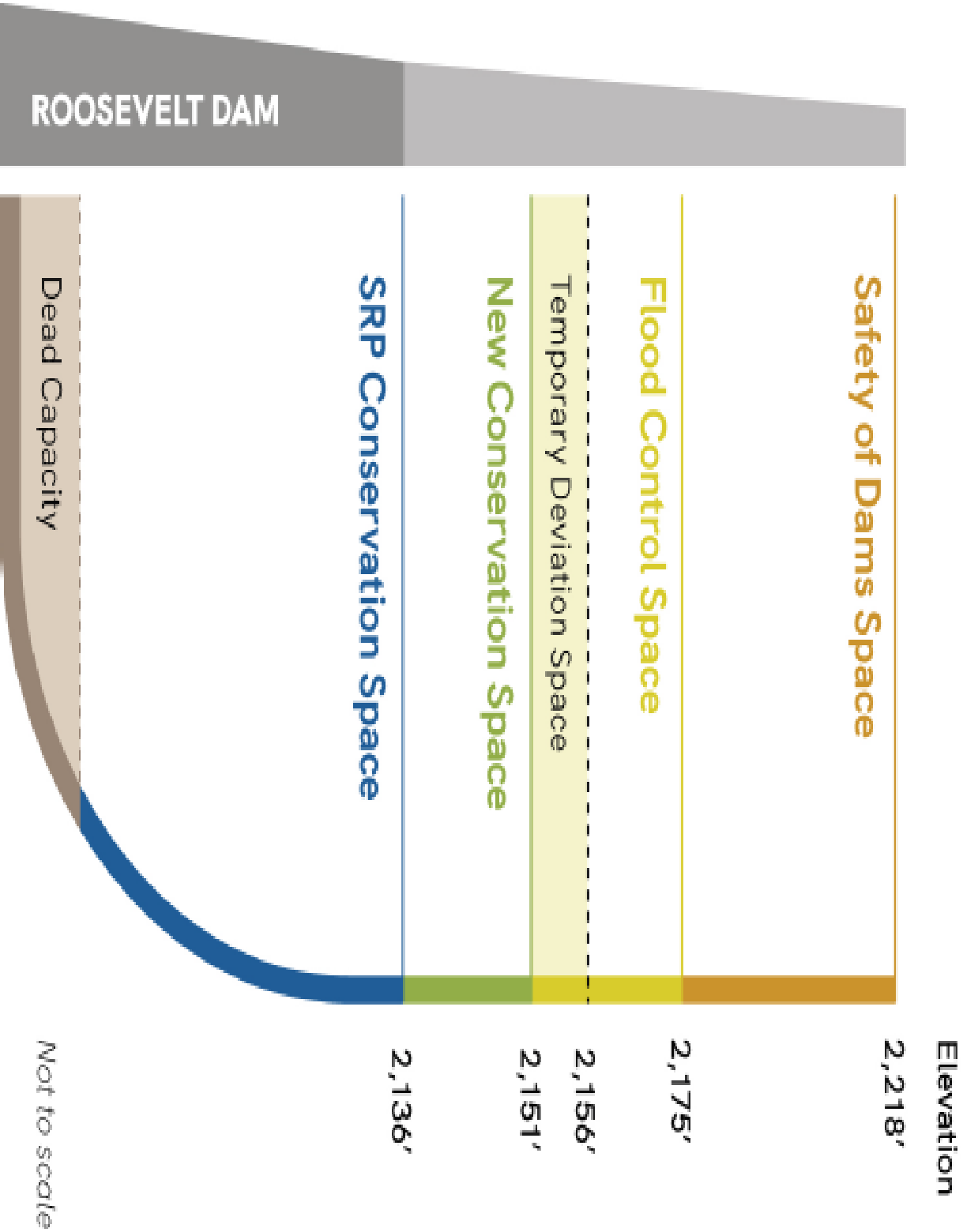
I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 9th day of September 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.


DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

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(Attachments – 1)

Roosevelt FCS Discussion





Storage Volumes in Roosevelt FCS

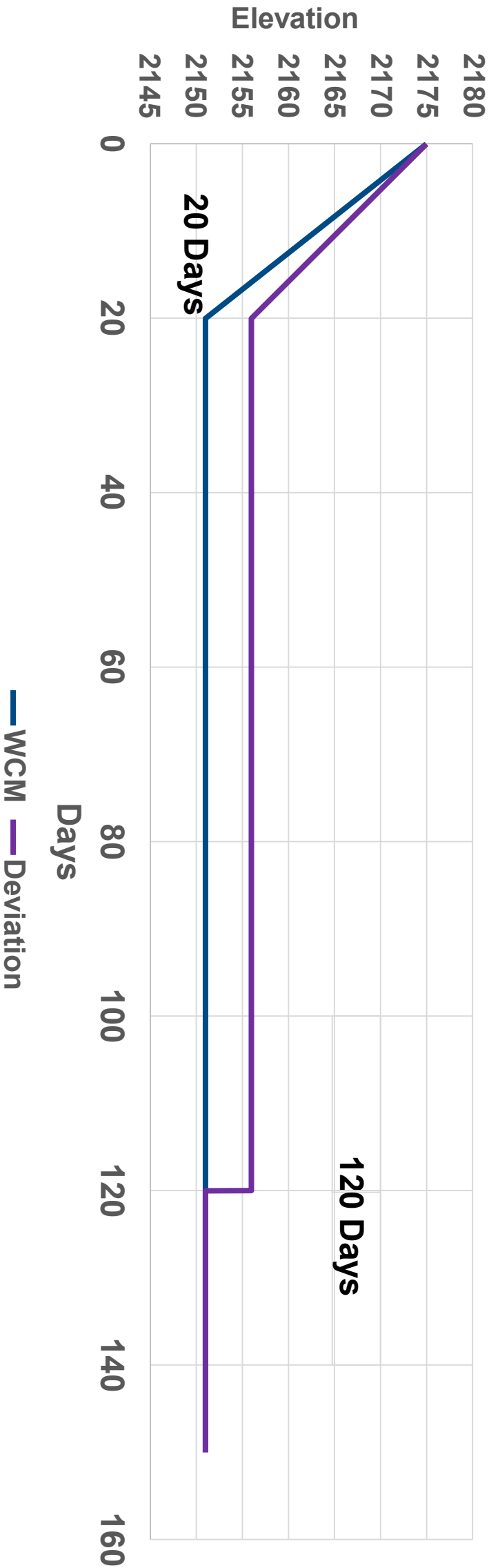
Temporary Deviation

Amount into Flood Control		Roosevelt Elevation	Roosevelt Volume
[ft]	[AF]	[ft]	[AF]
2.5	53,874	2153.28	1,685,428
5	108,620*	2155.78	1,740,174
7.5	164,318	2158.28	1,795,872
10	220,828	2160.78	1,852,382
15	336,464	2165.78	1,968,018
20	455,764	2170.78	2,087,318
24.09	556,206	2174.87	2,187,760

* Volume is equal to twice the amount stored in Canyon Lake.

Extension of the evacuation period for waters contained in:

- Elevations 2150.78' to 2155.78' (First 5 feet of FCS)
- For up-to 120 days
- Water Control Manual Requirements remain in place for elevations > 2155.78
- Utilize Deviation up to 3 times in 5-year period



Mesa's Share

- Total estimated cost is around \$1.5 million.
- Mesa's share is 4% or a total of \$53,539.
- Enables Mesa to obtain access up to 4,800 acre-feet of water per fill.
- Agreement allows for three (3) fills or 14,400 acre-feet of water.
- Cost of water ranges from \$11/ac-ft with one fill to \$3.72/ac-ft with three fills of the flood control space.

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