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**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW)  
New Item for Review and Consideration**

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Meeting Date: 11/03/2016  
Agenda Item: 4B2

**Issue Description:** Flood Irrigation Rates

**Presented by:** Kolby Granville

**What are you looking to accomplish?** I'm looking to create a long term solution to flood irrigation rates and to protect flood irrigation users from future large rate adjustments by moving the attached resolution forward for a vote at Council.

**Background Information:** The last flood irrigation rate changes were back to back 9% increases in 2004 and 2005. This must have been a jarringly large increase for flood irrigation users of the time. Today, unlike other water users, flood irrigation users pay 38%-45% of the cost of the water they receive. This deficient is absorbed by the water fund budget, which is paid for by all Tempe residents. This is not a sustainable financial model over time. In order to prevent a future jarringly large adjust to irrigation users like what took place in 2004 and 2005, I propose that the current irrigation rate be adjusted up each year at 50% the rate of inflation.

This item aligns with Council priorities #4 and #5; the need to implement sustainable growth strategies and maintain our long term financial stability.

**What stakeholders should be engaged with this process?** None

**Anticipated Timeframe and Staff Resources:** None. A simple action at COW to move the resolution to formal Council for an up or down vote on directing staff or similar direction at COW consistent with the resolution.

*The Tempe City Council is committed to:*

- 1. Ensuring a safe and secure community through a commitment to public safety and justice.*
- 2. Developing and maintaining a strong community connection by emphasizing the importance of open government, customer service and communication with community members.*
- 3. Enhancing the quality of life for all Tempe residents and workers through investment in neighborhoods, parks, the arts, human services, and city amenities, with an emphasis on equity and diversity.*
- 4. Implementing sustainable growth and development strategies, including improving Tempe's public transit system to meet future needs, by actively seeking innovative technologies and leading the way in creating a more sustainable community.*
- 5. Maintaining long term financial stability and vitality by focusing on economic development, business retention and generating employment to create a robust and diverse economic base.*

**RESOLUTION NO. R2016.xx**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TEMPE, ARIZONA, TO FLOOD  
IRRIGATION RATES.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tempe has a vested interest in in promoting the health, safety and welfare of Tempe and its residents, and

**WHEREAS**, the sustainable use of potable and flood irrigation water is paramount to the future health of Tempe, and

**WHEREAS**, unlike potable water, flood irrigation's last rate increase was in 2004 and 2005. This has had the effect of causing flood irrigation rates, in relative dollars, to go down in price year-over-year. Floor irrigation users currently pay 38%-45% of the cost of the water they receive, and

**WHEREAS**, it is Tempe's best interest to prevent disproportionately large flood irrigation increases in the future,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMPE, ARIZONA, AS FOLLOWS:**

Staff shall, as soon as appropriate, but no later than May 1, 2017, implement all necessary and proper changes to have annual flood irrigation rates automatically increase annually for residential users at between 50% the rate of inflation on an annual basis.

Staff shall bring forward to Council any code changes necessary to implement the required change.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMPE, ARIZONA  
this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

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Mark W. Mitchell, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brigitta M. Kuiper, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Judith R. Baumann, City Attorney