



Last updated: November 2022

## **Why is the issue of the City taking over the Sedona Airport being raised now?**

The relationship between the city, county and the Sedona Airport is complex. Through the years, decision-making responsibility and jurisdictional authority have been in question. Current discussions about land use at the airport including plans to expand the airport to include an event venue, have triggered conversations about ownership of the airport.

In 2022, Yavapai County approached the City of Sedona soliciting interest in potentially taking over ownership of the Sedona Airport. The City Council is seeking a consultant to perform due diligence on the potential implications of this decision to help determine if this would be a benefit to the community.

## **The decision has basically been made though, right?**

No, no decisions have been made and the City is just in a due-diligence period to better understand the implications of a possible acquisition of the airport. The City Council will evaluate this further once a thorough analysis has been completed and public input has been solicited.

## **What is the primary role of the City-hired consultant?**

A consultant will perform the following analysis on the Sedona Airport and airport operations:

1. Review of current structure of the Sedona Airport, including ownership and management;
2. Review master plan for the Sedona Airport and all plans relevant to operation of airport;
3. Outline and identify the regulations (State and Federal) that guide airport operations;
4. Outline financial status and grant agreement obligations for the Sedona Airport;
5. Identification of any outstanding litigation or potential litigation.

The City is also requesting that a consultant provide recommendations regarding how the City could structure potential ownership and management of the Sedona Airport.

## **I heard that the Airport wants to expand. If the City acquires the Airport, will residents have more input on future uses of the Airport property?**

Both Yavapai County and the City of Sedona agree that future decision-making about the Airport should include input from the residents and other community stakeholders who are most directly impacted by those decisions. One way to ensure that input is considered may be for the City to become the property owner, however, that may not be the only or best way to accomplish this. As ownership and/or other potential scenarios are evaluated, residents, businesses and other stakeholders will be asked to weigh in on that prospect before any decisions are made.

## **If the City acquired the Airport, would it generate money for the City?**

It is also part of the consultant's due diligence to determine the financial condition of the airport and future financial implications of ownership to the City.

## **When will the consultant start and when will results be brought back to City Council?**

The consultant will be hired by mid-January and results to City Council are expected by the end of 2023.