

**MINUTES
TOWN OF QUARTZSITE
465 N. PLYMOUTH AVENUE
REGULAR MEETING
MUNICIPAL UTILITY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016 AT 10:00 AM**

CALL TO ORDER: 10:03 a.m.

Vice Chairperson Starr BearCat called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Committee Member Dan Heaton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD:

Chairperson: Richard Thompson - Absent
Vice Chairperson: Starr Bearcat - Present
Committee Member: John (Jack) Brown - Present
Committee Member: Darrell Crooks - Absent
Committee Member: Dan Heaton – Present

Staff Present: Jim Ferguson, Town Manager; Emmett Brinkerhoff, Public Works Director; Rondus Bennett, Utilities Accounts Manager; Miguel Castellanos, Deputy Town Clerk.

READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Committee Member John Brown motioned to approve the minutes for the meeting of October 19, 2016 and Committee Member Dan Heaton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Held after Business.

BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of the water usage for beautification and what can be charged to HURF.

Emmett Brinkerhoff, gave an overlay of what departments pay for in utility bills. He also explained that for HURF to pay the utility charges, the area must be within the dedicated roads or right of ways.

Vice Chairperson Starr BearCat asked what it would take to have grass on the football field. Emmett Brinkerhoff replied the field would need lots of water.

2. Discussion of major water breakage areas.

Emmett Brinkerhoff told the Committee that the only area with major water leaks is the Arroyos. He also said the piping in the area was getting replaced as they fix the leaks.

Vice Chairperson Starr BearCat asked if there was any water detection or radar equipment the Town could possibly purchase. Emmett Brinkerhoff answered that he would look into it.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Richard Trusty, Quartzsite resident, explained his utility bill issue to the Committee. He said his bill has irregularly gone up and down in price throughout the year and would like help from the Committee and staff to resolve the issue.

Vice Chairperson Starr BearCat recommended to staff to stop any late fees until the issue is resolved.

REPORTS:

1. Report on Badger Meter lawsuit.

Rondus Bennett, Utilities Accounts Manager, reported to the Committee that the company the Town buys their meters from, Badger Meter, does not have any lawsuits involving any bad meters.

2. Report on water meters and meter readings.

Rondus Bennett explained how the Town gathers the meter reads every month and how the meters give the readings.

Vice Chairperson Starr BearCat asked how someone could determine if the Meter is faulty. Rondus Bennett replied most meters slow down giving a lower read than what was used.

Rondus Bennett continued to say that if the read is much higher than the normal usage, a letter is sent to the customer letting them know there might be an issue. She also added that the Badger Meters score a 98.5 % accuracy on reads.

Committee Member Dan Heaton asked what would happen if the transponder in the water meter were to go bad. Rondus Bennett answered the meter would give a reading of an error message.

Rondus Bennett said she had gotten a hold of National Meter and is scheduling a meeting with the community to explain some issues.

3. Discussion of the Town's Water Rights.

Jim Ferguson, Town Manager, updated the Committee about what has happened with the Town's Water Rights. He said the Town's Water Right were being looked at and an offer was made to purchase the Water Rights.

Vice Chairperson Starr BearCat said the community is under the impression that the Town should lease the water rights but the interested party doesn't want to lease. She believes there should be a community meeting to explain what the Town can do with the Water Rights and the pros and cons of selling the Water Rights.

Jim Ferguson clarified that the Central Arizona Project would not build the Town a well, but the Town would build the well with the money from the Water Rights.

Committee Member Dan Heaton asked why the Water Rights were not being sold to a private water company. Jim Ferguson answered that staff were only directed to proceed with the Central Arizona Project offer.

Vice Chairperson Starr BearCat directed staff to have work session with the public to gather input for the Water Rights.

Vice Chairperson Starr BearCat announced that this would be her last MUAC meeting due to her being sworn into Town Council.

Jim Ferguson read Vice Chairperson Starr BearCat's resignation letter. The letter read that the Committee had been a great learning experience and it is her intent to use the Boards and Committees in a more positive way.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:24 a.m.

Committee Member John "Jack" Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m. and Committee Member Dan Heaton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Meeting of November 16, 2016, of the Municipal Utility Administrative Committee of the Town of Quartzsite, Arizona, held on November 16, 2016.

I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this _____ day of _____ 2016.

Miguel Castellanos, Deputy Town Clerk
On behalf of the MUAC Board