

MINUTES
TOWN OF QUARTZSITE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2014, 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Bruce Swart gave the invocation at the Mayor's request.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge was led by Mayor Foster.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Foster, Vice Mayor Jewitt, Council Member Kelley, Council Member Crooks, Council Member Orgeron, Council Member Scott, Council Member Timberlake.

STAFF PRESENT: Skylor Miller, Town Manager; Susan Goodwin, Town Attorney; Tina Abriani, Town Clerk

APPROVAL/AMENDMENT OF AGENDA: Vice Mayor Jewitt moved to accept the agenda as presented and **Council Member Crooks seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

PRESENTATIONS; PROCLAMATIONS:

1. PROCLAMATION – Mental Health Awareness Week October 5-11, 2014.

The Mayor read the proclamation aloud.

CONSENT AGENDA:

2-a. LEDGER OF ACCOUNTS PAID – Consider approval of check series 37907 - 37962, totaling \$95,436.22.

2-b. MINUTES – Consider approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2014, the Special Meeting of September 9, 2014 and the Special Meeting of September 16, 2014.

Vice Mayor Jewitt moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and **Council Member Kelley seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

3. GUEST PRESENTATION – Paul Skillicorn, CEO of Biotechnology Research and Development, LLC and Daniel B. Higgins, P.E., Regional Director of Central U.S. GE Power & Water, Water & Process Technologies will provide

information regarding agriquatics and alternative waste water treatment solutions.

Mr. Paul Skillicorn, President of Biotechnology Research & Development and President of Agriquatics introduced himself and Ms. Lila Garza, present CEO of Alma Energy, the U.S. rights holder to the technologies to be presented. Mr. Skillicorn also introduced Dan Higgins, who heads up GE Sales Marketing for the U.S. and the marketing for the product to be presented.

Mr. Skillicorn said the technology would take the existing wastewater treatment system and replace it with a system they are proposing. He said the existing system is a good system, that is working well right now and wastewater is treated successfully, but nutrients are lost, there are increased greenhouse gases and solids must be disposed of. It is a cost item with no return.

He said fewer fees have to be raised to complete the expansion project and because the system is above 80% of its design capacity) – new connections are prohibited, so Town development is on hold.

Mr. Skillicorn described the system GE and Agriquatics (the technology is a combination of the two) are proposing to treat wastewater: raw effluent comes in, a pretreatment disposes of the grit, screened solids are ground down to a very fine product, the solids and the liquids are separated.

The solids go into an anaerobic digester, where energy is produced. The released nutrients can be used again after it goes back through the system. The final grit in the system is disposed of elsewhere.

Clarified liquids go into a duckweed treatment system, the core of the system. He said the key is in extracting nutrients and growing protein. The proteins go into a bio-refinery that can be used to produce plastics and fish. At that point, the water is highly treated, filtered and disinfected. The result is a pure water that can be reused, effectively, for any purpose at all, including drinking.

An overview of the mechanical system that separates liquids and solids, the GE portion, was provided. He said that the piece that makes money is the bio-plastics and compounds for commercial sale; it is 100% naturally reinforced bio-plastic that is biodegradable.

Mr. Skillicorn said the Bureau of Land Management would have to allow the use of the land for the project (approximately 50 acres for an approximate 30-year timeframe). He said the system would recover all its capital costs.

The approximate capital cost is eight million dollars and expected returns are 50% annually. Capital investments and costs shared will be negotiated as a joint venture. This proposed plant does not currently exist.

Ms. Garza spoke regarding small towns and business perspectives; and possible grants. She said this would be a public private partnership among the Town, Agriquatics and GE.

Council Member Kelley asked about ADEQ approval. Mr. Skillicorn advised he does not have that approval, but is not worried about that.

Council Member Scott asked for work sessions regarding costs and possibly having an ADEQ representative attend and speak to this.

Vice Mayor Jewitt asked what the initial capital outlay for the Town would be.

Mr. Skillicorn advised that the Town has a three million dollar USDA grant that has not been used. He would like to reprogram that money. He stated he may have to get Washington involved.

Ms. Garza stated this was a very preliminary presentation. She suggested that the three presenters create a proposal outlining every aspect of the project or the Town and bring it back at another meeting.

Council Member Crooks asked about the necessary repairs to the existing wastewater treatment plant and if the presenters are aware of the situation with the money for that. Mr. Skillicorn and Ms. Garza advised that they are aware and that there would be an annual dividend that may be used to pay down the debt.

Council Member Kelley stated she would like to see ADEQ and WIFA say it is O.K. The Council advised they need more information before making a decision.

The Mayor directed staff to place this discussion, with possible action, regarding working with a proposal, when one has been received.

Council Member Timberlake stated she would like a work session with ADEQ and BLM to have them speak and ask questions.

Mr. Skillicorn advised ADEQ and BLM need to be educated before they can advise the Council regarding their positions on the matter.

4. HI JOLLY CEMETERY REGULATIONS FORM - Review and possible approval of an amended Hi Jolly Cemetery Regulations Form to include the requirement of proof of payment for a headstone in order to receive the \$150 refundable portion of the \$200 Headstone Deposit.

Dinice Ross asked the Council for approval of the amended form.

Council Member Orgeron moved to approve the amended Hi Jolly Cemetery Regulations Form for use. **Council Member Crooks seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

5. HI JOLLY CEMETERY BOARD APPOINTMENT Consider the appointment of one regular member to the Hi Jolly Cemetery Board with a term ending December 2015.

The Mayor invited both interested volunteers, Audrey Berger and Carol “Lynn” Stimson, to the podium to introduce themselves.

Audrey Berger stated she is a thirty year resident.

Carol “Lynn” Stimson advised that most people know her by “Lynn”. She stated she just moved back to Quartzsite; but, she did come to Quartzsite in 1995 and lived inside the Town limits. She said she likes the cemetery a lot.

Council Member Scott nominated Audrey Berger and explained the reason was that Lynn Stimson was just appointed to the Municipal Board of Adjustment. She noted that Audrey is not on a board, but is actively involved with the community. Council Member Scott said she wished that there were two openings and that she is glad both of them are on a board as she knows they will do a great job.

Council Member Orgeron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Audrey Berger was appointed to the Hi Jolly Cemetery Board.

6. COUNTY PROSPERITY SUMMIT – Discussion, consideration and possible action to become a Co-applicant of the Town of Parker and the La Paz Economic Development Corporation in an effort to have La Paz County selected to host a County Prosperity Summit in collaboration with the National Association of Counties.

Town Manager Miller explained that Supervisor Wilson contacted him to request that this information be put before the Council. D.L. Wilson is looking to form a regional partnership with the County and surrounding communities. He is hoping to have La Paz County host a prosperity summit, a program going on through the National Association of Counties. Supervisor Wilson is not asking for any financial obligation; but, is looking for Quartzsite to be a co-applicant to strengthen that application to the National Association of Counties.

Council Member Orgeron asked the Town Manager if Supervisor Wilson brought this before any other Councils or communities.

Town Manager Miller advised the Supervisor did say he would push this out to other groups.

The Town of Parker and the La Paz Economic Development Corporation would be co-applicants.

Council Member Scott thinks the Town of Quartzsite would be perfect for this and benefit from it. She looks forward to suggestions and good ideas from experts for the Town's economic development.

Council Member Timberlake moved to apply to become a co-applicant of the Town of Parker and the La Paz Economic Development Corporation in an effort to have La Paz County selected to host a County Prosperity Summit in collaboration with the National Association of Counties.

Vice Mayor Jewitt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

Council Member Orgeron moved to adjourn to executive session and **Vice Mayor Jewitt seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:25 p.m.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION - An executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) for discussion or consideration of employment and salary of Lee Alirez as the Town of Quartzsite Chief of Police and A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(4) for discussion or consultation with the Town Attorney in order to consider its position and instruct the Town Attorney regarding the Town's position regarding an employment contract with Lee Alirez as the Town of Quartzsite Chief of Police.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 8:44 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Foster, Vice Mayor Jewitt, Council Member Kelley, Council Member Crooks, Council Member Orgeron, Council Member Scott, Council Member Timberlake.

8. CHIEF OF POLICE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT Consideration and possible concurrence on an employment agreement with Lee Alirez as the Town of Quartzsite Chief of Police pursuant to Town Code Section 4-1-2.

Vice Mayor Jewitt moved to approve the contract to be presented to Lee Alirez for Quartzsite Chief of Police, effective October 13, 2014 and **Council Member Kelley seconded** the motion.

Council Member Scott stated the reason for her vote: to protect the taxpayers so that there is not a large payout; there will be changes made to the Council and it is unknown how those changes will affect the Police Department; he has been informed of the situation, full disclosure has been made to the new Chief and she advised he is a very good man and it is the Council's job to look out for the people. Council Member Scott said that is what the Council is trying hard to do.

The Mayor stated he agrees that the Town needs a Chief of Police, but believes the Town is paying too much money for him. He noted that it is the consensus to pay him the agreed upon amount, so he accepts that right now.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion Passed by unanimous roll call vote
(summary: Yes = 7).

Yes: Mayor Foster, Vice Mayor Jewitt, Council Member Kelley, Council Member Crooks, Council Member Orgeron, Council Member Scott, Council Member Timberlake.

COMMUNICATIONS:

9. Announcements and Reports from the MAYOR on current events.

The Mayor announced the results of the 2014 Primary Election.

- A total of 1772 votes were cast at the primary election for four open four-year term seats.
- Two of the candidates received more than fifty per cent (50%) of the votes cast in order to be directly elected at the primary election. (Norm Simpson and Loretta Warner)
- Both Monica Timberlake and Bradley Trainer received 164 votes.
- Section 16-661 of the Arizona Revised Statutes requires an automatic recount is required.
- After the recount, there is still a tie vote, so all candidates receiving the equal number of votes shall be candidates at the general election.
- The names of the people receiving nominating votes: Hal Davidson, Terry Frausto, Carol Kelley, Monica Timberlake and Bradley Trainer. There will be five names on the general election ballot for two seats.

Announcements and Reports from the COUNCIL on current events.

None

10. Reports from the TOWN MANAGER to the Council.

Town Manager Miller announced the La Paz Board of Supervisors hosted a work session Monday morning, September 22, 2014, with representatives from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to discuss trail closures and the Travel Management Plan.

Highlighted information was: the BLM would like to implement their Travel Management Plan within the year. They are starting up a new round of Town Hall type meetings. They are proposing to have local meetings to address concerns.

Some of the concerns were: the data presented was uncategorized, it didn't differentiate between the different types of trails – ambiguous language and not enough detail; the proposed closures seemed somewhat arbitrary, no explanations were provided. The level of public participation and passion was phenomenal, stated Town Manager Miller.

Town Manager Miller announced the Health & Development Services Board met earlier today. He advised that the Council will receive a report in the near future regarding the Board's recommendation for non-profit recipients of public funding. The recommendations are made to the Council for their review and final decision.

Town Manager Miller announced the Cemetery will be having their Walk with the Past on November 1, 2014. They still need volunteers, specifically two male volunteers, preferably with some military background.

The Mayor stated the comment period has been extended by the BLM regarding the trail closings.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Suellen Pennington of the Quartzsite First Assembly Church advised there will be two events hosted by the Church: a Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser, held at the Church on October 4, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Tickets, costing \$6.00 per plate, will be sold at the door. This event will help the support the Children's Program through the year.

The second event will be the Third Annual Fall Festival hosted on October 25, 2014, at the Community Center. This event is open for all of the families of Quartzsite. It will be a fun-filled day with games, prizes, face-painting, a puppet show, hayride, jump house and karaoke. There will be a food booth.

Donations are welcomed, such as prizes for the games, cakes for the cake walk, and candy for goody bags that every child receives.

Anyone that would like to help with the event should contact funds Suellen Pennington or Carla. The proceeds will help in sending the children to summer camp, vacation bible school and a Christmas party.

Pam Kasky, resident of Quartzsite, stated it had been a warm and positive evening. She suggested that everyone return negatives with positives.

Shanana Rain Golden Bear spoke about the food given by the government to the hungry, not very much. She encouraged our community to step up and add to this. She advised that some people list their residences by miles from a main road. She encouraged the community to help the Food Bank.

Vice Mayor Jewitt moved to adjourn and **Council Member Orgeron seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

ADJOURNMENT: 9:03 p.m.

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 23, 2014, of the Town Council of Quartzsite, Arizona, held on September 23, 2014.

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

DATED this 14th day of October 2014

Tina M. Abriani, Town Clerk

On behalf of the Common Council

Approved:

Ed Foster, Mayor