

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF QUARTZSITE**  
**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2014, 9:00 AM**

**MEETING BEGAN:** 9:00 a.m.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Foster, Vice Mayor Jewitt, Council Member Kelley, Council Member Crooks, Council Member Orgeron, Council Member Scott and Council Member Timberlake

**STAFF PRESENT:** Laura Bruno, Town Manager; Jeff Sorensen, Water & Wastewater Rondus Bennett, Utility Accountant; Kevin Murphy, Town Engineer; and Tina Abriani, Town Clerk

**WORK SESSION:**

**SEWER RATES - Presentation and discussion regarding the sewer rates**

Discussion by Council Members, Town staff and citizens regarding sewer rates ensued. The highlights of the presentation follow:

Laura Bruno, the Town Manager, announced the amount the Town of Quartzsite owes the HURF, as of the most recent financial report. The amount owed has increased from 1.685 million to 2.082 million. Town Manager Bruno stated that this is a direct result of not having increased rates for the past couple of years and having implemented the volumetric rate for certain recipients of services.

- The five possible ways to generate revenue that were discussed at the last Public Work Session, on April 3, 2014, were reviewed.

*1. Charging homeowners for each RV sewer hook-up.*

Currently, the Town Code allows residences two RV sewer clean-out hooks and three for businesses, without being billed for each sewer clean-out hook. The Town may consider adopting an ordinance charging for each RV hook of any kind.

*2. Implementing a special assessment district for areas without access to sewer currently but that will have access in the future.*

This is not an option as it is illegal.

3. *Levying a sales tax on electric bills.*

This is something the Town has the ability to do. The Town currently levies a sales tax on water and sewer rates, but does not levy one on electric bills. Since the Town has a state mandated expenditure limit, the Town would have to explore its impact and may have to look into the Home Rule Option. The Town Council may choose to consider this.

4. *Putting a dump station at sewer plant.*

This is a possibility as it will generate revenue. It will need to be manned. The wastewater treatment plant would have to be expanded before the dump station could operate. The Town Council may choose to consider this.

5. *Using capacity fees as an offset to sewer bills.*

Capacity fees are one-time revenue and really cannot be used to fund ongoing expenditures. Capacity fees for current users are close to having been paid in full, for the most part. However, since capacity fees are for future development, the Town should consider increasing the amount being charged.

- Reports requested by the citizens at the last Public Work Session, on April 3, 2014, regarding sewer rates, were addressed.

1. *Cost to rehabilitate the wastewater treatment plant, without expansion.*

Kevin Murphy explained the rehabilitation of the sewer system is estimated to cost \$772,000.

2. *Number of RV sites, number of all user classes, number in each class and average usages.*

Town Manager Bruno handed out a report, listing accounts billed, types of properties, number of RV hooks per property type and what type of billing each property type has (water and/or sewer), to everyone in attendance.

Rondus Bennett, of the Utility Department, explained the significance of the numbers.

3. *Maximum effluent flows over the last five years, in and out of the plant.*

Town Manager Bruno handed out a report to everyone in attendance. The report covered the last five years of the effluent flow. It listed monthly highs and averages for the months of January and July of the last five years.

Jeff Sorensen, of the Utility Department, explained the significance of the numbers. The highest flows occurred due to rainstorms.

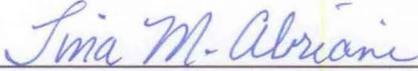
**MEETING ENDED:** 10:41 a.m.

**CERTIFICATION:**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Public Work Session of April 17, 2014.

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

DATED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2014



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Tina M. Abriani, Town Clerk

On behalf of the Common Council

Approved:



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Ed Foster, Mayor