

MINUTES
TOWN OF QUARTZSITE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2014, 1:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 1:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Bruce Swartz offered the prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Foster.

ROLL CALL:

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

STAFF PRESENT: Sklyor Miller, Town Manager and Tina Abriani, Town Clerk

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- 1. FINAL BUDGET FY 2014-2015 - Conduct Hearing regarding the Town of Quartzsite Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.**

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing on the Final Budget at 1:31 p.m.

Town Manager Miller noted that on June 10, 2014, the Council adopted a tentative budget which set the maximum limits for expenditure for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. He advised that State law requires that once the tentative budget has been adopted, the expenditures may not be increased beyond the maximum limits for expenditure for final adoption; however the expenditures may be decreased.

Town Manager Miller advised that due to Council action at the last regular meeting, June 24, 2014, there needed to be a reduction in revenue of \$6,000 to reflect the lease reduction granted to the Educational Options Foundation. The line items have been adjusted accordingly.

Town Manager Miller stated no other changes are reflected in the Proposed Final Budget and the contingency accounts for possible insurance premium costs, additional police vehicles, and other cost overruns remain unchanged.

Jennifer Jones stated the Town Council has a pattern and practice of going over its budget on its legal expenses and she suggested that if the amounts cannot be

exceeded, that the Council consider that in the maximum budget. She asked what happens if the Council, once again, exceeds their legal expenditures as budgeted in this budget.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 1:36 p.m.

Vice Mayor Jewitt asked Town Manager Miller if there is an answer to Jennifer Jones' question.

Town Manager Miller stated, from what he sees to date, the Town has remained within its budget for fiscal year 2013-2014. He advised the legal budget has been reduced in the upcoming year because certain outstanding legal issues are being resolved and fewer legal matters are anticipated. He explained there are contingency funds available.

The Mayor said he still has questions regarding the amounts that are budgeted for the Utility Department and would like an explanation.

The Mayor asked why there are budgeted positions for fifty-nine employees and four years ago there were forty-five.

Town Manager Miller stated there are positions that are currently not filled and that there is some turnover. He explained some actual line items for certain people that don't go the whole year, do stay on the budget documents.

Town Manager Miller stated that if Council would like him to review the Town's personnel and provide a report, he will.

Town Manager Miller said he knows the Mayor has had concerns regarding the performance and efficiency of the Utility Department. Town Manager Miller advised that substantial staff time would be required to perform a full audit of that department; but if Council chooses and directs the Town Manager to do so, he will.

The Mayor spoke regarding wages and benefits of the Utility Department, water and sewer. He shared his concerns at the lack of maintenance at the waste treatment plant.

Town Manager Miller stated there is a lack of maintenance because it didn't make sense to replace or repair expensive equipment when it was anticipated that the waste water system would be replaced and upgraded. He noted it was a strategic decision.

The Mayor noted the lift station, during his tour of the waste water treatment plant, had a sagging fence line and the barbed wire was down. He said only a few hours of manual labor would be required.

Council Member Timberlake responded to the Mayor's comment. She stated she also toured the plant, on another occasion, and became aware there was some concern that

the posts were too far apart. She noted that what the Town is looking at is the need for the grant for the sewer plant.

Town Manager Miller advised the water and sewer staff are not only working in that facility, but in the field as well.

Council Member Scott advised the fence needs to be replaced, but some repairs could be made in the meantime.

Council Member Scott advised that the Council was provided with names and salaries, but it would be interesting to know how many positions the Town has that are filled and how many are vacant.

Town Manager Miller stated he will provide a current status report of the Town staffing, listing filled positions and vacant positions.

Council Member Timberlake spoke about prior budget requests of Council; specifically, police vehicles.

2. ADOPT FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2014-2015 – Discussion and review of resolution to adopt the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Vice Mayor Jewitt moved to approve the budget 2014-2015 as presented and **Council Member Kelley seconded** the motion. **Vice Mayor Jewitt amended his motion** to include: and approve Resolution No. 14-02 for the adoption of the budget. **Council Member Kelley seconded** the amended motion.

Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 6, No = 1, Abstain = 0).

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

No: Mayor Foster.

3. SOLAR PROJECT – Discussion and possible action to terminate the Power Purchase Agreement for solar energy with Sun Edison Origination I, LLC.

Town Manager Miller advised that the attorneys recommend that a motion from Council to terminate the agreement would be appropriate.

Town Manager Miller stated, once the Town submits its termination letter to the solar vendor, they have a twenty-one day window in order to begin work, which would effectively nullify the termination.

Town Manager Miller noted they do not have any plans submitted to the Town or the Town Engineer and no substantial commencement of work has occurred.

Council Member Timberlake moved to terminate the Power Purchase Agreement with Sun Edison and **Council Member Crooks** seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

Vice Mayor Jewitt moved to adjourn the meeting and **Council Member Timberlake** seconded the motion.

ADJOURNMENT: 1:52 p.m.

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 30, 2014, of the Town Council of Quartzsite, Arizona, held on June 30, 2014.

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

DATED this 8th day of July 2014



Tina M. Abriani, Town Clerk

On behalf of the Common Council

Approved:



Ed Foster, Mayor