

MINUTES
TOWN OF QUARTZSITE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2014, 1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 1:00 p.m.

INVOCATION: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 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; Kelly Schwab, Town Attorney; Tina Abriani, Town Clerk

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- 1. EXECUTIVE SESSION - An executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) for discussion or consideration of employment and salary of Reginald Winston 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 Reginald Winston as the Town of Quartzsite Chief of Police.**

Council Member Timberlake moved to adjourn to executive session and Council Member Orgeron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion Passed.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 1:03 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: 2:17 p.m.

The Mayor called the meeting back to order at 2:17 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.

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

The Mayor announced that an agreement was reached with Mr. Winston.

Town Manager Miller read a portion of a memo he sent to the Council on October 15, 2014 regarding the outcome of the latest round of interviews for the Chief of Police position. *(The following indented material is an excerpt from the memo read aloud by Town Manager Miller.)*

On October 15, 2014, a review panel comprised of the Town Manager, Town Attorney Susan Goodwin, Council Members Carol Kelley and Mark Orgeron, Wickenburg Chief of Police Pete Wingert, Buckeye Chief of Police Larry Hall and Interim Chief Xavier Frausto conducted interviews with potential candidates for the Quartzsite Chief of Police. Three candidates were selected for interviews, two of which were from applications received after the panel had commenced with a set of applications. It was decided at that time not to complicate the process. Now, due to the recent withdrawal of Chief Alirez, examination of these candidates was warranted.

The panel was provided a series of interview questions and took turns asking the series to each candidate. Time was allotted at the end of each interview for follow-up questions and a brief conversation with the applicant. The panel scored each candidate's answers and a consensus was reached about the general skills, knowledge, abilities and fit of each candidate. While some candidates showed promise, one individual stood out and was the unanimous favorite of the panel.

Sgt. Reginald Winston was recommended for the position by the panel. His education, experience, professionalism, management style, and community-mindedness were a perfect fit for the police department, town management and the community as a whole.

Sgt. Winston comes to us with nearly 20 years of police experience in a variety of roles including community policing and administration. He has also distinguished himself in service to our country, first in the U.S. Marine Corps for 13 years and later as an officer in the Army National Guard where he participated in oversea tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has earned multiple degrees covering the fields of Administrative Justice, Public Safety Administration and a Master's of Science in Leadership.

(Excerpt ends.)

Town Manager Miller explained that Mr. Winston's application was received after the previous interview process had begun. This was the process that included Mr. Alirez.

Town Manager Miller advised that Mr. Winston will be the best fit for the community. Town Manager Miller expressed his gratitude for Mr. Winston's interest in serving the Town of Quartzsite. Town Manager Miller recommended Reginald Winston for appointment as the Chief of Police.

Council Member Scott spoke regarding her thoughts and concerns prior to the interview with Sergeant Reginald Winston and the fact that her concerns were alleviated by the end of the interview. Council Member Scott stated she believes Mr. Winston will do a fantastic job and that he is a perfect fit for the community.

Council Member Timberlake stated she assumes that when the Council comes together at the Council meetings, the Council puts the best interests of the community first. Council Member Timberlake advised that she also assumes that when the new Council comes in, they will do the same thing in putting the best interests of the community first. Council Member Timberlake said, following those assumptions, if the new Council were presented with the same options that the current Council was presented with, the new Council would have come to the same conclusion.

Council Member Scott advised that Reginald Winston was protected by way of having been made aware of the political climate and what may or may not be brewing. She stated the Council also did its best to protect the taxpayers regarding the salary and the contract.

Council Member Crooks thanked Council Member Orgeron and Council Member Kelley for working in the process.

The Mayor advised the Council will make a motion to offer a contract to Mr. Winston for a starting salary of \$80,000, with a six month review raising it to \$82,000. The Mayor stated Mr. Winston will start on November 3, 2014, subject to completion of background checks. The Mayor noted that Mr. Winston is already an AZ Post certified officer.

Vice Mayor Jewitt said, "I so move." Council Member Kelley seconded the motion.

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

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

Mayor Foster invited Mr. Winston to stand and to talk to the audience.

Mr. Reginald Winston thanked the Mayor and the Council. He spoke to the community members that were in attendance, stating he looks forward to working with each and every one of them over the next several years. Mr. Winston said he thinks he and they will have a wonderful time bringing the community together as one.

ADJOURNMENT: 2:26 p.m.

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

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing October 17, 2014, of the Town Council of Quartzsite, Arizona, held on October 17, 2014.

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

DATED this 28th day of October 2014



Tina M. Abriani, Town Clerk

On behalf of the Common Council

Approved:



Ed Foster, Mayor