

MINUTES
TOWN OF QUARTZSITE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2015, 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION: Prayer said by Pastor Bruce Swart.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Pledge led by Council Member Kelley.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Foster, Vice Mayor Simpson, Council Member Kelley, Council Member Warner, Council Member Orgeron, Council Member Davidson and Council Member St. Germain.

STAFF PRESENT: Skylor Miller, Town Manager; Kelly Schwab, Town Attorney; and Tina Abriani, Town Clerk

CALL TO THE PUBLIC AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS:

Jennifer Jones spoke regarding the new Rose Acres Farms in Bouse, Arizona. She noted the reason Rose Acres Farms is in Bouse is because of the La Paz Economic Development Corporation's involvement. She said joining them may not be much money for the potential to attract big companies to Quartzsite.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

PRESENTATIONS:

- 1. PRESENTATION – Dave Anderson and Heather Caton to present a possible public-private partnership for the purposes of providing certified health and fitness programming at the Town Community Center.**

David Anderson and Heather Caton spoke to the Council regarding an idea about a possible new community health and fitness program in the Town of Quartzsite. Mr. Anderson proposed a public-private partnership, named Quartzsite in Motion, which would create a new social experience in the community. There was a review of the potential costs of the various available programs.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 2. LEDGER OF ACCOUNTS PAID – Consider approval of check series 38997 - 39042, totaling \$63,626.37.**

Council Member Warner pulled check number 39029, made payable to REDW, from the series.

Council Member Orgeron moved to approve check series 38997 – 39042 with the exception of 39029 and **Vice Mayor Simpson seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

Council Member Warner asked some questions about the date of the invoice from REDW for which check number 39029, in the amount of \$2,424.75, was written.

Town Manager Miller answered that the Town had to collect some final information from the REDW auditor, and there was a charge for that. He said the invoice directly shows the time spent collecting documents and consulting with the Town Attorneys. Town Manager Miller said Town staff had been going back and forth with REDW regarding the charge, but REDW remained firm on the billing.

Town Attorney Schwab advised the Council that if REDW can prove the Town received value from REDW services, REDW would probably be awarded the invoiced amount. She said the Town could have grounds to contest it. She said it would cost more than \$2,400 to litigate the matter in the Quartzsite Justice Court or the La Paz County Superior Court. Town Attorney Schwab said REDW might win attorney fees in addition to the \$2,400 if they prevailed in Court.

The Mayor moved to pay check number 39029 and **Council Member Davidson seconded** the motion. The vote was six ayes and one nay from Council Member Warner. **Motion Passed.**

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- 3. PUBLIC HEARING FOR REZONE APPLICATION - Discussion and possible action to approve Rezone Application RZ050815; Location: 215 A, 215 B, and 215 C, Quartzsite, AZ 85346; APN: 306-17-111N, 306-17-111P, and 306-17-111R. Applicants: Elbert and Karon Robertson. Request: Rezone from R1 (Low Density Residential) to SR (Suburban Ranch).**

At the podium, Dave Gurdahl represented the Robertsons because they were out of Town.

Council Member Warner asked the purpose of the rezone request.

Mr. Gurdahl replied that the Robertsons wanted to change the three lots into one lot to sell it as a single property.

Town Manager Miller stated the SR (Suburban Ranch) zoning offers more flexible residential opportunities than the R1 (Low Density Residential) zoning does.

Council Member Davidson and the Mayor asked about the size of the lots and the size requirement for SR zoning.

Town Manager Miller said the properties are one-third acre lots which satisfies the SR zoning size requirement. He said SR is more in line with the General Plan than the existing zoning. He explained that by approving the zone change to SR a larger Suburban Ranch area will be created.

Council Member Davidson asked what the Planning and Zoning Commission had to say about the rezone.

Town Manager Miller said the Planning and Zoning Commission made a recommendation to the Council to approve the zone change.

Council Member Davidson asked if anyone opposed the rezone.

Elmer London of Quartzsite said he lives within 300 feet of that operation. He stated he had expressed his concerns to the Planning & Zoning Commission at their meeting, and his fears had been relieved. He thought the property would have a horse, a cow and maybe a couple of pigs. He said his second concern was traffic, and he noted that if the three properties were combined, the traffic would not be an issue. He stated he had no objection.

The Mayor closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Simpson moved to adopt an ordinance to rezone 215 A, 215 B and 215 C North Targa Trail in the Town of Quartzsite, Arizona, from R1, Low Density Residential, to SR, Suburban Ranch. **Council Member Davidson seconded the motion.** The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

4. **MINUTES – Consider approval of the Regular Council Meeting of June 9, 2015.**

Council Member Orgeron moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of June 9, 2015, and **Council Member Warner seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

5. **LA PAZ COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP. Discussion and possible action on an agreement between the Town of Quartzsite and the La Paz Economic Development Corporation for Regional Economic Development Program Services.** *Requested by Mayor Foster*

The Mayor stated he requested this agenda item. He said that he attended a ground-breaking event in Bouse last week and learned that the La Paz County Economic Development Corporation was partly responsible for the new egg farm. He listed some high points of the new company such as an addition to the railroad and 300 jobs that have retirement, health and dental benefits.

The Mayor said the egg farm company checked out Quartzsite, but it was not chosen. He said it was time the Town joined La Paz County Economic Development Corporation and participated in the economic development of this region.

Council Member Orgeron said he thought the Council had made its wishes known regarding that issue, at a Council meeting in January, which was that the Council would like to see the Town's own issues taken care of before the Town joins a group. He said the Town needed to get the sewer plant and the water plant moving first. He explained the Town cannot afford to try to grow when the growth could not be supported. He said the Town did not have the infrastructure, it will not have the housing, and it does not have the capability or infrastructure for the housing or the until the Town actually moves forward with the water and sewer plants.

There was a discussion about the Town's potential options for growth by joining the La Paz County Economic Development Corporation and the need for the wastewater treatment plant repairs and expansion, as well as ADEQ limitations.

The Mayor moved to approve the agreement with the La Paz County Economic Development and **Vice Mayor Simpson seconded** the motion.

Vote: Motion Passed. (summary: Yes = 4, No = 3, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Mayor Foster, Vice Mayor Simpson, Council Member Warner, Council Member Davidson.

No: Council Member Kelley, Council Member Orgeron, Council Member St. Germain.

6. TOWN ENGINEER – Consideration and discussion regarding the naming of Emmett Brinkerhoff, Quartzsite Public Works Director, as the Town Engineer of Record in order to comply with statutory requirements. *Requested by Mayor Foster*

The Mayor spoke of a statutory requirement regarding Town Engineers.

Town Attorney Schwab stated the statute requires that a Town have a designated Town Engineer and if the Town has over 3,000 people, it must be a competent engineer. She explained the definition of a competent engineer is not well defined in the law. She said the Town does need a Town Engineer of Record.

Town Attorney Schwab stated the Town Engineer cannot perform any duties that would require a professional engineer license if he does not have one.

The Mayor explained the reason for appointing the Public Works Director as the Town Engineer of Record is that it does not tie the Town to one engineering firm. The bidding process would be used for projects that require a licensed engineer.

Right now the Town Engineer of Record is Kevin Murphy, formerly of Atkins Engineering.

Town Manager Miller stated Emmett Brinkerhoff, Director of Public Works, is not a licensed or certified engineer and any time the Town required a licensed engineer, a request for bids could be advertised.

Council Member Orgeron asked if the Town had talked to Mr. Brinkerhoff about his possible appointment as the Town Engineer.

The Mayor said Mr. Brinkerhoff was in favor of it, and Mr. Brinkerhoff thought it would give him the chance to have things done the way he thinks is the right way.

There was a discussion of current practices regarding engineering services.

The Mayor moved to combine the position of Town Engineer and Public Works Director and appoint Emmett Brinkerhoff to that position.

Town Manager Miller asked for clarification regarding combining positions or possibly designating Emmett Brinkerhoff as the Town Engineer. There was discussion regarding these two options.

Town Manager Miller stated the Town Manager assigns the positions whereas the Engineer is designated. He said he recommended that the Town Engineer be an appointment of a person, even though it is a member of Town staff.

The Mayor withdrew his motion, and Vice Mayor removed his second to the motion.

Mayor Foster moved that Emmett Brinkerhoff be appointed as Town Engineer and **Vice Mayor Simpson seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

7. TOWN LAND LEASE AGREEMENT - Discussion and Possible Approval of a Ground Lease with Ed Options for Property located at 560 Coyote Street, Quartzsite, AZ.

Town Manager Miller said the final language for that document was not received by the school within an appropriate timeframe. He said he wanted to give Ed Options more time to review the proposed lease. Town Manager Miller asked the Council to consider having a special meeting next week for this agenda item and there were no objections.

COMMUNICATIONS:

8. Reports from the MAYOR on current events.

None.

9. Reports from the COUNCIL on current events.

Council Member St. Germain stated he went to a meeting in Parker regarding better health care for the Veterans in La Paz County and another meeting about a new Veteran's Court. He said there are approximately 4,000 Veterans in La Paz County.

Council Member St. Germain thanked the community for gathering together last Friday to attend the tribute to Mr. Jack Hagen and for showing support for his widow.

10. Reports from the TOWN MANAGER to the Council.

Town Manager Miller spoke regarding the Independence Day celebration for the Town that will take place on Friday, July 3, 2015, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Council Member Davidson moved to adjourn, and Vice Mayor Simpson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion Passed.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:55 p.m.

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 23, 2015, of the Town Council of Quartzsite, Arizona, held on June 23, 2015.

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

DATED this 14th day of July 2015



Tina M. Abriani, Town Clerk

On behalf of the Common Council

Approved:



Ed Foster, Mayor