

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF QUARTZSITE**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 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 Warner.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Absent:** Council Member Orgeron.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Skylor Miller, Town Manager; Bill Sullivan, Town Attorney; and Tina Abriani, Town Clerk

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS:**

Jennifer Jones spoke regarding the hiring of a new police officer and the Council's review of his or her background.

Pam Caskey, a citizen of Quartzsite, shared the memories she had of a dream she had one evening and wrote down the next morning. She spoke of new ideas and giving them a chance; and a new focus on acting for the good of all people. She talked about the Soup and Chowder Festival that raises funds for the Food Bank. She announced that this year there will be a second Soup and Chowder Festival for the Food Bank.

Shanana Rain BearCat said she wanted to encourage the local businesses to welcome the new Quartzsite Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. She said the new Chamber may open as early as next week. A grand opening and a ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled to take place on December 9, 2015. She proclaimed the tagline of the new chamber was 'Uniting Strengths Driving Quartzsite Forward.'

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

**1. PROCLAMATION – American Diabetes Month, November 2015.**

The Mayor read the American Diabetes Month Proclamation declaring November 2015 American Diabetes Month in the Town of Quartzsite.

Town Manager Miller announced that the Town Movie in the Park was set to begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, October 30, 2015. The Quartzsite Library will host the movie *Hocus Pocus* at the Pavilion in the Park. The Eighth Grade Class will sell concessions to raise funds for their eighth-grade trip to be taken at the end of the year.

Town Manager Miller said the Quartzsite Halloween Party, a community planned and developed party, will be held on Saturday, October 31, 2015, beginning at 4:00 p.m. He said there would be games and contests at the Community Center, as well as a hot dog meal for all the youth and families that attend.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

- 2. PRESENTATION – Mr. Richard Thompson to present information regarding the “Planning for the Future” public meeting to be held by the Quartzsite Historical Society on November 4, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at the Quartzsite Community Center.**

Mr. Richard Thompson, the new President of the Quartzsite Historical Society, started out his presentation by inviting everyone to attend the Planning for the Future meeting to be held by the Quartzsite Historical Society, which is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

He spoke of the Project Passport program and his quest to entice more visitors to the Museum. He explained that the Planning for the Future meeting is important because of the people that will attend. He said the attendees will receive a piece of paper and a pencil. On the left side of the paper, the attendees will list what they do not like about the Museum or Quartzsite, and on the right side attendees will list their ideas of what should be. He added that the exercise should only last from three to five minutes. The lists would be collected, and the attendees would be divided into groups of five. These smaller groups are to discuss the items on the lists that will serve as conversation starters. Mr. Thompson said the Planning for the Future meeting would adjourn when the conversations stop.

Mr. Thompson said the challenge would be, during the next two weeks, for the people that plan to attend, to go to the Museum and learn about it and come up with ideas to make it better.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 3. LEDGER OF ACCOUNTS PAID – Consider approval of check series 39470 – 39516 totaling \$78,949.48.**

Vice Mayor Simpson moved to approve the Ledger of Accounts Paid as presented and Council Member Kelley seconded the motion. The vote was five ‘ayes’ and one ‘nay’ by Council Member Davidson.

**4. APPOINTMENT OF ONE QUARTZSITE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER – Consider approval to appoint a Quartzsite Police Department Officer, an approved vacant position.**

The Mayor spoke of an email that addressed an issue that a citizen brought to the Council. The Mayor said it was decided that the Council needed better communication between Town staff and the Council. The Mayor explained that people approach Council Members after the Council makes a decision and say that the Council was not informed enough to make the decision.

The Mayor said the Town Manager will provide the Council with an email providing more information on issues that require review.

The Mayor said he saw the vetting book of the candidate selected to be brought to the Council. The applicant was the most qualified to be a Quartzsite Police Officer.

Chief Ernie Renfro spoke of the candidate that passed the lengthy interview and background check process. He said she passed the polygraph and the medical exams given by an AZ POST certified doctor; she is AZ POST approved; she passed a driver's course; she qualified with handguns and a shotgun that she will use at the Quartzsite Police Department.

Chief Renfro said the candidate is scheduled to pass a waiver test that is required when three years have elapsed since a candidate had been a police officer.

Council Member Davidson noted his only concern with the candidate is that he heard that she lives in Yuma. He expressed his contention that Town employees should reside within the Town.

Chief Renfro explained the candidate plans to use a fifth wheel in Quartzsite, as many of the officers do, and she plans to stay in Quartzsite on the days that she works.

Town Manager Miller said, in general; the Town's Police Department currently has a more stringent recruitment process than it has ever been in the past. He listed all the required tests that must be passed before a candidate may be considered for the position of police officer.

Council Member St. Germain took a moment to commend the Chief on the fine job he has been doing, including with the hiring process. He said police officers have difficult and stressful jobs. Council Member St. Germain noted that the Council hired the Chief and must respect his views regarding qualified candidates.

Council Member St. Germain said the quality of the Town's officers is amazing. He said the Town's respect for the Police Department has increased to a point like never before in Quartzsite.

Council Member Kelley verbally expressed her agreement with what Council Member St. Germain had said.

**Council Member St. Germain moved** to appoint one Quartzsite Police Department Officer and **Vice Mayor Simpson seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

5. **PUBLIC HEARING OF A PROPOSED MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE 2014 GENERAL PLAN – Conduct Public Hearing and consider approval of a resolution amending the Land Use Designation in the 2014 General Plan changing the designation of 1360 North Moon Mountain Road, Quartzsite, AZ, APN 306-13-117H from Residential to Neighborhood Business. The proposed amendment affects the Land Use Element and Map of the 2014 Quartzsite General Plan.**

The Mayor stated the hearing was open to the public for any comment and was regarding a proposed amendment to the General Plan. He said after that, there will be another proposed amendment for a rezone of a property over on the east side of Town behind the truck stop out along the interstate – to create a commercial corridor.

Town Manager Miller presented how the two public hearings were intertwined. He said the applicant was looking to make full use of her property, but the zoning was out of compliance with the actual usage. He noted that the Planning & Zoning Commission reviewed the situation in a work session to discuss the need for possible change in that area. Next, a public hearing was held with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Town Manager Miller informed everyone that the Planning & Zoning Commission would initiate a full corridor study after the outcome of the public hearing.

Edith Tews Huntley from the Date Palms RV Park spoke about her vision of establishing a glamorous beauty salon for Quartzsite, a project of her own that she wanted to have done long ago.

Starr BearCat spoke of rezoning the RV Park and the need to rezone many areas because there are businesses, other RV parks, and churches that are zoned as residential.

The Mayor advised Starr BearCat that the zoning of the Town was not on the agenda, and, therefore, could not be discussed.

Starr BearCat asked that the rezoning of other areas in the Town be listed on the next agenda, please.

Town Manager clarified by saying the Commission will hold a work session, inviting the public, to discuss that very issue.

The Mayor closed the public hearing.

**Vice Mayor Simpson moved** to approve a resolution amending the Land Use Designation in the 2014 General Plan changing the designation of 1360 North Moon Mountain Road, (Vice Mayor Simpson said the address should be corrected because it is an 'Avenue') Quartzsite, AZ, APN 306-13-117H, from Residential to Neighborhood Business. The proposed amendment affects the Land Use Element and Map of the 2014 Quartzsite General Plan. **Council Member Kelley seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

6. **PUBLIC HEARING FOR A REZONE APPLICATION – Conduct Public Hearing and discussion and possible action to approve regarding Rezone Application RZ-082515-1; Location: 1360 N. Moon Mountain Road, Quartzsite, AZ 85346; APN: 306-13-117H. Applicant: Edith Tews. Request: Rezone from SR (Suburban Ranch) to C1 (Neighborhood Commercial).**

The Mayor opened the public hearing. No one approached the lectern, so the Mayor closed the public hearing.

**Vice Mayor Simpson moved** to adopt the ordinance for Rezone Application RZ-082515-1; Location: 1360 N. Moon Mountain Road (Avenue), Quartzsite, AZ 85346; APN 306-13-117H; applicant Edith Tews; request: rezone from SR (Suburban Ranch) to C1 (Neighborhood Commercial).

**Council Member Warner seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

7. **MINUTES – Consider the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 13, 2015.**

**Council Member St. Germain moved** to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 13, 2015, and **Vice Mayor Simpson seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

8. **PAY IT FORWARD DAY – Discussion and possible action to set an annual Pay It Forward Day.** *Requested by Council Member Carol Kelley*

**Council Member Kelley spoke** regarding the Council's signed Pay it Forward Day proclamation last year. She said the Town did not actively participate. She instructed that every last Thursday of April of every year be recognized as Pay it Forward Day.

Town Manager Miller exclaimed, so directed. He said there will be a resolution, and the Town will ensure programming.

**9. BUSINESS LICENSE FEE CHANGE – Review and consideration of the adoption of an ordinance amending the Town of Quartzsite Business License Annual Fee.**

The Mayor announced that he had Agenda Item Number 1 and Agenda Item Number 2 placed on the agenda. He said the Town's business license fees were low priced. He noted that the Town of Parker charges \$190 for its business licenses, and the Town of Quartzsite charges \$25.00.

The Mayor proposed the Council discuss business license fees. He spoke of the budget, the lack of funds, and said the Town cannot have services of the government that are not paid for, including those services provided to businesses.

The Mayor suggested the Town collect data from adjacent Towns and consider raising the rates as a progression.

Council Member Kelley commented that when she asked that the data collection be done, a couple of months ago, she found that in the State of Arizona, the next lowest fee for a business license was \$85.00.

The Mayor said the Town has only two forms of income right now, and the Town is subsidizing business licenses with those funds. He explained that the fees collected from business licenses do not cover the overhead burden of the administrative tasks required to process business licenses. The Mayor said the Town cannot run a deficit.

Council Member Kelley said she thought the year round businesses should pay at least what the vendors are paying to sell in Quartzsite.

Vice Mayor Simpson said he has three businesses in Quartzsite and pays a total of \$75 per year, and pays about \$1,100 for County Health Permits per year.

**10. VENDOR PERMIT VALIDITY PERIOD CHANGE - Review and consideration of the adoption of an ordinance amending the Town of Quartzsite Vendor Permit validity period from six months to one year.**

The Mayor said the Fire Department called the Town and said they want to discuss this agenda item. He said there was a question regarding putting up a tent structure, which is temporary, and how fire codes pertain to the proposed change in length of stay for vendors.

The Mayor said the Council is looking at selling a six-month license with a six-month extension to encourage vendors to stay an extra month or two.

Council Member Kelley asked if the Council passed something regarding the disassembly of the structures instead of leaving them up year round.

Town Manager Miller said it was his understanding that after the six-month period, one could not consider something a temporary structure. He explained fire inspections and building inspections become applicable like a year-round business would with a permanent structure. He said he did not have the Fire or Building Codes with him to verify that information.

Town Manager Miller said the issue merits further discussion, and that he would like to have a meeting with the Fire Department.

The Mayor said it was in the Town's best interest to keep the vendors in Town.

The Chamber of Commerce took it upon themselves and got a Vendor and RV Board organized and running, said the Mayor. Town Manager Miller clarified the statement by saying it was not a government board.

Council Member Kelley said the Council needs to go through this thoroughly with the Town Code and the Fire Department.

**11. WELL METERING – Discussion and possible action to implement well metering for sewage billing.** *Requested by Mayor Foster*

The Mayor summarized with: many, many months ago, he brought a proposal to the Council, in response to a request from the Yacht Club, to put meters on private wells. The idea was for businesses, which have a volumetric rate, wouldn't have to hook-up to the Town's water, but could install a meter on their well and get the volumetric rate for their sewer. The well owner would be required to purchase the meter.

The Mayor said well metering would probably never apply to an individual because they would not want to pay to put a meter on their well. The volumetric rate and the fixture rate would essentially be the same for a residence. He said RV parks, restaurants, and hotels if they are on the volumetric rate, they are charged according to their water usage which ends up in the sewer. He further noted that if they are on the fixture rate, they are charged for every table, chair, and fixture in the restrooms. He mentioned that the Town's water pressure may be a factor when a business considers well metering.

The Mayor finished his summary by saying the Municipal Utility Administrative Committee, MUAC, reviewed the matter and the wording has been drafted.

Town Manager Miller concurred that the proposed well metering program was approved through MUAC. He reiterated that well metering is a voluntary process, and no one is required to meter their wells. He reported that the proposed program is not in the proper format for the Town Code, yet. What the Council and the meeting attendees were shown was a general overview of the program.

Town Manager Miller said that if the Council found the proposed well metering program to be acceptable and wishes to move forward with the plan, he would work with the Town's attorneys to format it for the Council's vote to codify it.

Town Attorney Sullivan pointed out that he and the Town Manager were looking for direction, and if the Council wanted to pursue the matter, they would bring back a formal ordinance.

The Mayor directed the Town Manager and the Town Attorney to draft an ordinance to place the program in the code.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

#### **12. Reports from the MAYOR on current events.**

The Mayor spoke of the cost of government. He said he had been asking the Town Manager for a Quarterly Report, noting the Quarter ended in September. He said the Council had not yet received the report.

The Mayor said the Town is getting less and less every year, and the Governor promised more cuts for the cities, counties, and towns. The Mayor said the Town can count on more tax cuts and more cuts to the funds that drive the Town of Quartzsite.

The Mayor said he promised that he would raise the subject of a proposition to put an initiative on the ballot next year to bring a property tax for the Town of Quartzsite. He explained the reason was so that the voters have a choice. The Mayor added that the Town had just hired another police officer. He said people want the services that Quartzsite offers, but that there is no free lunch. He confirmed that the Town does receive grants for some services, but they do not cover the total costs.

The Mayor announced the Town will hold meetings regarding property taxes in Quartzsite. The first meeting will be scheduled for the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas and the second one will most likely take place in January. He said the Town attorneys would help the Town Council and Town staff with the proper wording and the steps required for a proposition.

The Mayor said it will be a vote that determines whether there will be a municipal property tax or not. He remarked that if there will not be a property tax to help pay for services, the Town will have to explore ways to cut the budget and make the Town work. He said the Town cannot keep borrowing HURF money to make the Town work. He said the Town will have to find a way to live within its means.

The Mayor asked, of those of the public that want to see the Town's services continue, that they speak positively about the possibility of a tax, and about the Town's public meetings that will be held at the Community Center. The Mayor said he and the Council would invite public discussion at the meetings. He said the idea of the meetings was for the Town to decide, collectively, what the community wants. He explained that the cost

of government in Quartzsite is relatively fixed. He said the Town has a lot of employees and a lot of salaries that must be paid. He said, "We try to cut expenses where we can."

The Mayor said the Town needs to find money or cut back in order to continue to run the government as it is run now.

The Mayor said it was his intention that the Council collect the will of the people.

The Mayor said he will place an agenda item on a future Council agenda that calls for the Council to vote to put an initiative on the ballot. He said it will then be up to the people to decide if there will be a tax or not.

The Mayor stated there are two taxes in Quartzsite that are dedicated to Quartzsite, the Fire District Tax – dedicated to the Town's Fire Department and the School Tax – dedicated to the Town's schools. He went on to say there is no tax for Town government.

The Mayor said he would appreciate it if the community would let the Council Members know what they think so that the Council will be able to speak for the community as a whole, when it becomes the time to do so.

### **13. Reports from the COUNCIL on current events.**

Vice Mayor Simpson spoke of the good time he experienced with Elmer London, and Council Member Kelley while playing a rousing game of Quartzsite-opoly.

Council Member Kelley spoke of her meeting with Supervisor Holly Irwin and how Mrs. Irwin has pushed the Peace Trail. Council Member Kelley explained that if you look at the Trail, the Town of Quartzsite will be the place to get gasoline and the place for restaurants. Council Member Kelley said Mrs. Irwin will help the Town to get more people to Quartzsite.

Council Member St. Germain announced that on Saturday, November 7, 2015, the community of Parker will have a Veteran's Day Parade starting at 10:00 a.m. in Parker. He said that from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the community will get together to honor the Veterans in the Bingo Room at the casino. Council Member St. Germain said the Veterans will be thanked with gifts of food and a blanket. He added that there would also be a cake baking contest as part of the festivities, noting the requirement that the baked goods be edible.

### **14. Reports from the TOWN MANAGER to the Council.**

The Town Manager invited everyone to attend the Town Movie Night movie on Friday, October 30, 2015, and the Halloween Party on Saturday, October 31, 2015, starting at 4:00 p.m. He also invited everyone to enjoy the Haunted House being put on by the Youth Council.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:00 p.m.

**Council Member Davidson** moved to adjourn, and **Council Member Kelly** seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

**CERTIFICATION:**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 27, 2015, of the Town Council of Quartzsite, Arizona, held on October 27, 2015.

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

DATED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2015

  
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Tina M. Abriani, Town Clerk

On behalf of the Common Council

Approved:

  
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Ed Foster, Mayor