

MINUTES
TOWN OF QUARTZSITE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015, 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION: Prayer given by Pastor Bruce Swart.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Council Member St. Germain.

ROLL CALL:

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

STAFF PRESENT: Skylor Miller, Town Manager; Susan Goodwin, Town Attorney; and Tina Abriani, Town Clerk

Mayor Foster announced that the order of business would be altered to hold the Executive Session first. The Mayor explained Council Member Davidson needed to leave after the Executive Session to attend to an important family matter. The Mayor said Council Member Davidson would attend the remainder of the meeting by phone.

The Mayor apologized to the speakers of the presentation for causing them a delay.

Council Member Davidson moved to adjourn to Executive Session and **Council Member Warner seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:10 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: 7:24 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Council Member Davidson.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS:

Jennifer Jones spoke about Desert Gardens' utility bill, the woman who was designated to fill the vacant Police Officer position - and her certification test and physical.

Richard Trusty reminded everyone that the new Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Bureau is open from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. He announced there would be a grand opening with a ribbon-cutting on December 9, 2015. He thanked

everyone that participated and helped out with the Chili Cook that was held at Kim Scott's building the other night to raise money for the Food Bank. Mr. Trusty spoke about Celia's Garden Spaghetti Dinner.

Pamela Caskey, a Quartzsite resident, announced the Second Annual Soup and Chowder Festival would be held on December 5, 2015, at the Q.I.A. She said there would be entertainment in the main hall, church members will sing, and the Flute Circle will play. She said the soups and chowders would be donated, and there would be a raffle for donated items. She said all the funds collected would go the Friends of the Quartzsite Food Bank. Ms. Caskey asked everyone to please join her in the Festival's festivities. She also announced that she had some sign-up sheets for anyone who would like to volunteer to help out a bit with setting up and donations of raffle items. She said this year, Thrivent would provide \$400 in matching funds.

Shanana Rain BearCat welcomed and invited all the Council Members to visit the new Chamber of Commerce and Tourism on Saturday. She announced that, for the first time, Quartzsite would be involved with Shop Small Saturday. She said ten businesses would be participating this year. She said the new chamber, across from McDonald's will have an Open House on Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., and there will be coffee, donuts, fruit, and a drawing for prizes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Mayor announced that there would be three seats up for election at the Primary Election, which will be held August 30, 2016. The Mayor's seat, Council Member Orgeron's seat, and Council Member St. Germain's seat would be on the ballot.

The Mayor said nomination/candidate packets could be picked up at the Town Hall beginning December 3, 2015. He said the signed packets could be turned in no sooner than May 2, 2016, and no later than June 1, 2016. He also announced that the General Election will be held on November 8, 2016.

Town Manager Miller stated fourteen signatures would be required on the nomination form.

Council Member Kelley announced that if anyone were going to Shop Small, they should go to Santa's Workshop on Saturday and Sunday at Tyson. She said, "We need you, and hopefully, we will have bags to give you." She asked that everyone visit because there will be two to three hundred people selling things for Christmas gifts.

Council Member St. Germain announced that a group from Tucson and Yuma will be at the Community Center on December 2, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. to help the homeless veterans and veterans that are down on their luck to find places to live, pay their rent, and pay their utilities for up to four months. Council Member St. Germain invited veterans that need help, and anyone interested in finding out how they can help a veteran, to attend.

Council Member Davidson joined the meeting by phone at 7:32 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

- 1. QUARTZSITE 2015 TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDY – Moore & Associates, Inc. will give a presentation of the 2015 Quartzsite Transit Feasibility Study and provide recommendations.**

Jim Moore of Moore and Associates introduced himself. He stated Moore and Associates were the consulting firm selected by the Arizona Department of Transportation, ADOT, to work with the Town, over the last several months, to conduct a feasibility study and to provide a follow-up short range transit plan.

Mr. Moore said he wanted to recognize Mike Norman and Tina Munoz from ADOT, who actively participated in the project. They were seated in the audience.

Mr. Moore said he wanted to make sure that he thanked Jan Collier, Transit Coordinator, who he said, has been absolutely critical to the entire process. He said she had opened many doors throughout the community over the last several months in an effort to allow the consulting team to be able to talk with many stakeholders, conduct a successful community survey. He said she also co-facilitated a series of Technical Advisory Committee meetings.

Mr. Moore said to Mrs. Collier, "Thank you for all of your enthusiasm and great help."

Mr. Moore presented an overview of the 2015 Quartzsite Transit Feasibility Study and offered a series of options or recommendations for growing the Quartzsite Transit System over the next five years. He said any of the options or combination thereof would enhance the mobility of residents and persons employed within the Quartzsite community. Mr. Moore said these recommendations were broken down into operational and administrative.

The Operational Recommendations, as displayed by the PowerPoint presentation were:

1. Maintain status quo.
2. Expand Dial-A-Ride to include general public on "space available" basis.
3. Implement limited-hour Saturday general public Dial-A-Ride within Quartzsite on a 3- to 6-month trial basis.
4. Establish "school year" local circulator.
5. Establish "shared cost" limited-stop service between Quartzsite and Parker.
6. Establish thrice weekly service to Blythe.
7. Establish weekday service between Quartzsite and Lake Havasu City.
8. Establish weekday service between Quartzsite and Yuma.

The Administrative Recommendations, as displayed by the PowerPoint presentation were:

1. Increase marketing of transit services.
2. Coordinate service/schedule with PVVTA (QS-Blythe).
3. Establish Travel Training program.
4. Establish "Friends of Transit" fundraising effort to support Saturday service demonstration project.

Mr. Moore asked the Council if they had any questions.

Council Member Warner asked Mr. Moore if the Town went to public transportation, would more people, rather than just the elderly, be able to use the service?

Mr. Moore replied that was one of the options. He explained that the types of funding available from the Federal and State governments can and usually do vary by the type of service the Town provides, such as dial-a-ride versus a fixed route service or a combination of those two.

Mr. Moore said there were requests from a number of Quartzsite residents asking to be able to use the service, that is, to be able to expand it beyond its current parameters. He said in order to do that, it would require some policy changes and potential funding changes on the part of the Town.

Town Manager Miller said the Health and Development Services Board reviewed the options or recommendations at their last meeting. He said the Board's choices of recommendations were provided to the Council for their review.

Town Manager Miller asked Mr. Moore if the Town were to make a program that were a curb to curb dial-a-ride service that was available to the general public, would that make it eligible for 5311, or public transportation, funding?

Mr. Moore answered it would depend on how the service was implemented, and would have an impact on the Town's contribution amount, and the Town's eligibility for state and federal funding. Mr. Moore said he would suggest the Town get some sense of relative priorities or interest levels and focus on those specific findings or recommendations so as to be able to provide a more well-rounded discussion of, for instance, what happens if the service were to be opened to the general public.

Mr. Moore said he didn't want to endorse a recommendation that would potentially put the Town in some jeopardy in terms of its funding.

He said he views this presentation as Moore and Associates bringing forward what they have been working on over the last several months and delivering items for discussion, that is, the recommendations. He said the Town Manager could potentially come back at another point with either Mr. Moore or members of the ADOT staff. Together they could

use the recommendations that were selected to review the ramifications of the those choices and let Mr. Moore or ADOT help the Town navigate its way through it.

2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REVIEW (FY16 Q1) – Council Member Warner will give a Quarterly Financial Review presentation.

Council Member Warner presented a quarterly review of the Town's financial status according to the First Quarter of the new Budget, which would cover July 1, 2015, through the end of September 2015. She explained the Town has four funds, HURF, Wastewater, Water, and the General Fund. She reviewed past budgetary trends of the Town. She said historically, the First Quarter has a negative amount when viewing the revenue versus expenses in the General Fund, and she explained the reasons for this trend.

In summary, Council Member Warner said the report for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2015-2016, when taken as a whole, shows that the Town is on track with the amount of Projected Revenue and Projected Expense. She said no HURF money was used for anything other than for what HURF money was intended. Council Member Warner stated the Second Quarter was starting on strong footing.

Council Member Kelley said the Town is not broke, and Council Member Warner said that is correct.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 3. • Consider approval of check series 39560 - 39618, totaling \$79,261.62.**
- Consider approval to appoint a Quartzsite Police Department Clerk, an approved and budgeted vacant position.**

Council Member St. Germain pulled check number 39615, payable to the La Paz Economic Development Corporation for \$7,500.

Council Member Warner pulled check numbers 39583 and 39586.

Council Member Orgeron moved to approve check series 39560 - 39618, less check numbers 39583, 39586, and 39615. **Vice Mayor Simpson seconded** the motion, and the vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

Council Member Warner asked why check number 39583 to Johnson Electric for motor-mixer motor maintenance, and check number 39586, payable to a different company, was for repair of the same motor.

Town Manager Miller said the checks were for two different mixer motors of the same type.

Council Member St. Germain asked if check number 39615 was the first check the Town had made to the La Paz Economic Corporation, and Town Manager Miller said yes.

Council Member St. Germain moved to approve check numbers 39615, 39583, and 39586. **Council Member Kelley seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

Vice Mayor Simpson asked for a presentation regarding the second part of the consent agenda, approval to appoint a Quartzsite Police Department Clerk, an approved and budgeted vacant position.

Town Manager Miller said after review of several candidates, four applicants were interviewed by the Police Chief and Police Lieutenant. He said, "Chief Renfro had recommended we appoint Ms. Christy Conley."

The Mayor asked about the possible conflict with family members.

Town Manager Miller said Ms. Christy Conley would be not be supervised by her sister, Sergeant Conley.

Council Member Warner asked if there was a possibility that the Sergeant may be supervised by her sister, Christy Conley. Town Manager Miller said he did not believe so, but if the situation did arise, there would be personnel transfers.

Council Member Orgeron moved to appoint Christy Conley to the Quartzsite Police Department Clerk and approve the budgeted vacant position. **Council Member Warner seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- 4. MINUTES – Consider approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 10, 2015.**

Council Member Orgeron moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 10, 2015, and **Council Member Warner seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

- 5. LA PAZ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Discussion and possible action to appoint a Town representative to the Corporation's governing body.**

Town Manager Miller said now that payment has been made to the La Paz Economic Development Corporation, the Town is an active member and will have a representative on the Corporation's Board of Directors.

The Mayor nominated Vice Mayor Simpson because the Vice Mayor has experience with the La Paz Economic Development Corporation. The Mayor said he thought the Vice Mayor would represent the Town and the Council well on the Board, so he recommended Vice Mayor Simpson. Both **Council Member Warner and Council Member Davidson**

seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous. **Vice Mayor Simpson was elected** to the Corporation's Board of Directors.

Town Manager Miller said the meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

At 8:25 p.m., Council Member Davidson said goodnight all and disconnected the call.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(4) for discussion or consultation with the Town Attorney in order to consider the Town's position and instruct the Town Attorney regarding the Town's position in the following pending litigations:

- **Jennifer Marie Jones v. Quartzsite (Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Case No. 15-CV-16261) (appeal of U.S. District Court, Case No. CV2013-02170);**
- **Jennifer Marie Jones & John Lavern Jones v. Quartzsite (U.S. District Court Case No. CV2013-01770);**
- **Jennifer Marie Jones v. Quartzsite, et al. (Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Case No. CV15-16279) (appeal of U.S. District Court CV2012-01383);**
- **Derrick Johnson v. Robert Brady, et al. (U.S. District Court Case No. CV14-01875);**
- **Jennifer Jones v. Parker, et al. (Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Case No. 15-16709) (appeal of U.S. District Court, Case No. CV14-01907).**

The Executive Session was held at the beginning of the meeting, after Roll Call.

COMMUNICATIONS:

7. Reports from the MAYOR on current events.

The Mayor announced a Town Hall Meeting would be held at the Community Center on Wednesday, December 9, 2015, to discuss the financial health of the Town. He said there would be discussion considering putting an initiative on the ballot next year to have a property tax within the Town of Quartzsite. He stated no city or town has had to do this since 1991, and that more than half of the cities and towns in Arizona do have a primary property tax.

The Mayor said he spoke to Mr. Dick Anderson, Mayor of Kingman, in the last week and learned that Kingman is also facing a crisis with financing and is considering putting a tax on their ballot next year.

Mayor Foster said the Governor is determined to cut the State's budget and taxes every year. He said the Town depends upon State Revenue Sharing and State Sales Tax for its budget. The Mayor said it is a saying of our Governor that he wants a zero income tax. The Mayor said this would result in zero dollars from State Revenue Sharing.

The Mayor said the Town needs to pay back its debt to HURF and stay operational, leaving only two choices for the Town. The choice, he said would be to cut services from the Town or to pay for them. The Mayor explained that he wanted to have the tax issue on the November ballot when more citizens would be in Town; but, the Town Attorneys informed him there is a state law requiring that any tax issue be on the ballot of the last election cycle before the end of the fiscal year. The Mayor said the issue would be on the May 2016 ballot.

The Mayor said that where the Town goes with its community was the decision of the citizens. He said he wanted to provide ample opportunity for the citizens of the Town to come forward and question the Town government about what is going on and why. He said there would be packets of financial information available at the meeting.

Town Manager Miller said he would do the fact finding.

The Mayor said there would be a couple of meetings in January, when more citizens would be in Town to share their input.

The Mayor said the December 9th meeting would be held in the evening.

8. Reports from the COUNCIL on current events.

Council Member St. Germain said, "Everyone have a safe Thanksgiving and a happy one."

9. Reports from the TOWN MANAGER to the Council.

Town Manager Miller said GovNET had completed their installation. He announced that the IT consultant was in the building making that connection.

Town Manager Miller said the air bridge project, which was an E-Rate and Library 100% grant funded project, would begin the first week of December. He said once that is completed, the Town will have public broadband access in the Library, the meeting hall spaces, as well as at the Community Center.

Town Manager Miller said the Hi Jolly Wayfinding and Signage Project, which is being managed by ADOT, is currently underway on Main Street and is proposed to be completed in February.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:32 p.m.

Council Member Orgeron moved to adjourn, and **Vice Mayor Simpson 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 November 24, 2015, of the Town Council of Quartzsite, Arizona, held on November 24, 2015.

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

DATED this 8th day of December 2015


Tina M. Abriani, Town Clerk

On behalf of the Common Council

Approved:



Ed Foster, Mayor