

MINUTES
TOWN OF QUARTZSITE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015, 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.

INVOCATION: The Mayor called for a moment of silence for the people in San Bernardino, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Council Member Davidson.

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; Susan Goodwin, Town Attorney; and Tina Abriani, Town Clerk

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **LEDGER OF ACCOUNTS PAID – Consider approval of check series 39619 - 39658, totaling \$221,809.96.**

Vice Mayor Simpson asked for clarification of a profit sharing item in the budget, in the accounts paid. He asked that the Town Manager explain the item.

Town Manager Miller said he believed that the item was the Town's 457 plan, an optional pension plan program. He explained that if the employee opted to enter into the 457 plan, the Town has a matching fund from which it contributes. The profit sharing expense in the report is comprised of the Town's contribution, plus the withholdings from the employee's paycheck.

Vice Mayor Simpson next asked why an "employee medical" expense was assigned to HURF.

Town Manager Miller explained HURF is used for employees associated with the Public Works Department. He went on to say, if the employee is allocated to Public Works, then the HURF will fund that line item.

Council Member St. Germain said he had a question regarding check number 39637, to Cochise Petroleum Equipment, in the amount of \$1,583.31, for fuel pump relays. Council Member St. Germain asked if that was one relay for a fuel station, or if it was multiple relays.

Town Manager Miller said the Town only has one pumping station, and since every department uses it, the payment for it would be allocated by department.

Vice Mayor Simpson moved approval of the accounts paid totaling \$221,809.96, check series 39619 - 39658. **Council Member Warner seconded** the motion. The vote was five in favor, and one nay from Council Member Davidson. **Motion Passed.**

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

2. MINUTES – Consider approval of the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of November 24, 2015.

Council Member St. Germain moved to accept the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of November 24, 2015, and **Vice Mayor Simpson seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

3. QUARTZSITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Discussion of a public/private partnership with the Quartzsite Historical Society and possible land acquisition.

The Mayor and the Town Manager explained the idea to have the Town acquire the Historical Society's land, but not the artifacts or the museum. They discussed that the Historical Society receives Town promotional funds every year, and that those funds return to the Town every year in the form of utility payments. There was an explanation of how Public Works would be able to provide grounds maintenance and improvements.

Town Manager Miller said he spoke to numerous members of the Historical Society who are interested in investigating the feasibility of the Town owning the land on which the Tyson's Wells Stage Station Museum is located.

Town Manager Miller said researching the necessary steps and possible implications would be a project requiring time from staff and Town Attorney Goodwin. He asked for direction from the Council as to how they wanted him to proceed with the matter.

Council Member Davidson moved to open the item to public discussion and **Council Member Kelley seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

Richard Thompson, President of the Quartzsite Historical Society, said the land at the Historical Society was donated by families that have passed, and on that land are the original buildings, as well as the old Tyson Wells Stagecoach stop and the well. He said

the land is just over a third of an acre. He said the problem the Historical Society faces is parking for citizens and visitors.

Town Manager Miller said if the land were to be part of the Park system, grants might be available to create more parking.

Mr. Thompson said some long-standing members are not on board with the idea of the Town owning the Quartzsite Historical Society's land.

The Mayor said he hoped the proposal of the idea to offer to take over the property would be viewed in the way it was meant, as a chance for the Town to address some issues to benefit the Historical Society.

Mr. Thompson said he had heard no serious concerns.

Council Member Davidson asked if there was a potential downside.

The Mayor said the downside was money.

Starr BearCat spoke of an idea for the near future, the possibility of the Town's negotiation with a land owner near the Museum to purchase land for parking.

Town Manager Miller said there was a deed restriction on the Museum's land. Paraphrasing, he said, should the property cease to be used for the purposes of a public museum, ownership of the property would revert to the State Historical Society.

Council Member Kelley directed staff to look into acquiring the land, and the issues that go along with that.

The Mayor asked Mr. Thompson to work with the attorneys and the Town Manager to achieve the best possible result.

4. PROMOTION OF TOWN – Discussion and possible action to determine the appropriate tier of membership the Town will apply for to be a member of the Quartzsite Area Business Chamber and Tourism the Town should apply.

The Mayor announced that the new Chamber had asked that the Town join as a member. There was a discussion of the tiers of membership, and at what tier a member may vote.

Town Manager Miller said the Chamber is a recognized 501(c)(6), which is a non-profit status for chambers.

It was announced that the Quartzsite Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism would have its ribbon-cutting ceremony the next day at 10:00 a.m.

The Mayor suggested there be a motion to join the Chamber at the lowest cost voting tier of \$150. He said the Chamber is doing a lot of promotion work for the Town, and the Town should have someone there to have a voice in the promotional activities for the Town.

There was a discussion of the fund from which the membership fee would be paid. The Town Manager Miller said he would take it out of the Promotion of Town line item in the Economic Development Fund.

Council Member Warner asked why it would not be taken from an administrative fund, to avoid the reduction of available funds for non-profit monetary awards.

Town Manager Miller said it was still 'promotion of the Town.' He said there was buffer in the Promotion of Town line item compared to what was budgeted as financial aid in the past.

Council Member Warner moved to accept the invitation for the promotion of the Town so that they apply as a member of the Quartzsite Business Chamber at the \$150 level, which gives the Town voting rights. **Vice Mayor Simpson seconded** the motion. Council Member Warner corrected the Chamber's name to Quartzsite Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

5. HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BOARD VACANCY - Consider the appointment of one regular board member to the Health and Development Services Board to replace the vacancy created by Ginnie Duffin's resignation. The position's term will expire May 2018.

The Mayor asked if David Collier would be considered in conflict with the required terms of membership to the Health and Development Services Board.

The Town Manager said the Quartzsite Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, with which Mr. Collier is affiliated, was an applicant for Town funds for which the Health and Development Services Board provides recommendations to Council. At the time the Chamber submitted an application to the Board, they had not received 501(c)(6) status. Town Manager Miller said aside from that, Mr. Collier would be a qualified candidate.

Dave Collier introduced himself.

There was a discussion about the direction from Council regarding the modification of the Town Code as it pertains to the Health and Development Board.

Council Member Kelley recommended a work session for the code changes.

The Mayor moved to open the item to the public, and **Council Member St. Germain seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

Sally Ford, Chairperson of the Health and Development Services Board, said the only problem the Board has is the vote regarding the recommendations of organizations

applying for money. She said Mr. Collier could recuse himself from that vote. She further explained that there is no conflict in anything else the Board does.

Council Member Kelley asked how many members had a conflict with the vote regarding funds.

Ms. Ford said four members could not vote regarding the Senior Center, and one member could not vote regarding Proud Neighbors.

The Mayor said a work session was in order.

Council Member Warner asked if the number of Board Members could be changed.

Town Attorney Goodwin said the Council could amend the Town Code regarding the number of members on a specific board.

The Mayor moved to table the item and directed staff to schedule a work session to take up the issues regarding the Health and Development Services Board, and review proposed amendments to the code that the Town Attorney will prepare.

The Mayor moved to table the appointment, and **Vice Mayor Simpson seconded** the motion. The vote was five in favor and one against the motion. The nay vote was from Council Member Warner. **Motion Passed.**

Dave Collier said the reason he wanted to be on the Board was to help development and see Quartzsite grow.

6. HOLIDAY LEAVE - Consideration and possible approval of one full day of Holiday Leave on December 24, 2015.

The Mayor moved to give the Town employees a Christmas present and give them Christmas Eve off. **Council Member St. Germain seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

COMMUNICATIONS:

Reports from the MAYOR on current events.

The Mayor reported that he and some citizens of Quartzsite and some people around the County are taking steps to establish a republican party for La Paz County.

The Mayor said State Senator Kelly Ward resigned.

The Mayor recognized Chief Renfro by stating the outstanding work and professionalism of the Quartzsite Police Department Officers is a reflection of the Chief's professionalism and leadership.

Reports from the COUNCIL on current events.

None.

Reports from the TOWN MANAGER to the Council.

None.

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

ADJOURNMENT: 7:43 p.m.

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 8, 2015, of the Town Council of Quartzsite, Arizona, held on December 8, 2015.

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

DATED this 22nd day of December 2015



Tina M. Abriani, Town Clerk

On behalf of the Common Council

Approved:



Ed Foster, Mayor