

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF QUARTZSITE**  
**WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2015, 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:03 p.m.

In the absence of the Mayor and Vice Mayor, Council Member Kelley called the meeting to order.

Council Member Warner announced that she had just been informed by the Town Attorney that due to the Mayor's and Vice Mayor's absence the Council would need to vote for a Mayor pro tem until either the Mayor or Vice Mayor arrives.

**Council Member Warner nominated** Council Member Kelley to serve as Mayor pro tem and **Council Member St. Germain seconded** the nomination. The vote was unanimous.  
**Motion Passed.**

**INVOCATION:**

None.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Council Member St. Germain led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Council Member Kelley, Council Member Warner, Council Member Orgeron, Council Member St. Germain.

**Absent:** Mayor Foster, Vice Mayor Simpson, Council Member Davidson.

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

**WORK SESSION:**

1. **TOWN FINANCES – Review and discuss the possible impact of a reduction in State revenue to the Town, and give direction to Town staff to research possible sources of revenue or a reduction in services proportionate to any decrease in revenue.**

*Item requested by Mayor Foster.*

Council Member St. Germain began the discussion by saying there was a public meeting held on December 9, 2015. He said the meeting was about a property tax, voters, a food tax, and other possible avenues of revenue for the Town. Council Member St. Germain

noted there a was discussion of a tax that would be equal for everyone in Quartzsite, not just Quartzsite's property owners. He said it appeared that the majority of people do not want a property tax.

Council Member St. Germain said the reason for the discussion of taxes and generating revenue was the concern that the financial assistance that the Town receives from the State may be reduced or eliminated in the future.

Council Member St. Germain said, financially, the Town is probably doing better than it has ever done. He said the work session was called to discuss possibilities for the future.

Council Member St. Germain directed Town staff to look into a food tax, something that would be a minimal tax and one that everyone would pay.

Town Manager Miller asked if he was being directed to develop a report to look for alternative revenue sources, other than property tax via the model city tax code.

Council Member St. Germain said yes, Sir.

Council Member Orgeron suggested Town staff look for something that would allow everyone to contribute and not just a select few.

Council Member Warner asked Town Attorney Goodwin if a new tax was imposed if it would need to be permanent.

Town Attorney Goodwin said the Council could decide to repeal it at any time, or a sunset clause, a time limit, could be included in the ordinance.

Town Manager Miller spoke of the importance of the distinction between a primary and secondary tax.

There was discussion of an Arizona State law that may allow the Town Council to vote to impose within the Town, without an election, a secondary tax called a library fund tax. Town Attorney Goodwin said she would look into the specific facts regarding a library fund tax and report back.

Town Manager Miller said the Town would continue to endeavor to find grant opportunities.

Town Attorney Goodwin said she had found the statute pertaining to the library fund tax and read that there was not an election requirement. She stated the statute limits the tax amount that may be levied to 1.5 mils. Town Manager Miller said that effectively equals a 1.5% tax rate.

There was a discussion regarding the cost to the Town if there were a special election.

**Council Member Warner moved to open the discussion to the public for their input and Council Member St. Germain seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion Passed.**

Dennis Dole, a resident, said he heard from listening to the meeting, that a primary property tax is basically for operations of the Town, and a secondary property tax would be primarily for the library.

Town Manager Miller said the use of the revenue from a secondary property tax for the library would be limited to the operation of the library.

Dennis Dole asked what the budget was for the library.

Town Manager Miller said the library's budget was approximately \$170,000 a year which includes the personnel costs, as well as the utilities, and other operational expenses. He explained that if Council were to levy a secondary tax that covered the expenses of the library, it would free up what is used on the library now from the Town's General Fund to be used for other services.

Dennis Dole asked, regarding the State Shared Revenue Fund, if anyone had any idea of the amount of money that may be cut by the State.

The Town Manager said the Mayor may have a speculation of how much might be cut from the cities and towns of Arizona.

Town Manager Miller said the Town had received approximately the same amount of revenue from the combined sources from the State over the last five years. He said the Town is receiving more now than it did in 2010 and 2011. Town Manager Miller explained that the issue that was of concern was the possibility that in the future, in order to balance the State's budget, the Governor may create a policy to keep more revenue for the State by reducing the revenue shared with the cities and towns.

Starr BearCat listed ways the Town could collect more money. She spoke of BLM Trust Land and Quartzsite's enforcement of policies of BLM land regarding lengths of stay for campers. She spoke of building permits and the Town Building Department's enforcement of codes. She said there are homeowners that rent their RV spaces and hook-ups to people. She said there was a 2.5% electricity tax of which the Town could take advantage.

Starr BearCat said property owners are already struggling, so to put more taxes on them will make them want to leave.

Dennis McDowell, a property owner in Quartzsite, AZ, thanked Council Member St. Germain for mentioning that a property tax would only affect those that had invested in property in Quartzsite. He suggested there be a proposal that would require an equal payment from everyone in the Town.

**Council Member St. Germain moved** to close the public discussion and **Council Member Warner seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

**Council Member St. Germain moved** to adjourn. He said staff should check all options that are available to the Town for the future.

Council Member Warner started a discussion regarding the Town Code and the issue of homeowners that have RV hook-ups. Monetary gain for those spaces and time limitations of use of those spaces were also discussed.

Town Manager Miller said it is his understanding that the residential hooks are not for private business ventures.

**Council Member St. Germain moved** to close the Work Session, and **Council Member Orgeron seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** 6:26 p.m.

**CERTIFICATION:**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Work Session of December 22, 2015, of the Town Council of Quartzsite, Arizona, held on December 22, 2015.

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

DATED this 12th day of January 2016

  
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Tina Abriani, Town Clerk

On behalf of the Common Council

Approved:

  
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Ed Foster, Mayor