

MINUTES
TOWN OF QUARTZSITE
WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016, 11:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER: 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Foster called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

INVOCATION:

No one volunteered for the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member St. Germain led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Council Member Kelley, Council Member Davidson.

STAFF PRESENT: Skylor Miller, Town Manager; Tina Abriani, Town Clerk; Kiki Tunnell, Finance Manager; Mindy Hunt, Finance Assistant; Miguel Castellanos, Deputy Town Clerk; Emmett Brinkerhoff, Public Works Director; Pamela Shirley, Magistrate Court Judge; Ernie Renfro, Chief of Police; Billie Fowler, Library Manager; and Janet Collier, Transit Coordinator.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Foster moved the Call to the Public to the end of the meeting.

WORK SESSION:

PRELIMINARY BUDGETS - Presentation and initial review of preliminary budgets for Town departments, FY 16-17.

Skylor explained the health insurance line item was higher than previous years due to Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) being added to it.

Mayor Foster asked about adding additional travel and training to the Mayor and Council line item. Town Manager Miller said there is more than enough money in the current line item to go to other trainings.

Town Manager Miller talked about staff and Council using Town vehicles for training, and said it would be worthwhile to purchase a newer fleet car for training and travel.

Town Manager Miller explained the Police Department had their last payment for their settlement agreement and would like to hold the money from the operational funds to add an additional officer to the department.

Chief Renfro further explained having additional officers would allow the opportunity to join the task force and have proper coverage in the field. He also informed the Council of a grant that would pay 75% for a new officer for three years.

Mayor Foster asked if the Town would be obligated to keep the position after the three years the grant covered. Chief Renfro answered he did not see it in the grant but would do more research.

Town Manager Miller and Chief Renfro explained that the increase in small tools and equipment are due to body cameras and other needed equipment for the officers. Town Manager Miller and Chief Renfro also suggested purchasing a new vehicle since the current vehicles are constantly in the repair shop.

Council Member Orgeron would like to see promotion of the police reserve program in the budget.

Council Member Warner motioned to recess at 11:46 a.m. and Vice Mayor Simpson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Foster called the meeting back to order at 12:05 p.m.

Judge Shirley explained the need for a Pro Tem and recommended the Chief Court Clerk. She would also like to send her Court Clerk to be certified as a Spanish translator.

Mayor Foster asked if staff could look into cleaning the washes to reduce the flood plain.

Town Manager Miller talked about Council Member Kelley's request to fund a Town Planner/Community Planning Director.

Town Manager Miller explained the need to fund new furniture with built in power outlets instead of purchasing new couches for the Library.

Town Manager Miller and Billie Fowler, Library Manager, informed the Council that the Friends of the Library assist the Library with approximately \$15,000 a year.

Emmett Brinkerhoff, Public Works Director, requested an attachment for the mower that is used by the Parks Department.

Vice Mayor Simpson asked about the fund increase in the line item ground repair in the Parks budget. Emmett Brinkerhoff answered he wanted to keep the budget amount the same and was keeping it in ground repair as an emergency fund.

Emmett Brinkerhoff told the Council the Cemetery Department requested to purchase a conex box for storing the burial equipment.

Council Member Orgeron asked what the funds in the line item building and repair in the wastewater department would be used for. Emmett Brinkerhoff answered the building itself at the wastewater treatment plant needs some repairs.

Town Manager Miller explained how the annual long term debt service has changed for the next fiscal year.

Town Manager Miller would like to add \$5,000 to the Parks Department for museum property and expenses.

Call to the public

Shanana Rain Bearcat proposed to co-sponsor the Town sponsored events to further bring the community together and would like to see the budget combined for sponsored events so that more money could be used for the events that need it. She also asked the Council to provide funds for the 150th anniversary of Quartzsite being established.

Shanana Rain Bearcat recommended changing the community outreach line item into a fund that could be available for other organization. She also recommended adding a Community Public Information Officer to receive further public input for the Town.

Monica Timberlake thanked Council Member Orgeron for discussion on bringing in reserve police officers and suggested that Council view the promotion of the Town as an investment into the future instead of as a cost.

Starr Bearcat asked why the Town is paying for the electricity that people use to charge their devices. She also asked if the Town could add more volunteers to the boards and committees that have vacant positions.

Council Member Warner complemented the department heads on their work with the budget.

Council Member Orgeron asked if the board volunteer applicants could be added to the first meeting in June.

Mayor Foster thanked the department heads and the Town employees for their hard work with the previous budget and would like to reward staff with an appreciation lunch.

ADJOURNMENT: 1:29 p.m.

Council Member Orgeron motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:29 p.m. and Council Member Warner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Work Session of May 20, 2016, of the Town Council of Quartzsite, Arizona, held on May 20, 2016.

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

DATED this 14th day of June 2016

Miguel Castellanos, Deputy Town Clerk

On behalf of the Common Council

Approved:

Ed Foster, Mayor