

MINUTES
TOWN OF QUARTZSITE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2016, 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION: Prayer given by Pastor Bruce Swart.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Foster.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Council Member Kelley and Council Member Davidson.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Carl Baldwin introduced himself. He said he resided at Q-Mountain Vista Mobile Home Park. Mr. Baldwin expressed his disappointment over what went on over the past weekend (he was referring to the Rock Fiesta). He said he did not know who was responsible for the loud event. He continued with his feeling that he had rights as a citizen of the United States and as a member of the Town for over twenty years.

Mr. Baldwin explained that the reason he was addressing the Council was that his wife was so shaken by the sounds coming from the event that she almost had a nervous breakdown. He said it was so bad with so much dust and loud ungodly music that he had to move his wife. He remarked that no one should have to put up with that. Lastly, he spoke of God's grace and identified himself as a peacemaker.

Shanana Rain BearCat reminded everyone that the Easter Egg Hunt would be held on Saturday, March 26, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Rain BearCat said she would have liked to have seen the Council Members at the Latino music festival, adding that she attended both days as media. She said the people at the festival were amazing, very cordial, polite, and respectful; and that she made new friends in the media.

Rain spoke of the great publicity the Rock Fiesta received and noted that many of the Town's businesses made money. She suggested that the Town welcome the visitors in a positive way next year.

Chief Renfro announced that he was at the Rock Fiesta and seconded the things Rain BearCat had said. He said it was a wonderful event, the people were very friendly, and that most arrests were of local people.

Jennifer Jones said she attended the Rock Fiesta and that the Mayor was there. She said she was surprised and impressed by the event.

She noted that the noise was aimed away from the Town, and said the only complaint she had was that the police presence was overwhelming, oppressive, unfriendly, and unwelcoming. She suggested there be a more friendly presence next year.

Starr BearCat shared some information with the Council and the audience. She said she attended the Rock Fiesta and saw the Mayor there. She suggested that the next time such an event would be held the Town should water the ground more often. She reported that the people at the event were very friendly and that many businesses did very well. She provided information regarding decibel levels recorded in various parts of the Town. She said the average sound in a home was about 40 decibels and that the people could hear the music in La Paz Valley and La Posa North and South.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS:

None.

PROCLAMATIONS:

1. **PROCLAMATION – Mayors’ Day of Recognition for National Service is April 5, 2016.**

The Mayor read the Mayors’ Day of Recognition for National Service Proclamation aloud for all to hear.

CONSENT AGENDA:

2. **LEDGER OF ACCOUNTS PAID – Consider approval of check series 40001-40020 and 40022-40027 totaling \$21,065.15.**

Council Member Orgeron moved to approve check series 40001-40020 and 40022-40027, and Vice Mayor Simpson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion Passed.

PUBLIC HEARING:

3. **PUBLIC HEARING – Review and consideration for approval of the Quartzsite Transit Camel Express General Public Dial-A-Ride and Intercity Service Operations and Implementation Business Plan.**

Janet Collier, Transit Coordinator, reviewed what the Town currently offers in transit services and its operation.

The Mayor asked about the transit service on Saturdays as it was part of the presentation packet.

Janet explained that service on Saturdays was a proposed pilot program for the next season.

Town Manager Miller said the proposed pilot program would be part of the upcoming budget cycle for the next fiscal year.

Mrs. Collier presented information regarding the implementation plan for the new transit service that will begin in July 2016. She provided a summary of the services that will be offered; coordination with surrounding transit services; the safety program and training that will be in place; possible cooperation with Greyhound; and how the new transit system will save the Town money.

Mrs. Collier said that currently the Town covers the cost of providing transit services through the General Fund and collects fare revenue daily. She said the grant award for the current 5310 Program was \$15,000 annually. She noted the current transit budget runs at about \$106,000, rather than the \$117,000 that was listed in the presentation packet.

The Mayor asked if the new transit program might be able to help Quartzsite citizens get to Bouse because Rose Acres was looking to hire workers.

Town Manager Miller stated that Bouse was not identified in the transit study, nor was it in the implementation plan.

Janet told the Mayor that transportation to Bouse could be looked into.

Town Manager Miller said that in addition to the presentation packet, a recommendation from the advisory board Health & Development Services was to add a service to the implementation plan. They recommended that the Town's new transit service pick up children that attend Salome High School at their homes and transport them to the McDonald's in Quartzsite for pick-up by a school bus from Salome High School. The recommendation included a to-be-identified location in Quartzsite where the Salome High School bus could drop the schoolchildren off for the Quartzsite bus to pick them up to take them home.

There was more discussion on possible specifics of the recommended added service.

The Mayor said he wanted to do more study on the matter of the transportation of high school children, and he remarked that the school should share the cost.

There was a discussion regarding costs and responsibilities involved with that type of transportation.

The Mayor said a study of the matter should be undertaken. He said the study should include possible cost sharing. He stated he was in favor of providing the service to the community with more information and cost sharing.

Vice Mayor Simpson started a discussion regarding the days and hours involved with the transportation of the schoolchildren.

There was a review of necessary future purchases, including a marketing program, a new computer, a new bus and scheduling software. The marketing program includes the Friends of Transit meeting held every second Thursday of every month. Mrs. Collier shared information about the first meeting of the Friends of Transit held on March 10, 2016, at the Senior Center. She said ten people from the public and all the drivers attended.

The Mayor called for public comment.

Dan Heaton said he noticed that the ridership of the current transit service was only paying 10% of the cost. He suggested the riders should contribute more. He asked if the cost of the future purchases was included in the \$117,000 transit budget – Mrs. Collier pointed out that the true figure was closer to \$106,000. Town Manager Miller replied that the future purchases would be an addition.

The Mayor explained the government grantors wanted Quartzsite to expand its services. He said this would cause the Town's transit costs to go down.

Mr. Heaton expressed his concern that the funding from the governmental agencies might be reduced in the future.

Town Manager Miller the Town's obligation only runs for the grant time. He said if the Town loses the funding services would be scaled back to meet budgetary constraints.

Monica Timberlake introduced herself as the Chairperson of the Health and Development Services Board and spoke of the long time spent trying to get transportation service for the schoolchildren.

Town Manager Miller said the Town would have to complete a cost-benefit analysis to see how that impacts the overall budget for the new transit service.

Council Member Orgeron said he would like to know from the parents if they would be willing to support the transportation of the schoolchildren. He said the Council needs to know how much cost Salome High School would be willing to share to support the service.

Town Manager Miller said he would want a full bus in the morning. He said he would not want to run this for one or two families.

Mayor Foster said the Town and the Council do need the study.

Mrs. Collier said there were fifteen students that attend Salome High School.

Chief Renfro said he was once behind the bus that stopped at McDonalds. He said there is a safety concern due to the amount traffic and how busy that spot in Town is.

The Mayor closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Simpson said he had a problem with one of the documents in the presentation packet. He said he read that the new transit program involved five-year transit funding.

Town Manager Miller said the Town already does that. He explained it was part of the Western Arizona Council of Governments, WACOG process. He said the Town does project out five years but is not obligated or locked into it before it goes before the Council for review and approval. He further explained that the projection serves as a guideline of short and long-term goals.

Vice Mayor Simpson said the ridership forecast showed that the Town is planning to yield approximately 10,000 passenger trips each year. He asked upon what history that figure was based that is anywhere near realistic.

Mrs. Collier said that figure was based on information from other towns with similar populations, and the number of people that the Town would be moving to different places as the Town expands the transit services.

Council Member Warner expressed her concern that the scheduling software would not be purchased until the fall of 2017. She asked how the scheduling would be handled in the meantime. She also asked why the Town would need the software in 2017 if it did not require it now.

Mrs. Collier responded that the Town does need it need now, but that she was required to choose her priorities and goals for a two-year cycle. She said her priority was another vehicle.

Vice Mayor Simpson asked if the new transit service was used with the schoolchildren, would it be used for the Summer Youth Program as well, because it would be a benefit for those children, too.

Town Manager Miller spoke about supervision of younger students on the bus. He stated that if those children would be using the bus, a safe plan would need to be devised.

The Mayor stated for the record that he wanted it to be known that he sat in on one ADOT transportation and coordination meeting with Janet Collier and Town Manager Miller. He elaborated with his feeling shock over the complexity of what goes on behind the scenes

of the Town's transit system. He said he wanted to give Janet Collier many kudos for what she does to keep the transit system running.

Council Member Warner asked how the drivers get from K-Mart, which is on one end of Blythe, to their doctor appointments that are on the other end of Blythe. She said she had the same question regarding Parker.

Mrs. Collier explained how the system currently works. She said the driver takes each rider to his or her first destination, and when each person is done at that first destination, he or she will call Town Hall to say he or she is ready to be picked up by the driver and take he or she to his or her second destination. With the new public transit system, the Town bus will take the passengers to other transport vehicles from the towns they visit, and the Quartzsite bus will pick up the passengers at the end of the day at the drop off location and take them back to their homes.

The Mayor closed the public hearing.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

4. MINUTES – Consider approval of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 8, 2016.

Council Member Orgeron moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2016, and **Council Member Warner seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

Town Manager Miller asked that the Council return to the previous item to approve it in order to allow the ADOT grant application process to continue.

The Mayor said he thought there was going to be a study performed regarding transportation of schoolchildren before it would be approved.

Town Manager Miller said the study could be done, but the Town still needs the implementation plan to be approved before it can move forward with the grant application. Town Manager Miller said the transportation of the schoolchildren was independent of the implementation plan.

The Mayor moved to go back to Item 3 on the Agenda, and **Council Member Warner seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

Vice Mayor Simpson said some of the calculations in the implementation plan had mathematical errors that required correction.

Dan Heaton expressed his concern that the Council would have to decide immediately to approve the plan rather than have their questions answered first.

Town Manager Miller asked Mrs. Collier how long the Council had to approve the implementation plan.

Mrs. Collier responded that ADOT was looking for support from the Council. She said there was not a time frame other than it would be nice so that the vehicle could be ordered.

Town Manager Miller suggested the errors be corrected, and the plan be brought back to the Council at the next regular meeting for approval by the Council.

The Mayor said Town staff should meet with the Vice Mayor to review his findings and to give the Council more time to review all the information.

The Mayor moved to table the matter until the Council received the paperwork and had their questions answered. Vice Mayor Simpson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion Passed.

The Mayor recapped by saying the Council would be receiving a revised copy and a little better explanation.

5. PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (P.E.P.P.) – Consider approval for the Town to join the Public Entity Partnership Program - designed by the Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) - to provide a consultation program that assists in maintaining compliance with current standard workplace rules and regulations, in addition to offering free safety training.

Mr. Miller provided an overview of the program the Town has the opportunity to join. He pointed out that the program will make recommendations to improve workplace safety; provide free training to Town employees; and possibly help in the reduction of the Town's premiums for Workers' Compensation.

The Mayor said he wanted it on the record that he had dealings with OSHA over the years, and that he had concerns about working with them. He said he was in favor of improving the safety of the Town's employees. The Mayor said he recognized that the decision was the Town Manager's to make. He said he was willing to allow Mr. Miller to make the decision.

Town Manager Miller stressed the fact that there was an enforcement branch and a consultation side to Arizona's OSHA. He said PEPP represented only the consultation side. He said that if the Town works with the consultation side and issues are found, the program would work with the Town to remediate the situation, and that it would not be reported to enforcement.

Vice Mayor Simpson said he always worked with OSHA so that he would be less likely to have a problem down the road.

Council Member Orgeron moved to approve joining the Public Entity Partnership Program with ADOSH, and Vice Mayor Simpson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion Passed.

- 6. EXECUTIVE SESSION - An executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(7) for discussions or consultations with designated representatives of the Town in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations for the lease of real property located at 465 N. Plymouth Avenue, Quartzsite, AZ, to Colorado River Regional Crisis Services and/or Eve's Place Domestic Violence Community Services.**

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

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:32 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: 8:46 p.m.

The Mayor called the meeting back to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Council Member Kelley and Council Member Davidson.

- 7. LEASE OF TOWN FACILITIES – Discussion and possible approval of a lease of a building located at 465 N. Plymouth Avenue, Quartzsite, AZ to Colorado River Regional Crisis Services and/or Eve's Place Domestic Violence Community Services.**

Council Member Orgeron moved to direct the Town Manager to finalize the contract with the Town Attorneys for the approval of a lease of the building located at 465 North Plymouth Avenue to the Colorado River Regional Crisis Services and/or Eve's Place Domestic Violence Community Services, and to execute such lease. Council Member Warner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion Passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Reports from the MAYOR on current events.

The Mayor reported about the event that was held over the past weekend. He suggested that the Town have the water truck out next time to water the roads to lessen the dust. He said the community would need to do a better job of optimizing on the opportunities from such an event.

Reports from the COUNCIL on current events.

Vice Mayor Simpson announced that the Safe Routes to School modification to Moon Mountain Avenue from Main Street to Quail Trail would include putting in sidewalks and new pavement. He said the modification was scheduled to begin April 4, 2016, and it would be a forty-five-day project. He said it would create a problem for his business that is located there.

Vice Mayor Simpson also announced that the Mountain Quail Cafe would be closed April 5, 2016, through May 12, 2016 because the roads would be torn up and it would help to reduce traffic on Moon Mountain Avenue during the construction.

Reports from the TOWN MANAGER to the Council.

Town Manager Miller said the La Paz County Fair took place March 10, 2016, through March 13, 2016. He thanked the Council Members and the members of the public that took a turn operating the Quartzsite booth.

Town Manager said the Rock Fiesta was a success and a learning experience.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:59 p.m.

Council Member Warner 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 March 22, 2016, of the Town Council of Quartzsite, Arizona, held on March 22, 2016.

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

DATED this 12th day of April 2016



Tina M. Abriani, Town Clerk

On behalf of the Common Council

Approved:



Ed Foster, Mayor