

MINUTES
TOWN OF QUARTZSITE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2016, 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION: The Mayor called for a moment of silence for Pastor Mike Hobby.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Kelley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Foster, Vice Mayor Davidson, Council Member Kelley, Council Member Warner, Council Member Orgeron, and Council Member St. Germain appeared by phone.

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:

Shanana Rain BearCat reminded the community of the awesome event set to take place on the 4th of July, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Park.

Chief Ernie Renfro thanked the Mayor and the Council for the opportunity they provided him in Quartzsite. He said he really appreciated the time he spent within Quartzsite. He stated that he thought the community was on the right path.

PRESENTATIONS:

- 1. USDA–RD LOAN – Presentation and discussion with Financial Consultant Mark Reader and Engineering Consultant Mike Krebs to review and update Council on Waste Water Treatment Plant Project, USDA Loan, and other long-term debt of the Town.**

Mark Reader with Stifel Nicolaus and Greenberg Traurig said his company was retained by the Town to assist with financing, through the United States Department of Agriculture, some funds to be used for a wastewater utility project. He noted he had attended a meeting regarding the same matter last year, and since then he and his firm had been working with the Federal Government relative to funding for the Town. He explained that things had progressed more slowly than what he and the Town had wanted. He said he and his firm were optimistic should the Town choose to continue with the project.

Mark Reader gave a presentation and an update in terms of moving forward. He reviewed the Town's outstanding debt; principal amount of bonds outstanding; long-term debt; and the project budget, funding sources, and uses of funds. There was an in-depth review of the wastewater economic model – net operating revenues and debt service structure, as well as the legal structure of the proposed transactions for the funding of the project.

Mr. Reader explained the cost of the project had gone up over the years due to increased costs for materials and labor. He said that if the Council would like to continue to proceed, it could be in a position to close on the funding in September or October. Mr. Reader said he and his firm would try to obtain more grant money for the Town to help with the costs of the project.

Council Member Orgeron asked if the Town needed to look into refinancing the GADA loan.

Mark Reader said they would take a look at refinancing the GADA because the interest rates continue to go down.

Mr. Mike Krebs with PACE said his company had been working on this project for the Town for a number of years. He provided an update on the project with a presentation.

There was a brief discussion of the nitrate plume caused by septic tanks in one area of the Town.

Mike Krebs spoke of the extremely high seasonal flows and how that affects the effluent quality.

Town Manager Miller said all the permits had been updated for the expansion for the project.

Mr. Krebs said the existing basin is large enough to be used as two completely separate basins with a wall going down the middle. He told of benefits to such a system, such as doubling the horsepower; having a redundancy to be able to run one side if the other goes down; reduction of power costs; and the improvement of the effluent quality. He spoke of additional upgrades: the lift station upgrades (because currently, it is in very poor condition), and new head works screening to remove large debris and grit.

Mr. Krebs reviewed the construction sequence which would be to shut the basin down during the summer when the flows are down, obtain the approval for the project in the fall, and the contractor could work on the surrounding area of the basin before summer comes, and then work on the basin in the summer.

Mr. Krebs stated the total project cost, not just the USDA loan amount of \$6.4 million, would be estimated at \$8 million.

Mr. Krebs said fifteen manholes in Tyson Wash were included in the project. Council Member Warner asked how the manholes would be protected, and Mr. Krebs responded that a wall would protect them so that they stay together.

Mr. Krebs reviewed the project funding listing the USDA funding of approximately \$6.4 million of which \$3 million is grant money and approximately \$3.4 million is a loan; and the WIFA loan of \$1.6 million – partially expended. He said approximately 37% of the total project funding is grant funds.

Mr. Krebs said the construction plans were basically completed, and the USDA has the bid documents for their review. He said ADEQ had approved the updated permits, and a schedule for the project would be made when more was known.

2. QUARTZSITE IN MOTION – Presentation by Dave Anderson on current events and activities of the non-profit organization.

David Anderson and Heather Caton provided an update on what Quartzsite in Motion has been working on and achieving. Some of the successes listed were:

- On behalf of the Town of Quartzsite, they secured a \$3,000 grant from APS that was used to purchase new equipment and a professional sound system with wireless microphones for the Community Center and community events.
- They have successfully implemented Tai Chi, Yoga, and Forever Fit programs. Heather Caton is working with the La Paz County Health Department to expand those programs.
- They have coordinated with the superintendents of the schools, clubs such as Quartzsite Amateur Radio Association, and the people of Quartzsite to establish a year-long educational plan.
- Heather Caton showed pictures of some of the programs that they have facilitated in the past eight months.
 - Radio Fest
 - Space and radio science programs
 - Radio Science Day
 - PACE
 - VetNet
 - Radio Club
 - Arizona Amateur Radio Association (AZARA)

- Learning about the science of drones, GPS, radio remote control, flight training and operations, engineering, batteries, learning and building electronics, soldering, computers and PowerPoint.
- NASA educational programs

Mr. Anderson reminded everyone that Quartzsite in Motion has had its name changed to MyLaPaz Project with the website MyLaPax.org. He said Quartzsite would be the hub.

Mr. Anderson explained that NASA has tentatively planned contact with the international space station for the week before Christmas. He spoke of his plans for several hundred youths on contact day, hosted by the QIA, with live broadcasts and network TV coverage coming in from Phoenix. He said seven to ten youths would be selected to speak directly with the astronauts as part of the event.

CONSENT AGENDA:

3. **LEDGER OF ACCOUNTS PAID – Consider approval of check series 40351-40371 and 40383-40411 totaling \$97,069.92.**

Council Member Orgeron moved to approve the check series 40351-40371 and 40383-40411 totaling \$97,069.92, and **Council Member Kelley seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

PUBLIC HEARING:

4. **LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION - Conduct hearing and consider recommending approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control of an application for an Alcoholic Beverage License for the Quartzsite Yacht Club located at 1090 W. Main Street, Quartzsite, AZ 85346.**

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing and called for members of the audience to speak. No one approached the podium, and no one spoke. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Orgeron moved to recommend approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control for the application for an alcoholic beverage license for the Quartzsite Yacht Club located at 1090 W. Main Street, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, and **Council Member Kelley seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

5. **MINUTES – Consider approval of the minutes of the Town Council Work Session of May 20, 2016, the Regular Meeting of June 14, 2016, and the Special Meeting of June 16, 2016.**

Council Member Orgeron moved to approve the minutes of the Town Council Work Session on May 20, 2016, the Regular Meeting on June 14, 2016, and the Special Meeting on June 16, 2016, and **Council Member Kelley seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

6. TEN WEST LINK TRANSMISSION PROJECT – Discussion and possible action regarding the Town's official position on the Ten West Link Transmission Project.

Town Manager Miller stated there is a proposed electric transmission line that is approximately 114 miles long, which would run from the Delaney Substation in Maricopa County to the Colorado River Substation, which is to the west of Blythe. He said he had met with the 10 West representatives twice. At the first meeting, the representatives said they had a proposed route that was going to steer well clear of Quartzsite, and that there was an existing transmission line that runs through the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, and they would be following that same path.

Town Manager Miller said he had also spoken with representatives from the BLM. He explained that as part of their study, they have to propose additional alternative routes, and some of those alternative routes that BLM is proposing run right through Quartzsite, or up and around Quartzsite to the north.

Town Manager Miller said the County has been very active about voicing their concerns regarding socioeconomic issues. He said that if the transmission line moves forward, the best option for Quartzsite is going to be for it to follow the existing transmission line that runs through the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge and stays well south of I-10.

Town Manager Miller said the Town has an opportunity because the initial study that the BLM is conducting has a comment period, which would be extended to allow Quartzsite to submit comments formally. He said he would gather the comments, write a letter and send it in the morning.

Town Manger Miller suggested the meeting be opened for public comment.

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

Town Manager Miller said, "This is a letter from Town residents to BLM." He asked Linda Goldberg if it had been independently submitted.

Mrs. Goldberg said the letter had been emailed to BLM that afternoon; she said County consultants, and Supervisors Irwin and Wilson were copied.

There was more discussion about the transmission line, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and protected habitat.

Town Manager Miller said there was a compromise alternative, which was to run the line parallel to I-10, north of Kofa, but right around Gold Nugget, it would immediately take a sharp turn south and connect back into the existing line. He said it would deviate around the Kofa Wildlife Refuge – staying to the western edge of the reserve - and still be a reasonable distance from Quartzsite.

There was a discussion of types of power lines, structures that might be more aesthetically pleasing; 190-foot tall transmission towers; the creation of a dead zone for communication; and tourism affected by having the majestic desert views cluttered.

The Mayor said the problem does not come from the 10 West Transmission Line representatives, but it comes from BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

Council Member Kelley said Johnson Canyon needed to be protected.

Town Manager Miller said the transmission line would be a long-term project.

Mr. Doug Ross stated there would be another comment period, and that the comment period was preliminary. He spoke of the Kofa preserve and the pronghorn antelope; other routes not listed on maps; Johnson Canyon; and the Peace Trail.

Mayor Foster closed the public hearing.

Ms. Goodwin recommended a formal motion for the letter to the BLM.

The Mayor moved to direct Town staff to prepare a response to this in protecting our interests in the desert out there, and **Council Member Kelley seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

7. TENTATIVE BUDGET – Review and consider adoption of the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and proposed Expenditure Limitation for the same year.

Town Manager Miller said that the budget before the Council was an updated version of the budget as presented to the Council at the Work Session held on June 22, 2016.

Town Manager Miller noted the only significant changes to this proposed Tentative Budget was the increase to Police Department staffing that the Council requested and an update to the Police Department budget to reflect that. Those changes include the personnel costs and the associated equipment needed.

The Mayor asked the Council Members if they wanted to see a complete review of the budget, again. No one said yes.

Council Member Orgeron moved to adopt the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and proposed Expenditure Limitation for the same year, and **Council Member Warner seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

8. COUNCIL OFFICE IN TOWN HALL – Discussion regarding the establishment of a Town Hall office for use by the Mayor and Council.

Requested by Mayor Foster

Town Manager Miler said an attempt was made to get some information from other communities of similar size to learn of their offices for the Mayor and Council, but there was no response.

Various possible locations within Town Hall were discussed. Town Manger Miller said it would most likely be the Deputy Town Clerk's office. The Council agreed that it would not direct Town staff while using their office.

9. CHECK SIGNING CONTROLS – Discussion regarding check signing controls, and the possible reassignment of Council Member duties in this regard.

There was a discussion of the current protocol for signing checks, one Council Member signature, and one administrative signature. The availability of Council Members to sign checks was discussed as well as the fact that the bank's practices did not allow for more signers.

There was a review of the current check signers. The discussion ended with the consensus that the current check signers should remain the check signers. The Council Member check signers are Council Member Kelley, Vice Mayor Davidson, and Council Member St. Germain.

10. VOLUNTEERS FOR PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE – Discussion, review and possible appointment of 2 volunteers to the Park & Recreation Committee, and the possible removal of one board member.

Park & Recreation Committee

- Proposed Removal of Justin Simpson from the Park and Recreation Committee.
- Two Vacancies (one due to proposed removal - Justin Simpson)
- Two Volunteers – James "Bubba" White & Joanne Winer

Council Member Orgeron moved to remove Justin Simpson from the Park and Recreation Committee and appoint two volunteers, James "Bubba" White and Joanne Winer to the Park and Recreation Committee. **Vice Mayor Davidson seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- An executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) for discussion or consideration of employment of William Ponce as Chief of Police.

- 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 its position and instruct the Town Attorney regarding the Town's position regarding a contract with William Ponce as Chief of Police.

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: 8:29 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: 8:54 p.m.

Mayor Foster called the regular session back to order at 8:54 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Foster, Vice Mayor Davidson, Council Member Kelley, Council Member Warner, Council Member Orgeron, and Council Member St. Germain appeared by phone.

12. CHIEF OF POLICE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT - Consideration and possible concurrence on an employment agreement with William Ponce as the Town of Quartzsite Chief of Police pursuant to Town Code Section 4-1-2.

Council Member Warner moved to have a consideration and possible concurrence of an employment agreement with William Ponce of the Town of Quartzsite Chief of Police pursuant to Town Code Section 4-1-2, contingent on the successful completion of the background check. **Council Member Kelley seconded** the motion. The vote was five ayes and one nay from Council Member Orgeron. **Motion Passed.**

COMMUNICATIONS:

Reports from the MAYOR on current events.

Mayor Foster spoke briefly of concerns regarding the I-10 Transmission Line.

Reports from the COUNCIL on current events.

None

Reports from the TOWN MANAGER to the Council.

Town Manager Miller said this meeting was his last in Quartzsite. He said his last day would be July 8, 2016. He took the opportunity to say the past two years with the Town felt longer but in a good way. He said he and the Town did not accomplish all the goals that were set, but many gains were made. He said he would miss Quartzsite. He said it had truly been an honor, and he said, thank you.

Mayor Foster said it had been a pleasure working with Mr. Skylor Miller.

Vice Mayor Davidson moved to adjourn, and Council Member Kelley seconded.
The vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.**

ADJOURNMENT: 8:57 p.m.

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 28, 2016, of the Town Council of Quartzsite, Arizona, held on June 28, 2016.

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

DATED this 12th day of July 2016



Tina M. Abriani, Town Clerk

On behalf of the Common Council

Approved:



Ed Foster, Mayor