

Springerville Town Council  
Minutes  
November 16, 2011  
6:00 p.m.

Present: Dan Muth Mayor, Susan Silva Vice Mayor, Connie Hunt and Steve Christensen

Excused: Ron Thebeau

Staff: Steve West Town Manager, Val Cordova Town Clerk, Tim Shaffery Legal Counsel, Mike Nuttall Police Chief, Brent Slade P.W. Dir., Karen Asquith Finance Dir. Sharon Pinckard Communities Services Dir.

Public: Kevin Burk, Becki Christensen Chamber Director.

Mayor Dan Muth called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum present, Councilmember Thebeau excused.

Councilmember Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Participation: None
4. Manager, Council and Chamber Reports:

Town Manager West reminded the council about the work session tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. Reporting that he'll be meeting with Phelps and Greg Cross from the museum tomorrow about the idea of possibility linking the Historical Society's 501C3 to the Casa to try to find methods of financing for next door. Manager West said there would be an airport advisory committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. tomorrow night. He advised the council that he contacted Verizon again about space for a booster antenna out in the Quonset hut area. The town is in contention with some other people but we wanted to make sure there was an offer by the Town.

Mayor Muth reported he received an email from Clint Chandler from Senator Keel's office advising him that the Bill regarding the remediation for the timber products put forward by Senator Kyl made it through on a voice vote but there were some edits. Some of the NEPA Rules will apply but the Bill did go through.

Vice Mayor Silva met with Supervisor Lee, County Attorney Whiting, Supervisor Chris Knopp, Jim Zornes and Pam Baltimore on Tuesday for an exchange of information from each entity.

Councilmember Christensen reported he attended the meeting at the 26 Bars with the Hopi Tribe to talk about their future potential plans for bringing in tourism at the ranch. They asked for suggestions which they were able to give. This session went for a couple of days. They are also trying to start a Boys & Girls Club which they are going to go and help them get it going.

Chamber Director Becki Christensen reported the Chamber has given away \$13,000 of the \$20,000. She said this represents about \$75,000 spent in our area. There were purchases of tires, TV's, guns, and appliances. She suggested writing a thank you letter to National Bank thanking them for doing this. She distributed posters of the events going on during the holidays.

The Chamber Mixer will be at Booga Reds in the morning at 7:00 a.m. and they are working on the White Mountain Jamboree.

Emilio Orona was presented with a 5 year pin and acknowledged for his hard work and dedication by Public Works Director Brent Slade.

Communities Services Director Sharon Pinckard briefed the council on activities at the senior center. She reported she found money to purchase microwaves for the seniors. Ms. Pinckard said she is looking for volunteer Bell Ringers for the holidays. She said they have the Angel Tree again this year for senior Christmas gifts. The Thanksgiving luncheon will be held tomorrow and the Christmas luncheon will be on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. She said they still have funds available for utility assistance but rental assistance funds are gone. She reminded the council they are still taking donations to assist them with funding. The last item she reported on was a break in at the senior center on Monday night. She said a Wii console was taken but found it dumped at the park by one of the public works crew.

Public Works Director Brent Slade reported they have made a lot of progress in the old school and invited the council to go in.

Chief Mike Nuttall said he would be attending Rachel's Challenge at the high school on Thursday explaining that Rachel was one of the first female victims of the Columbine School shooting.

Consent items:

- a. Consider approval of the October 19, 2011 regular town council meeting minutes held at 6:00 p.m.
- b. Consider ratification and approval of the accounts payable for the month of October 2011.

Connie Hunt/Susan Silva motion to approve consent items 5a – 5b.

Vote:	Ayes:	Dan Muth
		Susan Silva
		Steve Christensen
		Connie Hunt

6. Old Business: None

7. SMAAC Reappointments. Reappointment of Chuck Corey, term expiring 12/31/2014, Phil Hanson term expiring 12/31/2014, Candy Cook terming 12/31/2014 Larry Hill term expiring 12/31/2013, Doug Henderson, Jr. term expiring 12/31/2013 and Kimberly Jackson term expiring 12/31/2013

Susan Silva/Steve Christensen motion to reappoint Chuck Corey, Phil Hanson, Candy Cook, Larry Hill, Doug Henderson, Jr., and Kimberly Jackson.

Vote:	Ayes:	Dan Muth
		Susan Silva
		Steve Christensen
		Connie Hunt

8. NACOG letter regard Pray Ban: Discussion and action regarding a letter from NACOG banning Prayer before congregate meals served at Senior Centers.

Mayor Muth said this item is going to be on the NACOG agenda in February. He said this came about due to an event at a senior center in Chino Valley where several people in attendance had a prayer over the meal. Another person in attendance objected to the prayer and wrote a letter to the Freedom from Religion Foundation whose attorneys then mailed out a series of letters to NACOG. Mary Beals Luedtka s Director of NACOG Area Agency on Aging sent letters to Senior Center Directors quoting several Codes of Federal Regulations. Mayor Muth said he was concerned with the paragraph demanding that all centers cease prayers before serving meals. The prayer was instigated by people in attendance and not by senior center staff. He and others at the meeting felt this letter was out of line and it was a knee jerk reaction. He asked for direction from the council for the next NACOG meeting. He said his concern is that the principle of division of Church and State stems from State sponsored religion, and not keeping religion out of everything. If someone is objectionable to a group of people who choose to exercise their rights, they too have the choice not to participate and they don't have the choice to stifle others from exercising their right to do this. The council members agreed with the Mayor.

9. First reading of Ordinance 2011-005 by Mayor Dan Muth "An ordinance of the Town of Springerville, Arizona, adopting Section 3 of Resolution #503, adopted March 2, 1993 reverting the zoning of real property formerly known as Wenima Village Project from R1-7 to Agricultural (AG) zoning designation; and establishing an effective date:

Vice Mayor Susan Silva declared a conflict of interest.

Town Manager West explained this was just changing the zoning by ordinance instead of by resolution.

10. Adjournment:

Connie Hunt/Susan Silva motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

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Dan Muth, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Springerville Town Council in regular session on Wednesday, November 16, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2011.

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Town Clerk