

Springerville Town Council
Meeting
September 7, 2011
6:00 p.m.

Council: Mayor Dan Muth, Councilor's Connie Hunt, Susan Silva and Ron Thebeau

Staff: Steve West Town Manager, Val Cordova Town Clerk, Mike Nuttall Police Chief and Sharon Pinckard Communities Services Dir.

Public: Kevin Burk, Ron Cavanaugh. Darlene Maloy, Stacy Finch, Karen Warnick Reporter WMI, Steve Christensen, Becki Christensen Chamber Director, Angela Romero and Geneva Honea with Apache County Elections Department.

1. Mayor Muth called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. with a quorum present, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Participation: None
4. Manager, Council and Chamber Reports:

Town Manager West said the report covered most of last month's activities but wanted to report that Tony Kyle would like to give a presentation to both councils at a joint meeting. Mayor Holaway asked if Tuesday, September 20th at 6:00 p.m. would be okay with Springerville.

Councilmember Hunt reported the Coalition has several ideas each month. They would like to designate the week of October 10th as Good Deed Week and would like to encourage everyone to have block parties and would like to remind everyone to support Veteran's Day. They are having discussions about Christmas activities.

Mayor Muth said he attended the retirement get together for Tom Malone here at town hall with excellent food served. He was reminded that the fire department would like to remind the council that the fire department meets every Wednesday night and would like to encourage the council to attend.

Chamber Director Becky Christensen reported they had the event at Lyman Lake over the past weekend and everyone who attended had a great time. Next year they are going to be looking for a cooler place to have the event. The chamber is going to present a Christmas Festival from December 1st through the 18th. They will gather all of the activities taking place in the community on one flyer. The parade will be on December 10th and from December 11th through the 18th there will be a lighted walk. Trees will be lighted and businesses will have an opportunity to have a lighted display along the route. They will be partnering with the Town of Springerville to facilitate the ease of ease of people getting in and out. Ms. Christensen also reported there are several new businesses opening. The Rusty Cactus will be moving into the former Joe & Heathers and "The Roost" an Italian restaurant and a Candy Shop and Boutique. She reported that Tony Kyle will be here on the 20th and meeting at 7:30am with the Steering Committee. She turned the meeting over to Steve Christensen to report on the Boys and Girls Club.

Steve Christensen reported the Boys & Girls Club officially acquired the old swimming pool and they will be forming a construction committee and hope to begin an aggressive campaign to renovate.

Connie Hunt
Susan Silva
Ron Thebeau

7. Park Projects:

Councilmember Silva said she would like to put the \$30,000 into finishing a project around town hall complex. The front of the building needs to be enhanced, sod, handicapped entrance, chip sealed parking lot, and a front door visitors can enter.

Manager West explained that Phelps Wilkins drew up a plan of the front of the building. He pulled the sidewalks into a V shape to make two access points. The wall stayed where it was but it was enhanced and the rest was landscaped.

Councilmember Hunt suggested better flow of the interior of the building and design and a ramada in the yard and suggested making a master plan to work from.

Councilmember Thebeau said he was in favor of parks and if there was any money left we could give it to the Boys and Girls Club.

Manager West reviewed the suggested projects they named; landscaping, chip seal, looking at the park, the front of the building, design of internal space, rough master plan, ramada, sectioning off a play area for kids, putting in a barbeque pit large enough for big events, moving the back ramada from the park and moving it here including public restrooms and making a master plan.

Councilmember Thebeau added playground equipment. He also noted that we should look for grants that we could get sidewalks, street lights and things to benefit the citizens.

8. Apache County Donation Request:

Ron Thebeau/Susan Silva motion to approve \$1,000 to support the Apache County Fair.

Vote: Ayes: Dan Muth
 Connie Hunt
 Susan Silva
 Ron Thebeau

9. Tourism Tax Request:

Connie Hunt/Ron Thebeau a motion to approve \$2,000 for Apache County ATV Rough Riders.

Discussion: Councilmember Silva complimented the ATV organization for being so well organized and self sufficient however said she had concerns with established events asking for monetary support and making a profit when the tourism tax money should be used as start up money for new events.

Ms. Maloy said this year was a hard year due to the fire. They were down a hundred riders this year due to cancellations with the economy and the Wallow fire. She said last year was the first year they may have made a profit but the first \$10,000 goes to the newspapers. She also said they have been fighting with the Forest Service to allow them in and finally got a special use permit. She invited the council to their Friday night dinner and the events.

Vote: Ayes: Dan Muth
 Connie Hunt
 Susan Silva
 Ron Thebeau

10. All Mail In Ballot Election: Discussion regarding holding an all mail ballot election for the coming 2012 elections.

Apache County Elections Director Angela Romero and Geneva Honea, Voter Registration Supervisor gave a presentation on the benefits of holding an all mail in ballot election. Ms. Romero explained that there would have to be council approval to conduct an all mail in election and if approved would have to be precleared through the Department of Justice. They reviewed the advantages of holding an all mail in election saying it would eliminate training of poll workers on equipment and procedures and there would only be an Early Board on election night, no provisional ballot envelopes, no lines at the polls on election day, no identification requirements and there would likely be an increase in the number of registered voters voting. Ms. Romero explained there would a post card mailing to all eligible voters notifying them they would be receiving a ballot in the mail advising them not to throw the ballot out when it comes.

The costs for all mail in ballots were broken down between the County Records Dept, for the verification of ballots, signatures, mailing and the costs associated with ballots, i.e. processing, printing, advertisements for an estimated \$4,121.00 not including the postage for ballots mailed back as they can't predict how many will be returned. Ms. Romero said there is not a significant difference between Polling Place Elections or an All Mail Election.

Karen Warnick asked if they were aware the US Postal Service is fixing to close down and said they might have to make alternative plans. Ms Honea said they have to follow direction from the Secretary of State's Office and they as yet have not.

Connie Hunt/Susan Silva motion to approve an all mail ballot election for the 2012 Primary and General Elections.

Councilmember Thebeau said he was opposed to this and feels this disenfranchises voters. He said this system has worked since 1948. He doesn't know where the boxes are going when they leave here. He didn't feel there was transparency.

Mayor Muth said he likes the idea of voting in privacy of his home. We're moving toward an information age where this type of voting or electronic will become an eventuality. The voter of today and the information age he felt we were disenfranchising voters because of the lack of convenience of voting. Voter turnout is the only way that elections can get done, people get elected and government can move forward. If we see and 30 percent voter turnout we've accomplished what we want to do.

Councilmember Silva said we're not getting the voter participation and we're not getting the people to care enough to come to the polls to vote. Springerville used to have a 50 to 60% voter turnout.

Ms. Honea replied that she verifies all signatures and has attended numerous classes on signature verification. They are now linked to a state wide system that checks for deaths and receives a report and has not had any dead people voting. Ballots are carried by two people to election central. There will still be voting centers available for people to come in and Val will still have early voting available and voting at the County Annex.

Mayor Muth called for a vote:

Vote: Ayes: Dan Muth
 Connie Hunt
 Susan Silva

 Nays: Ron Thebeau

11. Executive Session:

Manager West asked the council to table the executive session advising them that our legal counsel is unable to attend tonight due to surgery.

Susan Silva/Connie Hunt motion to table this item.

Vote: Ayes: Dan Muth
 Connie Hunt
 Susan Silva
 Ron Thebeau

12. Adjournment:

Susan Silva/Connie Hunt motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Vote: Ayes: Dan Muth
 Connie Hunt
 Susan Silva
 Ron Thebeau

Dan Muth, Mayor

ATTEST:

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, September 7, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 14th day of September, 2011.

Town Clerk