



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Attendees: STAFF PRESENT: Heidi Wink- Interim Town Manager/
Finance Director, Kelsi Miller - Town Clerk, Dayson Merrill- Chief
of Police, James Kempt- Police Sergeant, Robert Pena Jr. - Fire
Chief

**Springerville Town Council Chambers - 418 E. Main St.
Springerville, AZ 85938**

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Springerville Town Council and to the general public that the Council will hold a meeting open to the public at the Springerville Town Hall, 418 East Main Street, Springerville, Arizona. The Town Council reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes Section 38-431.03 (A)(1)(3)(4) and (7) for legal consultation on any of the following agenda items.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: 6:00 P.M.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Minutes:

Mayor Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Brian Carpenter led the pledge of allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL:

Minutes:

The Town Clerk completed a Roll Call:
Council Llamas - Present, Vice-Mayor MacKenzie - Present, Mayor Hanson - Present,
Councilor Davis- Present, Councilor Reidhead - Present
A quorum is present.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Minutes:

Terry Shove of Springerville addressed the Council and public. She updated that Little

League basketball season is half over. It has been a great season with about 150 kids from Round Valley and about 60 kids from St. Johns. High School basketball will be over next week, they will have 4 games. There are also wrestling matches. The public may come to the games next week. She is helping with an activity for the eighth graders. She will take about 40 students to the district office to do a virtual tour of ASU. Then they will go around to a variety of local businesses to see what it is like to work in that industry including the Springerville Police Department, Springerville Fire Department, and a number of other businesses. They will finish the day at the Udall Room for a College 101 seminar.

Brian Carpenter a Commissioner on Planning and Zoning as well as a volunteer at the Senior Center addressed the Council and public. He reported Sharon has retired and enjoying retirement. They are excited to have Robin as the new director. They are starting the process of opening the Senior Center. Starting next month, they will be open for Senior Hour on Tuesdays from 8:00 to 9:30 am. Some of the Title Five workers will return next month. Transportation Services are still staying busy taking seniors to the stores, doctor appointments and once a month trips to Show Low. Planning and Zoning will be having their internal election at the next meeting. He thanked Terry Shove for helping with rehoming a dog after the owner passed away, he thanked all the Springerville departments for all they are doing through these difficult times. Terri Candelaria the owner of Springerville Smoke on Main Street addressed the Council and public. She said they own a couple of homes in Springerville and her son and grandson are full time residence here. She appreciates the opportunity to speak tonight, she wants to specifically address adult use marijuana. As a local business member, she is invested in being part of this economic growth in down town revitalization. They want young people to be able to stay in this town, make a living, and be able to raise their families here. She stated there are two recreational marijuana permits available for Apache County in a lottery that ends March 9. The Springerville Zoning Ordinances only address medical marijuana. They exclude business orders from applying for the permit. She is requesting Zoning Ordinances be reviewed and changed to include adult use marijuana and make it possible for business owners on main street be able to use their properties for such business. She feels marijuana is now legal, it is generating economic growth in communities across the state. She went over the dollar sales and tax amounts of medical marijuana in Arizona in 2020, and anticipated growth in sales for 2021. She feels Springerville could do a million dollars in taxes with a 16% consumer excise tax. The retail sale of marijuana is consistent with the 2015-2025 Springerville General Plan. It would increase the tax base, provide jobs, meet public service needs, it could fund many Town needs without impacting the residential taxpayer. She is asking the Town to make the Zoning changes quickly and not let this opportunity expire.

Larry Hill a 13-year resident of the area address the Council and public. He is very active at the Airport. There has been an issue with a public use restroom at the Springerville Airport. He wanted to thank Sean the Airport Manager for working with him and getting with Heidi the Interim Town Manager in helping resolve the problem

that has been ongoing for many years. The problem is well solved and he is pleased. Joseph Jarvis addressed the Council and public. He said his reasoning for being present tonight is to push back on inaccurate statements that have been circulated by members of the community. He read a script from the Book of Exodus. He believes one of more individuals are borne false witness against him and continue to do so. He calls on them to stop now. He said they will be caught in lies and he is preparing his legal recourse against them. He calls on everyone to not spread inaccuracies. He explained inaccurate statements ruins trust. Without trust it will cause struggles in meeting objectives. He is obtaining witnesses of community members to confirm a statement that includes he acted in accordance as the Town Manager, he acted in accordance with the direction he received from the Council in public meetings, his actions were completed in a professional manner with integrity, as a result of his leadership many beneficial projects were completed, he spent time strengthening relationships to benefit the town, he strove for open communication, he made decisions after discussing them with the management team, and he responded to the public quickly and provided them the information. He feels his success is a result of his hard work and the assistance of heavenly father. He worked with a great team including Council, the management team, and the frontline staff. Since April 3, 2019, he has been worried about Springerville's future unless a diverse economy is created. He asks the Council to lead Springerville into a diverse economy. He is here as a resource to help the Town, if he can be of assistance please contact him. He is the best resource to affirm his actions, comments, and intentions. He would not expect anyone to trust him due to the position he held and religion. He explained when he researched a topic, he would learn about it from multiple sources and expects fellow community members to do so also. He asked if the Council has any questions for him? Council did not have any questions. His final comment was that he intended to put an item on the agenda regarding the roof for Town Hall and the Museum. He sees that has been removed. He hopes it will be on a future agenda quickly.

Kay Dyson thanked the Council for allowing this public participation. She said on January 20th she presented Council with a moratorium petition that was handed to each Council member due to the fact that public participation was not allowed. She is here to update Council. She said she appreciates Heidi and Tim for supplying her with the AZ Department of Water Resources analysis of water conditions in our LCR. She said from what she can tell it is not looking good. That along with the Forest Services information on the drought monitoring. She feels it is not a good outlook here for water. Three issues were addressed on the moratorium, 66 people signed that petition all over the town. The first issue was legal issues regarding conflicts regarding the Mayor and Councilor Llamas voting on items and employment with WMF, zoning ordinances being ignored specifically regarding distances of homes, posting notices, and FAA land. It looks like phase 2 isn't happening. How will this affect WMF? Unless we help find them another location. Resource and environmental issues have not been resolved. She is still very concerned about water. Groundwater analysis is where we need to focus. She feels there has been a breach of faith. She is here to ask for the

resignation of Mayor Hanson and Councilman Llamas. She read the Oath of Office that the Councilmembers took. She feels they did not support the laws, bear true faith and allegiance, and faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of Mayor and Council. There was no neighborhood meeting, but there was a public meeting. She suggests they step up and step down and allow the other people to appoint people that will faithfully and impartially discharge their duties.

Kelsi Miller read a letter submitted for Public Participation from Vipul Shah. Vipul expressed he is a stakeholder in the future of Springerville as an investor. His objectives are community development and preventing money from flowing out of our area. He encourages and supports retail sales of recreational marijuana in Springerville. He feels it would improve tourism. He explained how increases in tourism will stimulate other areas of our town. He commented on the location and zoning regulations and his suggestion of changing distances to 100' instead of 200'. He explained how this will trigger wide ranges of economic growth through a larger tax base. In closing he thanked the Council for an opportunity to be heard.

4. COUNCIL, MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS:

a. Mayor & Council Reports: Summary Updates on committee meetings.

Minutes:

Vice-Mayor MacKenzie reported he had a Blue Hills meeting on Tuesday, They are purchasing the land they have been on in Eagar. The owner is ready to sell that property.

Mayor Hanson reported he has resigned from White Mountains Flower, which never started. He reiterated he was never compensated by them and had signed a letter of intent to work for them but never actually started.

Councilor Davis reported he attended the Pioneer Irrigation annual meeting. One reservoir is about 2/3 full, another is half full, and River is very low. This is decent considering how little moisture we have had.

b. Staff Reports: Summary Updates

Minutes:

Police Chief Dayson Merrill addressed the Council he thanked them for the support they give to the Police Department. He apologized for not getting a staff report into the packet. It will be added to the March agenda. He updated that the GOHS grant has an extension, meaning funds will be added. A new employee will be starting March 1st. The department is sad to lose an amazing employee who will be retiring on February 28. Mayor Hanson asked if there will be a retirement party. Chief Merrill said the officer does not want a party, but we have a few things for him. Councilor Llamas asked how the cadets in the academy are doing? Chief Merrill said they are doing well, he had an email from the Director received today to read to the Council. The email stated the entire class had passed the physical fitness testing, in fact, as a group they tested higher than they have ever had. Academically they are where they should be.

c. Interim Town Manager Heidi Wink: Summary Updates & presentation(s)

Minutes:

Mayor Hanson welcomed Heidi Wink, he announced for those who do not know Heidi is serving as Interim Town Manager. She reported Mr. Shaffery has submitted a letter of resignation to the Mayor and Council. He plans on retiring. He will help us through the end of April and if we need help finding another attorney he will be more than willing to assist with that. Mayor Hanson asked when will we advertise this? Mrs. Wink said as soon as Council directs staff to, they agreed staff should start advertising. They asked if staff has sent anything out regarding a Town Manager. She reported we have not yet. He asked if she is comfortable with it right now, she said yes. He said he brings it up because the end of the fiscal year is coming up and she will be very busy. Heidi explained we need to put together a job description for the Town Manager before we can advertise.

5. CONSENT ITEMS:

Minutes:

ACTION: Robert MacKenzie/ Shelly Reidhead motioned to approve consent items 5a, 5b, 5c as presented.

DISCUSSION: None

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

- a. Consider approval of the January 20, 2021 Regular Town Council minutes.**
- b. Consider approval of the January 26, 2021 Special Council Meeting minutes.**
- c. Consider ratification and approval of accounts payable register from 1/13/2021 through 02/09/2021.**

OLD BUSINESS

6. COVID-19:

Minutes:

DISCUSSION: Councilor Llamas continued to remind everyone to take care of themselves.

NEW BUSINESS

7. PROJECT AWARD FOR CDBG PARK IMPROVEMENTS:

Minutes:

ACTION: Robert MacKenzie/ Shelly Reidhead motioned to award the bid and approve payment to McCauley Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$126,654.00, authorize change order authority to the interim Town Manager for 10% of the bid amount, and authorize the interim Town Manager to execute the necessary documents.

DISCUSSION: None

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

8. RESOLUTION 2021-R005: LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT:

Minutes:

ACTION: Ruben Llamas / Robert MacKenzie move to adopt Resolution 2021-R005, regarding a lease-purchase agreement with Zions Bank for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus equipment for the fire department.

DISCUSSION: None

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 1

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Minutes:

ACTION: Robert MacKenzie / Shelly Reidhead motioned to adjourn at 6:32 p.m.

DISCUSSION: None

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

Members of the public who only want to provide written comments can express their comments by emailing the Town Clerk at kmiller@springervilleaz.gov to be read during the call to the public. All comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.): The Town of Springerville intends to comply with A.D.A. If you are physically challenged or disabled and need special accommodations to participate in this town meeting, please contact the Town Clerk at (928) 333-2656 ext. 224 forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting to arrange necessary accommodations.