



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 6:00 pm

**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 Reidhead called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Mike Nuttall led the pledge of allegiance.

2. INVOCATION:

Minutes:

The invocation was offered by Rev. Anselm Amadi.

3. ROLL CALL:

Minutes:

The Town Clerk completed the Roll Call.

Present: Shelly Reidhead, Mayor; Richard Davis, Vice-Mayor; Douglas Henderson, Councilor;
Donald Scott, Councilor; Florencio Lozoya, Councilor

A quorum is present.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Minutes:

Terry Shove addressed the Mayor and Council. She updated that the school bond passed. This will significantly help the schools. She updated on Little League basketball skills camps that took place the past two weeks. Registration for the regular LL basketball season should open next

week. She invited everyone to the Presbyterian Church community Thanksgiving service on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. This is a major fundraiser for Round Valley Cares. They are running low on funds this year and unable to offer any more utility assistance. They were also only able to purchase 200 turkeys, last year it was closer to 400. She reminded everyone that RV Cares is a qualified organization for a state tax deduction. Lastly, she reminded everyone that the Reason for the Season concert will be on the first Monday in December. This is a community way of kicking off the Christmas season.

Henry Lever a resident of Springerville with the organization You Are the Power addressed the Mayor and Council. The dispute between the Town and the Hightowers has gone on for a month now regarding Joe Wood living in his trailer. He feels the Town has escalated this situation with the Police Department in attempt to intimidate those who spoke out regarding this issue. He explained Richie Reese has been trespassed from the homes of town employees and Town Hall for his social media post about the "kill dozer". The Police Department also went to his parent's house asking for him. He feels this is all based on rumor and the real motivation is clear that they are being targeted for exercising their First Amendment right. He said he will not stop and will continue the fight. He expressed his goal is still to save Grandpa but they will also exploit corruption and the first gift was given to him when one of the Mayors "goons" was arrested for being a pedophile. He pointed out the School Resource Officer being on the agenda right after that is interesting. He feels the town started this game and don't go cry to the papers when he is better at it.

Sarah Hightower addressed the Mayor and Council. She explained she is here because she feels the town has slandered her and her husband in the paper. She expressed she found a couple of reporters she feels are fair, and if she was lying she wouldn't be fighting. She brought a witness to the phone conversation in dispute. She feels if Mayor Reidhead was a true witness she would know exactly how it went. She asked a person who did not state their name for the record to make a statement. He expressed he heard the call and he heard something along the lines of profanity toward Sarah. Sarah feels the town is coming at them using the White Mountain Independent and she will fight this Council. She was asked when she called a Councilmember to put in a formal complaint to the Town Clerk. She did. She warned the audience if they ever file a complaint they could be slandered by the town. She does not like this leadership. She next addressed Terry in the audience and said she tried to take the right steps and was told there is no special permits. They are now on the agenda for December 12.

Nephi Hightower addressed the Mayor and Council. He said he sent a follow-up email to Manager Rasmussen that ended with "What say you?" and he has not received a response back and he is unsure if the Council saw that email. He said this is his family, life, and his town.

5. COUNCIL, MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS:

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

Minutes:

Mayor Reidhead reported she attended a meeting for the coal transition last week. They are working with grant writers. She next reminded everyone as we enter into the holiday season to be mindful of our neighbors and remember we have a lot of needs in our community.

Councilor Doug Henderson reported on a Public Safety Personnel Retirement System

meeting, Officer Harrison was accepted into the system.

Councilor Florencio Lozoya reported he attended a meeting in Eagar. They had a lot of toys and will need help with their Christmas event. They are looking for two more elves to help hand out thousands of toys.

b. Manager Tim Rasmussen: Summary Updates & presentation(s)

Minutes:

Manager Rasmussen updated on recently accomplished tasks with staff; The Cushman inventory book has been completed, Council Chambers received a new roof, Public Works updated the emergency manual for "water", the financial audit has been completed, new controls were installed at the Booster station, and the taxes being assessed on two Town properties are being corrected. He next updated on tasks and projects that staff are working on. The museum is getting new doors, meters and SCADA will be going on the water wells, staff is still working on GIS, finance is contacting everyone who was in our firefighter pension plan to cash out, staff is working with Loven Construction on architectural plans for the new RVPD, we are working on an impound lot behind Town Hall, he is training Stormy in the P & Z position, he is working with Manny on upcoming airport projects, updating the employee manual, and the washroom remodel at the community center, and staff is getting quotes on the community centers new roof.

c. Staff Reports: Summary Updates

Minutes:

Public Works Director, Robert Pena addressed the Mayor and Council. Council thanked Public Works for putting out the flags on Veterans Day. Robert explained he invited his staff to the meeting to help put faces to names, explain what they do, and remind the Council they are always welcome down at Public Works. Theryl Dillon is the newest addition to PW, he brings a lot of knowledge and experience. He introduced Jeremy King, who briefly left employment with Springerville and has returned. We are happy to have Jeremy back and he is currently our grease trap inspector. Samantha Dillion is the admin assistant, she is very valuable and helps with ADEQ and other necessary paperwork. Dan Boyle is not only the park guy, he operates heavy equipment and he is also one of the hardest workers on the crew. Tim Mohning is primarily the building maintenance but also helps with water, wastewater, and a CDL driver. Ray Barraza is not only the onsite wastewater treatment plant operator, but the glue that holds the crew together. Ray has been with us for 13 years. Kevin Plympton is the town mechanic, but he also helps with water, equipment operation, CDL driver, and is a leader for the crew. He has been with Springerville for over 9 years. Lastly, he introduced Fred Otero the recently appointed Foreman for the crew. Fred has been the wastewater treatment plant operator, heavy equipment operator, grease trap inspector, and supply manager. As a foreman, he has been up to the task and willing to do what needs to be done. He updated on the trees that were removed on South Mountain . He explained he understood the public's concern, however as they cut those trees they found that two were very rotten. Lastly, he updated that they will be decorating the town for the holidays prior to the Christmas light parade.

Kelsi Miller the Town Clerk updated on the progress of the website. It is on track and should

go live in March. Additionally, they have to convert the Town logo to SVG or Vector File. When doing so, if the Council would like to make any changes to the logo now would be an ideal time.

6. CONSENT ITEMS:

Minutes:

ACTION: Motioned by Vice-Mayor Richard Davis, seconded by Council Donald Scott to approve consent items 6a and 6b as presented.

DISCUSSION: None

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

- a. Consider approval of the October 18, 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes.
- b. Consider ratification and approval of the accounts payable register from October 11, 2023 through November 6, 2023.

7. SPRINGERVILLE RIB THROWDOWN UPDATE:

Minutes:

Mike Nuttall with Better World BBQ and the Springerville Rib Throwdown gave an update on the 2023 event. They had 34 teams this year, so a few less than the prior year. Twenty-three teams cooked for "Peoples Choice" this year and they did not run out of ribs. They had roughly 840 racks of ribs. They again did the special raffle for teams that bring receipts from shopping locally. Teams spent roughly \$8,400 in Town in 24 hours. With funds from the event, they were able to donate \$7,500 to local charities and donations to the police department. The biggest complaint they received with the new location was the slope. Next year they plan to presale tickets to avoid the long line and add additional vendors. He has contacted the food network production company. This is Arizona's longest-running BBQ contest. He updated on the giant raffle stocking and the success of having teams bring a toy. They are also looking at putting together a food truck/vendor event and have talked with Western Drug regarding a location. He will be going to Stafford in March to help with their event. Lastly, he updated he hopes to get more people involved with helping hold the event so when he is ready to turn it over he can. Council thanked him for putting on a successful event.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

8. PLANNING AND ZONING DIRECTOR:

Minutes:

DISCUSSION: Manager Rasmussen explained he and a hiring board interviewed for this position. Per the Town Code, this is a council-appointed position. He is making the recommendation to appoint Stormy Palmer.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilor Donald Scott and seconded by Vice-Mayor Richard Davis to appoint Stormy Palmer to the Planning and Zoning Administrator.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

9. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT UPDATE WITH AZ DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE:

Minutes:

ACTION: Motioned by Councilor Donald Scott, seconded by Vice-Mayor Richard Davis to approve the IGA with the Arizona Department of Revenue for the collection of taxes.

DISCUSSION: None

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

10. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR STUDENT RESOURCE OFFICER:

Minutes:

DISCUSSION: Manager Rasmussen explained he is asking they remove this item from the agenda and do not consider it due to staffing and the recommendation made by Chief Merrill to not move forward at this time. Council agreed.

ACTION: None

11. DECEMBER MEETING:

Minutes:

DISCUSSION: Council agreed that unless something pressing comes forward they would like to cancel the meeting. In the event they do need to hold a December meeting, they agree they can do one earlier in the month.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilor Donald Scott, seconded by Councilor Doug Henderson to not approve December's Council Meeting to be a special meeting.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

12. TOWN MANAGER GOAL SETTING:

Minutes:

DISCUSSION: Council discussed the need to set goals for the Town Manager. They discussed doing so during a work session.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilor Donald Scott, seconded by Councilor Douglas Henderson to table this item until a Work Session in January at 5:00 p.m. prior to the Regular Council Meeting.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

13. NOTICE OF CLAIM A. WRYE:

Minutes:

ACTION: Motioned by Vice-Mayor Richard Davis, seconded by Councilor Donald Scott to enter into executive session at 6:39 p.m.

Council reconvened back into Regular Session at 7:01 p.m.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

14. ADJOURNMENT:

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Shelly Reidhead, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and copy of the minutes of the Springerville Town Council in a Regular Meeting on _____. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2023

_____. Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk

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 or summarized during the call to the public. All comments must be submitted by 12:00 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.