



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Attendees: Town Manager Tim Rasmussen, Town Clerk Kelsi Miller, Town Attorney Brandan Kavanagh, Public Works Director Robert Pena, Public Works Kevin Plympton, Chief of Police Dayson Merrill, Officer Amaya, Officer Harrison

**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 6:04 p.m.

Terry Shove led the pledge of allegiance.

2. INVOCATION:

Minutes:

Robert Pena offered the invocation.

3. ROLL CALL:

Minutes:

The Town Clerk completed 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:

The Town Clerk reminded the Council that written comments can be submitted to be read or summarized during public participation. In summary, we received well over 200 emails in the last two days in support of Mr. Wood living in his RV on the property of Sarah and Nephi Hightower, and some just hate mail/threats. Council was invited to come review these emails at any time with the Manager or Clerk.

Terry Shove addressed the Mayor and Council. She updated that it is almost Little League Basketball season and skills camps will start soon. She explained that she is the chairman of Planning and Zoning. She reminded everyone that there is a process that does not include sending hate mail to Town staff. If someone desires to change the Town Code, they should meet with the P & Z Director to put together a proposal of the code change to bring to the Planning and Zoning Commission as a discussion item. After the commission has reviewed and offered feedback the change would be written in legal form and would receive a legal review. It could then be considered. Sending over 200 emails of hate mail is not how to make a change.

Henry Level addressed the Mayor and Council on behalf of You Are The Power regarding the issues between the Town Manager and the Hightowers with regard to Sarah's grandpa Joe Wood living in an RV on their property. He further expressed Mr. Wood elderly veteran who has earned the dignity that comes with privacy. He feels Mr. Rasmussen is insisting on removing him from this living situation and lacks decency. He further explained what You Are The Power organization does. Thanks to You Are The Power getting involved, Henry said this issue has been seen by over 250,000 people within the last 48 hours. He feels people are disgusted by how this issue has been handled and the facts of this case are no one has complained that Mr. Wood and his RV are a nuisance, or pose any threat or problem. The Town Manager has initiated this issue where there wasn't one before. He feels the Ordinance creates a crime where there is no victim. He feels Tim should have talked to the Hightowers and figured out a resolution instead of threats and comments. He feels Tim is claiming to be the bullied public servant, Henry feels Tim himself is the bully and this is a personal issue. You Are The Power will continue to highlight these behaviors if they continue, let's come to a solution and fix this ordinance.

5. COUNCIL, MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS:

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

Minutes:

Mayor Reidhead thanked the police department for all they do. She reported on Fall Fest last weekend and that Marcie Bafford and Public Works did a great job. She next reported on the Daughters of the American Revolution event for the Madonna of the Trail, they plan to return in 5 years for the 100-year dedication. She briefed on the success of the blessing box and thanked everyone for donating to it. She lastly reminded everyone that we are in uncertain times and as a community we need to plan ahead and have things in order. As a community, we need to have plans in place for tough times.

Councilor Henderson reported he attended a meeting with Public Works on getting radio water meters.

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

Minutes:

Manager Rasmussen informed the Council that we have interviews on Monday for a Planning and Zoning Director. The Town received the plans back from the ICC for Maverick and we have sent that feedback to Maverick for review. Construction at White Mountain Regional Medical Center is going well. He reminded them that tomorrow is the employee BBQ. Lastly, he let them know the Town of Clifton has invited them to the 150-year celebration of the Town being founded.

c. Staff Reports: Summary Updates

Minutes:

Robert Pena the Public Works Director reported they have been and will continue to meet with companies regarding radio water meters. They want to make sure they look at all options before choosing what type of meters they would like. Next he reported interviews were conducted for the two open positions at public works, those have now been filled. Lastly, he reported after 19 years of hard work with public works, Fred Otero has been promoted to Foreman.

Dayson Merrill, the Chief of Police addressed the Mayor and Council. He thanked them for their continued support. He next thanked Mike Nuttall with Better World BBQ for the donation of tourniquets for patrol officers to carry as a life-saving tool. He next gave his stats for the year. He updated that they were requested to have a presence at the homecoming dance and other school events. He attended the Arizona Chiefs of Police conference. Next, he updated his staff they have 7 officers, 7 volunteers, 2 cadets currently in the academy, and looking at sending 2 more to the academy. Chief Merrill next explained that the school contacted the Town regarding a grant for a Student Resource Officer. He explained how the grant would work and that they would work for the Town of Springerville, Round Valley Police Department, and for 9 months out of the year they would work at the school and the Town would seek reimbursement for their hours at the school from the school. He discussed the amount of calls they currently get for the schools and how this could be a good thing for the community. We have an officer possibly interested in this. Next, he said he had not heard back from the Governor's office regarding the K9 grant.

6. CONSENT ITEMS:

Minutes:

ACTION: Motioned by Councilor Douglas Henderson, seconded by Vice-Mayor Davis to approve consent items 6a, 6b, and 6c as presented.

DISCUSSION: None

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

- a. Consider approval of the September 13, 2023 Special Council Meeting minutes.**
- b. Consider approval of the September 20, 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes.**
- c. Consider ratification and approval of the accounts payable register from September 12, 2023 through October 10, 2023.**

7. PRESENTATION BY ARIZONA ALPINE TRAIL:

Minutes:

PRESENTATION: Jerry Smith with the Arizona Alpine Trail addressed the Mayor and Council. He explained this project is a work in progress. Since the last time they presented, they have been awarded a grant of \$364,000 for a master plan design. They have found an engineering firm to start working on this. The grant is set up where they must pay the engineers and then apply for reimbursement. The trail would be 750 miles from Payson to Hannagan Meadows, with trails that would allow people to come into town for food and gas. This will primarily be on already existing trails and forest roads, they would just be connecting them and trying to keep people off of the highways. This could be an economic boom for towns along the trail. The trail comes about 5 miles from Springerville. The last time they presented they asked for two things, a letter of support for this project that will help them with grants etc, and \$1 per person by population so roughly \$2,000. He reminded the Council they denied a support letter and any funds for the project at the June meeting. He clarified that they will have parking areas in town but have no intent of campgrounds.

OLD BUSINESS

8. LETTER OF SUPPORT:

Minutes:

DISCUSSION: Councilor Scott expressed he feels this could be good for our businesses and help with our tourism revenues.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilor Donald Scott, seconded by Councilor Florencio Lozoya to initiate a letter of support for the Arizona Alpine Trail, Inc.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

9. RESOLUTION 2023-R008:

Minutes:

DISCUSSION: Becki Christensen, the director of the Springerville Eagar Regional Chamber of Commerce addressed the Mayor and Council. She explained that the Destination Marketing Organization designation is for the AZ Office of Tourism. They will split paying for some marketing 50/50. She briefed them on the upcoming advertisements they will have in the Road Runner on the Coronado Trail. She added if Springerville would like to be involved in choosing the marketing material, Council can be. It can be in print or digital form.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilor Donald Scott, seconded by Councilor Florencio Lozoya to approve Resolution 2023-R008 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SPRINGERVILLE, ARIZONA, DESIGNATING THE SPRINGERVILLE – EAGAR REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS THE OFFICIAL DESTINATION MARKETING ORGANIZATION (DMO) FOR THE PURPOSE OF COORDINATING TOURISM PROMOTION WITH THE ARIZONA OFFICE OF TOURISM (AOT), AND DESIGNATING AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE A DMO AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF SPRINGERVILLE .

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS

10. BULK WATER:

Minutes:

Vive-Mayor Richard Davis recused himself from this item.

DISCUSSION: Manager Rasmussen explained in the past the Town has sold commercial bulk water. Staff is asking Council if they would like to continue doing so. Councilor Henderson asked if this puts a strain on our system. Tim explained it doesn't always, but it could. We are pumping more water and it kicks in additional well. The Public Works Director, Robert Pena said this year we did not have any issues with not having enough water, but it could happen especially during the summer months. When we can't keep up with the needs we have to enforce water restrictions. Councilor Lozoya asked if we could sell the water until we were strained. Manager Rasmussen said when these accounts are set up, there is always the caveat that we can stop selling water to them at any time if our system can't keep up with the need. Another issue is contractors usually underestimate how much water they need, making it hard to gauge if we have enough. Councilor Scott discussed possible lost revenue, and also the cost to produce the water. It is estimated if a contractor does use 12,000 gallons a day that, the town would loose \$6,700 of monthly revenue. Mayor Reidhead expressed she does not want to compete with private businesses either.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilor Douglas Henderson, seconded by Councilor Donald Scott to no longer sell commercial bulk water.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

11. FITNESS CENTER POLICY:

Minutes:

DISCUSSION: It was discussed that the Town has a fitness center primarily for the Police Officers, but also can be used by Town Staff. As the fitness center is starting to be used more we looked into what the rules and procedures were for it and realized we have none. After reaching out to other Towns and working with Legal we are presenting a policy for the fitness center that includes rules and a liability waiver. Councilor Scott asked if there is enough equipment for staff to be utilizing it and not getting in the way of the police department. Chief Merrill explained the officers who do use it are not using it during normal hours, they are there either late at night or early in the morning. The fire department also has access to this gym until they build a new one. Chief Merrill supports a waiver, and some type of accountability on who is utilizing it.

ACTION: Motioned by Vice-Mayor Richard Davis, seconded by Councilor Donald Scott to approve the Town employee fitness center policy and waiver as presented.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

12. COMPLAINT:

Minutes:

DISCUSSION: Councilor Douglas Henderson started by saying he received a call from Tim asking if he would come to Town Hall to review a complaint he received. The complaint said "To whom it

may concern: First I would like to thank you for taking my call. Here is the synopsis of what happened today 09/27/2023 I made a call to the Town of Springerville around 1:30 today, first I tried calling Travis Udall , I had just left a message. Then I remembered Tim is the main guy who always did our inspections anyway, so I wanted to speak with him. I did not begin the call angry in anyway. So there was no reason for his attitude against me. Me " Hello Tim this is Sarah Hightower at ----- Drive Springerville how are you today. Tim " Good"c Me" I have a question I need my C of O my October , as my construction loan is ending by the end of the month, but" Tim" G** D*** it Sarah , what the h*** did I tell you last time I was out there?" Me " If you give me a fu*&^ing minute and let me ask my question and to schedule you a time for the final inspection etc.." Once Councilor Henderson got to Town Hall he was informed that someone else was in the room and the phone call was on speaker. Mayor Reidhead heard the entire conversation. Mayor Reidhead explained she heard the whole conversation and those are complete lies. She explained what happened was they were getting ready to go into a meeting when Tim's phone rang, he said it is a local number let me get this. It was Sarah, she was in distress because she said she only had one day left to get her C of O for her loan and Tim said Sarah, trying to stop her and she went off. She said no one talks to me like that and so Tim hung up on her. It wasn't but a few minutes later that Tami came in and said Sarah was back on the phone and that if Tim refused to take her call she would call the higher ups and smear his name all over Facebook. She further explained now we have hate mail and threats against two employees that have done nothing wrong.

The public was reminded multiple times there is not an open hearing on the agenda for this item.

13. NOTICE OF CLAIM A. WRYE:

Minutes:

ACTION: Motioned by Councilor Donald Scott, seconded by Vice-Mayor Richard Davis to enter into Executive Session at 7:01 p.m.

Vote results: Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

SECOND ACTION: Motioned by Vice-Mayor Richard Davis, seconded by Councilor Scott to enter back into regular session at 7:26 p.m.

Vote results: Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

14. ADJOURNMENT:

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 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.