



# TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

## Minutes

**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 6:00 pm**

Attendees: Town Manager Tim Rasmussen, Town Clerk Kelsi Miller, Town Attorney Brandon Kavanagh Telephonically, Public Works Kevin Plympton, RV Police Department Chief Dayson Merrill, Lieutenant Bevington, Officer Scruggs, Officer Aragon, Officer Moreno, Animal Control Officer Hodges, Admin Amy Sloane

**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 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

#### 2. INVOCATION:

**Minutes:**

Terry Shove offered the invocation.

#### 3. ROLL CALL:

**Minutes:**

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

Absent: Douglas Henderson, Councilor;

A quorum is present.

#### 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

**Minutes:**

Terry Shove addressed the Mayor and Council. She updated on school activities. She explained

the football team made it to the quarterfinals. The High School rating is now an A and the Middle School rating is a B. The money from the school bond is being used to update the security systems. The middle school and elementary school are now operating on digital keys. The high schools will be installed before the students are back from Thanksgiving. She reminded everyone that the Madrigal Dinner will be on December 6th and 7th. The Roundball Tournament starts on December 12. They will not be using the dome as the floor needs resurfaced as a result of the summer flooding.

Amy Miller with Commnet Broadband addressed the Mayor and Council. She explained that they hired JKL as the contractor to install the fiber. This type of project takes a lot of cooperation from the community. Construction has begun and they will be moving to the north side of US 60. If the community and staff want to track where they are putting fiber next and where they already have placed fiber, they can do so online at <https://ethosbroadband.com/apache-county/>. She also asked everyone to go to the website and fill out the interest form for their homes. This will show where the greatest demand is so they can provide fiber to as many homes as possible. She also mentioned they will be holding a job fair after Thanksgiving and hiring local. She invited the community to a ground breaking ceremony with Governor Hobbs in St. Johns on Tuesday.

Teresa Becker with the Round Valley Community Garden addressed the Mayor and Council. She explained they started the garden in 2009 through a grant with partnership with White Mountain Regional Medical Center and Little Colorado Behavioral Center. She explained the idea behind creating the garden was greatly about the importance of promoting gardening for health. She explained the Town of Springerville has provided them with a fenced off area on Town property and how much the garden has grown. They have 11 raised boxes, small and large group boxes that include grapes, strawberries, etc. They also now have fruit trees and this year had a great crop of peaches. She explained if people are unable to pay the \$25 box donation they offer a free box each year. The donations go towards fertilizer and supplies. They also provide educational classes geared towards high-altitude gardening. She thanked the Town for their continual support of the Community Garden.

Judge Gunnels addressed the Mayor and Council. He updated on the AOC (Administrative Office of the Courts) and the defense attorneys. He explained inflation in Defense Council rates has increased them from \$55 an hour to \$85 an hour. He explained the courts have been very busy. The police department is doing a great job and although they are writing more tickets he is not hearing complaints about them being proactive. He explains that they are doing their jobs, and doing it well.

Monica Boehning addressed the Mayor and Council on behalf of the Stop Lava Run group. She thanked the Council for their support in opposing the wind farm project 4 miles south of Becker Lake. She has been doing extensive research and explained many citizens are unaware that the 60-story massive structures will be hazardous to our wildlife and livestock, and a danger to our air quality. She explained the dangers of the ground vibrations and low-level sounds that could lead to sleep disorders, anxiety, and dizziness. She invited everyone to visit their website and help stop the Lava Run Project.

Louisa Quintana addressed the Mayor and Council to express her opposition to the Lava Run Project. She explained the procedures for the Planning and Zoning Commission to pass a conditional use permit. She read the Arizona Revised Statute for conditional use permits. She

explained these need to be done in partnership with the AZ Department of Transportation, the Forest Service, and Game and Fish. She expressed her concerns regarding the water resources this project will affect. She worries about our aquifers and blasting.

Tony Contreras with Springerville Eagar Regional Chamber of Commerce addressed the Mayor and Council. He updated on Chamber membership renewals and new members. They conducted a ribbon cutting and grand opening for Mail and More in Springerville this month. He updated on upcoming small business training on December 5th sponsored by the Small Business Development Center.

Mark S. addressed the Mayor and Council. He expressed he was tasked with looking into the Lava Run Project company and has found some concerning things. He expressed concerns regarding the decommissioning of the windmills once this project is done. He invited everyone to do research on this company and to attend the meeting tomorrow evening.

## **5. COUNCIL, MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS:**

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

#### **Minutes:**

Mayor Reidhead thanked Teresa Becker for her service on the Planning and Zoning Commission and explained she will be missed. She thanked the James Gang for their service to the community as well as the election workers. She reminded everyone of the important public hearing tomorrow for the Lava Run Project. Lastly, she updated she will be serving Thanksgiving Dinner at the Community Services Center.

### **b. Staff Reports: Summary Updates**

#### **Minutes:**

Dayson Merrill Chief of Police reviewed the month of October's stats with the Mayor and Council. This included how many misdemeanor and felony arrests. He reported on the activities of the department for the month. They have gone live with the school camera system that allows them access to some of the school cameras in the event of an emergency. Round Valley Police Department helped with the Halloween activities. They are moving forward with hiring a lateral officer who will start on Monday. This will put staffing at 8 sworn officers, 2 animal control officers, and 1 office administrator. The 3 cadets are doing well and will graduate in December. This will put them at 11 officers. He introduced the new animal control officer Ricky Hodges. The council and staff welcomed Mr. Hodges. Kevin Plympton with Public Works updated the Council on the activities of the department. He explained that ethos is putting the fiber cables into the ground and while doing so they found a water break today. The new AMR meters are also being installed. This year's Christmas tree was harvested near Poll Knoll, he invited Council to come watch them use a crane and stand it up tomorrow. Lastly, he reported Christmas decor is going up and the lights are being placed.

Robin Aguero the Community Services Director addressed the Mayor and Council. She went over the statistics for the year. She has helped a total of 653 people with a total dollar amount of \$239,733. She went over what the funds were utilized for, this included rental assistance, appliance assistance, utility assistance, food, and fuel cards. Transportation needs have significantly increased but unfortunately, transportation funding was cut initially

by 47% and after necessary conversations 23%. She discussed the number of meals they are providing increasing to 25,896 from 21,228. There is currently a waiting list for meals. She will continue to apply for ESP funds and hopes we can get some funding from the neighboring town for their citizens utilizing this assistance. She explained that for the services we supply 48%-52% of people receiving these funds are Eagar residents, 29%-35% are Springerville residents, and the remainder are nearby communities such as Concho and Alpine. We are now the only NACOG funded community services department in Apache County.

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

**Minutes:**

Manager Rasmussen reported the auction had been completed and all vehicles were sold. He gave a brief update on the Ethos Broadband fiber that is being placed in the utility easement in Springerville. He next reported the AMR meter installation has begun this week and going smoothly. The vac truck is doing the dirt work, which is alleviating time and hand digging. He updated on submitting another grant through the Utility Grant Funding Program for \$25,000 for a grant writer. He reminded everyone that the employee Christmas party is on the evening of Thursday, December 12th. He reported on a meeting he and Chief Merrill had with Navopache Electric and their contractor regarding tree trimming. He reminded them that seven years ago they had tree trimming crews start cutting with no advanced notice and the community was very vocally unhappy with the process. They discussed what could be done differently this time and the importance of advertisements and door hangars for community outreach and a more customer-friendly approach. He updated on the utility easement progress in the area of El Cajon and Hacienda. The easement has almost been completely cleared. Public Works stepped up and will be working with the ones who haven't moved their fences. They will be done just in time for the AMR meter installation and fiber installation. He gave an update on the former furniture store building. An inspection was performed on July 24th, a notice to correct the violations was issued on August 12th, an extension request was accepted on September 16, and a re-inspection was scheduled for November 7th. The Next steps are to send a letter to close and vacate the structure as it is deemed unsafe. The owner will have until December 23rd to board up the structure, if the owner does not comply a lien can be placed on the property. He updated on the new coat and shoe handout last week. Kristy will give a comprehensive report next month. We will continue to hand them out during Santa in the park on December 7th. Lastly, he explained we signed the town up for a tee shirt giveaway project for the High School that will display our new logo.

**6. CONSENT ITEMS:**

**Minutes:**

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

DISCUSSION: None

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

- a. Consider approval of the October 16, 2024 Regular Council Meeting minutes.
- b. Consider ratification and approval of the accounts payable register from October 8, 2024 through November 7, 2024.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 7. LAVA RUN WIND AND SOLAR PROJECT:

**Minutes:**

DISCUSSION: Manager Rasmussen explained in May of 2024 we sent a letter to numerous agencies not supporting the Lava Run Wind and Solar Project. Since sending this letter, he spoke with the FAA and found out that an Obstruction Analysis Review was needed and that the permit had already been issued on January 9, 2023, and an extension was granted on August 1, 2024. Pilots are now coming to the town to express their concerns and non-support for the project. Tim would like to see if the Council would like us to amend our letter to include concerns regarding Springerville Airport and the pilots' concerns. He is also asking if they would like him to send a letter to the FAA with the town's concerns. Mayor Reidhead pointed out she is speaking with a congressperson about trying to prohibit these.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilor Donald Scott, seconded by Councilor Florencio Lozoya to direct staff to draft and send another letter not supporting the proposed Lava Run Wind and Solar Project to the Apache County Planning and Zoning Chairman and the Apache County Supervisors.

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

### 8. AGREEMENT AZTRACS

**Minutes:**

DISCUSSION: Lieutenant Shane Bevington and Chief of Police Dayson Merrill presented this item. They explained this system would increase efficiency by allowing them to issue departmental forms electronically and then electronically send them to the courthouse. This is at no cost to the Town. We are one of the few agencies in the state not using this system. It will allow officers to print citations directly from their vehicles or in the office. It will free up time for officers.

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Mayor Richard Davis, seconded by Councilor Donald Scott to approve the interagency agreement for AzTraCS use between the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Round Valley Police Department.

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

### 9. ANNEXATIONS:

**Minutes:**

Mayor Reidhead explained this item is no longer needed on the agenda.

### 10. FIRST READING: ORDINANCE 2024-003

**Minutes:**

FIRST READING: Vice Mayor Richard Davis completed the first reading of Ordinance 2024-003 An Ordinance of the Town of Springerville, Apache County Arizona, Amending the Town Code Title 17 Chapter 17.28 Section 17.28.070 "Walls and Fences" related to requirement of Conditional Use Permits, providing for repeal of conflicting ordinances, and establishing an effective date.

**11. FIRST READING: ORDINANCE 2024-004**

**Minutes:**

FIRST READING: Councilor Donald Scott completed the first reading of Ordinance 2024-004 An Ordinance of the Town of Springerville, Apache County Arizona, Amending the Town Code Title 17 Chapter 17.28 Section 17.28.170 "Travel Trailers and Recreational Vehicles" related to travel trailers or recreational vehicles as guest quarters, providing for repeal of conflicting ordinances, and establishing an effective date.

**12. 760 WEST AIRPORT ROAD:**

**Minutes:**

DISCUSSION: Manager Rasmussen explained in March he was directed to remove the house on parcel 105-18-015P, move the water line on 105-18-015J, create a new legal description 105-18-015Q, and work with the county to get a new parcel number for 105-18-015P. He is now asking for further direction and recommendations on what they would like to do with the land. He suggested they split it into three parcels and showed them a concept of how they could split it to make it more marketable. Council directed he do additional research on setbacks for the concrete slab on the south side of parcel 105-18-015P.

**13. DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING:**

**Minutes:**

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Mayor Richard Davis, seconded by Councilor Florencio Lozoya to not hold a December Council Meeting.

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

**14. PRESENTATION: FAREWELL COUNCILOR DONALD SCOTT**

**Minutes:**

Mayor Reidhead thanked Councilor Donald Scott for his time on the Council and shared some information on his time with Springerville. Since moving to the community Don served in numerous volunteer roles including volunteering at the American Legion, serving as a member of the Municipal Property Corporation, the Real AZ Board, and the Planning and Zoning Commission. Don was appointed to Planning and Zoning Commission in July of 2019 where he served as a Chairman and Commissioner until May 11, 2022, when he was appointed to the Springerville Town Council. During Don's tenure on Springerville Town Council, he attended an estimated 43 Council meetings, made 67 motions on items, and seconded 123 motions. He took part in the passage of 7 Ordinances and 22 Resolutions. Councilor Scott explained his time on the Council has been an honor and pleasure. Mayor Reidhead presented him with an award of



appreciation.

**15. OATH OF OFFICE: NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**Minutes:**

Judge Gunnels administered the Oath of Office to newly elected officials Richard Davis and R. Barry Williams.

**16. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Minutes:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelly Reidhead, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2024**

\_\_\_\_\_. 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](mailto: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.