



DRAFT

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes

Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 5:30 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.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Minutes:

Mayor Reidhead called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. John Udall offered the invocation.

2. ROLL CALL:

Minutes:

Present: Shelly Reidhead, Mayor; Richard Davis, Vice-Mayor; Douglas Henderson, Councilor; Florencio Lozoya (joined at 5:37 p.m.) Councilor; R. Barry Williams, Councilor

A quorum is present.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Minutes:

Trish Esparza a resident of Springerville addressed the Mayor and Council. She asked Council what it would take for someone to take accountability for the state of the Town's financials after paying out \$7,000,000 of the yearly budget on something that should have never happened. She next questioned who thought it was a good idea to retaliate and cover up a whistleblower, then have the White Mountain Independent write an article two days later with information they were given. She feels a report was filed, and the Council was aware. She next explained a citizen's investigation into an incident that should have been handled by the Chief of Police. A citizen should not have had to file a restraining order for a death threat, as it should have been looked into. She said an officer was arrested for relations with a 16-year-old, and she has heard the parents claimed they reported to the police department that their daughter was being stalked. She asked them to take a step back and start doing their jobs to

protect the kids in this town.

Leiha Castillo, a resident of Springerville addressed the Mayor and Council. She explained she is demanding an independent investigation by an outside source into the assault by former officer Aragon on Joshua. She feels it should be obvious to the Council why he did not report the crime to the RVPD, as nothing would have been done. She feels the Council and Police Department have been aware of this for months and have done nothing. She feels the Chief of Police should have initiated an investigation, determined if an assault occurred, and contacted the victim, even though he did not report the crime. She reiterated that no one contacted the victim even after the RVPD and Council had heard of the assault. She feels they all wanted this to go away. She further told them that this is just one of the issues that needs to be dealt with. She supports Law Enforcement and Town governments; however, that support is for the honest individuals, not turning their heads, committing crimes and covering up these actions. She told them to stop this runaway train today and make the changes to make things right. Her endgame goal is for an honest, safe, reliable, and crime-free police department and town government. She lastly stated that the citizens have spoken and are standing up to be heard.

Willie Castillo addressed the Mayor and Council. He explained he is here tonight because he is fed up with the lack of action taken when the council was made aware of a serious issue. He explained that he realized nothing had been done, so he reached out to outside sources for help. He is asking the Council to take action and to be transparent. He feels that going behind closed doors and preventing the community from being informed is not going to work anymore. He wants answers and actions. He will continue to contact sources that can open an investigation or have one opened until they get results. Lastly, he stated that this cannot continue to be how the community is run.

4. POSSIBLE VIOLATION SELF-REPORTING :

Minutes:

DISCUSSION: Mayor Reidhead presented this item. She explained it has come to her attention that a quorum of Councilors has potentially violated open meeting law, and she would like to discuss self-reporting.

Florencio explained he heard from another attorney that a quorum means 3 or more members meeting at the same time; he does not believe a quorum has ever met at the same time. Eagar attorney said it is not an open meeting law violation, but Springerville attorney says it is, so he would like to know what is true.

Mayor Reidhead asked Springerville Attorney Brandon Kavanagh to explain to the council how they possibly broke open meeting law.

Councilor Lozoya said he was told by Bryce Hamblin that Mayor Reidhead met with him first. She explained she was only at his office as his realtor, and he was her insurance agent. They disagreed on the scope of why Mayor Reidhead was at Bryce Hamblin's office.

Brandon Kavanagh explained that when a quorum of Councilmembers speaks with someone or each other regarding a matter that would come before the Council, that is when a serial meeting occurs. He explained that it is an interpretation from the Attorney General. He is not going to argue if someone else has a different opinion from his. He stands behind his advice that having a quorum of individuals speak with an individual who wants to bring up topics to that quorum through three separate one-on-one

meetings did in fact, create a serial meeting under the open meeting law, and that is why he recommends a self-report to the Attorney General's Office.

Mayor Shelly Reidhead recommends they self-report before someone else reports them.

Councilor Doug Henderson wanted to report for the record that on July 25, 2025, Mr. Hamblin called him to invite him to his office to talk about this stuff, and he declined. They did have a 16-minute phone conversation.

Councilor Williams reported that he, too, received a call from Mr. Hamblin. When he met with him, he had no prior knowledge that any other Councilors had been meeting with him. Mr. Hamblin did say he has regular meetings with the Mayor. He did not learn until after the meeting that Mr. Hamblin had reached out to the rest of the Council. He sees the interpretation from the attorney on the open meeting law violation, and he supports the self-reporting to the Attorney General's Office. He expressed that we have an issue going on with our law enforcement, and said if he cared about the town, Mr. Williams would meet with him. The Town Manager was aware that Councilor Williams was headed to that meeting prior to going there.

Vice Mayor Richard Davis reported he also met with Bryce Hamblin for an hour. There was little discussion other than Mr. Hamblin pointing out what he saw on the video and what he heard. He saw parts of that, and Mr. Davis wanted to see the video from beginning to end and not pieces from the middle. At the time of the meeting, Richard was the only one from Springerville there. Also present was Guy Phelps, and the Eagar Town Attorney. Richard is struggling to understand how this was a quorum.

Councilor Florencio Lozoya explained that he texts and calls Bryce as they have known each other since high school. When Bryce called and wanted to talk, Florencio went down. He had some interesting information. He further explained his relationship with Mr. Hamblin. He did see the video and sound recordings. He was told by Tim that there was no formal complaint written down by a certain police officer but he would like to look into what a formal complaint is because the audio recording sounded like a complaint to him. This does not make sense to him, and he then attended an Eagar Town Council meeting where Bryce mentioned meeting with the Mayor beforehand.

Bryce said that Mayor Reidhead is the one who brought up these police issues to him, and Council did not get a memo on that until way later. So he would personally like to look at how we hire and fire, and who does this. In the audio, Tim told this person they would not lose their job, and they did. He asked if the Chief of Police does this or if it is the Council. If it is the Council, he feels it should not be determined by just the Mayor and Town Manager. He said if it falls on the Council, he wants more transparency and there are a lot of rumors going around that could be potential lawsuits. He wants to look at the policy and find out when we hired people and who hired them. He would like to start weeding out the problems. It was clear to him that Bryce said Mayor Reidhead had been there. While Florencio was there, he was the only Springerville representative there. He does not feel there was a quorum. He wants everyone that was there to self-report.

The Mayor and Councilor Lozoya disagree on why she was there. She further explained Bryce called her repeatedly inviting her and Tim to come meet with him and listen to the deposition. She said Springerville has them and does not need to see them from Bryce. She explained Springerville legal counsel advised the Council not to meet with Bryce.

Councilor Williams stated he did not see any videos at his meeting with Bryce. He only

saw some files on his desk. Barry informed Bryce that he needs to present this information to the investigation team. The day following the meeting, he stated he reached out to the County Attorney's Office, and he shared with them that he met with Mr. Hamblin as well.

Mayor Reidhead explained a situation where Springerville met with the County Attorney office and had to ask for a copy of the deposition because Bryce refused to give it to Springerville. They gave it to us. Mr. Hamblin had no more information than what we have, she said, there was no reason for the Council to go there.

Vice Mayor Davis stated that Bryce told him several times that Mayor Reidhead would not return his emails, texts, or calls. Mayor Reidhead said others are saying she is there all the time, so she questioned which one is it?

Councilor Lozoya questioned the Mayor about how Bryce found out about the off-duty police officer incident.

Mayor Reidhead is not sure. She asked if there is no further discussion, would Council like Mr. Kavanagh to help us with self-reporting.

Councilor Williams supports self-reporting based on the opinion of the Attorney.

Vice Mayor Richard Davis agrees it needs to be done.

ACTION: Councilor Doug Henderson motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Richard Davis, to direct staff to work with legal counsel to draw up a self-reporting of open meeting law violation and send to the Attorney General's office.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Minutes:

Meeting is adjourned at 5:55 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 Special Council Meeting on _____. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____

_____. 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.



Contact: Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk (kmiller@springervilleaz.gov (928) 333-2656 x 224) | Minutes published on 08/25/2025 at 11:40 AM