

ST. JOHNSCITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 2013

The regular meeting was duly posted. Vice Mayor Ashton called the meeting to order at approximately 6:39pm in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room at the County Annex.

ROLL CALL: Vice Mayor Ryan Ashton, Councilwoman Kay Hauser, Councilman Pete Hancock, and Councilman Spence Udall

ABSENT: Mayor Fred Nielsen, Councilman Michael Cirivello, and Councilman Ryan Patterson

STAFF PRESENT: Interim City Manager Paul Ramsey, Finance Director/City Clerk Evan Nelson, Police Chief Donny Jones, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kirk, Assistant EMS Chief Jean Kirk, Fire Chief/Airport Manager Gary Liston, and Deputy City Clerk Kim Cowley

OTHERS PRESENT: Kristl Jones, Shelly Reed, Becky Orona, Scott Scarbrough, Brandon Eagar, and Matthew Montoya

INVOCATION: Shelly Reed

PLEDGE: Scott Scarbrough

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Brandon Eagar of the County Sheriffs' office distributed packets to the council members regarding a training going on for search and rescue simulation of an 8.0 earthquake. The County Sheriffs' Office and the Angel Thunder Air Force group would be working together to coordinate the exercise to train personnel in the event that an emergency should occur in our area. There will be day and night activities, and the event will last for 18 full hours to end on Saturday. The event will be filmed for Federal purposes and by National Geographic, so we should get some good public relations out of the event. Public is welcome to come and watch the event.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider approval March 14, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes, and March 21, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes.**
- 2. Payment of bills for March 2013.**
- 3. Consider approval of the Fair Housing Proclamation, designating April as Fair Housing Month in the City of St. Johns.**

MOTION

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hauserto approve the consent agenda items provided that the vote on item #11 on the March 14th minutes is amended to read 6-1. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Ashton.

Motion passed 4-0.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

4. Consider donating use of the Small Arena and Community Center for a rodeo queen clinic and pageant.

Shelly Reed, Queen Coordinator for Apache County Sheriffs' Posse requested City donation of the fees for the use of City facilities for their activities for the Queen contestants. Discussion included several council members expressing concern for the expenses and fees being donated at an ever increasing rate. Also discussed were concerns regarding insurance issues.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hauser to approve the donation of the use of the Small Arena and Community Center for the rodeo queen clinic and pageant.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Udall.

MOTION PASSED 4-0

5. Consider donating use of the Community Center for an after graduation party.

Becky Orona requested that the City sponsor the activities for the High School Booster Club to help the Police Department keep control easier and keeping our youth at one location and safe. Last year we had all the kids from not only St. Johns, but Concho and Round Valley as well. The parents provide food and money for the event.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Ashton to approve the donation of the use of the Community Center for the graduation party.

Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hauser.

MOTION PASSED 4-0

6. Consider donating use of the Big Arena and Community Center for a benefit event for Jordan Belote.

Scott Scarbrough spoke to the Council regarding the car accident of Jordan Belote and that his co-workers had asked him to help raise money for his family. They are having a benefit dinner and dance the evening of May 10th, and the benefit roping will be May 11th. Vice Mayor Ashton volunteered to personally donate \$100.00 for the roping arena.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Councilman Hancock to approve the donation for the use of the Community Center for a benefit event for Jordan Belote.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Udall.

MOTION PASSED 4-0

7. Consider request for reimbursement for sewer line installation.

Mr. Matt Montoya presented his request for reimbursement of expenses incurred in putting in 1,918 feet of sewer line in 1980. He requested that he be reimbursed \$10,000.00. He stated the promises made to him regarding the sewer line reimbursement by the City Manager at that time. Mr. Montoya was asked if he had anything from the City in writing. The answer was no. Mr. Montoya was asked if he had any receipts showing what his expenses were. The answer was no. Mr. Montoya after being asked why he was requesting reimbursement now stated his reasons which centered around his statement that he does not want to die with this issue still unresolved and that the City has since that time made a lot of money off the line that he paid for. Motion was made by Councilman Pete Hancock to reimburse Mr. Montoya the sum of \$4,000.00. There was no second, motion died. Councilman Hancock requested that it be recorded that he has no problem with reimbursing an old issue that was a gentleman's agreement from the past and had no documentation, and that he felt that the council should take every person that comes to council with a similar request on an individual basis and decide to agree or disagree. Easements were also discussed. Mr. Montoya told the Council that he wants to collect and that he will contact his lawyer. Mr. Montoya stated that he would have agreed to take the \$4,000.00 but that he would not accept \$1,913.00. Mr. Montoya called himself an upstanding supportive member of this community in business and personal dealings who tried to help build this community, and stated that he was disappointed with this council. Councilwoman Hauser stated that she was disappointed in Mr. Montoya as an upstanding and supportive member of the community in making this an issue after all these years.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Councilman Udall to pay Mr. Montoya the estimated cost of the sewer put in 1980 of \$1.00 a square foot for the 1918 feet for \$1,918.00 and that the City would then own that sewer line. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Ashton.

MOTION FAILED: 2 IN FAVOR, Vice Mayor Ashton & Councilman Udall, 2 AGAINST, Councilman Hancock & Councilwoman Hauser.

8. Consider awarding bid for construction of the new Fire/EMS building.

Jason Kirk informed the council of his reasons for re-assessing the funding and construction of the building and the conclusions drawn from those assessments. He requested that the bid from SentryBuilders be awarded based on the new understanding of the situation and funding.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hauser awarding of the bid for the construction of the new Fire/EMS building to Sentry Builders. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hancock.

MOTION PASSED 3-1 with Vice Mayor Ashton abstaining.

9. Consider approving the Arizona Openbooks Interagency Service Agreement with the Arizona Department of Administration for financial information posting services, to comply with Arizona transparency legislation.

Mr. Evan Nelson explained that the State Legislature passed a new law requiring all cities, towns, school districts, and counties to post all expenses in a searchable data base format. Mr. Nelson explained the various options available to be able to comply with the law, and that the City would need to comply by the end of June to avoid penalties. Consensus of the council was that they needed more information and would like to address this issue at a later date.

10. Consider authorizing staff to issue a request for qualifications for Construction Manager at Risk Services for the City Hall Project.

Mr. Paul Ramsey introduced the need for an at risk construction manager to go forward with the City Hall Project. He answered questions and assured the Council that they would continue to be involved and informed with everything concerning the project.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hauser to authorize staff to issue the request for qualifications for Construction Manager at Risk Services for the City Hall Project.

Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Ashton.

MOTION PASSED 4-0

11. Employee Evaluations.

Vice Mayor Ashton explained his feelings and lack of qualifications for employee evaluations. He expressed that the process needs to be simplified. Mr. Ramsey asked for specifics on the simplification. Councilman Udall expressed that he feels that the Council has a duty to evaluate those people directly under Council supervision, and to inform them of their standing. Councilwoman Hauser explained her experience with evaluations at her school. Employees are included in the evaluation process. Discussion included doing evaluations at the anniversary of the employee hire date or the evaluations be done during a specific set of dates on an annual basis. Mr. Kirk asked if part-time employees were to be included in the evaluations. Council answered yes, absolutely. Councilwoman Hauser suggested anonymous evaluations of the bosses by the employees could also be done. Discussion also included an evaluation of the forms for the evaluations: the employee has room to write, the evaluator has room to write, and there is room for an improvement plan when needed. Staff was directed to modify the compensation plan for putting into policy by the May Council Meeting.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hauser that the City institute employee evaluations throughout the City with a spring time-period, with a drop dead turn in date of April 30th of each year, and authorizing the City Manager to oversee and authorize anything related to the process. This year for the first year only the drop date for turn in is June 30, 2013.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Udall.

MOTION PASSED 4-0

12. Personnel Policies and Procedures.

Vice Mayor Ashton and Councilman Udall pointed out that there is conflicting statements within the personnel policies and procedures of the City. Council expressed that this needs to be corrected. Staff was directed to correct the policy and bring back to council for approval.

13. Business Incentives.

Councilman Udall expressed his thoughts that he would like to get the Council's minds thinking about getting businesses to come to our City. He suggested that some offers for services either free or at a reduced rate could be considered. Vice Mayor Ashton suggested that Attorney Bryce Patterson should be consulted about the legal aspects of attracting businesses. Councilwoman Hauser expressed the idea of renting property to a prospective business at \$10.00 a month in order to get them to come to this city, and that she feels the City needs to be more aggressive. Mr. Ramsey informed the council members of what he has seen that businesses want when looking for a new location and what they are looking for in incentives.

14. Economic Development.

Councilwoman Hauser brought before the council members some ideas on marketing our City. She gave the example of the County Fair Brochure that is done with 7500 copies for free. The White Mountain Independent sells the advertising and publishes the brochure. She informed the Council that she had a meeting with Mr. Ramsey and the people from the White Mountain Independent and that the City is now going to have its own brochure for free with 7500 copies.

15. Financial Report

Mr. Evan Nelson gave a summary of financial report. He drew attention to the revenue trends which are 37K short of expectation. Mr. Nelson indicated that for the upcoming budget he is planning on being more conservative on the sales tax income. He then answered questions from the Council. Mr. Ramsey spoke about the HURF funds the department of transportation is unsure about how the Medicare changes are going to reflect on the overall State budget. Mr. Nelson asked Council about scheduling the upcoming budget meeting(s). Vice Mayor Ashton suggested that invitation be sent to the newly elected council members to be at the meeting and encourage them that it is important. Vice Mayor Ashton also suggested that the contingency money was a wise choice last year and should be continued this year.

16. City Manager's Report.

Mr. Ramsey reported that he had had a discussion regarding the downtown redevelopment with ADOT about the JPA agreement. The people at ADOT are being retrained on new software for the JPA, and we should have the agreement shortly thereafter. He also reported that Stacy Waite will be starting the survey this coming weekend. He reported that the 7th South and 13th West lighting project is going out to bid, and the project completion goal is the end of summer.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilman Pete Hancock commented on the burn project by the dollar store and requested that the dead trees need to be cleaned up and taken out of there. He also requested that the City Hall Project continue to be on the agenda every month.

Vice Mayor Ashton and Councilwoman Hauser requested that Chief Jones update the Council on previous executive sessions in a possible executive session at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Hauser requested that some information regarding the pros and cons of automating the airport with facts providing a whole picture be on an upcoming agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Ashton to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hauser and Councilman Hancock.

Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57pm.

Ryan Ashton, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

Kim Cowley, Deputy City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the St. Johns City Council held on the 14th day of July, 2011. I certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Kim Cowley, Deputy City Clerk

*Please Note: Approved minutes are not a verbatim record of what happened at the City Council meeting, they capture a summary of the meeting as well as all actions taken. A recording of the entire meeting is available upon request at the City Clerk's office for three months following each meeting.