

**ST. JOHNS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
April 12, 2012**

The regular meeting was duly posted. Mayor Fred Nielsen called the meeting to order at approximately 6:32 pm in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room at the County Annex.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Fred Nielson, Vice Mayor Ryan Ashton (arrived 6:39), Councilwoman Kay Hauser (arrived 6:34), Councilman Pete Hancock, Councilman Michael Cirivello, and Councilman Ryan Patterson

ABSENT: Councilman Spence Udall

STAFF PRESENT: Interim City Manager Paul Ramsey, City Attorney Bryce Patterson, Finance Director/City Clerk Evan Nelson, Police Chief Donny Jones, Fire Assistant Jason Kirk, and EMS Assistant Jean Kirk.

OTHERS PRESENT: Joyce Alves, Brannon Eagar, Odet Bloomfield, Betty Clanton, Mary Hendricks, Cathy Garcia Montoya, Neil Lambson, Becky Orona, and Mary Hendricks

INVOCATION: Odet Bloomfield

PLEDGE: Neil Lambson

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

1st Speaker: Joyce Alves – University of Arizona. She spoke regarding fire truck fumes in the community center.

2nd Speaker: Mary Hendricks – St. Johns Horse Trials. She thanked the City for the work done and support for the horse trials and invited everyone to attend.

3rd Speaker: Cathy Garcia Montoya – Citizen of St. Johns. She spoke regarding an incident at the Fitness Center, resultant jail time, a complaint she filed against Officer Neckel, and a civil case she has filed against the Fitness Center.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider approval of March 7, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes.**
- 2. Payment of bills.**

MOTION

Motion was made by Mayor Nielson to approve the Consent Agenda items as stated. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cirivello.

Motion passed 6-0.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

5. Consider waiving Community Center rental fees for a drug and alcohol-free High School Graduation party.

Becky Orono spoke regarding the party and its purpose to keep the kids safe. She then explained the budget for the party and the parent volunteers involved. Party from 10pm to 4 am, and they would clean up and be out by 6am.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen that the City waive the rental fee for the Drug and Alcohol free Graduation Party. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cirivello.

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

6. Consider approval of The Arizona Mutual Aid Compact.

Brannon Eagar explained the Compact and listed the entities involved, including the State, counties, and municipalities. He explained how the document affects the City of St. Johns if we become a part of the compact. City Attorney Patterson expressed no concerns with the document.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen that the City enter into the agreement and become part of the Mutual Aid Compact. Motion was seconded by Councilman Patterson.

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

7. Consider donating the remaining money in the Chamber of Commerce budget to the Apache County Historical Society.

Neil Lambson, President of the Historical Society, addressed the Council. He expressed appreciation for the City's involvement in the Historical Society. He explained the expenses involved in keeping up the building that the Historical Society and the Chamber of Commerce share. He then asked that the Council consider donating the money left over from the closure of the Chamber of Commerce to the Historical Society to help meet the expenses involved. Mayor Nielsen asked Staff if this was possible to do. Evan Nelson responded in the affirmative and explained the history of past amendments to the budget. A discussion ensued about the funds paid to the Chamber, where those funds came from, and the fireworks that were part of the same line item in the budget.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen that the City send the money that would normally go to the Chamber of Commerce to the Historical Society. Motion was seconded by Councilman Patterson.

MOTION PASSED 6-0

8. Consider approval of Resolution 493, a resolution of the City of St. Johns approving amendments to the Rural Arizona Group Health Trust Agreement and Declaration of Trust dated July 1, 2012.

Paul Ramsey explained that this Health Trust has to be renewed every ten years. Discussion ensued regarding the changes proposed and the research involved in selecting this Health Trust. Staff definitely feels that this was the best option, and still is. Councilman Cirivello expressed his approval of the RAGHT Trust.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen that we approve Resolution 493. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cirivello.

MOTION PASSED 6-0.

9. Consider awarding bid for the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant fire engine purchase, and authorize staff to enter into a purchase contract.

Jason Kirk spoke regarding the bids that came in for the purchase of the fire engine. He presented a chart of the 5 bidders that came in with a 90% or higher compliance with the specifications. He proposed that the FAS Emergency Vehicles of Tucson be selected and explained that they complied the best even though they were not the lowest bidder. He explained that the difference of was definitely made up in the compliance. Councilman Cirivello asked if this bidder meets all the guidelines for awarding contracts. Mr. Ramsey responded that the 100% compliance with specifications pushes this bidder to the top of the list as qualifying per the guidelines, and that the low bid did not meet the specifications. Councilman Cirivello stated that he wanted this on the record.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Councilman Patterson to award the contract to FAS Emergency Vehicles of Tucson, Arizona. Motion was seconded by Mayor Nielsen.

MOTION PASSED: 5-1 Vice Mayor Ashton opposed.

10. Consider adoption of Ordinance No. 145, an ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Johns, Arizona, relating to social host regulations.

City Attorney Patterson asked that the Council table this matter as the Ordinance needs further work. Matter was tabled unanimously.

11. Consider funding options for the operation and maintenance of Senior Center vehicles.

Evan Nelson explained that the Senior Center has a van and a recently donated second vehicle. Gas and auto insurance expenses were paid for in the past via LTAF funds, but those funds are no longer available. He explained that he wanted to bring this to the Council's attention and asked for input from the Council regarding future funding. Discussion ensued about how the revenue ceased, the amount of the expenses year-to-date this fiscal year, and expected total expenses for the year. Mr. Ramsey explained the changes made to try and cut the expenses involved by using the new vehicle which is more gas efficient and delivering more meals instead of picking up people. Mr. Nelson expressed that Staff thinks the budget can work for this year with an amendment, but that for the new fiscal year these expenses would need to be dealt with.

12. Consider approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Northeastern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy.

Chief Jones explained the agreement which allows St. Johns personnel to be instructors in the Academy. Discussion included the merits for the personnel to teach and the costs involved. Chief was asked about his limited staff being involved and he explained his advantages in having them involved.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Councilman Cirivello that the City approve and enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Academy. Motion was seconded by Mayor Nielsen.

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

13. Consider authorizing an additional Police Sergeant position in the St. Johns Police Department.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen pursuant to ARS Arizona Statue 38-431.02 that this item be moved to executive session, with Chief Donny Jones, Interim City Manager Paul Ramsey, and City Attorney Bryce Patterson. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cirivello.

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

Meeting Adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Meeting was called back into order by Mayor Nielsen at 7:37 pm.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen to amend the previous motion to include ARS 38-431.03 which includes provision for legal advice and any pertinent

employees involved and adjourn to executive session with. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cirivello.

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

Meeting Adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Meeting was called back into order by Mayor Nielsen at 9:32pm.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen that an additional position of Police Sergeant be made by the City Council. No second. Motion was dropped.

14. Consider Development and approval of a Council policy for agenda creation.

Mayor Nielsen pointed out that there is no policy for agenda creation found by staff. Discussion ensued regarding the advantages of having a policy, two council members and city manager being given power to add items to agenda as well as the mayor. Staff was directed to do research and come up with a proposal with the direction of Attorney Patterson to make sure it complies with city code and does not interfere in any way.

15. City Hall project.

Mr. Ramsey reported to the council regarding his findings about “design build”. Discussion ensued about the design that was paid for and where the City needs to go from today forth. Mr. Ramsey was instructed to go ahead and get the roof bid out with the plans that are already in place.

16. Financial Report.

Evan Nelson reported on the period ending February 2012 going over the report in the packet. He also reported on the status of the changes that are being worked on due to the audit.

17. Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget.

Evan Nelson put together a budget schedule and brought the work sessions scheduled to the attention of the Council. He also went over the projected revenues for the Council. He reminded the Council that Staff is open anytime to questions and concerns from the Council Members.

18. City Manager’s Report.

Mr. Ramsey reported that one item remains on the transmission line and should be finalized soon.

Mr Ramsey announced that there would be a meeting on the 24th with Pat Avery and Eric Swanson in Mr. Ramsey’s office. Discussion would be revolving around the Potash Mine and about moving forward with growth of the City. Mr. Avery is looking for a corporate office on main street and suggestions will be given to him during that meeting. The County Manager,

Mr. Wengert, talked with Mr. Ramsey about putting together a steering committee.

Mr. Ramsey reported on the committees that were formed for the Centennial/4th of July celebrations. The location for the fireworks show is still under consideration.

CDBG: We have two water lines with fire hydrants in place, and have two more to do by the June 1st deadline. The project includes 2nd North to 4th North and between 2nd West and 4th West.

Mr. Ramsey had a visit with Members of the Page organization over the electrical division. They have been in place since the early 80's. They buy power from whomever is cheapest, and usually from Bureau of Reclamation which is dam generated. Mr. Ramsey is still to find out more information.

Mr. Ramsey did not have an update yet for the gas pipeline.

Mr. Ramsey announced the date for Spring Clean-up being Saturday, April 21st and the day to bring large items for disposal.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilman Cirivello asked that the acting city manager's position be put on the next agenda and stated that the Council would need to go into executive session for that.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cirivello.

Motion passed 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.

Fred Nielsen, 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.