

**ST. JOHNS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
August 9, 2012**

The regular meeting was duly posted. Mayor Fred Nielsen called the meeting to order at approximately 6:37 pm in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room at the County Annex.

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Fred Nielsen, Vice Mayor Ryan Ashton, Councilwoman Kay Hauser, Councilman Pete Hancock, Councilman Michael Cirivello, and Councilman Spence Udall

**ABSENT:** Councilman Ryan Patterson

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kristl Jones, Robert Vallejos

**INVOCATION:** Councilman Michael Cirivello

**PLEDGE:** Chief Donny Jones

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No Public wished to speak.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Consider approval of July 12, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes.
2. Payment of bills.

**MOTION**

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen to approve the consent agenda items as stated.  
Motion was seconded by Councilman Cirivello.

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

3. Consider approval of Resolution 495, a resolution of the City of St. Johns urging the EPA to schedule a local public hearing related to the proposed

**Federal Implementation Plan (FIP), extend the public comment period, and withdraw the proposed FIP.**

Mr. Ramsey explained the situation between the EPA and the coal fired plants:

1. The State of Arizona and SRP in 2008 got together and agreed on a plan which they had worked on for ten years, the EPA also agreed to the plan.
2. EPA has changed some of the plan requirement issues, mainly regarding the SO2 scrubbers.
3. This is a haze issue and nothing to do with health or welfare. The changes proposed will only change the situation 2%, which is not visible to the naked eye.
4. Starting with 3 plants in Arizona: Cholla Plant, Coronado Plant, and the Wilcox Plant. However, it will continue throughout the United States.
5. The EPA mandate was given the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, the hearing was held in Phoenix 10 days later, and has a public comment period of 30 days.
6. Agencies involved have gotten together with the Counties and Communities have gotten together asking for input by those who will be effected most.
7. Hearing next Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the NPC Building in Holbrook.
8. The resolution is for stating that we do not like what the EPA has done, that we don't want them to rush into anything and that they need to extend the period.

Discussion started with the Mayor expressing that the studies he has researched show that there is no scientific evidence that what they are trying to do will have any effect whatsoever. Considered also was the players behind this maneuver and how this could cripple the economy of Apache County.

**MOTION:**

Motion was made by Mayor Fred Nielsen to pass Resolution 495.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Udall.

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

**4. City Hall Project.**

Mr. Ramsey explained that rumor has the county has purchased a little medical facility to use for the health department, but no confirmation has been obtained. Mayor Nielsen expressed that this issue has sadly become political. Councilman Cirivello stated that his understanding of it was that they bought it for clinical purposes, and that they are still looking for office space. Discussion included the Intergovernmental Agreement that has been started,

what we want from the building, and what the County might want from it. Mayor asked staff to get together with the County Manager Delwin Wengert, and then present it to John. Discussion ensued about the building that needs to be torn down and ways to accomplish it.

**5. Discussion/Action regarding the August 2009 Strategic Planning Meeting.**

Mayor Nielsen led the discussion regarding the goals made and where the council members are at this current time. He commented on the tough times of the past few years, how well the council and city staff has done, and what they have accomplished.

**6. Options for funding Swimming Pool improvements, including a possible capital campaign.**

Discussion was led by Councilwoman Hauser. She had approached Tom Hansen regarding the improvements needed for the pool. Mr. Ramsey indicated that in October the staff would submit the project of the pool and some park improvements for CDBG funding. Councilman Cirivello suggested that the pool needs a building to go over it. Mr. Ramsey spoke about the strings and requirements that are attached to CDBG money.

**7. Main Street Improvements and Beautification.**

Councilman Hancock led the discussion that street lamps down main street would be beautiful, he has gotten lots of comments from public. That he would like them to be home designed and home made. We have the resources to do so. Discussion ensued about having a Historic type main street.

**8. Consider authorizing transfer of funds from the City savings account to the checking account.**

Mr. Nelson explained the general fund and the various savings accounts and the deficit that exists in the general fund. Much discussion ensued regarding the funds, the balancing the books, the audit requirements, and what to do with surplus funds.

**MOTION:**

Motion was made by Mayor Fred Nielsen to authorize the transfer of 240,000.00 from General Fund Savings to General Fund Checking to satisfy the deficit.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Hancock.

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

**9. Consider authorization of full step salary increases for full-time employees in accordance with the City's compensation plan.**

Mr. Nelson explained the tables in Tab F showing the costs of a salary increase. Councilman Cirivello excused himself from the discussion. Mr. Nelson also explained the costs to the employees that increased during the past year for retirement and health. Much discussion ensued regarding the costs and the bottom line of what the costs would do to the budget, merit raises, and how department heads would or would not be involved. Mayor requested that the Department heads get together and discuss merit raises, any issues or suggestions, bottom line effects on the budget, and the step program for council discussion at a later date.

**MOTION:**

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen to go ahead and allocate the amount of \$26,000 equally across the board to all full-time employees.

Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Ashton.

**MOTION PASSED 5-0**

**10. Discussion/Action regarding filling the City Manager and Public Works Director positions and performance review for Interim City Manager. The Council may vote to discuss this matter in executive session pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1) "Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body."**

Mayor Nielsen stated that he has not received all of the evaluations. Vice Mayor Ashton stated that there has been two months to get it done, and recommended that the Council move forward.

**MOTION:**

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen to adjourn to executive session.

Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Ashton.

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Meeting was re-convened at 10:05 p.m.

## **11. Financial Report.**

Mr. Nelson explained that the reports for June were preliminary reports for the end of the fiscal year, and asked if there were any questions regarding those or the reports for July.

## **12. City Managers Report.**

Mr. Ramsey spoke about the upcoming dates for repair on Main Street that ADOT would be doing. The City Newsletter was then discussed especially regarding calendaring and participation of the council members in writing articles. Mayor suggested that it also be issued as a press release. On the potash front America West has bought out the only other partner involved for sole control and have invested recently 70 million dollars. He also mentioned the League Conference coming up at the end of the month. Mr. Ramsey spoke about the CDBG bureaucracy.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Nielsen mentioned merit raises. Councilman Hancock mentioned follow up on committee: Welcoming Oasis. Mayor requested a list of all those who were involved in that committee in the past.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **MOTION:**

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Ashton.

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:21 pm.**

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Fred Nielsen, Mayor

ATTEST:

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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.

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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.