

**ST. JOHNS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
March 7, 2012**

The regular meeting was duly posted. Mayor Fred Nielsen called the meeting to order at approximately 6:33 pm in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room at the County Annex.

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

ABSENT: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Hank Rogers, Carl Wilkens, Becky Stinson, Donna Hauser, EK, Brock Crosby, Jared Anderson, Travis Johnson, Stacy Frazier, John Wiseman, Carrie Crosby, Brandon Crosby, Ray Davis, Georgia Meyer, Estella Sample, Jessica Poling, Tom Sarnoff, Barry Weller, Tana Anderson, Patricia Staffnik, Jim Staffnik, Jessie Thomas, and Sandra Nielsen.

INVOCATION: Sandra Nielsen

PLEDGE: Jessie Thomas

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Jim Staffnik spoke regarding sustainable grant issues, and commented on the editorials in the White Mountain Independent and Agenda 21. Staff was directed by Mayor Nielsen to make sure that Mr. Staffnik get a copy of the budget for the regional planning grant . Mr. Hank Rogers was given time for rebuttal. Mr. Barry Weller spoke regarding Agenda 21.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider approval of January 12, 2012 meeting minutes.**
- 2. Payment of bills.**

MOTION

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

Motion passed 7-0.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

3. **Consider adoption of the Redskin Wrestling Team State Championship Day Proclamation in honor of the outstanding accomplishments of the St. Johns High School Wrestling Team.**

MOTION:

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen that the proclamation be passed. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cirivello.

MOTION PASSED 7-0.

Mayor Nielsen read the proclamation and presented it to the Coach and Team. He invited the Coach and Team to come up to the front for recognition. The coach took a few minutes to talk about the team and their hard work.

4. **Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Audit Presentation.**

Mr. McKay Hall from Hinton Burdick Hall & Spilker PLLC gave a power point presentation on the audit findings. There were no questions after the presentation. Mr. Nelson thanked the auditors for their work and help. He also put forth a checklist or plan of what needs to be done as a result of the audit. Mr. Nelson also asked for help from the council members to solve some of the issues. Mayor Nielsen suggested that all the council members review the plan put forth. Councilman Udall suggested that this plan be put on future agendas so that a report could be made monthly on the progress being made. Councilman Patterson requested a summary when they are finished of how it was corrected and who was responsible for the action taken. Mayor Nielsen made it clear that “the buck stops with you” to Mr. Nelson and suggested that if he needs backing up by the Mayor to get other staff to cooperate in the corrections to let him know.

5. **Regional Planning Grant.**

Mr. Ramsey gave a report on the progress and the series of planning meetings regarding the decisions which had ten participants. Five areas of focus were chosen that the participants felt were important to this community. 1. Energy Development. 2. Business retention. 3. Business expansion. 4. Attracting Government Funding. 5. Downtown Development. Councilman Cirivello gave a report from his attendance at the meetings and the positive approach. He pointed out that the choices were made by the community members involved and they came out with an excellent plan. Mr. Hank Rogers also made positive comments regarding our steering committee. He reminded the Council that they have the option of approving the plan or not. He made a

suggestion that a plan like this one should be reviewed and put in place every five years. Mr. Ramsey thanked all the participants for the good job and the willingness to donate their time.

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

Becky Stinson presented a power point regarding what a social host ordinance is and why they think that the City of St. Johns needs one. She made reference to the Arizona Youth Survey and gave the statistics from that survey that cover Round Valley, St. Johns, and the entire county. The two main issues are tobacco and alcohol and other issues stem from the drinking. She discussed the choices between civil and criminal liabilities within the ordinance. A discussion ensued after the presentation surrounding innocent individuals, reasonable enforcement, and law officer conduct. City Attorney Bryce Patterson gave an explanation of the ordinance and details of what could occur due to the ordinance. Police Chief Jones gave his impression of the ordinance, how the officers would handle it, his thoughts on the need for it, how it could prevent problems already occurring, and stated that he supports this kind of ordinance fully. Council members expressed their concerns.

MOTION: Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen that Attorney Patterson tighten up the proposed ordinance and present a prepared version at next council meeting for a vote. Motion was seconded by Councilman Patterson.
MOTION PASSED: 7-0

7. Consider authorizing the purchase of a 4 Zoll E-Series ADE/Monitor/Defibrillator units and 4 Zoll AutoPulse Mechanical CPR devices using funds from the Healthcare District, EMS Department Revenue, and the Ambulance Savings Account.

Jason Kirk gave a presentation on the history of the purchase of past items comparable to the proposed purchase, the length of time since the last purchase, and the improved technology improvements made over those years.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Councilman Cirivello that the Council authorize the purchase of 4 Zoll E-Series ADE/Monitor/Defibrillator units and 4 Zoll Auto Pulse Mechanical CPR devices using funds from the Healthcare District, EMS Department Revenue, and the Ambulance Savings Account. Motion was seconded by Councilman Udall.

MOTION PASSED 6-0 Councilman Patterson was out of the room.

8. Consider acceptance of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the acquisition of a Structural Fire Engine, and authorize staff to proceed with the Grant process.

Jason Kirk gave an outline of the need for a new truck, his efforts to apply for a grant several years in a row, and the awarding of a grant this year. He requested permission to go forward with the grant and purchase the fire engine. Mr. Nelson asked Jason to explain the City's part in the cost of the engine. Mr. Kirk explained that the grant would cover 95% of the cost, and that the City would have to pay the 5% leftover, and that those funds would come out of the Wildland Fire account.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen to authorize staff to proceed with the grant process as listed in Item 8 of the agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Udall.

MOTION PASSED 6-1. Opposing vote was Vice Mayor Ashton. He explained that he doesn't like where these funds are coming from.

9. Consider filling a vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission for the term from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014.

Mr. Nelson explained the length of a term on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilman Cirivello gave a recommendation about the knowledge and experience of Mr. Carl Wilkins. Mr. Wilkins gave a statement of his willingness to serve another term.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Councilman Patterson to re-appoint Carl Wilkins to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Ashton.

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

10. Consider approval of Resolution 491, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of St. Johns, Arizona, declaring as a public record certain documents filed with the City Clerk and entitled "The Apache County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2011" by reference.

Mr. Ramsey answered questions from the Council about the Mitigation Plan. Councilman Hancock pointed out that the City would be adopting a bunch of federal codes that are within the plan, and asked if the City would be tied in to expending funds because of this plan. Mr. Ramsey pointed out that it is only a plan. He also explained that federal money, if a disaster happened, would be unavailable because we did not have a plan in place. If we have the plan we can accept or reject the funds from outside sources.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen to approve the Resolution 491. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cirivello.

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

11. Consider approval of Ordinance 146, an Ordinance of the City of St. Johns, Arizona, adopting the public document entitled “The Apache County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2011” by reference. Mr. Nelson explained that item 10 was declaring the Mitigation Plan as a public document so that the City would not have to publish all 217 pages in the newspaper, and that Ordinance 146 is the actual adopting of the Mitigation Plan.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen that we approve Ordinance 146. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cirivello.

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

12. City Hall Project.

Mr. Ramsey discussed the roof and the integrity of the building. He gave an estimate on replacing the roof. Discussion ensued regarding the trusses, the roofs issues, and ways to save some money on the project. Mr. Kirk gave his safety concerns regarding the building and trusses from a firefighter perspective. Mayor Nielsen explained the current position of the County Supervisor on the counties participation in the project. Councilmen Patterson and Cirivello gave their opinions on getting the asbestos removed and the roof done without delay. Mayor Nielsen directed staff to schedule the asbestos and get the bid process started.

13. Consider development and approval of a Council policy for agenda creation.

Mayor Nielsen wants to see a copy of the City Charter regarding the policy for agenda creation. He stated his understanding of how it is done. Staff was directed to find the policy in City records. Attorney Patterson pointed out that if it's in the Charter we can't change it, and that the City Code needs to match what is in the Charter.

14. Financial Report.

Mr. Nelson gave his report on December and January. He pointed out the funds that are exceeding their budget, and spoke about revenues and expenses. Revenues are expected to increase over the next fiscal year. He presented a graph on the rental revenue and explained the graph, and stated that the response to the rental notices has been good. He proposed a budget calendar for starting the budget process for next fiscal year. Mayor Nielsen complimented staff on maintaining a difficult budget during the hard times the City has been going through for the past few years. Mr. Nelson explained some of the sources of revenue and the projections the State is making for increases. Councilman Patterson suggested that the Council needs to sit down and have discussions about the options that are available at this point, after the bad years.

15. City Manager's Report.

Mr. Ramsey gave a report on the final stages of water line construction being done and what will be taking place to maintain the line. He announced a meeting for presentation of what's happening on the potash mine on Monday, March 19th at 6:00 pm in St. Johns and on the 23rd in Round Valley. He gave a report on a meeting with Eric Swanson. Mayor Nielsen gave his positive impressions of the details and plans that Mr. Swanson had for development needed for growth of the city. Discussion ensued as to what we need to do to lure the new employees from the potash mine to live here in our city. Mayor Nielsen suggested that Mr. Swanson be asked to update and present his proposal again to the council. Councilman Cirivello pointed out that the zoning has been approved, and now we have the waterline in place and the development can actually be implemented. Mr. Nelson then reported on the 4th of July and State Centennial celebration plans. It is still a work in process and will be reported on again in the future. Mr. Ramsey then reported on the CDBG project. It is due to expire on April 15th, but that he has applied for an extension and expects it to be granted.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Mayor Nielsen wants staff to develop a report based on what the City of Page did to become the electrical provider for their community. How did they do it? Where did they get the money to do that? He would like to explore the possibility of doing that here in St. Johns and thought it could be a significant revenue source for the city in the future.
2. Mayor Nielsen informed the Council that Kinder-Morgan is putting in a pipeline from I-40. He wants to know if a natural gas return pipeline could be put in at the same time.
3. Councilman Patterson asked for an additional agenda item after he has a visit with staff regarding the audit.
4. Evan Nelson pointed out a Planning and Zoning Meeting to discuss the streets Tuesday, March 13th.
5. Mayor Nielsen informed staff of a citizen complaint about 5th South.
6. Jason Kirk suggested a discussion regarding fire issues for this summer, including mitigation, fuel abatements, hazard reductions and prescribed burns.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 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.