

**ST. JOHNSCITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
November 8, 2012**

The regular meeting was duly posted. Mayor Fred Nielson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35pm 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, 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, and Airport Manager/Fire Chief Gary Liston.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kristl Jones, Sandy Liston, and Chris Patterson.

**INVOCATION:** City Manager Paul Ramsey

**PLEDGE:** Robert "Smoke" Vallejos

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Daniel Fraley spoke regarding his concern about the speed of traffic up and down West 5<sup>th</sup> Place South. Lots of animals have been run over and his concern is that a child might very well be next. Weekends are bad but it happens constantly. Mayor asked City Manager Mr. Ramsey and Chief Jones to look into the situation to see if a solution can be found.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Consider approval of October 11, 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 Vice Mayor Ashton.

**Motion passed 6-0.**

## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

### **3. 100 Tree Project.**

Former Mayor Cris Patterson reported on the 100 Tree Project. He handed out a list of the trees planted with pictures. He admitted to forgetting to record all of the trees because he had no paper at the time they were reported to him. Mr. Patterson volunteered to head up another tree planting project. He also congratulated the council on getting the water project done as being most important for the future of St. Johns.

### **4. St. Johns I-40 Billboard Improvements.**

Evan Nelson spoke for Mr. Steve Barcak. He showed three pictures of the sign as it looks today. He summarized Mr. Barcaks proposed project to restore the billboard, saying that he would provide all the labor if the City would provide the materials.

#### **MOTION:**

Councilman Hancock made a motion that the sign be restored to its original look and that staff was authorized to get the sign restored within their budget discretionary guidelines.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Udall.

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

### **5. Consider approval of an intergovernmental agreement with Apache County for the administration of the City's Community Development Block Grant.**

Mr. Nelson introduced the next Community Development Block Grant. EDAC no longer will administer the grant. It is proposed that the administrative dollars for the grant be used to pay the county's grant administrator to administer our grant. Bryce Patterson City Attorney indicated that he had looked it over and that is was fine. Mr. Ramsey explained that the projects would be brought to Council for approval.

#### **MOTION:**

Motion was made by Mayor Nielson to approve the intergovernmental agreement with Apache County for the administration of the City's Community Development Block Grant.

Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hauser.

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

**6. Consider approval of Resolution 496 authorizing the execution of Joint Project Agreement 11-012, with the State of Arizona, related to pavement preservation at the Airpark.**

Airport Manager Gary Liston explained the system that the State uses when funding airport project grants for items 6 and 7. Discussion started with questions regarding the State's engineer, who made what mistake in the process. Mr. Liston explained that the State switched the order of operations the Taxiway project is done but the City has not received the invoice for it, and the Runway project is not done yet but we do have an invoice for it.

**Motion:**

Motion was made by Mayor Nielson to approve Resolution 496 authorizing the execution of Joint Project Agreement 11-012, with the State of Arizona, related to pavement preservation at the Airpark.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Hancock.

**Motion passed: 5-0**

**Motion was opposed by Vice Mayor Ashton.**

**7. Consider approval of Resolution 497 authorizing the execution of Joint Project Agreement 12-129, with the State of Arizona, related to pavement preservation at the Airpark.**

See notes for Item 6.

**Motion:**

Motion was made by Mayor Nielson to approve Resolution 497 authorizing the execution of Joint Agreement 12-129, with the State of Arizona, related to pavement preservation at the Airpark.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Hancock.

**Motion passed: 5-0**

**Motion was opposed by Vice Mayor Ashton.**

**8. Discussion regarding the filling of two vacancies on the Planning and Zoning Commission in the December meeting.**

Mr. Nelson informed the Council that at the end of this calendar year there are two positions on the Commission that will expire. Ed Toyofa has served several terms and is retiring, and therefore not interested in serving again. Mike O'Brian has not yet called Mr. Nelson back regarding his position on the Commission. Mayor requested that staff continue talking to the committee, possibility of advertising, and bring proposals back to the next council meeting.

**9. Consider approving the addition of a High Deductible Health Plan and Health Savings Account option for City employees with associated rates and City contributions to employee health savings accounts.**

Evan Nelson gave a short explanation of the PPO Insurance Plan now offered. Then he explained the high deductible plan and savings option that could be offered in addition to the PPO. He then answered questions from the Council.

**Motion:**

Motion was made by Councilman Cirivello to approve the addition of a High Deductible Health Plan and Health Savings Account option for City employees with associated rates and City contributions to employee health savings accounts using Option #1.

**Option #1:**

City contributes an amount to the employee's Health Savings Account equal to the employee's portion of the premium. All rates are monthly. Employee Only Contributions are set at \$60.00.

Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Ashton.

**Motion Passed: 6-0.**

**10. City Hall Project.**

Mr. Ramsey gave an update on the Brownfields Grant, the contractor is supposed to come the last week of November.

Mr. Nelson has been communicating with a business called Arcadis. They are not a contractor, they do project management on an hourly rate. Mike Torrison did the project management for the County's complex that included the Library, the Library district, NPC and the old city hall building. He would be an agent for the city handling the contractors etc. to get the project finished. The city would give him the project plans, the existing building, and the dollar amount then he would either get it done or tell us it can't be done. Mr. Ramsey reported on the last meeting with the County regarding using part of the building. They are no longer interested in partnering with the City on the project. Mr. Torrison was email a copy of the plans and already has questions related to the project and is willing to discuss some of the issues without a promise of compensation at this point. Mr. Torrison and Arcadis would have no decision making authority, the council would make all the decisions. City Attorney Bryce Patterson indicated that he could be put under contract in such a way as to protect the City. Mayor asked if Mr. Torrison would put together a proposal, with a guarantee and contract. Mayor requested that Mr. Torrison be brought to next Council meeting to meet everyone.

## **11. Downtown/Main Street Improvements.**

Mayor Nielson led the discussion regarding Father Tim Conlon talking with him about some donations that were made that the donor would like put into our community that would be tax deductible. Discussion ensued about a 501(c)(3) formation as a means for putting the funds through. Mr. Nelson indicated that he was planning on talking to the Historical Society regarding their 501(c)(3). Consensus was that the City should create a 501(c)(3) of their own. Two projects were discussed in relation to this donation:

1. City Hall Project
2. Walking paths around the city and along the river

Mayor also talked about bringing back the Welcoming Oasis Committee, making it diverse, and making decisions regarding how we want the City to look.

## **12. Discuss possibility of providing water service to areas outside the City limits.**

Councilman Hancock expressed the need to talk about increased water service to new areas. Discussion included the need to provide water to those areas that were promised water when they were previously annexed. Mayor informed everyone about the water levels that are destroyed and the number of wells that are drying up. In order to have a well at our elevation in the future a well of 600-800 feet would have to be drilled. Several thoughts were expressed in favor and against about annexation. Councilman Cirivello suggested that Dana Waite should research the number of parcels that are without water so that an assessment could be made to start putting together some numbers.

## **13. Financial Report**

Mr. Nelson went through the reports with the councilmembers as he had changed the reports to reflect actual numbers without reflection on the lag that exists in revenues. He also reported that actual revenues from the State are 6% behind projections which comes to 17K short so far this fiscal year, and that he will be keeping a close eye on it. He also went over expenses and pointed out overages in departments that have up-front costs each fiscal year.

## **14. City Manager's Report**

Mr. Ramsey reported on Potash Mining. American West signed a 2 billion dollar agreement with the Chinese to receive potash. There will be a ceremony here in our community to celebrate that. He requested that as many councilmembers as could would come to that, and that he would make sure they got invited. They are still waiting on the permits. Councilwoman Hauser has put together goodie bags for that celebration.

Mountain View Waterline – grant information has not come out yet. Mr. Ramsey said it's a matter of waiting. Mayor asked about the investors in the community. Mr. Ramsey reported that he has kept them apprised of all that's happening, but they don't seem like they are excited. Mr. Ramsey also brought up Kinder Morgan's possibilities, and the construction workers that are going to need somewhere to live.

Mr. Ramsey reported on the mag-chloride application project on some of the city streets. They did some asphalt repairs, principally on the main road into Mountain View as well as some other areas.

Councilwoman Hauser brought up CDBG funds at the County level that are being spent at the fairgrounds facilities which the City owns. The County is providing funds and the City is providing the labor. She also brought up the park that the EMS/Fire department has spent a lot of time fixing up. Jean Kirk has been coordinating efforts on that. Jason Kirk mentioned all the donators and workers that helped with that project and some of the things that were done to repair, cleanup, install a fence, and plant a few trees. Councilmembers Cirivello and Udall expressed that thank you should be expressed with pictures in the newsletter and newspaper. Councilman Cirivello suggested that a thank you letter should be sent to any citizen who cleans up their property, by way of encouragement to the rest of the community.

Gary Liston informed the council of some businessmen fly in from Farmington who were looking for properties to park rigging trucks. They intended to look here in St. Johns and in Springerville. Mr. Liston thanked Mr. Ramsey for his help in accommodating the gentlemen who are with the CO2 project. One of the foremen by the name of Justin said that that project is about to kick into high gear.

Bryce Patterson mentioned David Day and the projects he is doing to make the Day property nice and put in a park.

Mayor Nielson brought up the home situation of the Listons at the airport. He requested that Mr. Ramsey get an appraisal done on that property. The Mayor wanted Staff to get someone out there during the next week to get the appraisal done.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Jason Kirk informed the Council that the Federal Government would like to have as much publicity as possible for when the fire truck is delivered. They have requested that we invited senators and representatives to be here for that. So he made them aware that it will be happening in January and will need to be taken care of prior to the event.

Councilwoman Hauser brought up that she would like to discuss procedures for forming volunteer committees and what projects could be done.

Councilman Udall brought up the codification of the City Code as a future item.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **MOTION:**

Motion was made by Mayor Nielson to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Udall.

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.**

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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.

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.