

**THE CITY OF ST. JOHNS**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**

**February 14, 2018**

The meeting was duly posted. Vice Mayor Spence Udall called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

**ROLL CALL:** Vice Mayor Spence Udall, Councilman Pete Hancock, Councilwoman Kay Hauser, Councilman Tony Raykovitz, Councilman JR Richardson, and Councilman Tony Lindsey (6:34 p.m.)

**ABSENT:** Mayor Ryan Patterson

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Paul Ramsey, Finance Director/City Clerk Timothy Hinton, Deputy City Clerk Cindy Lee, City Attorney Bryce Patterson, Police Chief Lance Spivey, Police Officer Ty Bond, VIP Clay Overson, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kirk, Assistant EMS Chief Jean Kirk, and Firefighter Robert Vallejos.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deanne Wahl, Sharon Crosby, Shelly Finch, Nic Finch, Ashley Doubt, Melissa Ellsworth, Cookie Overson, Christy Skousen, Joseph Ramsey, Krystin Wahl, Kasey Nelson, David Romero, Mendie Parker, Wendy Wiltbank, Kristen Humpherys, Chuck Humpherys, Tobie Overson, Paul Otto, Janet Otto, Elizabeth Brown, Kris Pulsipher, Benjamin Grey, Brittany Gray, Tana Wilson, J Brown, and Maren Sundahl.

**PLEDGE:** Councilman Tony Raykovitz

**INVOCATION:** Joseph Ramsey

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- No public wish to speak at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Consider approval of January 10, 2018 City Council minutes.**
2. **Request approval for payment of bills from January 1-31, 2018. Special details of bills can be requested at City Hall.**

**MOTION**

Motion was made by Councilman Tony Raykovitz to approve the consent agenda as stated. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Kay Hauser.

**Motion passed 5-0**

## REGULAR AGENDA

### **3. Recommendation to appoint Timothy Hinton to the EDAC Board.**

City Manager Paul Ramsey commented the EDAC has not been functioning for several years. There used to be an Economic Development of Apache County position. There is no position for EDAC – there is no funding. It will be used as an organization that can approve and accept grants in behalf of the county for the communities of St. Johns, Spingerville, and Eagar. Any decisions on any grants would come before the Council. They would like to have 2 people from each community. Mr. Ramsey served prior and his name is still on the board. They needed a second name, Mr. Ramsey recommended Timothy Hinton.

#### **MOITON**

Motion was made by Councilman Tony Raykovitz to approve the recommendation of Timothy Hinton to be on the EDAC Board. Motion was seconded Councilman Tony Lindsey.

**Motion passed 6-0**

### **4. Discussion regarding Parks & Rec youth facilities and youth program funding.**

Melissa Ellsworth commented she is here to hopefully represent everyone that has kids in youth sport programs. Our many concerns are the lack of facilities for the youth sports programs and maintenance of the baseball fields. She wanted everyone to know that she is not pointing fingers at anyone, but to move forward from this point. Let's work to fix what facilities we do have. This all started when the little league voted in a new board. We met with Mr. Ramsey in January, he was very helpful. We have 17 teams and only one safe playable field. Mr. Ramsey has been helpful to try and get the other field playable and safe before the season starts. There is a parks and recreation fund at this time we would like the support of the City to help with the youth programs in this town. We have 17 little league teams, 19 basketball team and 10 to 12 soccer teams. This is a good thing. The little league fields need a lot of work to be safe. She loves it here and knows how important it is to have facilities for the kids and to have youth programs, because in small towns that is all they have. In order for those youth to thrive, we need the facilities up to par. With little league, basketball and soccer we have run into problems with the schools. They don't want us to use their facilities. We have all these kids that want to play sports, but if we don't have the facilities to have them learn the sport and the fundamentals, by the time they get to high school, they are not going to have any sports.

All we want is to have adequate facilities to play on.

Vice Mayor Udall commented that he agreed. Do you have a proposal or a list of what you want done.

Mr. Ramsey commented that they have talked. Primarily the west field, to get it in minimum regulations for softball and that way the games won't over lap and shorten some of these late nights. We have talked about:

- Dug outs
- New bases

- Clean up the base paths
- Level the end field
- Install all new bases and mound
- Fence the dugouts
- Put covers over the dug outs
- Repair back stop
- Temporary fence out field

Mrs. Wendy Wiltbank commented that she and Mr. Ramsey talked about putting a temporary fence up in back of the baseball field. Which at 200 feet, leaves them no room to play RIAT soccer this year.

Mr. Ramsey asked if they had an agreement with the schools to do RIAT soccer there.

Mr. Paul Otto commented that he met with Principal Tim Raban last week. He agreed to have RIAT play on the football field at the Middle School this year. Mr. Raban has a lot of concern about liability and the state of his facility. Mr. Raban made it very clear that he is on a very short leash, if there is any trash or markup the field in a bad way, or Mr. Nelson Davis says the field is hurting, then we will be removed from the field.

Mrs. Wiltbank commented that in a year or two, we would like a soccer field built. Just for soccer. They have no where to practice and our soccer kids are thriving.

Vice Mayor Udall asked if there was a budget.

Mr. Hinton commented that this year's budget for maintenance of the fields is about \$5000. Hardly any of it has been spent. This budget is till the end of the fiscal year. (June 30)

Vice Mayor Udall commented that we know that you are not here to point fingers, but he also knows how hard our guys work. They don't intend for things to get out of hand. These guys work hard, really hard. He feels like he needs to protect them. You have a long list, but \$5000 is not going to go a long ways. It is going to take some combined effort to concur this beast. We are going to have to take it one bite at a time. This is not something that we are going to knock out in one day or a year. When his kids were little, he and others spent hours working on the fields. Not that we thought the City was doing a bad job, we knew they were doing everything that they could.

Mr. Ramsey commented that this group has risen over \$6000 towards the leagues. They are very motivated and they are doing their part. He wants to make sure everyone understands that.

Mr. David Romero commented that some of the sports programs have grants available on their websites. Maybe we can team up with the county and work on these grants.

Vice Mayor Udall commented that he would like to see a list of what they need and prioritize the list. We will try to move forward with the facilities and come to another meeting and see how we are moving along.

Mr. Ramsey commented that he thinks there is some confusion. It is not the City Leagues. The leagues have stood on their own as far as equipment and uniforms. We are strictly providing the facilities. We are separate. We don't run the little leagues.

**5. Discussion regarding the campaign to clean up the City.**

Councilwoman Hauser asked to defer this item and go to #6.

**6. Consider amendment(s) to the St. Johns City Codes to integrate authority of City Manager or Designee to enforce Zoning and/or Abatement Codes.**

City Attorney Bryce Patterson commented that from the direction we received in the last meeting to amend the City Code and the Zoning Abatement. He wanted to make it clear that the employees that engage in these activities are covered by the insurance pool. The City Manager will have the authority to appoint officers and employees as necessary to carry out work of the City.

Council asked to see a copy of the amended City Codes.

\*Vice Mayor Udall moved to item #7 while waiting for the copies.

**7. Consider approval of the IGA with Northern Pioneer College for Northeastern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy.**

Police Chief Spivey commented that this is an existing agreement that is in place and is set to expire. It is simply a renewal. The conditions have not changed. There is no physical impact. Any fees that are associated with the academy are paid out of the RICO account out of the Drug Taskforce. His recommendation is to approve.

Vice Mayor Udall asked if this is where we get our recruits and where they go to their training to get their certification.

Chief Spivey commented yes and they also have driving training and firearms training.

**MOTION**

Motion was made by Councilman Tony Raykovitz to approve the IGA with Northern Pioneer College for Northeastern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tony Lindsey.

**Motion passed 6-0**

**8. Consider approval of the IGA with the White Mountain Regional Special Response Team.**

Chief Spivey commented that we have an ambulance that has gone up for surplus auction and no one has purchased this ambulance. We are asking for this ambulance to be exchanged with a van from the City of Show Low. This van will be outfitted for a crisis negotiations unit for the Special Response Team. The unit will be housed at the Police Department for fast response for this area. The equipment in the unit will be outfitted by SRT. It won't cost us anything other than the transfer of the titles. We are a member of the Regional Special Response Team.

**MOTION**

Motion was made by Councilman Tony Raykovitz to approve the IGA with the White Mountain Regional Special Response Team. Motion was seconded by Councilman JR Richardson.

**Motion passed 6-0**

**6. Consider amendment(s) to the St. Johns City Codes to integrate authority of City Manager or Designee to enforce Zoning and/or Abatement Code.**

This allows the City Manager to designate any staff to administer the City Codes, Zoning Codes and Abatement Codes.

**MOTION**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Kay Hauser to approve the Ordinance 02142018. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tony Lindsey.

**Motion passed 6-0**

**5. Discussion regarding the campaign to clean up the City.**

Councilwoman Kay Hauser commented that much of the cleanup is more available to do in the winter season.

City Manager Ramsey commented that the notification is year round and we can schedule some of the cleanup, here and there, during the busy season.

Councilwoman Hauser commented that in the next council meeting, come back with an update of abatements and when those can be scheduled.

Also any input of advertising, promoting, marketing and campaigning of notification that we are doing and the time line we are going to do.

City Manager Ramsey commented that he will update Council in his Manager Report.

**9. Discussion regarding the solar lighting for Cleveland and Commercial streets.**

Councilman Pete Hancock commented that the light in the back room, just the light, cost us \$600, \$300 was just in shipping from China. He has worked on the cost to be \$270. They will not be coming by plane this time; they will be coming by boat. The minimum to purchase is six. He would like to get 10 of the light to test them out at the park and in front of his shop. He is willing to pay for a couple of the lights to get them out in the public. He has looked at poles and they run about \$1000. They whole cost would be about \$1300.

Finance Director/City Clerk Timothy Hinton commented to the crowd (as they were getting loud) that this fund is not coming out of the general fund. This money is strictly for streets. This is money that has been set aside for this project.

Vice Mayor Udall commented that he is hesitant to buy the lights without the pole. We need a pole that looks good with the light.

Councilman Hancock commented that he needs the light first to test them before the poles.

Vice Mayor Udall asked City Manager Ramsey how many light he would need to test in the Heritage Park.

Mr. Ramsey commented that the park would need four. And we would have to have the measurements to know how much of a footing to pour for the pole.

Vice Mayor Udall commented that Councilman Hancock bring 3 choices to the next City Council meeting so they can decide which pole to purchase.

City Attorney Patterson recommended that to put this agenda item on the next agenda and Councilman Hancock has a proposal and the material in the council packets, so council can review the information. That way Council can make a motion on the next council meeting.

#### **10. Discussion regarding the corner of Cleveland and 13<sup>th</sup> Street.**

Councilman Hancock has been working on cleaning this corner. He would like to see a park, but not quite like a park, just to make it look nice. This area is a drainage area, but there are some things we can do with this area. Maybe put a path or two in.

Mr. Ramsey commented that he is very hesitant to do any dirt work until we resolve any issues with the Little Colorado River. We did not want to follow that same suit.

Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kirk commented that the field is the single most threat to a half of dozen homes and several businesses. We are going to use this as a Wildland fire training and refresher for some of our firefighters, State Wildland, and several other fire departments in the area. There is a portion of wetland in the area. Mr. Ramsey can point those out to us.

City Attorney Patterson commented that the wetland will have the same requirements that the Little Colorado River has. You will need approval from the US Army Corp of Engineers and a 404 Permit. There are several penalties involved if you alter the wetland in anyway. Without that permit, you subject the City to serious fines.

#### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

- **Abatement** – We have three properties that we have talked about. The Leverton property; we are working on this and the trailer should be removed by mid-April. The Williams/Chavez property. The family does not want the old adobe home removed. They will be coming in March to clean out the trailer. And the last on we just received the name and we will be working on that property.
- **Park** – We have started working on removing the large dead trees. We will be replacing those trees. We will also be working on removing the dangerous sidewalks in and around the park and put in ADA compliant sidewalks.
- **24<sup>th</sup> Street Project** - The bid was just awarded to Hatch Construction. The Repaving of 24<sup>th</sup> street from 15<sup>th</sup> North to 7<sup>th</sup> South. When we do the paving of 15<sup>th</sup> North that will be the last of the paving projects with Federal moneys.
- **SRP** – Just a note; Hatch Construction was also awarded the road going out to SRP from the cemetery to the top of the hill. The back road are going to be use more.
- **191 South Closure** - This has been proposed but no action has come out.

#### **CITY POLICE CHIEF**

- **Cadet Blank** - He is doing well in the academy. He is in the top 10 of his class.

- **March 7-10** - We begin records management training with the new vender.
- **100 Club** – We started with the Bullet Proof Program, employee system program. He thought this was very important.
- **Speed trailer** – Statistics are in the packet of where the trailer has been placed. The trailer counts cars and how many vehicles went that speed.
- **Candidate testing** – We had this last week with just one person. We have another one tomorrow. We will discuss which way we will go.
- **Crosswalk** – Still working with ADOT to get a lighted crosswalk at the Annex

**Councilman Raykovitz** – Thanked Chief Spivey and his staff for mitigating the phone outage and keeping the office open till midnight and for Officer Bond getting the word out.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Councilman Hancock – An update from the City Manager on the road repairs.
- Councilman Lindsey – Economic Development Director position and strategy.
- Councilwoman Hauser – We heard from Assistant Chief Kirk in the last City Council meeting about dilapidated homes that the veterans are living in. What can we do about this? Attorney Patterson asked Mr. Kirk to get him some information.
- Missy Ellsworth – Put her back on the agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Kay Hauser to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tony Raykovitz.

**Motion passed 6-0**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.**


  
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 Spence Udall, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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 Cindy Lee, Deputy City Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the forgoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the St. Johns City Council meeting held February 14, 2018. I certify that the meeting was duly called, held, and that a quorum was present.



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Cindy Lee, Deputy City Clerk

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