THE CITY OF ST. JOHNS

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

September 13, 2017

The meeting was dully posted. Mayor Ryan Patterson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:38 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Ryan Patterson, Vice Mayor Spence Udall, Councilman Pete Hancock, Councilman Tony Lindsey, and Councilman Tony Raykovitz (on the phone, lost connection at 6:48 p.m.)

**ABSENT:** Councilwoman Kay Hauser and Councilman JR Richardson

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Paul Ramsey, Finance Director/City Clerk Timothy Hinton, Deputy City Clerk Cindy Lee, Sergeant Paul Albert, Officer Creig Wallace, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kirk, and Assistant EMS Chief Jean Kirk.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Barcak, Byron James, Jace James, Logan James, Gabriel Waite, Justin Norton, Case Heap, John Waite.

**PLEDGE:** Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kirk

**INVOCATION:** Vice Mayor Spence Udall

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

* Steve Barcak informed the council of the upcoming car show on Sept. 15-16 at the City Park.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Consider approval of August 9, 2017 City Council minutes.**
2. **Request approval for payment of bills from August 1-31, 2017. Special details of bills can be requested at City Hall.**

**MOTION**

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Spence Udall to approve the consent agenda as stated. Motion was seconded by Councilman Pete Hancock.

**Motion passed 5-0**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

1. **Consider appointing a member of City Council and an alternate to NACOG Regional Council.**

City Manager Paul Ramsey commented that NACOG always appreciates representation from the City Council. He believes that Mayor Patterson is the representative for NACOG from the City Council.

Mayor Patterson agreed that he believes he is the representative and Councilwoman Hauser is the alternate also. She would like to be a part of these meetings. He also asked to be informed earlier than a couple days before the meetings with NACOG.

City Manager Ramsey commented that Chris Fetzer would like to come to the City Council meeting and present a presentation regarding NACOG and what NACOG does for our community.

1. **Consider request to contract with Sunstate Technology Group for the Police Department IT.**

Sergeant Paul Albert commented that Interim Chief Johnston wrote a memorandum explaining the information. The Police Dept. was paying $725 a month for services. The services would be good for a while and then there would be no service. We had a number of problems. Interim Chief Johnston decided that enough was enough and canceled our agreement with that company. Eagar and Springerville found Sunstate Technology Group. Eagar, Springerville, Pinetop/Lakeside and Holbrook are all with Sunstate now. There is a startup fee of $1200. We have talked with Eagar and Springerville and they are happy with Sunstate.

Mayor Patterson asked what the startup fee of $1200, what are we getting for $1200?

Sergeant Albert commented that it would be having Sunstate come in and setting up the infrastructure.

Mayor Patterson commented that we need to put in the contract that we can get out within 60 days and take out the 60% of each month remaining.

He is leery to move forward with this contract with Sunstate with a new Police Chief coming on. Maybe we need to look at this again, City wide. We need the ability to do a 30 day no fee, no penalty, with or without cause to get out of the contract. We need to go back to Sunstate and see if they will agree.

Sergeant Albert commented that they have no IT right now.

Councilman Lindsey commented that maybe do a one year contract until we get a new Police Chief and then re-evaluate. It would save the City a lot of money to have one contract for the whole city.

Mayor Patterson asked if the current IT company has been contacted that you are canceling services?

Sergeant Albert commented that they have call, left message and emailed the company and have had no response.

Mayor Patterson asked if City Manager Ramsey could contact Dan Humes and see what he could do for a month for the Police Dept., until the City can get with Sunstate. We can comeback with an emergency meeting if needs be. We do not want the Police Dept. to go without.

**Hearing no motion, Council tabled this item.**

**CITY MANAGERS REPORT**

* **Apache & Navajo Counties Mayors & Councilmember Association –** The date for the meeting is Oct. 19th and it will be held in Eagar. Please RSVP by Oct 11th.
* **Little Colorado River -**  We went ahead and worked on the drainage under the bridge. The ADOT Environmental guy turned the City in to the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Ramsey has a meeting set up with Army Corps of Engineers. He has no idea what this involves. It could be as high as $3500 a day that we worked on the drainage. He thinks if we take and show them and describe why we went about it, they may change their mind. He is hoping that they will be responsive.

Mayor Patterson commented if ADOT is going to continue to allow our people to be in danger of flooding out their homes, and ADOT want to go ahead and turn the City in and get us fined, Mayor has no problem going after ADOT. ADOT continues to push us off on the drainage under the bridge and then they say it is our problem. They make us take care of it when it is their own road. It is going to flood other people out and the safety of citizens. This is ridiculous.

Mr. Ramsey commented that not only that, but it is a safety of their structure. They have created the dam that is there. He does not think that it will get to that point. However he wanted to make sure Council is aware of what is going on. He will be meeting with Mr. Toy and hopefully he can apply for a 404 permit to go down the river further. We really need to have the river flow down the river further.

* **MVD Closure –** MVD has been closed for 2 week. They are claiming the building is not suitable to be inhabited. We had a meeting last Thursday and they sent 11 representatives from ADA, Environment, to the Director and ext. We have no results back for determination yet. What Mr. Ramsey told them, at the end of the day we need to ensure that MVD remain here in St. Johns, whether it is in the building or if they rent someplace else, they should have the budget.

Mayor Patterson commented that the County Board of Supervisors came up with a resolution and we could get that resolution and type it up with the City info and send it to all State Representatives. They put this together saying that we needed the MVD in this area because…..If needed we could have an emergency meeting.

* **Heritage Park –** The Park is almost completed. Benches will be here Tuesday, electrical should be completed tomorrow. The flag pole will be here next week.
* **Chief selection -** This will be happening next week. Councilman Hancock would like to hear something on this. Please keep him informed.

**CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT**

* **Apache County Fair –** Everything went well. We tried something new this year with the command trailer. The trailer was bought several years ago with GOHS funds by the Town of Eagar. We did not know about the trailer till the beginning of the year. It really helped out at the fair.
* **Officer Van Hilsen -** He left our employment and went to the Peoria Police Dept. for the benefit of his children that are in the valley. Van Hilsen was the K-9 Unit; we have assigned the K-9 Unit to Officer Smith. Officer Smith will be attending K-9 training in Oct. for 4 weeks. We have put out advertisement for a Lateral Officer. There has been no response as of yet. We are adding to the advertising for Lateral Officer or Recruit. The academy is not till January 2018.

Mayor Patterson commented that we are losing officers as soon as we train them. This is a burden on the tax payers. He asked to create a policy that they will stay a year or 2 after they are trained by us.

Sergeant Albert commented that we do require new recruits to stay 3 years. With other positions we don’t have any policy for Laterals. With the Officers right now, they are not going to be leaving anytime soon.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEM**

* **Councilman Hancock –** Riparian area, he will have something mapped out for the area.
* **Councilman Hancock –** Lights on Main Street like other communities in the area.
* **Councilman Lindsey -**  Economic Development, job description.
* **Mayor Patterson -**  Planning & Zoning, Layover.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Spence Udall to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Pete Hancock.

**Motion passed 4-0**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.**

Ryan Patterson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy Lee, Deputy City Clerk

**CERTIVICATION**

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 September 13, 2017. I certify that the meeting was duly called, held, and that a quorum was present.

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.