THE CITY OF ST. JOHNS

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

May 12, 2021

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

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Spence Udall, Vice Mayor Tony Raykovitz, Councilman Tony Lindsey, Councilman Ken Whiting on the phone, Councilwoman Tanya Cohen, Councilman Danny Price, and Councilman Joe Greene.

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Paul Ramsey, Community Development Director Chris Chiesl, Utility Clerk Janeece Wessel, Police Chief Lance Spivey, City Attorney Bryce Patterson, Fire Chief/Airport Manager Gary Liston, and Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kirk.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mike Greene, B.A. Walther, Ruth Price, Keith Brekhus, Tom Robertson, Rachel Richardson, Ashley Rogers, Brittney Mineer, Brandon Morales, Tana Wilson, Ashley Cohen, Kelsie Cohen, Velvet Nielsen, Megan Wilhelm, Leslie Welker, Ben Davis, Lacie Davis, John Richardson, Linda Richardson, Ross Carpenter, Genetta Thornhill, Felisha Ramsey, and Claire Lambson.

**INVOCATION:** Tony Lindsey

**PLEDGE:** Danny Price

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

* Ross Carpenter – Water Street cleaned up.

**CONSENDT AGENDA**

1. **Consider approval for March10, 2021 Work Session minutes and April 14, 2021 City Council minutes.**
2. **Request approval for payment of bills from April 1-30, 2021. Special details of bills can be requested at City Hall.**

**MOTION**Motion was made by Councilman Joe Greene to approve the Consent Agenda with the change of the title of the minutes of April 14, 2021 to read minutes. Motion was second by Councilwoman Tanya Cohen.

**Motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Udall, Vice Mayor Raykovitz, Councilman Lindsey, Councilwoman Cohen, Councilman Price and Councilman Greene voting in favor.**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

1. **Discuss health concerns of City Broadband Project.**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

* Rachel Richardson – Internet
* Megan Wilhelm – Internet
* Brittney Mineer – Internet/health concerns
* Tom Robertson- Internet/health concerns
* Ashley Rogers – Internet/health concerns
* Velvet Nielsen – Internet/health concerns
* Tara Wilson – Internet/questions
* JR Richardson – Internet Open Hearing

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Councilman Ken Whiting joined the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Spence Udall commented that this will be a council discussion. He understands the concerns of the people that have voiced their concerns. He has studied both sides; he can see that there is no proven evidence that radio frequency causes cancer. The City has been working on this for over 2 years to find an internet solution. Many people in our community cannot afford Star Link’s set up fee and subsidizing to help community members would have legal issues by gifting funds.

The City’s best interest is to move forward. We don’t have a contract yet.

The power plants will start the shutting down process by 2025. Forty percent of the jobs will be gone. We need to get business to come to our community to create jobs. Time is of the essences.

Councilman Tony Lindsey commented that his whole career is in radio frequency. We have fiber in town, but that was a grant from George Bush for “No Child Left Behind.” We don’t have the funds to run fiber. We have tried 2 different satellite companies and they were not successful. He explained all the radio frequencies that you have in your home. Radio frequencies are everywhere. Most of RF (radio frequency) has been in town sense the 80’s if not earlier. To us adding low power tour in town is not changing the RF. This is nothing compared to the sun. As of today there is no health evidence exposer of RF. Every company that uses RF is inspected on the amount they are using. He lives in this community and doesn’t want anyone to get hurt. We have been working on this project for 2 years and this is the best solution we have found. We are at a critical point with the power plants closing. Our town will become a much smaller town.

Vice Mayor Tony Raykovitz commented that many of the audience he has taught in school and he remembers that most of the audience said (when they were in school) that you could not wait to get out of here. Now you are back. Even his children would like to come home and work. We want to give our kids that opportunity to come back.

Your concerns are valid concerns and we take that serious. We are caught between a rock and a hard spot. Do we move forward and have a place for your kids to come back or do we continue with what we have been doing and not bring any business?

We are trying to create an environment for our kids to stay and for our kids to come back.

Councilman Whiting commented that we need to look into this company further and there is no emergency to have this done now and there is money out there through the state. There are alternative. If you put all your eggs in one basket and that company doesn’t come through then where will we be? Basically if you pay this company and they need more funding, then what?

Councilman Joe Greene commented that if we don’t put the tour up, someone else is going to. We are trying to help our town and fiber to every home is unfeasible. If Mr. Whiting is worried about one company destroying this town, you are off track. We do need to do something for this community. He is on the council so that his kids will have something to comeback too. He completely disagrees with Mr. Whiting’s comments. We have tried to work with ATNI.

Mayor Spence Udall commented that he disagrees with Councilman Whiting on several points. We are in a time constraint. We have talked with ATNI multiple times and they refuse over and over.

We have talked with the people in Washington and the money is not there. The money may have been talked about but it is not there. There is a time constraint and that time is now. If we wait 3 months, then this project is done. He is looking out for those people that need it in this community.

Councilman Greene commented that our emergency is our children and for the infrastructure to come in. We are paying $60 a month for internet that you can’t even use. Even worse, if you drop Frontier Communications, they will not accept you back.

1. **Consider approval of ADOT Airport Surface Treatment Project 2022.**

Airport Manager Gary Liston commented that this is a paving program with the state. The cost is a 10% share. Our cost is $35,602 and the City Manager Paul Ramsey commented that $10,000 on our taxes. He is asking for permission to move forward.

City Manager Ramsey commented that $10,000will come back to the City through taxes. The money will come from funding and he has worked it out with Mr. Hinton. He also commented that the airport has been put into a new separation that ADOT requires. This taxi way is where that separation. We need to maintain the infrastructure to insure that we have a viable airport. This is the pavement preservation that we did a year ago on the runway. It is staff’s recommendation to go with this paving project.

**MOTION**

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Tony Raykovitz to approve the ADOT Airport Surface Treatment Project 2022. Motion was second by Councilwoman Tanya Cohen.

**Motion passed 6 Aye -1 Nay with Vice Mayor Raykovitz, Councilman Lindsey, Councilman Whiting, Councilwoman Cohen, Councilman Price and Councilman Greene voted in favor. Mayor Udall voted against.**

1. **ORDINANCE REVIEW – Business License.**

Community Development Director Chris Chiesl commented that this was brought before council last month in draft form. This is the whole chapter.

City Attorney D. Bryce Patterson commented that this was the draft that was brought before council in 2008. He believes that the Council didn’t pass it in 2008 because they didn’t want to discourage business. This is not in ordinance form. The Council has not instructed him to draft this in ordinance form.

Community Development Director Chiesl commented that every community in the White Mountains has a business license enforced. Council needs to consider an amount $20-$25 for a new business and a renewal fee every year. Of course that is up to the Council on the amount.

Mayor Udall recommended that we need to have the business license in ordinance form for the next meeting.

1. **Consider approval of Resolution 05122021.1 submitting Fiscal Year 2020 Expenditure Limitation report to the Arizona Auditor General.**

City Manager Paul Ramsey commented that the next 3 items are housekeeping items. This is something that we need to do every year.

Mayor Udall commented that this did come from Mr. Hinton.

**MOTION**Motion was made by Mayor Spence Udall to approve Resolution 05122021.1 submitting Fiscal Year 2020 Expenditure Limitation report to the Arizona Auditor General. Motion was second by Councilman Joe Greene.

**Motion passed 7-0 with Mayor Udall, Vice Mayor Raykovitz, Councilman Lindsey, Councilman Whiting, Councilwoman Cohen, Councilman Price, and Councilman Greene voting in favor.**

1. **Consider approval of Resolution 05122021.2 submitting Fiscal Year 2021 Expenditure Limitation report to the Arizona Auditor General.**

**MOTION**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Tony Raykovitz to approve Resolution 05122021.2 submitting Fiscal Year 2021 Expenditure Limitation report to the Arizona Auditor General. Motion was second by Councilwoman Tanya Cohen.

**Motion passed 7-0 with Mayor Udall, Vice Mayor Raykovitz, Councilman Lindsey, Councilman Whiting, Councilwoman Cohen, Councilman Price, and Councilman Greene voting in favor.**

1. **Consider approval of Resolution 05212021.3 submitting Fiscal Year 2022 Expenditure Limitation report to the Arizona Auditor General.**

**MOTION**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Tony Raykovitz to approve Resolution 05122021.3 submitting Fiscal Year 2022 Expenditure Limitation report to the Arizona Auditor General. Motion was second by Councilman Danny Price.

**Motion passed 7-0 with Mayor Udall, Vice Mayor Raykovitz, Councilman Lindsey, Councilman Whiting, Councilwoman Cohen, Councilman Price, and Councilman Greene voting in favor.**

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

* 15th N paving project – He submitted to Congressman O’Halleran’s office. This project is the final stretch of the Bus Route. It is a about a $500,000 project. It was submitted and out of 40 projects we are in the top 9. There is no guarantee that we will get the project.
* Patterson Ponds – We have been working at Patterson Ponds after the irrigation project. We have the contract coming next month with the Arizona Game and Fish.
* Wage study – We would like to begin the wage study. He will get the cost and bring the cost before Council before he gives the go ahead.

**CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT**

* Graduation of the Academy – June 10th will be the graduation of the Academy and we have one student graduating, Adam Castillo.
* National Police Week

**FIRE AND EMS REPORT**

* Fireworks – The fireworks are tentatively ordered. There is nothing coming from China.
* Fire Training Building – Will not be ready for the Fire I & II classes.
* Window Rock Airport – They are no longer working with the BLM for Wildland Tankers. He suspects that they will go to Albuquerque or Gallup. The City of St. Johns Airport was mentioned.
* Two Vehicles from County – The County has allocated 2 vehicles to the Fire/EMS dept. Fire season is here and it is going to be bad.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Councilwoman Cohen – She would like to look into a retractable cover for the swimming pool. This would be nice to have the pool all year long.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Tony Raykovitz to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting. Motion was second by Councilman Tony Lindsey.

**Motion passed 7-0 with Mayor Udall, Vice Mayor Raykovitz, Councilman Lindsey, Councilman Whiting, Councilwoman Cohen, Councilman Price and Councilman Greene voting in favor.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.**

Spence Udall, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy Lee, 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 May 12, 2021. I certify that the meeting was duly called, held, and that a quorum was present.

Cindy Lee, 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.