

**COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PAYSON
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
March 4, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mayor Barbara Brewer, Vice Mayor Judy Buettner, Council Member George Barriger, Council Member Tim Fruth, Council Member Robert Henley, Council Member Dick Reese, Council Member John Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: Fred Carpenter, Town Manager, Sam Streichman, Town Attorney, Silvia Smith, Town Clerk, Gordon Gartner, Police Chief, Marty deMasi, Fire Chief

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Winters, Fire Marshal; Monica Savage, Fire Department Administrative Secretary; Engineer Julie Morder; Engineer Gary Lamken; Firefighter Chad Richey; Ray LaHaye, Chief Building Official.

Mayor Brewer took out of order discussion/possible action concerning Resolution No. 2153, captioned as follows: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PAYSON, ARIZONA, APPOINTING ELECTION OFFICIALS FOR THE MARCH 14, 2006 PRIMARY ELECTION AND THE MAY 16, 2006 GENERAL ELECTION, FIXING THEIR COMPENSATION AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN CLERK TO APPOINT AN ELECTION BOARD AND A TALLY BOARD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion: Approve Resolution No. 2153, captioned as follows: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PAYSON, ARIZONA, APPOINTING ELECTION OFFICIALS FOR THE MARCH 14, 2006 PRIMARY ELECTION AND THE MAY 16, 2006 GENERAL ELECTION, FIXING THEIR COMPENSATION AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN CLERK TO APPOINT AN ELECTION BOARD AND A TALLY BOARD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Council Member Dick Reese, seconded by Council Member Robert Henley.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous rollcall vote.

Yes: Mayor Barbara Brewer; Vice Mayor Judy Buettner; Council Member George Barriger; Council Member Tim Fruth; Council Member Robert Henley; Council Member Dick Reese; Council Member John Wilson

Clmn. Fruth left the meeting at approximately 9:30 a.m.

1. Presentations by:

a. John Roads, Former Fire Chief for Summerhaven, gave a brief presentation concerning his experiences with fire in the Summerhaven area.

b. Fire Conditions in the Forest - Gary Roberts, US Forest Service

Bob Rich, US Forest Service, replaced Mr. Roberts for this presentation. He reported on the current severe fire conditons in our forests, closures and staffing for the upcoming fire season. Tom Pierson, fuel treatment specialist, was also present.

Mayor Brewer recessed the meeting breifly at 9:55 a.m.

c. Home Ignition Zone - Chris Jones/Meckenzie Helmandollar, U of A Cooperative Extension Service

Mr. Helmandollar was not present. Chris Jones discussed "home ignition zones" -removing fuses or pathways by which embers can ignite a structure.

d. Firewise Communities USA - Scott Hunt, Arizona State Land Department

Mr. Hunt, Fuel Management Officer for the Arizona State Land Department, discussed providing manageable space around out homes.

APR 13 2006 E.I.*

e. Mike Brandt, Pine-Strawberry Fire Department gave examples of local activities concerning wildfire prevention.

f. Evacuation Preparedness - Mariano Gonzalez/Debra Williams, Gila County Emergency Management

Mr. Gonzalez was not present. Ms. Williams discussed preparing an all hazard kit.

Gordy Gartner, Payson Police Chief, added that an emergency exercise is planned for April 8th, 2006. They did not have the neighborhood designated yet. He reported that there were 250 people in the Guardian Angel program and noted that it was important to know who your neighbors were.

Clmn. Reese asked when was the estimated time that the fuel break could be complete.

Fire Chief deMasi explained that it depended upon funding but could start in 30 days with 350 acres involved. Private property needs to be prepared. He added that a break did not stop fire but would help to protect property.

Peter Stevens, a new resident to Payson, spoke concerning home protection during a fire.

Clmn. Wilson promoted the importance of making your property fire safe. He noted that if a tree crowned, the fire would go past any firelane.

Jack Jasper said he had not heard of any volunteers to start fire breaks but felt that the Fish and Game Department should have input.

Chief deMasi said they have volunteer response, but it would be quicker to get a contractor because of the liability issue. They do have projects for volunteers and there is a volunteer emergency response team.

Clmn. Barriger stated that volunteers were needed to help clear property for people who are not physically capable of clearing it themselves. He pointed out that there were people who own property but do not live in Payson and suggested it be cleared and a lien placed upon the property for the cost. Mr. Jasper agreed with his suggestion.

Chief deMasi said that they would employ groups that could help and point them in the correct direction. He had met with Jerry Owen, Community Development Director, to review ordinances that were already in place. He noted there was a problem with enforcement, tracking property owners, and a lack of funding for any clean and lien program.

Clmn. Barriger suggested that we did not have the authority to go onto properties but volunteers could be used to find out who owned them.

Roxy Bower, Coordinator for the Red Cross, stated a shelter could be open and operating within 20 minutes and gave the local phone number: 474-4710.

Jim Winters stated his concern regarding the Forest Service property that is undeveloped.

Tommie Martin, Gila County Supervisor, discussed Gila County's concerns and plans for wildfire prevention.

The special meeting adjourned at approximately 12:03 p.m.

Approved:

Barbara G. Brewer, Mayor

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Silvia Smith, Town Clerk

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Payson held on this day the 4 of March, 2006. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2006.

Gaye Stidham, Deputy Town Clerk