

**TOWN OF PAYSON
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
July 11, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Edwards called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT: Mayor Bob Edwards, Council Member Ed Blair, Council Member Andy Romance, Council Member Mike Vogel, Council Member Su Connell, and Council Member John Wilson.

ABSENT: Vice Mayor Tim Fruth.

STAFF PRESENT: Silvia Smith - Town Clerk, Fred Carpenter - Town Manager, Sam Streichman - Town Attorney, Debra Galbraith, Chief Fiscal Officer, Jerry Owen - Community Development Director, Rick Manchester, Parks and Recreation Director, and Robert Smith, Human Resources Director.

OTHERS PRESENT: Marci Huffman, Chief Deputy Town Clerk; Cathy Boone, Acting Main Street/Redevelopment Manager.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

1. Discussion/possible action re: the Main Street and Tourism/Economic Vitality Management position(s).

Mayor Edwards expressed his thoughts concerning the need for boosting tourism in Payson. He compared Payson with Sedona. He thought that the area entering into Town should be cleaned up and said that the Tonto Apache Tribe was a willing partner in that effort.

Mayor Edwards commented on the need to create more tourism and felt the Town was not doing a good job of promoting itself. He felt there was a need to create a department head for tourism vitality.

Minette Richardson, Vice-Chair of the Green Valley Redevelopment Area (GVRA) Committee, read a statement that took offense at the inference that the Town was being the welfare department for Main Street. She commented on all the projects that had been completed and that all want to make Payson a destination place. She urged Council not to abandon the Main Street Program.

Mayor Edwards said he was a tremendous supporter of Main Street. He believed that more needed to be happening. He assured that Council was not about to abandon it.

Ken Volz, member of the GVRA, said that all the committee members believed Main Street to be the gem of Payson, and that Main Street will be the economic vitality. He

expressed his concern that he did not know what council's intentions were regarding the Main Street Manager. Referring to the Mayor's comparison with Sedona, he felt the town is a long ways from where it needs to be concerning tourism. He chaired the economic development task force for six months and had spoken with many people. He came to the conclusion that by separating Main Street from economic development lacked continuity. He also expressed his concerns about the visual appearance of the Town. He urged helping GVRA to do its charge. The Main Street Manager position should be oriented toward project management and the Town should get the infrastructure in place. He also thought the activity should be left under community development.

Mayor Edwards said Main Street was not going away, that continuity was his concern. There needed to be much more promotion.

Clmn. Connell thought all the regional stake holders such as PREDC, Green Valley, Main Street and the Chamber should get together and move forward.

Clmn. Blair ask how many businesses were in Town. Town Clerk Silvia Smith responded that there are about 5,000 that included home-based and out-of-town businesses.

Clmn. Vogel expressed his concern that a sign for Main Street should be large enough to see. He also thought everybody wanted to see Main Street flourish.

Mayor Edwards **moved** to adopt the Tourism-Economic Vitality Manager description as provided; that we (Council) make a position within our town government reporting to the Town Manager. Clmn. Blair **seconded**.

Clmn. Romance expressed his concerns regarding the position and felt it was taking a big step backwards. He wanted the GVRA position left like it is and authorize funds for a new position for tourism.

Mayor Edwards disagreed that it was a step backwards. He also pointed out that the budget was tight this year concerning another position.

Clmn. Wilson agreed with Clmn. Romance that the job description was unclear and that it denied GVRA. He felt it should be under community development. He felt the Main Street position should maintain its current job descripton and then be expanded in the future. He also thought the PREDC and Chamber would work together under the Community Development Director's leadership to get cooperation going. He thought there would be need for more staff under the new job description.

There was considerable discussion concerning the proposed position and GVRA position, using the extra money for the Buxton Study, using the present Main Street position as the liaison between other entities, such as PREDC and the Chamber.

Clmn. Vogel commented on the current pay grade for the Main Street Coordinator. He thought there should be separate departments and leave GVRA as it is and give them six months to get their feet on the ground.

Clmn. Romance felt that Cathy Boone (Acting Main Street/GVRA Manager) was the bridge in the program, and there was a need for someone technically based to know when an event can take place on Main Street. Mayor Edwards thought Community

Development would do this.

Carol McCauley, former Main Street/Redevelopment Manager thought the proposed position was critical, and felt it did not eliminate the Main Street and GVRA focus. She said the communication between certain entities had not been as close as it should have been, and there was a need to put everyone on an even playing field. Whatever the position is will be one that has to eliminate as many layers of bureaucracy and move forward. She believed the new position would be perfect for Cathy Boone. The position is important and did not diminish GVRA in any way, and would reach the rest of the town.

Clmn. Vogel **amended the motion** to keep the GVRA as it is with Cathy Boone as the project manager and to advertise for the new position (Tourism-Economic Vitality Manager) with a target date of September 1, 2007. When the new position is filled, that person will become a department head under the Town Manager, and the GVRA/Main Street position will be under the new department head. Clmn. Connell seconded the motion.

It would be later decided if a secretarial position is needed.

Clmn. Romance further amended the motion to fill the project manager positions as well and bring someone else in, seconded by Clmn. Wilson. This amendment failed, 3-3. Roll Call: Clmn. Blair, no; Clmn. Wilson, yes; Clmn. Connell, no; Clmn. Vogel, yes; Clmn. Romance, yes; Mayor Edwards, no.

Clmn. Vogel's amended motion passed, 6-0.

Original motion: Change Carol McCauley's position to Tourism/Economic Vitality Manager, promote to department head who reports to the Town Manager, create an interim Project Manager immediately who will report to Fred until the department head is hired, and direct staff to advertise immediately, and try to fill the position by September 1, 2007. Clmn. Connell seconded.

Dick Wolfe, Chairman of the GVRA, said they had not had the opportunity to look at the job description. He asked how much of this person's time will be directed to GVRA and Main Street. Mayor Edwards said this would be up to the Department Head. Mr. Wolfe felt this was not an answer. Clmn. Vogel said it would not change.

Glenda Roarke clarified who Cathy Boone's position will report to and that her position will remain the same. Ms. Boone will immediately be reporting to the Town Manager and she will be the interim department head.

The main motion passed, 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.

Date: _____

Bob Edwards, Mayor

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 11 of July, 2007. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2007.

Marcia F. Huffman, Chief Deputy Town Clerk