

**TOWN OF PAYSON  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
May 5, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Kenny Evans, Vice-Mayor Ed Blair, Council Member Su Connell, Council Member Richard Croy, Council Member Michael Hughes, Council Member Mike Vogel, and Council Member John Wilson.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Debra Galbraith - Town Manager, Sam Streichman - Town Attorney, Silvia Smith - Town Clerk, Chief Marty deMasi, Chief Don Engler, LaRon Garrett - Public Works Director, Colin P. Walker - Assistant Public Works Director, Terry Morris - Library Director, and Cameron Davis - Parks, Recreation & Toursim Director.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Gaye Stidham - Deputy Town Clerk, Beth Beck - Grants/Housing Coordinator, Ray LaHaye - Chief Building Official, Charlene Hunt - Events/Facilities Specialist, Hope Cribb - Budget Analyst and Battalion Chief Tom Fife.

**PURPOSE OF MEETING**

- A. Discussion/possible action re: Departmental Budget Presentations
  - 1. Community Development Budget Presentation

Ray LaHaye, Chief Building Official, said Bethany Beck, Grants/Housing Coordinator, would present the housing portion of the Community Development budget. Mr. LaHaye explained that he would do an overview of the Planning & Zoning, Building, and Business License portions of the budget.

Mr. LaHaye said there was a 22% decrease in the initial 2009/2010 budget for personnel costs even though it included the addition of business license personnel. There was a 28% decrease in supply costs from the 2008/2009 budget.

The Community Development budget contained a 44% decrease from the 2008/2009 budget for services. This included \$30,000 for the initial 2013 General Plan update.

Mayor Evans pointed out discrepancies in the addition and total amounts. Mr. LaHaye said he would correct the amounts and get the information back to Council. Manager Galbraith said that the Council meeting of May 26 would have the whole draft budget presented.

Bethany Beck, Grants/Housing Coordinator, presented an informational summary of grants described at the previous budget meeting by Hope Cribb. Ms. Beck said that stimulus funding was noted as a place holder if the Town was able to apply and receive this money.

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## 2. Recreation and Tourism Budget Presentation

Cameron Davis, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director, noted the change in the structure of their department with the inclusion of tourism and the operations portion of parks now under Public Works.

There has been a slight decrease in services costs because some things from this category moved to supplies. The Friends of Parks and Recreation and other volunteer groups have helped to provide temporary staff for recreation programs in the previous budget, but the proposed budget included personnel costs for temporary staff for recreation programs.

The 2009/2010 proposed budget included a proposed change for the Events/Facilities Specialist position to become a contract position of 20 hours per week. Mayor Evans believed that moving to contract labor was never a valid cost saving measure. Manager Galbraith explained that the Event Center (the main duty of this position) did not generate enough income to cover the salary of a full-time employee. The savings would come from not paying benefits for this employee. She asked for direction from the Council. Council Member Wilson was in favor of keeping the position as full-time.

Council Member Vogel explained that he was on the Budget Committee that made this suggested change. He believed the equestrian center was a black hole and would not generate funds to support itself. He had proposed a resident/non-resident use card to charge the non-residents of Payson who use the event center. He believed that Town residents were in the minority of users. He said he wanted a way to offset the cost of the event center and that we needed to stop subsidizing the County.

**Motion:** to Recommend keeping the Event/Facilities Specialist position as a full-time position and not change to a contract position.

Moved by Council Member John Wilson, seconded by Council Member Richard Croy.

**Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 1

Yes: Mayor Kenny Evans, Vice-Mayor Ed Blair, Council Member Su Connell, Council Member Richard Croy, Council Member Michael Hughes, and Council Member John Wilson.

No: Council Member Mike Vogel.

Mayor Evans said he believed the position and how we expense the Event Center and determine its benefits to non-residents were separate. He asked the Budget Committee to look at the item again next budget process separating the position from the program. He also asked that the use of parks programs and facilities by those living out of town be reviewed along with ways to recoup costs from that sector. Manager Galbraith stated those discussions had already started. Council Member Vogel stated he was not opposed to helping kids but believed we were being taken advantage of and wanted to make sure Payson resident children received the first opportunities to participate in Town programs.

Charlene Hunt, Event/Facilities Specialist, described the events and users of the

Event Center. She said that fees for use of the center had already been increased to help offset costs. Manager Galbraith said the Budget Committee was not aware of any extra revenue and they will have to look again at the revenue side.

4. Public Works Department Budget Presentation

a. Engineering

b. Streets

c. Parks

LaRon Garrett, Public Works Director covered the Engineering, Streets, Airport and Parks Operations portion of the Public Works budget. Buzz Walker would be covering the Water portion.

Mr. Garrett reviewed the makeup of the different departments and recapped the budget over the last few years. The proposed budget reduction did not include property rental for the Town Yard in the future. He noted that the Streets Department also provided maintenance for Town vehicles. Mr. Garrett reviewed projects proposed for capital funds from HURF. Funding was also included in this budget for improvement districts on Cedar Lane and Rancho Del Tonto. Again, the funds were included as place holders in case these projects materialized.

Mr. Garrett explained that Parks operations would remain the same except that staff from Parks and Streets could help each other if needed. For example, two people from Parks are certified to spray for weeds. If they were spraying weeds along streets then the Streets Department could send two of their staff to help with Parks operations for that time period.

Mr. Garrett said potential capital projects for the Airport are a land purchase and environmental assessment scheduled for FAA grants. He said he would verify the numbers and get back to the Council.

Mayor Evans said there had been some success with the eradication of the star thistle.

d. Water

Buzz Walker, Assistant Public Works Director, explained their budget was complex because of cost center accounting. He said \$50,000 in a WIFA funds financial services grant and a \$35,000 ADEQ Green Valley Park erosion study grant have been added. If the Del Tonto improvement district goes forward, \$300,000 would be needed to clean nitrate contamination from two wells.

3. Library Budget Presentation

Terry Morris, Library Director, explained the Library budget had been reduced by \$75,000. She said the Library was able to stay open with it's current hours because of the help of the Friends of the Library.

5. Fire Department Budget Presentation

Chief deMasi reviewed the mission of the Fire Department. Payson Fire Department provides services for fire, EMS, wildland/urban interface, community education and service calls.

Chief deMasi discussed the different grant applications and the proposed use of those funds should they be awarded.

Manager Galbraith asked that if the Council had suggestions or ideas to please let her know. There would be a special meeting on May 26, 2009, to review and get a final, tentative budget. As always, citizen input was encouraged at these public meetings.

Mayor Evans asked if the potential loan from the Water Fund of \$500,000 was earmarked for a specific project or purpose. Manager Galbraith said the loan was to fund operations. The General Fund did not fund vehicles or streets and this loan would be for the General Fund. She believed the funds may not need to be used, but budgeted for them as a contingency, giving us a reserve. They would not be spent unless absolutely necessary. Mayor Evans voiced his concern about not having a vehicle replacement program in process for the Police Department. Manager Galbraith said these funds could be used for that since these vehicles were not purchased out of capital funds. Chief Engler said he would provide Manager Galbraith with information concerning their vehicle replacement needs.

Manager Galbraith said the special budget meeting that was scheduled for May 12 has been cancelled, but there would be one on May 26, 2009. She said she was still working with the Humane Society on the cost of services and would need the extra time to provide the Council with adequate information.

- B. Discussion/possible action regarding Capital Projects under consideration.
- C. Discussion of prior years' budgets.

Mayor Evans adjourned the special meeting at approximately 7:32 p.m.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Kenny J. Evans, 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 5 of May, 2009. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

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Gaye Stidham, Deputy Town Clerk