

**TOWN OF PAYSON
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
May 26, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Evans expressed his condolences to Dean Martin, State Treasurer in the loss of his wife. He also noted the article in USA Today newspaper concerning the re-opening of the Natural Bridge.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

STAFF PRESENT: Debra Galbraith - Town Manager, Sam Streichman - Town Attorney, Silvia Smith - Town Clerk, Marty deMasi - Fire Chief, Donald Engler- Police Chief, Terry Morris - Library Director, Ray Erlandsen - Acting Community Development Director, and Cameron Davis - Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director.

OTHERS PRESENT: Gaye Stidham - Deputy Town Clerk, Tim Wright - Deputy Town Attorney, Hope Cribb - Budget Analyst, Tomi Huddlestun - Human Resource Analyst, Curtis Ward - Assistant Town Engineer, Ray LaHaye - Chief Building Official.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

A. Discussion/possible action on the draft 2009-2010 budget including but not limited to revenues.

Debra Galbraith, Town Manager, presented the draft 2009-2010 budget. She noted changes to the budget meeting schedule. July 7th the tentative budget would be presented to Council for adoption. July 14th and July 21st the proposed budget will be publicized in the newspaper. July 23rd there will be a public hearing for the adoption of the budget. August 6th the property tax levy will be before the Council for adoption. She reminded the Council that once the budget is adopted the final numbers could not be changed. After tonight's meeting and any changes requested by Council here, everything would sit until after the Town hears from the State concerning funding.

Ms. Galbraith noted areas of concern in her presentation. She said that staffing levels were low, there were vacancies in departments, there were no cost of living allowances, insurance premiums would increase by 20%, no overtime budgeted and no merit increases for personnel.

Vice-Mayor Blair asked for a breakdown of the responsibilities of the Chief Fiscal Officer. He said he questioned the amounts used on capital expenses as opposed to grants and improvement districts.

Council Member Croy asked about a projected \$40,000 increase in revenue. Ms. Galbraith explained that it is from an expected two developments in this fiscal year that might

increase revenue from impact fees. Council Member Croy also wanted to discuss using private money from Main Street business owners to offset some of the cost of matching grant funds for the Main Street improvement grant. Ms. Galbraith said that if information could be pulled together and Council approved this course of action, it could be changed in the budget. Mayor Evans suggested an improvement district for Main Street might be a vehicle for funding.

Chief Engler explained he was looking for a policy decision from the Council concerning our responsibilities regarding impounded animals and the Humane Society. Figures from 2008 were 349 animals impounded by the Police Department. Currently the contract with the Humane Society is \$88,800 which works out to about \$253 per animal. Chief Engler proposed a contract of \$35,000. Based on the 349 animals, that would be about \$102 per animal for Town impounds. Chief Engler met with the Humane Society. He said the Humane Society believed the Town is responsible for 1,094 animals including strays in the community where Chief Engler's calculations included police department impounded animals only. The Humane Society calculations were on a 72 hour stay and included shots, labor, food, cleaning supplies and building maintenance. Chief Engler said, in his discussions with the Humane Society, they had not reached an agreeable number.

John Wakelin, President of the Humane Society, explained their time/motion study of animals coming in for impound and explained how they came up with the labor figure.

Council Member Croy asked Mr. Wakelin if the Humane Society would accept a contract for \$35,000. Mr. Wakelin said the amount was inadequate for the cost for care of animals from the Town. He could not go lower than the \$88,800 from last year. He contended that the Humane Society was contractually obligated by its contract with the Town of Payson to provide services to anyone impounding a stray dog, etc. from the Town boundaries. Mr. Wakelin also insisted that the Humane Society generates revenue for the Town by facilitating reclaiming fees, licensing fees, adoption fees and taxes from animal related products purchased in Town.

Council Member Wilson asked for the dollar amount of fees remitted back to town. Mr. Wakelin replied that as of July of 2008 reclaimed revenue was \$2,600. As of August of 2009 the reclaimed revenue was \$2,462. Council Member Wilson noted that less than 10% of the budgeted amount was reclaimed. Mayor Evans noted that animals adopted out would be higher. Council Member Hughes asked if the \$35,000 would provide the statutory requirements for impounds. Chief Engler said it would.

Town Attorney Sam Streichman explained that the contract with the Humane Society did not obligate them to take any stray presented to them from within the Town boundaries. As he writes the new contract, he will make it clear that the Humane Society does not have to take in every stray in town at the municipal government's expense. The Town Code does not say that, only that the animal control officer may take an animal to the Humane Society.

Council Member Croy commented that the Humane Society needed to realize that the \$35,000 did not pay for the animal control officer's salary or vehicle.

Mr. Streichman explained that the Town Code says the animal control officer MAY take animals to the Humane Society, but does not mandate he does that. Mayor Evans asked the attorney's office to get contract information to the Humane Society in a timely manner.

The tentative budget would be adopted on July 7th and he asked that adjustments made to the contract would be done between now and then.

Chief Engler said each year the number of animals impounded goes down as the Police Department works to get animals back to their owners without having to take them to the shelter and they will continue to do that.

Manager Galbraith restated that she will be sending to the Council the job duties of the CFO and the Budget Analyst, the Humane Society budget set before the next budget meeting and the names of the two possible developments that may be coming forward this year.

Council Member Connell congratulated Manager Galbraith and her staff on a very helpful and well done presentation.

Adjournment

Mayor Evans adjourned the special meeting at approximately 7:15 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 26 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.

Gaye Stidham, Deputy Town Clerk