

**TOWN OF PAYSON  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
August 20, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sam Streichman - Town Attorney, and Silvia Smith - Town Clerk.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tim Wright - Deputy Town Attorney, Gaye Stidham - Deputy Town Clerk, Hope Cribb - Budget Analyst, Shelia DeSchaaf - Planning Specialist, Bethany Beck - Housing Program Manager, and Ray LaHaye - Chief Building Official.

**PURPOSE OF MEETING**

1. Presentation by League of Arizona Cities and Towns Staff regarding the 2009 legislative update.

Ken Strobeck, Executive Director, League of Arizona Cities and Towns, said this State legislative session has been the most unusual legislative session in history. This was the first time the Legislature ever met in August and there has never been a budget that has yet to be approved by August. The focus of this session has been the budget. Mr. Strobeck reviewed the progress of the budget process since former Gov. Janet Napolitano left office. Governor Brewer has insisted upon a 3-year limited sales tax referral bill with this budget. She vetoed the first budget presented to her from the Legislature partly because it did not include this provision.

Mr. Strobeck reviewed the 2009 legislative update including key bills signed into law and key bills that failed or were pending. Bills passed by this Legislature will go into effect September 30, 2009.

Mr. Strobeck said that it is anticipated that the Senate and House will send essentially the same budget as was vetoed to the Governor this month. It does not include the 3-year limited sales tax referral.

Mr. Strobeck offered to answer questions.

2. Discussion/possible action regarding the foregoing presentation and State legislative issues of concern and importance to the Town.

Mayor Evans commented that there was a failure on the part of the State Legislature to understand the impact of their budget timing on local governments. Mr. Strobeck replied that there are few members of the State Legislature that have local government experience or have knowledge of the services that Towns provide.

Mayor Evans expressed his frustration in creating a budget that is misleading because it must contain the anticipation, no matter how slight, of receiving revenue that might possibly be spent, but probably won't be. The public has difficulty understanding what the real goals are.

Vice-Mayor Vogel asked questions concerning the possibility of the State taking Vehicle Licensing Tax money from the local jurisdictions. He was concerned that the Town would not have enough warning if the State intended to reduce or stop VLT funds. Vice-Mayor Vogel voiced his concern that bills were not receiving enough across-the-aisle participation.

Council Member Blair asked if Mr. Strobeck believed the Governor's sales tax proposal would have the support of the people. Mr. Strobeck believed that such a limited tax that is tied to education and public safety would be supported.

Dan Adams of Payson believed that to get people interested in the Town's budget, there needed to be a budgeting system set up like a business.

**ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Evans adjourned the special meeting at approximately 11:11 a.m.**

APPROVED:

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

Kenny J. Evans, Mayor

ATTEST:

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**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 20 of August, 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, City Clerk