

Springerville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Council Present: Phil Hanson, Jr., Mayor
Robert MacKenzie, Vice Mayor
Ruben Llamas, Councilmember
Shelly Reidhead, Councilmember
Richard Davis, Councilmember

Staff: Joseph Jarvis, Town Manager
Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk
Robert Pena Jr. Assistant Fire Chief / PW Foreman
Robert Pena III. Battalion Chief

Legal Counsel: Timothy Shaffery, Shaffery Law, LLC (telephonically)

Public: None

Mayor Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Town Clerk completing a roll call, a quorum is present. Robert Pena III led the pledge of allegiance.

1. Public Participation: None

2. COUNCIL, MANAGER, AND STAFF REPORT: Councilor Llamas reported that over the past month he and other members of the Town of Springerville council have participated on regular briefs with Governor Ducey and Apache County regarding COVID-19. He said they are receiving firsthand information, and that we are lucky our community isn't being affecting as bad as the rest of the country. However, he wants the community to stay vigilant and follow the guidelines set. His second item was addressing veterans in the community. He wants to remind veterans that just because they have served this country they are not above the law. This year alone he has personally witnessed veterans breaking laws with expectations of no consequence. He wants to remind any veterans suffering with PTSD to seek help especially during times of stress as of now. His next item is addressing the Town of Springerville employees. He pointed out that each employee plays a vital roll in the success of this town and is a direct reflection of the Town Manager and Council regardless if it be success or failure. He used the analogy of a vehicle, the vital roles each component plays in order to have a well-functioning machine. With his analogy he pointed out that you must regularly maintain and replace parts of the vehicle and at some point, you must decide if the vehicle is safe and reliable enough to not want to retire and replace it.

Mayor Hanson reported on the meetings he has been attending regarding COVID-19. He stated he had a phone call with Congressman Tom O'Halleran and another with Senator Kyrsten Sinema. He is joining the county emergency management teams' teleconferences and staying vigilant on updated information as it becomes available. He let them know they will have new regulations for those who test positive for COVID-19, which we will talk more about in agenda item number four. Councilor Reidhead said she has heard some of those with positive cases are being careless with the virus and still going out. She hopes this new order will stop that.

Manager Jarvis started by letting Mayor and Council know that the town attorney Tim Shaffery has joined us telephonically. He reported that the Borderlands Wind project is being considered in Western New Mexico / Eastern Arizona. He was notified of this potential project by Mrs. Shepard. He then heard on the radio that the comment period is open for this project if anyone is wanting to comment. If this project moves forward it could bring temporary economy to Springerville. The power generated by these wind turbines will be used by TEP. Next item is on April 22, 2020 the Springerville

American Legion will hold a blood drive. There is always a need for blood, but currently there is a significant need. Vice Mayor MacKenzie asked if they would also be testing for COVID-19, Manager Jarvis does not know. He then reported that at this time there are still plans of holding the Community Day of Service on May 16, 2020. This is subject to change depending on how the situation changes. Prior to the event taking place planning and zoning along with code enforcement has arranged to get a large dumpster over to a property with an abandoned single wide trailer on it. The trailer will be demolished, the family who owns it has not been able to do so. Also, situational dependent there is a plan for a dance and poker run in conjunction with Sprucedale Ranches horse parade on June 2nd. He also said we are still planning our annual month of May spring branch cleanup and free trash dump day. Councilor Llamas asked for an update on the Voight well blending station. Manager Jarvis informed him that the project was anticipated to be completed today. Unfortunately, the project is not complete, we are waiting for the electrical to be finished, then a final inspection from the engineers. The town is putting pressure on the contractor to get these items completed. The issue seems to have been with changing of a subcontractor, COVID-19 may have also slowed down the process. Councilor Reidhead said she hopes it is complete going into summer. Manager Jarvis said it is a little late, Robert Pena Jr. added that they have had to transport water. Councilor Reidhead asked if that means there is a chance of another tier 2 notice. Manager Jarvis said yes, that is a possibility. Our testing date is right now, we have reached out to ADEQ to see if we have any leniency given the situation.

3. Consent Items:

- a. Consider approval of the minutes of the February 27, 2020 Town of Springerville/ Eagar Joint Council Meeting
- b. Consider approval of the minutes of the March 11, 2020 Town Council Regular meeting
- c. Consider approval of the minutes of the March 20, 2020 Town Council Special meeting
- d. Consider approval of the minutes of the March 31, 2020 Town Council Special meeting
- e. Consider ratification and approval of the accounts payable register from 3/03/2020 thru 04/07/2020.
- f. Consider approval of Proclamation declaring April 2020 Fair Housing Month in the Town of Springerville.

Robert MacKenzie/ Shelly Reidhead motion to approve consent items 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, and 3f as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote:	Ayes:	Phil Hanson
		Robert MacKenzie
		Ruben Llamas
		Shelly Reidhead
		Richard Davis

Old Business:

4. COVID-19: Discussion, update, and possible action in response to the COVID-19 situation. Manager Jarvis started by suggesting we have an open discussion with Council, staff, and members of the public attending telephonically regarding this pandemic. As the council has mentioned staff has been in contact with the governor's office, the senator's office, state representatives, and apache county health department. He stated that if you believe you have the virus you must self quarantine. If you have been tested and know you have the virus you must self quarantine along with those who have been in close contact of you to minimize the spread. This message is being directed from state and federal levels. He noted they have added physical distancing guidelines instead of just social distancing guidelines. He added there is a variety of resources available for small and medium sized

businesses. His concern is either businesses do not have access to the information or there is so much information out there that they are overwhelmed by it. Businesses need to know if they visit the Arizona Commerce Authority website there are links that provide resource information. The Town staff is also willing to connect businesses with resources. Unemployment benefits are beginning to be distributed from the state. Federal benefits have begun being distributed by the C.A.R.E.S act. There is interested in opening up the economy as soon as possible, but there is also interested in maintaining a healthy situation by not opening it too soon. If the Governor changes his executive order the town will do its best to let the community know. Next item he reported on was Eagar Fire Department will no longer be responding to medical calls to assist the White Mountain Ambulance Service. The Springerville Fire Department will continue to respond to these calls. We also respect that some of our fire fighters have requested that they not respond to medical calls due to health concerns. Mayor Hanson wanted to verify with the Assistant Chief that they are okay with that, Assistant Chief Pena responded yes, they are. He continued with saying the fire departments have asked that they not get dispatched for basic rolled ankles and insignificant calls to limit exposures. They will be happy to help if it's a cardiac patient or a patient where the fire departments EMT's and paramedics can be more of use or with lifting scenarios where the ambulance team needs help lifting patients. Councilor Llamas wanted to let the fire chiefs know he supports their decision. He was however curious if Eagar's statement to not assist WMAS is in response to COVID-19 or if it will be the new normal? Manager Jarvis let him know it is in response to COVID-19 and the concerns they had with potential exposure to the fire fighters. We anticipate that once COVID-19 subsides Eagar will send out a press release regarding reactivating that assistance. Councilor Llamas asked if we are the ones providing assistance in Eagar will we invoice anyone for that assistance? Manager Jarvis responded that at this time we will not be invoicing Eagar or WMAS, as community partners we want to help them be successful by providing this service to benefit our community.

Councilor Reidhead commented that with all the uncertainties at this time she would like to delay spending until we know how this will affect the town, including some of our CIP's and if it comes down to having to lay off a couple employees, she supports that. Manager Jarvis explained the League of Az Cities and Towns is acutely aware of the impact this is going to have. They have suggested that we continue to budget what we have planned to receive this next year, but be aware that we could see decreases in state shared revenues. He continued to tell them that the majority of the revenue the town receives is locally generated. Some of our businesses have closed due to this situation and others are incredibly busy right now. We do not know how this will affect our sales tax revenues yet. AZ Department of Revenue will not provide us results of revenues until two months after that month. Upon the actual budget meeting the Town will present those number to the council for direction. Staff is being very cautious on how we are spending town funds. He continued with reporting both Chief Nuttall and Chief Sadler insured the town their staff is taking extra precautions on handling of the public. They are treating every individual as if they have the virus. Councilor Reidhead would also like to promote the ideas of having an A team and B team to avoid cross contaminations amongst staff. Manager Jarvis said staff is considering that as well. He apologizes in the delay in that, he is trying to figure out the logistics because everyone has a critical role in the organization. He has let staff know that if they have nothing to do because their operations are shut down, they should not be at work and can use sick or vacation time. There is plenty of work to be done if they would like to continue working, no one should be there sitting around.

Council Llamas asked if Manager Jarvis can elaborate on the information that the county prosecutor is supposed to be coming out with. Manager Jarvis replied yes, this is information that we will be hosting on the Towns Facebook and website regarding isolation order for those who test positive for COVID-19. These will be legal actions that the towns and county can take against them for not self isolating. Councilor Llamas also said he has concerns that our police officers are allowing people to break the law to avoid having contact with them. He wanted to know if the manager or police chief authorized this. Manager Jarvis let him know the officers are to continue to enforce the law while also being cautious and using appropriate judgement.

5. MUNICIPAL PROPERTY CORPORATION: Discussion and possible action regarding appointing Ginger Wiltbank on the MPC Board of Directors.

Shelly Reidhead/ Richard Davis motion to appoint Ginger Wiltbank on the Municipal Property Board of Directors.

Discussion: Councilor MacKenzie is impressed with her resume.

Vote:	Ayes:	Phil Hanson
		Robert MacKenzie
		Ruben Llamas
		Shelly Reidhead
		Richard Davis

6. TOWN PROPERTIES: Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding Town owned properties with staff and the Town realtor. Manager Jarvis let council know this is in response of the direction given to hire a realtor and review town owned properties. He showed council a map of town owned properties as they had formerly requested. The map was created by the realtor we hired at Ponderosa Reality; Ladonna was unable to join the meeting this evening. He said they will review a couple of the properties at a time and seek direction from Council on each.

Cemetery parcel property is the first property of discussion. This parcel is from South Papago St. to South Pima Drive to Maricopa Drive and East Mohave. Manager Jarvis supplied a map of this specific parcel. He is asking for Council to review some ideas and either give us direction tonight or think it over and give us direction at a later date. He showed them our plots and let them know we still have plenty of plots available, we charge a modest price for plots, and many people are switching over to cremations. Staff is asking Council if they would like the entire parcel to be strictly cemetery use or the sections that are already park and recreation to stay park and recreation. One idea for consideration is making the entire parcel cemetery only. He explained the section near Mohave street currently houses the cabins owned by the historical society, they are interested in moving those cabins possibly to Town Hall for more exposure. The council discussed different ideas on what they want our cemetery to look like. They discussed the vandalism that occurs at the park near the cemetery. The discussion continued into the possibility of developing more cemetery plots near South Pima. Councilor Llamas wanted to make sure we take into consideration how the residence of Pima may feel about this. Manager Jarvis informed him that if we take that route, we will have those discussions with them as part of the process. Assistant Chief Pena pointed out that there are already two small family cemeteries around that area the Slaughter family cemetery and the Becker family cemetery. They discussed the baseball fields and if they should be improved or moved. Councilor Reidhead likes the idea of moving the baseball fields at a future date.

Cemetery Parcel Direction: Council would like to consider the idea of keeping a portion of that parcel for park and recreation, improving the baseball fields to try to bring in more activity, moving the historical society cabins to Town Hall to be more accessible, consider development ideas for the front section on Mohave, and improving the existing cemetery first. If funds and resources are available after we make improvements then consider developing the lower section near Pima.

578 North Main St in Eagar is the second property for discussion. This property is owned jointly by the Towns of Eagar and Springerville. Manager Jarvis explained they have discovered an issue with one of the trailer titles on that property, but once it is sorted out, they will be ready to proceed. Two entities are possibly interested in this property.

578 N Main St Direction: Council agrees that if the Town of Eagar and the Town of Springerville do not have use for the property they prefer to sale it versus lease it out. The Council feels both Councils are in agreeance to pursue actively listing and selling this property, staff strongly supports this.

The town owned house located at 809 Airport Road is the third property to be discussed. Manager Jarvis explained the Forest Service will no longer be leasing that house and it will be vacant and have a final walk through at the end of May. Councilor Reidhead would like to see what the realtor is going to list the property at when that information is available.

809 Airport Road Direction: Council would like to consider listing the property to sale versus leasing it out.

The fourth property to discuss is called the Carrillo Fort. Councilor Davis informed Council that the Carrillo Fort is located near the Casa Malpais Archeological site. Mayor Hanson said it is some of the time referred to as Fort Redondo. It is now just a vacant piece of land; the fort has been removed. The neighboring property owner is interested in acquiring this land. Councilor Llamas mentioned that we should look into the logistics of negotiating the land to the neighboring family in return them cleaning up other properties they already own in the town. At this time staff and the realtor will explore options for this property to present.

The fifth discussion is on the different fire department properties. Manager Jarvis reminded council that they have given direction for staff to get cost estimates on two different layouts for that building. Councilor Reidhead would like to hold off on moving forward with renovations until the pandemic situation subsides and we know what the outcome will be. Council Llamas wants to know what the plan is in the future after the pandemic. Manager Jarvis advised that is what he is wanting to discuss. Manager Jarvis asked once the Fire Department moves out of 23 S. Papago what would the Council like to consider for options for that property? There is interest in this property from a neighboring business. At this time staff recommends we do research and present options in the future.

Manager Jarvis asked if there are any other properties the Council would like staff and the realtor to pursue or any properties Council would like staff and the realtor to not pursue. Mayor Hanson asked about the property that Navopache Electric has their solar system on that the town owns. Manager Jarvis informed him that it is still in process and that we are researching the legal way to sell this property to them. Councilor Llamas asked if we have a plan for the location of the Police Department if they decide to merge. He likes the option of a joint Police Department at the 578 North Main St. location. Manager Jarvis said that both Councils have put merging of the Police Departments on hold at this time, until we initiate negotiations of this again, we do not have the answer. He said we also need to keep in mind we are losing money each month that we have that property just sitting. Councilor Llamas said in the long run we could possibly save money by not selling that property. Councilor MacKenzie added that we already have two Police Stations. Manager Jarvis said that when we get to the point of actually listing a property, we will put it as an agenda item for Council to take action on. Councilor Llamas asked if we should discuss any other properties labeled as town owned on the map. Manager Jarvis said if the Council would like we can discuss the Town Hall parcel. Council agreed they would be interested in discussing 418 E. Main St. Manager Jarvis continued by saying he feels this parcel is underutilized. He recommends Council should have a master plan for this property especially if they are interested in bringing the Historical Society cabins over. We are making significant improvements to our park and some events will need more space for parking. Council Reidhead likes the idea of a bigger ramada. Manager Jarvis said if the town comes up with a master plan for this park, we will have an easier time going to the State Parks Association for grants. Council agrees they would like to come up with a plan for this parcel and explore the possibility of acquiring the parcel to the east of this property. Staff may put together the master plan and if unable staff may come back to the council and ask if they can hire someone to put one together.

7.Executive Session: Robert MacKenzie/ Ruben Llamas motion to go into executive session under A.R.S. 38-431.03 (7) Discussions or consultations with designated representatives of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale or lease of real property.

Discussion: Council is not prepared to further discuss the properties at this time.

Vote: Ayes:

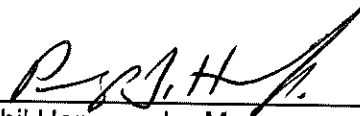
 Nayes: Phil Hanson
 Robert MacKenzie
 Ruben Llamas
 Shelly Reidhead
 Richard Davis

Motion failed to enter executive session.

4. Adjournment:

Robert MacKenzie/ Shelly Reidhead motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Vote: Ayes: Phil Hanson
 Robert MacKenzie
 Ruben Llamas
 Shelly Reidhead
 Richard Davis



Phil Hanson, Jr., Mayor

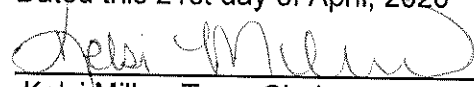
ATTEST:



Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and copy of the minutes of the Springerville Town Council in a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 21st day of April, 2020



Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk