

**MINUTES
EAGAR TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
22 W. 2nd St., Eagar, AZ
January 5, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Bryce Hamblin called the Regular Council Meeting to order and welcomed those present. Mayor Hamblin stated that Councilors John Phelps and Winslow McNeill are absent (Councilor McNeill arrived a short time later.) Mayor Hamblin led the Pledge of Allegiance and James Nelson, Jr. offered the invocation.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Bryce Hamblin, Mayor
 James Nelson, Jr., Vice Mayor
 Debra Seeley
 Steve Erhart
 Allen Browning
 Winslow McNeill

COUNCIL ABSENT: John O. Phelps

STAFF PRESENT: Tami Ryall, Town Manager
 Bruce Ray, Public Works Director
 Katie Brady, Finance Manager
 Eva Wilson, Town Clerk
 Frank Adams, Fire Chief
 Mike Sweetser, Interim Police Chief
 Doug Brown, Town Attorney

ITEM #5: SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

A. MAYOR

None.

B. COUNCIL

None.

C. STAFF

Town Manager Tami Ryall noted the following upcoming occasions:

- January 21, 2016 at 12:00 noon in Taylor – Apache and Navajo Counties Mayor and Councilmember Association meeting.
- January 28, 2016 in Phoenix – Legislative Day for the White Mountain Communities.
- January 31, 2016 – Council’s Financial Disclosures due.
- January 14, 2016 – Police Chief position closes.

- January 21, 2016 – Police Officer position first review.

Town Clerk Eva Wilson advised the Council that she has sent a blank Financial Disclosure form to their e-mail along with a copy of their last year's filings.

Interim Police Chief Mike Sweetser stated that the Council will be receiving an invitation for an Awards Ceremony, medal of valor, purple heart, and life-saving awards, reference the May shooting incident. The Council is asked to be the dignitaries representing the Town. This is a joint effort between the Apache County Sheriff's Office and the Eagar Police Department. This is initially scheduled for January 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at an unestablished location. With Legislative Day occurring on the same day this event may need rescheduled.

Officer Butler's last day with the department is January 8, 2016. Officer Brown is currently undergoing a background check with another agency, and hasn't turned in his two weeks' notice as yet. Officer Eagar and Jones will be on duty starting January 13, 2016.

ITEM #6: OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None.

ITEM #7: PRESENTATIONS

A. PRESENTATION ON CURRENT YOUTH ISSUES IN APACHE COUNTY

Interim Chief Sweetser introduced Chief Dan Brown from the St. Johns Police Department, President Apache County Youth Council. Chief Brown stated that the mission of the Apache County Youth Council is to provide collaborative services to the children and families of our communities to prevent and defuse crises that effect families. The Board consists of members from law enforcement, health care, behavioral health, probation, county attorney's office, Department of Child Services, school representatives, and members and partners from many facets including the Drug Free Alliance who is also present tonight.

Chief Brown presented results of statistics determined by a survey taken by the Drug Free Alliance from southern Apache County high school students relating to drug use in 2014. Apache County sits at 14.4% compared to the State average of 13.6% of youth reporting use of marijuana in the last 30 days. There has been a mass change in the dynamics of marijuana use with the advent of medical marijuana confusing the issue. Out of the list of harmful substances, alcohol, marijuana and cigarettes rated highest in use in the State and within Apache County. Delinquent behavior, whereas, students have been suspended from school for substance abuse related crimes has seen a 9.3% increase.

Those surveyed reported they were obtaining marijuana from friends or relatives; and some friends are obtaining marijuana from family members that are medical marijuana cardholders. The survey showed students that reported using drugs or alcohol are coming

from all types of family dynamics. The perception overall has changed about marijuana use. This can be perceived by the ages students reported first use with marijuana with earliest age of 12 years and up to 14.5 years. One out of ten Apache County youth started using marijuana in elementary school and 84% that use started using before they could legally drive a car.

Nearly half of Apache County youth have never talked to their parents about alcohol or drugs on an educational basis. Stating that they can't share these conversations with their parents and instead have first had the conversation with someone else. Main reasons students gave for using marijuana in the past 30 days were to get high, have fun, and to deal with stress. Of course, some students are just not interested in using or have consciously made the decision not to use.

Students are reporting that there is nothing to do in their communities; there's not enough programs for youth. They would like to see more things to do in southern Apache County. Not all students are athletes or interested in athletics and not all students are scholastically bound, it is the remainder of the youth that have a difficult time keeping occupied with fulfilling activities. Social media has connected the youth of southern Apache County and they really do get along when it is just the youth interacting (the rivalries seem to come from parent's ideals.)

Many grant opportunities on drug abuse education dried up, as well as parenting education, and other educational programs have declined over the last several years.

The Apache County Youth Council is asking the communities to help find places for the youth to "hangout" and hold activities for them with volunteers providing chaperones for these activities. With less in the local government budgets, the responsibility can be shared equally among the local entities. The Apache County Youth Council will continue to brainstorm ideas (suggestions from the community appreciated) and will be sending letters to the governmental entities asking for support.

Sandy, Vice-President Apache County Youth Council, stated that local youth are crying out for something positive to do, making a place for them to go where they can be amongst each other is needed.

Mayor Bryce Hamblin stated that from his experience, half of the parents don't know what their kids are doing. He asked if there is an educational component for parents planned. Chief Brown stated that there is. A member of the audience stated that she works with prevention programs and has held educational programs and unfortunately after much advertisement of these educational opportunities there is a dismal turnout. Her team is looking at making the parent education programs mandatory through probation, or the school athletic programs where there can be a wider captive audience. Mayor Hamblin added that without the parent's participation the trend will not be curbed.

B. PRESENTATION OF THE EAGAR POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Interim Police Chief Michael Sweetser apologized that this is the first time the Council is seeing the 2014 Executive Summary of the Eagar Police Department. At such a late stage in this report's release, Interim Chief Sweetser is entertaining any questions that the Council may have regarding this report.

To keep an interactive process with the Council, Interim Chief Sweetser would like to give a quarterly report on the department so that the Council can have a timely report on incidents, trends, and to keep a handle on rumor control to be presented at Council meetings.

Councilor Winslow McNeill stated they receive a monthly report and Mayor Hamblin stated that they are rather consistent. Interim Chief Sweetser stated that he would like to know what the Council prefers on the dissemination of this information.

Town Manager Tami Ryall added that the Police Department will continue to provide all the statistics, and the interest is to have a more meaningful discussion involving the Council; instead of having an end-of year summary that enmeshes so much detail.

Vice-Mayor James Nelson, Jr. agreed with receiving a quarterly report for a more timely interaction. He asked that the report include trends on the local youth activity. Councilor McNeill also wants more information on youth violations.

Interim Chief Sweetser agreed that if the Council wants any specific information added to the report to let Ms. Ryall know and he will add it to the monthly report.

Mayor Hamblin would like to see more mediation by the police officers and to use more discretion on the arrests and charges they make such as the petty occurrences. Interim Chief Sweetser stated that they do try to, but if the victims want to press charges the police department is obligated to send the report for prosecution.

Councilor Steve Erhart commented on the out-of-ordinary incidents that have been occurring and he would rather receive a verbal report on the generalities to help dispel rumors. Interim Chief Sweetser stated that he would like the department to continue disseminating that information verbally as well, and if he is hired as the Chief it will.

Interim Chief Sweetser and the Council all agree that a verbal quarterly report at a Council meeting would be in order.

ITEM #8: CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EAGAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING(S) HELD DECEMBER 2015

- B. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2015 NATIONAL BANK OF ARIZONA TRANSMITTALS, CHECKS WRITTEN, PAYROLL DIRECT DEPOSIT VOUCHERS, AND CREDIT CARD PURCHASES
- C. ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT AND SALES TAX REPORT

Councilor Winslow McNeill moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Steve Erhart seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 6-0

ITEM # 9: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2015-05 ESTABLISHING FOUR TYPES OF FEES WITHIN THE EAGAR MUNICIPAL COURT – DEFERRED PROSECUTION FEE, PROSECUTION REIMBURSEMENT FEE, AN ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FEE, AND A WARRANT FEE TO BE SET BY RESOLUTION

Ms. Ryall stated that there has been no change in this proposed Ordinance of which the Council has reviewed before. The establishment of the fees is in accordance with the recommendation by a recent audit by the Administrative Office of the Courts to be codified instead of using them as a common practice as had been occurring.

Vice-Mayor James Nelson, Jr. moved to approve Ordinance 2015-05. Councilor Allen Browning seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 6-0

ITEM #10: NEW BUSINESS

- A. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO ENTER INTO A MUNICIPAL COURT LEASE AGREEMENT WITH APACHE COUNTY

Ms. Ryall reiterated the decision of the Town to independently select the Town Magistrate. The previous Intergovernmental Agreement with Apache County had been a cautionary agreement to share the staff with the Justice Court. The transition has been moving out of the Justice Court but still in the court complex sustaining the familiarity and convenience for our residents. In December the Council approved a position for a Municipal Court Clerk.

The Magistrate Court has made the move to the manufactured building adjacent to the Round Valley Justice Court. The Town recently added a payment drop box to the facility. The next step is the long-term arrangement with the County for access to the courtroom facility and those offices.

This agreement will handle the disposition of some property as the Town had paid for a third of the cost in the latest renovation to the Justice Court. Most of the fixtures purchased for the

renovation are attached to that facility, therefore, the Town is asking for an exchange for some office furniture. The agreement provides for the termination provisions of three years with termination of the Agreement not to be less than one year prior to the date of the intended termination to be approved by the Town Council and the County Board of Supervisors. Also included are the administrative provisions such as the insurance to be provided, and responsibility of maintenance provided.

Mayor Hamblin added that this Agreement will also be a savings to the Town over the previous agreement.

Vice-Mayor James Nelson, Jr. moved to enter into an intergovernmental Municipal Court Lease Agreement with Apache County. Councilor Steve Erhart seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 6-0

B. DISCUSSION AND TO ACCEPT MID-YEAR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Starting in January 2014 the Town instituted the practice of a mid-year budget evaluation to make any necessary adjustments.

The first transfer recommendation is from the Mogollon Conservation which was a lobbying effort to address water issues. Every White Mountain community that participated had made a deposit and the Town has the \$17,700 on deposit. Rather than refunding small amounts to each jurisdiction, this money will be provided as seed money for the regional geocaching event.

The Town has committed funding to the geocaching event in the amount \$3,000 each year for two years for a total of \$6,000. Of the Mogollon Conservation deposit the Town of Eagar holds an interest and with the transfer of those funds to the geocaching event the Town will have a small balance of \$1,200.

Computers in administrative offices and the financial department were replaced driven by an update to the financial software. The computer and Microsoft Suite costs were higher than estimated for a needed budget adjustment of \$1,100.

The need to upgrade technology in the police department is a high priority goal as they are using program software from 1991. There is the need to provide the proper tools for the officers' efficiency. There were originally discussions about the hardware and software components to be upgraded. After evaluation of the budget, it is feasible to transfer from other general line items in the amount of \$18,000 to start the software prototype now instead of waiting until July.

In the fall the Town came across an opportunity to purchase a Pierce Arrow fire engine for \$20,000. It is feasible to arrange for \$11,154 in line item transfers for this purchase and the Town is still awaiting \$80,000 in wildland fire reimbursements. Wildland fire revenues are \$25,000 over forecast.

Eagar Days Logging event ran over and there was still Eagar Days money in the general account for a transfer of \$3,600.

Other minor adjustments and administrative transfers are feasible due to grant funding actually received.

Ms. Ryall stated that philosophically what occurs during budget adjustments, is to get a handle on anything that is running over and adopt a philosophy that those overages are paid for by the remaining budget funds from other line items and is a good fiscal habit to get into.

Mayor Hamblin appreciates seeing the budget midway and making necessary adjustments early. Ms. Ryall stated that the Town is very conservative and takes fiscal responsibility seriously, but forecasting the budget is not an exact science and unexpected expenditures happen. Ms. Ryall prefers when that happens to review a true number than to transfer without the transparency plus this gives a better picture of what needs to be forecasted.

Councilor McNeill wanted to know if there will be an upcoming Council retreat soon. Ms. Ryall is trying to come up with a Friday toward the end of January or beginning of February. The budget review calendar will be similar to last years' with budget meetings in February, March and April, tentative in May and the final in June.

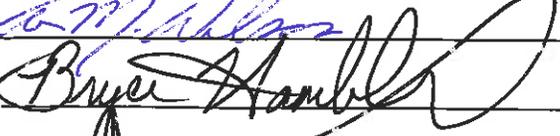
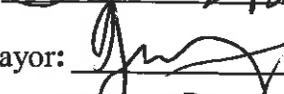
Vice-Mayor James Nelson, Jr. moved to accept mid-year budget adjustments as presented. Councilor Winslow McNeill seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 6-0

ITEM #11: SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

Necessary signatures were obtained for the Minutes of December 2015; the November 2015 Financial Pages; Ordinance 2015-05; and Municipal Court Lease Agreement.

ITEM #12: ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Winslow McNeill moved to adjourn the meeting [at 7:55 p.m.] Councilor Allen Browning seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 6-0

Attest: 
Mayor: 
Vice-Mayor: 
Council: 

Eagar Council Minutes Regular Meeting
January 5, 2016



CERTIFICATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Eagar, Arizona held on January 5, 2016. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



Eva M. Wilson, Town Clerk