



TOWN OF EAGAR

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING EAGAR AND SPRINGERVILLE

JANUARY 24, 2023 at 6:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 22 WEST 2ND STREET

MINUTES

Mayor Steve Erhart called the special meeting to order and welcomed those present. Mayor Erhart requested that the record show all Councilmembers are present. Mayor Steve Erhart led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Ray Hamblin offered the invocation.

B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR SHARED SERVICES BETWEEN THE TOWN OF EAGAR AND THE TOWN OF SPRINGERVILLE (MAYOR STEVE ERHART)

Mayor Steve Erhart stated that we are going to take the items out of order so that the public can speak. I want to state that both towns have been looking into combining services. Eagar will be over the fire department and will report to the Eagar manager and Springerville will be over the police department and will report to the Springerville manager. We have done the same agreement that Taylor and Snowflake have done but modified it to Eagar and Springerville. We have met with Taylor and Snowflake to discuss the do's and don'ts of the agreement. Things we looked at when thinking about the shared services is does it make sense, does it provide better coverage, and is it economically responsible to our citizens if so, we have an obligation to proceed. There is a savings from the shared services that will help us be more competitive with wages. Going into the fiscal year we do plan on doing a wage assessment study. If anyone wants a copy of the agreement please see Kelsi and Jessica and they will get a copy emailed to you.

Jody Emerald stated that she is here to clarify some of the confusion regarding the merging of the departments. In the last two months we have had five police officers leave between Eagar and Springerville with a good possibility of two more leaving. Springerville Police Department is considered fully staffed at seven officers that serves a population of approximately 1700 people with Eagar being fully staffed with six officers with a population of approximately 4400 people. The total between the two towns is 13 officers that would make the department fully staffed we are currently at eight officers with one being a new officer this is half of what we need and affects public safety, emergency response time, and the safety of our officers. I am not opposed to the merger however what are your plans to resolve the current staffing issues, and has anyone from the police departments been apart of the discussions of the merger.

Another issue is having a police department that has to answer directly to a defense attorney that it is a direct conflict.

Mayor Erhart responded that there will be twelve sworn officers and are looking to hire lateral officers. Typically, we have been higher than the county but compared to Show Low and some other areas we cannot compete with them on wages.

Councilwoman Debra Seeley stated that to answer Jody's question about the conflict that the Springerville manager will be over the police department and that the Eagar manager will be over the fire department therefore there will not be a conflict.

Eagar Attorney Brett Rigg stated that he is the defense attorney for Eagar and Springerville. That will not change and there will continue to be no conflict.

Brannon Eagar stated he wants to thank both towns for considering this merger and that it has been needing to happen for a long time. It won't be easy at first but working together will be a better outcome.

Terry Shove stated that she attends just about every council meeting and the merger makes her happy. Both departments already assist each other and work together.

Steve Nicoll stated that he is grateful to see this happening that it has been a long time coming. Let's work past the issues and move forward.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. EXECUTIVE SESSION AS ALLOWED BY A.R.S § 38-431.03.A4 DISCUSSION OR CONSULTATION WITH THE ATTORNEYS OF THE PUBLIC BODY IN ORDER TO CONSIDER ITS POSITION AND INSTRUCT ITS ATTORNEYS REGARDING THE PUBLIC BODYS POSITION REGARDING CONTRACTS THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS, IN PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION OR IN SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO AVOID OR RESOLVE LITIGATION- SHARED SERVICES BETWEEN THE TOWN OF EAGAR AND THE TOWN OF SPRINGERVILLE

Eagar Councilwoman Debra Seeley made a motion to go into Executive Session [at 6:21 p.m.] Councilor Bryce Burnham seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote: Ayes: Steve Erhart
Marsha Tucker
Debra Seeley
John Phelps
Brandon Slade
Bryce Burnham
Ray Hamblin

Springerville Vice-mayor Richard Davis made a motion to go into Executive Session [at 6:21 p.m.] Councilor Douglas Henderson seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously.5-0

Vote: Ayes: Shelly Reidhead
Richard Davis
Douglas Henderson
Donald Scott
Florencio Lozoya

RECONVENE INTO SPECIAL SESSION

Eagar Councilwoman Debra Seeley made a motion to reconvene back into special meeting [at 6:48 p.m.] Councilor John Phelps seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote: Ayes: Steve Erhart
Marsha Tucker
Debra Seeley
John Phelps
Brandon Slade
Bryce Burnham
Ray Hamblin

Springerville Councilor Douglas Henderson made a motion to reconvene back into special meeting [at 6:48 p.m.] Vice-mayor Richard Davis seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously.5-0

Vote: Ayes: Shelly Reidhead
Richard Davis
Douglas Henderson
Donald Scott
Florencio Lozoya

Eagar Vice-mayor Marsha Tucker made a motion to accept the shared services agreement effective immediately. Councilor Brandon Slade seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote: Ayes: Steve Erhart
Marsha Tucker
Debra Seeley
John Phelps
Brandon Slade
Bryce Burnham
Ray Hamblin

Springerville Vice-mayor Richard Davis made a motion to accept the shared services agreement between the Town of Eagar and the Town of Springerville. Councilor Donald Scott seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 5-0

Vote: Ayes: Shelly Reidhead
Richard Davis
Douglas Henderson
Donald Scott
Florencio Lozoya

7. ADJOURNMENT

Eagar Councilwoman Debra Seeley made a motion to adjourn at [at 6:50 p.m.]. Councilor Bryce Burnham seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote: Ayes: Steve Erhart
Marsha Tucker
Debra Seeley
John Phelps
Brandon Slade
Bryce Burnham
Ray Hamblin

Springerville Vice-mayor Richard Davis made a motion to adjourn at [at 6:51 p.m.]. Councilor Douglas Henderson seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 5-0

Vote: Ayes: Shelly Reidhead
Richard Davis
Douglas Henderson
Donald Scott
Florencio Lozoya

Attest: _____

Mayor: _____

Vice-Mayor: _____

Council: _____

CERTIFICATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Joint Council Meeting of the Town of Eagar, Arizona held on January 24, 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Jessica Vaughan, Town Clerk/Event Coordinator