

MINUTES

TOWN OF PARKER COMMON COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS 1314 11<sup>th</sup> STREET  
January 21, 2020 5:30 P.M.

CALL THE WORK SESSION TO ORDER:

5:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT: **PLEASE TURN OFF OR SET TO MUTE YOUR ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING THE COUNCIL MEETING**

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL: Present: Vice Mayor Jerry Hooper, Council Member Karen Bonds, Council Member Randy Hartless, Council Member Frank Savino, Council Member Marion Shontz, and Council Member David Lucas. Absent Mayor Dan Beaver,

PURPOSE:

1. Park Usage

a. Discussion of the Park Usage Policy and Reservation Procedure

*Steve Ziegler, Director of Public works gives a brief overview of the previous work session and the items that were talked about. The committee wants to make sure that everyone is on the same page and receive additional comments to the changes to be made. He notes that there will be a need for public hearing and outlines the timeline for that. TM Wedemeyer notes that we will need to have 2 public hearings before bringing back to council for a vote. She also notes the presence of Parks and Recreation board members and Little League representatives. Vice Mayor Hooper notes that the council spoke about the park usage fees at the retreat and that they discussed not charging little league for the use of the parks for play, one issue they do have is some one has reserved the ball field for 2 months, while only paying a \$10 fee, he notes that if this is done and no one shows up to use the parks, the lights are still on and Town resources are being used even if no one is practicing. Steve asks VM Hooper if little league is the only group that we want to waive fees for, yes that is what he is saying. CM Bonds asks if there are any other organized youth sports that are using the parks. Steve notes that yes, there are other organizations including pop warner to practice. CM Bonds asks if that requires any additional maintenance or leaving the lighting on. Yes that requires the lights to be on. CM Bonds asks if Little League provides any of their own maintenance. Yes they do Steve notes that on occasion they have dragged the fields, it's not an everyday thing, and he notes his department does this once a week. He notes that the little league does have the equipment necessary to drag the fields and some of the coaches do it more often than others, it depends on the coach. VM Hooper asks if little league uses all the fields, yes they use all except 1 at this time. CM Shontz asks if we require proof of an organizations 501c3 status at the time of application to waive fees. Steve notes that we typically do not ask for proof, and we should probably start doing that. He notes that he will have the committee update the form which will require proof of 501c3 status so we can be sure that is on file. Steve asks Council if that means we will be waiving fees for all 501c3, no that is not what is being said, council agrees that is something that should be decided by them, by*

bringing the application before council for approval of waiving fees. CM Shontz asks if 24 hours before an event is enough time for staff to make a decision based on what they want to reserve, Steve states for the most part that is enough time, although 48 hours would be more appropriate. TM Wedemeyer notes that if council wants 501c3 to come then they would have to submit at least 48 hours prior to the next council meeting for positing on the agenda. CM Lucas asks how much effort parks and recreation committee put into seeking out additional information from other municipalities regarding their fees. Steve asks if any of the committee members would like to speak, he feels that the committee put in a good several months of research on this issue. He notes that they spoke with almost all of the Towns in our regional area. They then based their updated fee proposal on that. He feels that the new charges are reasonable for a low to moderate income Town. He notes that we are not in the business of giving things away and compares the park usage to the cemetery. CM Hooper notes that we do not offer anything else for the youth; he notes that we have no pool for them and that this is a personal feeling. CM Savino asks what the extent of the field preparation is. Steve notes that staff groom, mow and line all fields weekly. This takes approximately 3 days with 3 employees. CM Savino notes that this is very labor intensive. VM Hooper asks what would be used by someone who is willing to drag the fields. Steve notes that there is equipment that the town uses to do this. CM Hopper asks if someone was willing to drag the fields would they be able to use our equipment. No, they would need to purchase their own equipment. CM Hooper asks Ms. Duran how she feels about that, she states that her coaches lined the fields throughout the week and she has had her own coaches drag the fields, she notes with the exception of the diamondback field. She notes the bad condition that the city ball park is in. CM Shontz asks if pop warner or little league charge a fee to the player to offset any of their costs. Committee Chair Jennifer Aspa notes the committee looked at all sides of the possible fee increase and what would be fair to everyone. She notes that this is not an easy situation. She notes that pop warner charges approximately a \$100 fee for players. She notes that we do not do anything for pop warner. She notes that the last few years there has been no charge for little league players, however that is their board choice not to charge a fee. She notes that her husband was a coach last year and there were times that no one came to practice, there is no buy in. She notes this was not an issue for pop warner as the parents paid for the kids to be there. Ms. Duran notes that little league is a nonprofit, they are not out to make money. They are trying to make the programs available to the youth because there is nothing for them to do. She notes that the comparisons made by the committee to other municipalities, she states you cannot compare our 1 square mile to other cities and counties, we are a unique little Town and there is no way that we will get all the donations that other Towns get. She notes that they were lucky last year to get \$6,000 in donations. She notes that the Town went and got the fields from the tribes and has yet to put any money into them, and the fields are dangerous. Steve completely disagrees with that, he notes that prior to the meeting he did a 2019 city park cost and the Town has spent \$70,000.00 in maintenance. Mona states she is talking more about what needs to be done and what is required by the lease, Steve notes that the lease only requires maintenance to the park, not improvements. Mona states she is not asking for improvements she's asking the Town to keep up with it. Steve again reiterates there was \$70,000.00 used on the upkeep of the park. Mona states that little league should have the little awnings for shade, its 120 degrees and there is no shade or drinking fountains. She states they have said that they will try to get donations to put those items in; they had to fix their own backdrops. She notes these are things that should have to be done whether we like it or not. She feels that if the Town is providing the fields they should also be providing that. VM Hooper notes that there has been many times that a drinking fountain has been installed, and every time they are vandalized within a couple weeks rendering them useless. She states again that the Town asked for the city ballpark from the, tribes and we keep hearing about a grant that probably won't be coming for another 4 or 5 years for the fields to be redone, yet in the meantime who is losing out is the youth. CM Savino notes again that the lease from the tribes is just to maintain the parks and the Town has to have some way of reciprocating the costs for the park. He notes the lack of property tax in Town. He notes the many issue that go on through Town in regards to vandalism. He agrees that the kids are the future and he wants everyone to know we can't do it alone. It needs to balance for it to work. Jennifer Aspa notes that it is very hurtful that people keep saying there is nothing for the kids to do here in Parker, she notes that the parks and rec committee has worked really hard to bring

more events to the Town, she notes that the committee reworked the paragraph in the policy several times regarding the non-profits. She reads the paragraph and notes that non-profits were not submitting letters to request waiver of fees, it was just assumed by the non-profits that they would be getting the use of the park for free. She notes that either way there is going to be unhappy people. She notes the compromise that Kingman made with users that there was no fee charged or waived if the games were played during the day requiring no lights, but if they were to play at night there was a small fee charged to recoup some of the cost to run the lights. She notes that there is a need for accountability, and fairness to all parties. She notes that it was the committee focused on. CM Savino asks about the timers for lights, Steve notes that all of the lights are on timers. It is noted that there have been times that the lights are on but no one is playing. Steve goes back to the fact that the fields have been reserved and the lights are set on that scheduled use time. If no one calls and says practice is cancelled the lights are still on because of that schedule. He notes that there is a lack of communication between users and the Town and there is no accountability. He also notes the lack of users locking the dugouts and fences which lead to vandalism at the park, and the Town ends up paying for that.

***Adjourn the Work Session and Call the Special Meeting to Order***

CALL THE REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER: 6:00 PM

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL: Present: Vice Mayor Jerry Hooper, Council Member Karen Bonds, Council Member Randy Hartless, Council Member Frank Savino, Council Member Marion Shontz, and Council Member David Lucas. Absent Mayor Dan Beaver

INVOCATION: Given by Pastor Glenn Swarthout of 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Given by all in attendance

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: There were 2 calls to public

1. *Conald Peterson advises Council the he is her to speak about the La Paz regional Hospitals handling of a patient while he was at their facility. He notes that Tribal Police had pulled a woman's shirt off and exposed her to other hospital visitors. He feel that Town Council and Parker Police should do something about this incident.*
2. *Mona Duran advises Council that she would like to speak regarding the parks used for little league play. She notes that she is the current president for the little league and has been for the last 2 years. She notes that the little league is a non-profit organization and notes the ways that the little league benefits the young players. She feels that the Town of Parker also needs to be a part of offering these quality of life items via the parks and recreation. She notes some issues at the parks from last season, including ants at the parks near the restrooms, broken lights, she has not been to the park to check and see if they have all been replaced. She also notes the there are no drinking fountains available for the youth during play and practice, no shading on the dugouts. She notes that the senior field has not been used in years and needs to be tilled up and the ground softened. She notes that she has spoken to Steve regarding the possibility of seniors playing, and thanks god for CRIT for allowing them to use their parks for the seniors to play, without that they would have had 4 teams that were unable to play. She notes that the Town of Parker does not help the little league at all with actual monetary support. She noted the various items that the little league has to pay for, noting that money is made up of donations. She notes that no children pay fees, and they had 350 kids that played in the league last year. She notes additional issues at*

*the Diamondback field, including broken sprinklers that caused puddles of water that children had to play in.*

If you wish to address the Council during this meeting, please read and fill in the information on the "Call to the Public" form and hand it to the Town Clerk. Please limit your comments to a maximum of **3-minutes**.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

All items in the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine or have been previously reviewed by the Council, and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests. If requested, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion and action.

***Approve the following:***

- a. A Soft Street Closure On Saturday, January 25, 2020 Starting At 8:00 Am To End Approximately At 4:00 Pm Of Laguna Avenue Between Agency Road And 11<sup>th</sup> Street For The Youth Participants To Attend And The Instructors To Exhibit Their Skills At The Annual "Rod And Reels Workshop" In Anticipation Of The Annual Saturday, February 8, 2020 "Take A Kid Fishing" Event.

**MOTION: To Approve Soft Street Closure on Saturday, January 25, 2020**  
**BY: CM BONDS**  
**SECOND: CM SAVINO**  
**VOTE: With the remaining in Favor, the motion passed**

- b. Town of Parker Regular Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2020

**MOTION: To Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes from January 7, 2020**  
**BY: CM Bonds**  
**SECOND: CM Savino**  
**VOTE: With the remaining in Favor, the motion passed**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

***Discussion and possible action on the following item(s)***

- 1. Approve/Deny Land Development Review Process

Nora Yackley, Community Development Director

*Nora Yackley, Community Development Director advises council to the new land development review process. She notes this new form will guide permit requestors in the right direction and help streamline the process in the office providing better customer service to new builders.*

**MOTION: To Approve Land Development Review Process**  
**BY: CM Lucas**  
**SECOND: CM Bonds**

**VOTE: With the remaining in Favor, the motion passed**

2. Approve/Deny the spending of \$6,000 from the IDA Grant for the purchase of 6 I-Pads and 3 Chromebooks for the Parker Public Library

Ruthie Davis, Library Manager

*Ruthie Davis, Library Manager asks council to approve the spending of a grant from the IDA for the purchase of new computers and I pads. She notes the ages of the current computers and the inability for them to be updated to support new software. The current laptops and iPad were purchased in 2010 and 2011 from the state library.*

**MOTION: To Approve the spending of \$6,000 from the IDA Grant**  
**BY: CM Savino**  
**SECOND: CM Shontz**  
**VOTE: With the remaining in Favor, the motion passed**

3. Approve/Deny WACOG Services Contract for CDBG Grant Writing services

Lori Wedemeyer, Town Manager

*Lori Wedemeyer, Town Manager asks Council to approve the WACOG services contract for CDBG Grant writing services. She notes this is an annual housekeeping item.*

**MOTION: To Approve WACOG Services Contract for CDBG Grant Writing services**  
**BY: CM Savino**  
**SECOND: CM Shontz**  
**VOTE: With the remaining in Favor, the motion passed**

*Please fill out a "Request to Speak" form if you wish to address the Council at "Call to the Public" on any agenda item*

**COUNCIL MEMBER/LIAISONS REPORTS WITH POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

\*Chamber of Commerce-CM Savino + Manager Wedemeyer\*  
\* Tourism-Mayor Beaver + Manager Wedemeyer \*  
Joint Venture-VM Hooper + CM Savino\* PAACE-CM Lucas  
Tribal Committee -Mayor Beaver + CM Savino \*  
Parks & Recreation-Lucas + Hooper Senior Center-CM Savino \*  
Streets & Traffic -VM Hooper + CM Savino\*  
Library Board\*CM Shontz\*La Paz County Fair Board-CM Bonds  
\* WACOG-CM Savino + CM Hartless  
\*WAEDD- CM Savino + Mayor Beaver

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Wednesday	January 22, 2020	12 <sup>th</sup> Annual Parker 425 Downtown Experience	12:00 PM @ Joshua Street Mall
Friday & Saturday	January 24 & 25, 2020	Best in the Desert "Parker 425"	All Day
Friday & Saturday	January 24 & 25, 2020	Friends of the Library Book Sale	10:00 AM – Noon @ Parker Public Library
Tuesday	February 4, 2020	Next regular Council Meeting	6:00 PM
Saturday	February 8, 2020	Annual "Take a Kid Fishing"	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM @ La Paz County Park
Saturday	February 8, 2020	ASDAR Rededication of Camp Bouse Marker & Empire Flat Historical Marker Dedication	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM Begins @ Camp Bouse Marker located directly across from the A&C Mercantile 27750 HWY 72, Bouse

**ADJOURNMENT: 6:33 PM**

Some members of the Council or the Town Attorney may attend the meeting either in person or by telephone conference call. Persons with a disability may request reasonable accommodation by contacting, the Town Clerk, (928) 669-9265, at least (72) hours before the scheduled meeting. Facilities are handicapped accessible.

Approve

  
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 Jerry Hooper, Vice Mayor