



TOWN OF PARKER

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

MINUTES
TOWN OF PARKER COMMON COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS 1314 11th STREET
TUESDAY February 4, 2020 5:15 P.M.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT: Please silence or mute your electronic devices during The Council Meetings

CALL THE WORK SESSION TO ORDER: 5:15 P.M.

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

Other Staff Present: Town Manager Lori Wedemeyer, Town Clerk Amy Putnam, Community Development Director Nora Yackley, Director of Public Works Steve Ziegler, Chief of Police Clay Romo, Lieutenant Michael Bailey.

Others Present: John Gutekunst, D.L. Wilson, Lori Muriel, Bill Risen, Michaela Kelly, Michael Kelly, Judi Maye, Roberta Hoffman, Cheryl Montijo, Angelica Robledo, .

PURPOSE:

1. La Paz Economic Development Corporation
 - a. Discussion with the La Paz EDC

Mayor Beaver invites D.L. Wilson forward to speak regarding the EDC agreement. Mr. Wilson comes forward and notes that several members of his board are present at the meeting. He begins by outlining the changes he feels should be made in the agreement. He notes there has been little revision since 2011. The proposed edits are as follows

1. *Several dates need to be changed throughout the contract.*

2. Paragraph I-a-7 reference to the Buxton Group to be removed.
3. Paragraph I-b-3-a add examples AAED Region Round table, and Focused Future.
4. Paragraph I-b-4-c there is 2 references to this. He notes that there has been a new database created by the Arizona Prospectors, this database picks up from many other real estate sites. Mr. Wilson feels this should not be the job of the EDC to maintain as the Arizona Prospectors site does a robust job of collecting this information already.
5. Paragraph I-e & f the EDC notes again that the Arizona Prospector site provides the demographic information. The Arizona Prospector provides this information which far surpasses the information that the EDC could gather. The EDC feels this is a waste of resources to maintain, as the data the Arizona prospectors provides is very robust.
6. Paragraph I-m & n the suggestions made are to comply with the EDC bylaws.
7. Paragraph II-c-1 Mr. Wilson notes that the way this is written, it gives the Town Manager the authority to terminate the contract. That concerns the EDC because this is a Council approved agreement. The EDC feels Council should be involved in the decision to terminate. Mayor Beaver comments that he spoke to the town manager, and he agrees that termination of the agreement should be council decision.
8. Section VII-c-1 & 2 access to confidential information. The EDC feels there should be an addition of phrasing which allows the EDC to redact any sensitive employee information. He notes that it is not legal for them to release such records.

Mayor Beaver opens up the floor to anyone that may have questions regarding the agreement. VM Hooper notes he would like to see the EDC bring a new retail business or housing to receive money. CM Savino he has no issue with expressing our desires as far as what we need and notes that in our current situation we are down 23% in sales tax, he notes the bed tax is in good shape. He notes specifically that there are approximately 430 people that commute daily to Parker from Havasu to work, because we have no housing. He notes that some people live up there because they have better access to services, however there are some that do want to live here and have problems finding housing. VM Hooper notes that when this was started the desire was to bring jobs to town. Quality jobs was the goal, now we can't find people to work, one of the problems is the housing. He notes that many people are saying the same thing. Mr. Wilson notes the impact that Wal-Mart and Amazon are having on the taxes. He notes one advantage that we should start seeing some results from is the Wayfair decision, which requires an out of state retailer who is selling goods in our jurisdiction, to pay taxes there on items they sell. It is noted that may work for Amazon but not our local Walmart. Mr. Wilson has concerns at this point on spending resources developing more retail. The reasons for this are retail jobs do not pay as well, or provided benefits to its employees as opposed to an industrial type job. He notes that by bringing more retail jobs that disadvantages residents by paying a low wage. He notes that the industrial jobs typically provide a higher wage which produces more disposable income for residents. He notes the EDC is working on housing, they recognize without adequate housing we cannot secure a good workforce. CM Hartless uses an auto parts store as an analogy. If another auto parts store opens up do the sales of auto parts rise dramatically or is it just shifted from one place to another. He doesn't know if it's making a huge impact on sales tax. Mr. Becker notes that a few years ago they brought a professional medical facility in front of council; it was turned down. He notes a recent trip to Phoenix and part of the discussion was a project they are going to bring to the area. He notes these are very high paying jobs with benefits. He notes that we cannot bring jobs that pay \$12-\$14 an hour and expect people to buy homes in the area. He notes a consumer use tax and bills that are being introduced to address that. Our biggest need is to capture folks coming through town. Retail is failing everywhere, not just Parker. The EDC wants to provide the right kind of business to the area. He notes the need for a good restaurant, but the proximity to churches is an issue, when selling liquor. Mr. Becker advises council of his recent election to leadership with in the AAED. He notes this is a lot more exposure for the town of parker. CM Hartless notes he does not want to see this agreement tied to a demand for this and that and how many times a year etc. VM Hooper notes when he speaks of housing he's not just speaking of houses for sale, he's speaking of apartments and other housing for people to live. He notes one of his wife's employees that were renting a house which sold leaving them with no place to stay.

Mr. Becker speaks about the various properties' that have been built by David Plunkett, and as soon as they are finished there are people lining up to rent them. Mayor Beaver adds that he also does not want to hamstring this agreement to retail business; he notes that it is an objective but not the only one for the agreement. CM Shontz agrees with both Mayor Beaver and CM Hartless she notes the next big housing development she would like to see is in Parker south. There are many things still needed in order for that to happen. She notes there may be a need for rezoning etc. based on what the town would like to see. CM Savino what we need to do while working with the EDC is to set some goals and priorities. He notes the goals will not be met overnight. Mr. Wilson refers back to CM Hartless' comment about the auto parts store. When you put in another store does it increase business or just move it? He is of the personal opinion that it is a little of both. He notes that 1 store cannot stock enough inventory and variety to satisfy all the needs of customers. He notes variety offers more options for customers and keeps them in town; he uses a show store as an analogy. VM Hooper notes Spanky's and the new R.V. store as well, and that they are both busy and providing additional tax. VM Hooper notes that any press release we can do will benefit everybody, not just EDC but also the Town, this will give citizens some knowledge about what is being done. Mr. Wilson questions how we should proceed. TM Wedemeyer will speak with the Town attorney about the requested changes. She asks about the dates, she asks when the agreement shall become effective and when does council want to start. CM Lucas would like everything to start when the agreement is signed not retroactively. CM Bonds notes she would like it to be this fiscal year, not to cross over into the next fiscal year. CM Savino, also suggest a quarterly payment rather than annually. CM Hartless, Mayor Beaver and CM Shontz all agree that the EDC should be paid for the whole year even though the agreement had not been in place, it is noted that they were still working for us this year. CM Hartless notes this comes from the bed tax source, not from the general fund. It is generated by people that are visiting, it seems unfair to the EDC. CM Bonds asks about the status of the Hemp facility in Parker south. Mr. Becker notes they are working on plans, etc. and there is a lot more to this facility. CM Shontz asks if the project is still moving forward. Mr. Becker notes there are many things that still need to happen, changes in legislation, FDA compliance etc. VM Hooper again asks that we do a press release about the status and timeframe of the facility, because people are already calling about applications. Mr. Becker understands this; however it is not the time yet to give that kind of information. When the time is right they will release that information, he notes this is a sophisticated client with sophisticated projects. They are still moving forward. VM Hooper notes that he understands. Mr. Becker notes that when they have the information it will be released. CM Shontz notes that folks are anxious because this is an opportunity for new jobs. The EDC agrees that some public information at the right time will be released. Mayor Beaver asks if there will be a need for an additional work session, TM Wedemeyer notes the agreement will just have to come before council for approval. Mayor Beaver thanks the EDC for being present at tonight's work session and adjourns the work session.

ADJOURNMENT: Work Session is adjourned at 5:50 PM

CALL THE REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER: 6:00 P.M.

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

Other Staff Present: Town Manager Lori Wedemeyer, Town Clerk Amy Putnam, Community Development Director Nora Yackley, Director of Public Works Steve Ziegler, Chief of Police Clay Romo, Lieutenant Michael Bailey.

Others Present: John Gutekunst, D.L. Wilson, Lori Muriel, Bill Risen, Michaela Kelly, Michael Kelly, Judi Maye, Roberta Hoffman, Cheryl Montijo, Angelica Robledo, .

INVOCATION: John Gutekunst

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Given by all in attendance

PROCLAMATION: Career and Technical Education Month February 2020

Mayor Beaver invites Tony Malinge forward to read the proclamation. It is proclaimed that the month of February, 2020 is Career and Technical Education Month. The Proclamation is presented to Mayor Beaver for signature.

PRESENTATION: Parker Police Department Explorers

Detective Joey Venegas comes to the podium to recognize the members of the Parker Police Explorers that took part in a recent competition in Chandler, AZ. The Parker Police explorers placed 4th in the sniper challenge, this was their first time at the event. He is very proud of the explorers and their hard training, and all of the community support they offer.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were 2 calls to public at the meeting:

- 1. Sheriff Bill Risen is invited to the podium. Sheriff Risen invites explorers and advisors to the podium to present a certificate. He notes that at the Parker 425 there was a medical emergency. He read the certificate which recognizes Casen Romo, Justin Vilorio, Jose Martinez Jr. and Seth Baldwin for their actions on January 25, 2020. Their assistance with transporting first responders to the incident site, where a juvenile had suffered serious injuries. The actions of the young men involved potentially saved a young man's life. The Sheriff's Department wanted the opportunity to thank the young men for their efforts.*
- 2. Ms. Judy Maye is invited to the podium. She requested to speak regarding the hemp processing plant in Parker South. She notes some research she has done on the issue. She wished to let Council know what a great opportunity this could be. She notes the lack of development in Parker South. She feels this is a time for us to grow, build affordable housing, and keep our young people here. She notes that she has 5 children who have all had to leave due to lack of good jobs. She wants the Council to consider this and really think hard about it. She notes that she herself takes CBD oil as well as her dogs, and it has worked wonders.*

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. Town of Parker Work Session/Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2020 (absent Mayor Beaver)

MOTION: To approve the Town of Parker Work Session/Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2020
BY: VM Hooper
SECOND: CM Hartless
VOTE: With Mayor Beaver abstaining and all others in favor, the motion passed;

REGULAR AGENDA:

Discussion and possible action on the following item(s)

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

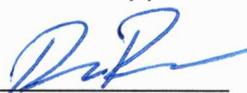
VM Hooper for the Park and Recreation committee wanted to clarify his comments from a previous work session. The comment was that the town of parker does not provide anything for the kids. What was meant was that the town does not have structures or facilities for the kids, places that they can go. He notes the parks and rec committee has done wonders for the kids, and thanks them for their hard work. He moves to streets and traffic committee and the passing out of candy at parades. They committee would like to see an ordinance that in every parade candy cannot be thrown from a moving vehicle or from people on a float. Candy can be passed out from those walking along the parade route. He notes they also talked about additional streets and Blake school; was brought up, he notes there will be an addition of a drop off zone. Public Works Director Steve Zeigler has provided the committee of pictures of what it will look like when completed, this is a good addition to the safety around the school.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thursday	February 6, 2020	Senior Center Committee Meeting	9:30 AM @ Senior Center
Saturday	February 8, 2020	41 st 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, AZ
Monday	February 10, 2020	Friends of the Library Meeting	12:00 PM @ Library
Monday	February 10, 2020	Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting	4:00 PM @ Council Chambers
Monday	February 10, 2020	Library Advisory Board	5:00 PM @ Library
Friday & Saturday	February 14 & 15, 2020	Friends of the Library Book Sale	10:00 AM- 12:00 PM @ Library
Friday	February 14, 2020	Annual Town of Parker Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	5:00 PM @ Senior Center
Monday	February 17, 2020	Presidents Day	All Town Offices Closed
Tuesday	February 18, 2020	Next Regular Council Meeting	

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Beaver adjourns the meeting at 6:21 PM

Approve



Dan Beaver, Mayor

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