

MINUTES

TOWN OF PARKER COMMON COUNCIL SPECIAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Town Council Chambers
1314 11th Street, Parker AZ 85344
March 4, 2016 11-:00am

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT: Mayor asked all to please turn off or set to mute all electronic devices during the Council Work Session

CALL THE SPECIAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION TO ORDER: Mayor Beaver called the work session to order at 11:00 A.M.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL: Present: Mayor Beaver, Vice Mayor Hooper, Council Members Collett, Hartless, Savino, and Shontz
Absent, Council Member Yackley

Staff Present: Town Manager Wedemeyer, Chief of Police Romo, Public Works Director Edwards, Senior Center Director Tilley, Library Manager Davis, Sergeant Bailey, and Town Clerk Cockrell

Others Present: John Gutmest

Purpose:

1. Discussion
 - a. 2016 Budget – Accomplishments and Goals

Lori Wedemeyer, Town Manager

Accomplishments and goals were presented by each department head beginning with the Senior Center; this center is used by the state as a model and example explained Director Tilley. Certain requirements from the state must meet their requirements which recently has added around 30-man hours more a week to document the numbers of those eating at the center and now are required to sign in and plan ahead for the next days meals.

She told of the numbers and what type of grants the center has been awarded. The committee does a lot for the center both with volunteering and financially was added. She and CM Shontz are researching doing a memorandum with the county for help with transportation services. She reported getting the new oven & the plans to knock out the walls to remove the older one, which everyone thinks the center was built around years ago; the new freezer was funded through a grant and when arrived would be placed on a cement slab outside with an eventual shade cover. She reported the numbers for the client list has increased but it is a needed thing as if the State/WACOG doesn't see a number in-need then funding is cut back; it is a real catch-22 was stated. Her wants

and dream is to eventually own the whole block, expand the center, build assisted living place for the seniors. Currently she depends on the public works staff for setting up and tearing down tables for meals and events. She cannot do the lifting anymore and many of those that had helped has passed away. She told council you know how to solve this dilemma, hire more employees.

CM Collett said this is a good time for all of council to gain knowledge of what it takes to convey property. CM Hartless inquired how does one rent the center, and are not the renters required to do their own cleanup after, she was told yes, but due to many health issues a staff person always needs follows up. Council was reminded it is a lot cheaper to provide for services in a seniors home rather than to have a senior be placed in a nursing facility; \$10,000 vs. \$70,000 are the numbers given.

Chief Romo introduced Sergeant Bailey who would be doing the grants part and the budget while he was away at the FBI academy. He provided all with statistics on the current vs. last years investigations. There is an alarming increase in sex assaults he added. Council discussed if the officers had any outlets or trainings available for the emotional toll these type of cases had on the officers. This was confirmed by the chief, if one wants it was available and this was something that needed to be added to the departments new sop's and rules was suggested. The number of DUI has increased and council inquired how many assist were given to the other area police departments and how many were given to us. Grants awarded were discussed and the two new hires a records/evidence clerk was Mark Baldenegro and Fernando Baldenegro was assigned as the departments investigative detective. Both were praised in their efforts as were the Police Explorers and their leader Officer Martinez. They have assisted at many towns and county functions. Council inquired if any other officers were interested in that position; it was told, the school had requested Martinez remain in charge. Sergeant Bailey showed the council the new design they would like to have attached on all the police vehicles. It was explained the state is going to E-tickets and the service computers are not always compatible with. He also would like to add four new explorers vehicles to their fleet.

There are certain situations where official policy mandates counseling for the officers. Council added the officers needed someone other than the chief to talk to about issues, this needed to be looked into was suggested.

Manager Wedemeyer informed all of the changes just added to the town's policy and procedures pertaining to sick and vacation time. Also the rate of pay is being looked into the be more comparable with the county for new hirers.

Library Manager Davis gave her accomplishments list for library and told the council her long time employee Jeannie Smith would be retiring later this year. The library helps the CRIT library with scheduled events and Ruthie has trained their front counter people on customer service. The "Little free Library" at Bluewater Lagoon has been such a success they are going to add one to the Lazy D trailer park. She told about the Oral History sessions with local town's peoples & how well they have gone.

The Friends Group and the library were awarded a construction grant, which provided the new building that when completed will house the book sale materials instead of them needed to be all set up in the front yard area. She told of all the programs the

library offers and gave the numbers of attendees, their ages, etc. all the programs and running of the library are done with only 2 -full time, 1- 25-hour person, and 1- 19 hour staff members. Council asked if she uses the First Thing First program, she answered no. she has seen how much work that CRIT has to do with it and does not believe it is worth it.

Public Works Director Edwards provided a printout of the accomplishments the public works departments streets, water, parks, building maintenances, fleet and equipment maintenance, and the cemetery had done. He started to tell first about the 400-feet of galvanized water lines that have been dug up and replaced with new line. CM Hooper inquired how many fire hydrants still needed replaced that were non-functioning. Tim replied just a few more. Discussed the town changing from the old meters to the radio read style; it is staffs hope that one day all Corina will need to do is hit a button and the whole town meters will be read from within her office chair with the information ready to download the next months billings. Painting the two main town storage tanks is planned and the possibility of changing from their blue to something not quite as recognizable is highly recommended. Everything is on schedule for the water rate increase in July and Council asked if there were plans for any water well rehabilitations, Tim replied yes, it was hoped to take one of the main wells down for some r n r. council also discussed the water resources/conservation study, the "bright line", and BOR at Parker South.

Building maintenance was discussed next; the library must get a new roof. When it rains the wall in the manager's office just pours; mold is a concern. A list was provided of what is done daily, weekly, and monthly within all the town buildings; much of the public works time is spent at the senior center a Division of Labor chart was provided.

The park operations were discussed, many did not like cutting down and removal of the diseased trees at Pop Harvey, but if left alone they could have fallen and caused an accident or more damages. Tim explained a big part of the staff time is spent r/r the parks from damages and graffiti. CM Hartless discussed the cemetery and the issues she has with various areas there. Her department provides head stones for the Veteran Indigents and is concerned that the stones are always covered with dirt from the gophers. It was explained staff catches and kills 8-12 daily. Council asked if adding a brick type of fence around the cemetery could lessen the blowing sand on the graves. Agreed, but the cost is a big factor was established. Council was told about the Christmas decorations pilfer at both Mainstreet Park and the Western Park. The grassy areas at Aaron Hill were discussed, Tim explained many things have been tried but eventually during down time the whole area would just need to be dug up and out and totally replaced. All agreed it is a major asset for the town and did need to be taken care of. Tim added the new burial garden area in the cemetery would need to be planted. Little league and the Parks and Rec committee are working to add shade structures for the ball field. Council commented the funds still need to remain in the budget for the Dog Park should the \$11,000 match be met to construct.

Fleet and equipment maintenance was briefly discussed; the senior center has almost all new vehicles from grant efforts. PD vehicles were discussed earlier chief would like to retire some of the older with new. Council inquired if grants could assist there, chief replied not at this time, he did get one for overtime hours and the radio assistance was not awarded he added. Council asked what was a broom bear and were told it is a street sweeper.

Over all Street Maintenance was reviewed, over 300 signs have been replaced throughout the town; Tim provided a list of the daily, weekly, and monthly projects the staff does complete. Bids were received for the next chip seal project he would bring to council. The chamber has requested the trees in front of the building be removed and maybe replaced with another type. There were plans for improvements to Wayside Drive in Parker South to help prevent anymore side erosions; general upkeep. Staff notes what sidewalks need repairs and as time permits they do the work themselves. Staff has also worked many hours on parade and events assistance; everyone enjoys the events but like everything they require man-hours.

Manager told of the new businesses in the town, plans for the staffing at the library are being worked on as was raising the wage limits to be more in line with the County. Someone with a passion for the cemetery is hoped to be found. She informed the council she is researching using the same grant writers as the senior center uses; they have been very successful for the center. She also is working on getting some agreements in place for council to review of upcoming projects. Mayor thanks all for attending the first work session.

ADJOURN:

Mayor Beaver adjourned the Special Council Work Session at 1:53pm

Approve

Dan Beaver, Mayor

Work session minutes are not official Council minutes; the work session was called to order and a quorum of the council was present; however, no official action taken.

Candy Cockrell, Town Clerk