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**MINUTES OF THE SPRINGDALE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2014 AT 5:00 P.M. AT SPRINGDALE TOWN HALL, 118 LION BLVD., SPRINGDALE, UTAH.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Stan Smith, Council members Mark Chambers, Kathy LaFave, Adrian Player and Bill Weyher

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Manager Rick Wixom, Town Treasurer Dawn Wallace and Town Clerk Fay Cope, recording. Eleven citizens signed in; see attached list.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Louise Excell

**Approval of agenda:** Motion by Mark Chambers to approve the revised agenda, seconded by Kathy LaFave:

Chambers: Aye

LaFave: Aye

Player: Aye

Smith: Aye

Weyher: Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/Information/Non-action Items**

**General discussion & announcements:** 4<sup>th</sup> of July Lions Club breakfast and flag-raising 7-9 am, parade at 9:30; 24<sup>th</sup> of July 3<sup>rd</sup> annual kebabique at the gazebo park – free kebabs, games, music, fun

**Visitors Bureau report** – Dean Cook distributed copies of the new visitor's guide. The photos were mostly prizewinners of the contest – including winners from Germany and France

**Zion Park update** – Acting Supt. Purcell wasn't present

**Z-Arts report** – (See attachment #1) Nancy Goodell reported the writing contest was complete; Michael Plyler had an exhibit in the CCC; the call for submissions for juried show was out; grants applications were being applied for; 'Ramona' a silent movie filmed in Zion would be shown (with musical accompaniment) on October 17; and on September 11, a documentary called 'Wrenched', about Edward Abby and the relevance of his thinking to wilderness preservation efforts, would be screened at the Giant Screen Theatre - an exclusive showing in Washington County. She recommended reading *The Monkey Wrench Gang* and *Desert Solitaire* before the showing.

**General Plan report:** Mr. Dansie wasn't present

**Wayne Hamilton Presentation on East Landslide Area:**

The Mayor reported that he had recently seen this presentation at an NPS safety meeting and had asked Mr. Hamilton to make the presentation to the rest of the Council. He welcomed Mr. Hamilton, who was a retired professional geologist.

- Mr. Hamilton, using a slide presentation, showed where the east landslide had started moving in 2006. The movement had actually started upstream from the more apparent slide behind the post

office. He had been monitoring movement for over a month and there had been 4 millimeters of movement. He reviewed his monitoring methodology.

- The next slide showed an old irrigation ditch in the same vicinity which had been covered by two different landslides during the past 100+ years. No one in the room knew about the ditch or the landslides.
- He then showed slides of a dead juniper tree near the top of a slope he was monitoring. A sharp change in the angles of its trunk showed there had been a 30 degree change in the slope since the tree began its life, followed by another slope change of about 20 degrees near the time it died. The angles proved it had lived through two cataclysmic events. He showed a cutting from the tree trunk showing about 150 rings. The rings also proved there were disruptions through ring distortion. He said that was the most unnerving evidence.
- He suggested Sunrise Engineering could use the Tribal Arts base station which they were using to monitor the old water tank hill to also measure motion on the other slope. He suggested they could more accurately measure the rate of movement toward the river.
- Mary Stults asked if there was any possibility of the landslide covering the campgrounds. Mr. Hamilton said if the hill 'came down in a big clump' it would dam the river. Mayor Smith said the state geo-engineers had suggested watching it and being ready with heavy equipment to move dirt away or breach a dam but 'not to lose sleep over it.' They said it was typical Chinle-slow-creep action. Cheryl Frassa asked if there was any reason to be concerned about the slide near the post office. The lower slide area (across the river from the Post Office) had enough flat area beneath it to collect all the soil above it. It wasn't as threatening as the upper slide.
- Slide Mountain (aka old water tank hill or Balanced Rock) was the biggest threat – water lines and businesses were at the toe of the slope, as well as SR-9. Mr. Hamilton thought that should be continually monitored, too. Mayor Smith said if they saw water coming out of the ground, there would be reason to worry.
- The Mayor thanked Mr. Hamilton for taking the time and care to monitor and report on his findings.

**Community questions:** Michael Plyler said he didn't have a question; as the Springdale Town representative on the Fire Board he had a report. The Fire District held an informational meeting as a prelude to the raising of standby fees. There had been a lot of feedback from the townspeople that the Town should give more of the TRT to the District. The District was not taking a position on it; he was just reporting. No one wanted to see Hurricane become the emergency services provider. He said the generally overwhelming sentiment expressed was that tourists and the tourist industry created the greatest demand on the District, therefore the standby fees would be 'weighted heavily toward the business community.' In an earlier meeting, he had informed the Council that visitation numbers were equivalent to every household in the District hosting 2.7 houseguests every day of the year. That 3:1 ratio was the basis of the revised standby fee structure. There would be quarterly billings instead of annual. There would be public hearings in the near future.

Kathy LaFave agreed the fees should be weighted toward the businesses.

### **Action items – Administrative**

**Public Hearing: Resolution 2014-04 Adopting Final Budget for FY 2014-15:** Mr. Wixom reported that a few changes had been made since the tentative budget. General Fund revenues and expenses were balanced at \$2,166,587. Sales taxes provided 77% of that income. Enterprise funds were not required to balance. He reviewed the two transfers between enterprise funds: \$120,000 from Sewer Fund to Irrigation Fund for manhole project and \$15,000 from Water Fund to Irrigation Fund for O/M. Noticing of those inter-fund transfers had been done according to law.

**QA:** Cheryl Frassa asked about the difference in fiscal year dates on the agenda items. Mr. Wixom explained the first item was a hearing for next year's budget and the second item was for scheduling a hearing for the last amendment to the current fiscal year (2013-14.)

### **Motion by Mark Chambers to open public hearing, seconded by Bill Weyher:**

**Chambers: Aye**

**LaFave: Aye**

**Player: Aye**

**Smith: Aye**

**Weyher: Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Bob Orton said Mr. Plyler left out a few points he wanted to cover. He asked the Town to consider 'throwing anything financial toward the District' they considered appropriate. He said that would 'lighten the load' the District had to bear.

Ms. LaFave said she would be more comfortable considering something like that if she had a better idea of what was needed. Mr. Orton said he didn't have documentation for the Council but the District was presently collecting \$165k in fees but their budget was \$440k. They were utilizing reserves to balance their budget.

**Motion to close hearing by Kathy LaFave, seconded by Adrian Player:**

**Chambers: Aye**

**LaFave: Aye**

**Player: Aye**

**Smith: Aye**

**Weyher: Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion by Kathy LaFave to adopt R2014-04 adopting a final budget for 2014-15; seconded by Adrian Player:**

**Chambers: Aye**

**LaFave: Aye**

**Player: Aye**

**Smith: Aye**

**Weyher: Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Determine date for public hearing to open and amend budget for FY 2013-14: June 2 at 5pm**

**Authorization to write-off certain delinquent utility accounts:** These were in collection and would remain so, unless the owner was deceased. Mr. Player had asked for the original list to be clearly distributed so the penalty was shown separately from the original amount. Mr. Player urged a very aggressive policy on delinquency. It really bothered him that people didn't pay their bills; it bothered him to write off delinquent accounts, and he didn't want the Town to stop trying to collect on the ones in collection.

**Motion by Kathy LaFave to write off delinquents as evidenced by the spreadsheet provided by the treasurer, seconded by Adrian Player:**

**Chambers: Aye**

**LaFave: Aye**

**Player: Aye**

**Smith: Aye**

**Weyher: Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**RAP Tax Interlocal Agreement between Springdale, Washington County and other Washington County municipalities:**

- Mr. Wixom said an opinion question would go on the ballot in November to consider a point one-percent tax for recreation, arts and parks (RAP.) If the voters approved the tax, the county could implement the tax. There would be an advisory board. The tax revenues would be split: 15% for cultural entities and the remaining 85% would be split based 67% on population and 33% on point of sale. Not good for Springdale. Good for St. George, Washington and Hurricane.
- In fiscal year 2013, Springdale generated \$60.6 million in sales. 0.1% of that would be \$60k. \$9k (15%) would be distributed to cultural uses, \$35k would go to the population spread and only \$16k was sure to come back to Springdale.
- If the voters said 'no' countywide but the Springdale precinct said 'yes,' there might be an opportunity for Springdale to put the question on a Springdale ballot the following November. If it failed then, it

would be over. If it passed, Springdale could adopt its own RAP tax. St. George had already expressed its intent to try for its own tax if the question failed county-wide.

- Ms. LaFave said she had no interest in supporting the county efforts; she was in favor of Springdale having its own tax.
- Mr. Weyher asked if Springdale had any input in the creation of the document. *Very little, and it had been completely disregarded.*

**Motion by Kathy LaFave to table the RAP tax interlocal agreement, seconded by Adrian Player:**

**Chambers: Aye**

**LaFave: Aye**

**Player: Aye**

**Smith: Aye**

**Weyher: Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Presentation about Invasive Species and request for action** – Sara Shaughnessy, a SW Area Forester employed by the Utah State Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, said Lisa Zumpft had requested Ms. Shaughnessy make a presentation. Ms. Zumpft had sent the council a letter.

- Ms. Shaughnessy said her organization was tasked with assisting non-Federal landowners in managing their forested lands, whether riparian or mountainous. Springdale had both types of forested lands.
- They had been involved with the removal of Russian olive and Tamarisk trees in the Virgin River watershed since 2005. After working on the west side of the county for several years, they had finally realized it made more sense to start at the head of the stream and remove seed sources as they worked their way downstream. Zion National Park had been working for years on removing the species and was now in 'maintenance mode.'
- Her Division had received \$300k for removing invasive species and replacing them with native species as appropriate. That funding had to be matched 1:1 with non-Federal funding. It could be cash or in-kind match. The in-kind volunteer rate was \$22/hr. Any Town-owned machinery time, town staff time, even time spent by entities downstream could be counted in the match. They knew from experience they had the best results if municipalities participated. If property owners were aware they were part of a 'big community project', they were more likely to participate and keep their own lands maintained.
- She mentioned a recent brush fire in St. George. Flames from stands of invasive species were 60-foot tall. She said Russian olives and tamarisks burned so hot they destroyed the soil for other species, which perpetuated their on-going survival.
- They had been working with the County on land owned by the Water Conservancy District between Hurricane and Virgin. They were attempting to get the Community Weed Mgmt. Association on board because having local partners improved the chances of long-term funding. If Springdale was their partner, they would definitely have a better chance of getting additional funding for this part of the river.
- Small properties with only a few trees could best handle their own problem. Large stands might be able to handle it only with help. Russian olive was 'disturbance dependent'; the harder you tried to kill it, the more it grew. The river was the main source of seeding new plants. Russian olive could grow 12 feet in one year.
- They discussed whether it would be necessary to identify trees with the GPS. *Probably not.*
- Ms. LaFave asked about the beetle introduced to kill tamarisks. Ms. Shaughnessy explained it was no longer legal to use the beetle because the endangered flycatcher used those trees also. The beetles had also been ineffective in the long run.
- The first grant would be for the 'heavy lifting' – getting rid of the mature plants. They would remain as technical assistants and help find grant money on future efforts. They wanted to see the project be successful long-term.
- Ms. Shaughnessy explained the importance of bank stabilization. Sometimes an invasive tree had to remain or a riverbank would collapse; that was when maintenance was required. Efforts to find other ways to stabilize the bank would be explored. Sometimes grasses did a better job than tree roots.
- Mr. Weyher said he had been battling the invasive plants on his own property and was having some success, but upstream properties with invasive trees reseeded his property. The River Park was one

example. He thought the Town should 'step up' there. He also thought it wouldn't be difficult to get property owners to 'get on board.'

- Ms. LaFave asked if the headwater area of the Virgin River was clear of the plants. Ms. Shaughnessy said there were only a few problems at lower elevations. Springdale was lucky because the river flowed through Zion first, and the Park Service was doing a very good job controlling the species.
- Mr. Chambers read General Plan strategy 7.6.1e: *Educate property owners about the negative impacts of Tamarisk, Russian olive, and other non-native vegetation on riparian ecosystems. Encourage property owners to remove non-native vegetation along the Virgin River and its tributaries.* Education would play an important part in building bridges and making the program cohesive.
- Ms. Shaughnessy agreed. They had identified 95 different property owners and each participant would have to agree to participate voluntarily. That outreach would be the hardest part. Some of the owners lived in foreign countries.
- She hoped they could do a fall project. They weren't necessarily asking for money from the Town's budget at this point, but they were looking for support and participation.
- Ms. LaFave suggested an educational program – especially for the non-local landowners.
- Ms. Shaughnessy suggested a Town demonstration property first – it might be best to go slowly. They had the funding for up to five years, but they had had it one year already. She said they had already made some contacts; people were aware something was in the works.
- Ms. LaFave suggested moving forward by gathering information, doing a mailing or newsletter, writing a letter of intent to the Forest Service and the State, logging time spent and starting with a town project.
- The Council directed staff to begin the process as outlined by Ms. LaFave.

#### **UTA Rideshare Van Pool and transit discussion and direction:**

- Mr. Wixom reported they had talked with the Trust and adding a transport vehicle to the Town's insurance was not a problem. The distance and number of riders would determine the fee. The Trust was most likely to okay a volunteer driver certified by the UTA. Mr. Wixom reported on the preliminary response to the proposal - The most interested: NPS; less interest from businesses, least from employees. The Mayor said each business might be more interested in insuring its own van. Vanpool required a minimum of 7 riders; max 15. The operator of the van had to make monthly payments and the riders shared that cost. Mayor Smith said the van riders determined the schedule. The program was very flexible and very affordable.
- Mayor Smith said Hurricane's Mayor Brammell was very supportive of a SunTran system from St. George to Hurricane, then Hurricane to Springdale. A feasibility study done a few years ago had shown it was feasible. The van pool would validate that. Mr. Wixom said UTA in northern Utah was funded with a sales tax. SunTrans was funded mostly by the cities that participated. Mayor Smith explained the SunTrans option might take a while. It would take at least 18 months to build a bus.
- Mr. Chambers read from General Plan Goal 9.3: *To achieve a safe and efficient public transportation system throughout Springdale and to the rest of Washington County which adequately provides for future growth.* 9.3.1b was on-point: *Encourage private or public transit between St. George and Springdale.*

Mayor: Start it; it will grow.

Kathy LaFave: Liability is the big question: what if there was a van accident? What if people died? Would the insurance company cover it? The Mayor said they were still exploring those answers. There was liability in everything.

Mayor: County was in favor of both the van pool and the bus. They gave the Mayors the go ahead to determine their options He asked if the council supported the effort. Yes.

**Consent Agenda:** Invoices and Minutes of May 6 work and May 14 regular meeting

**Motion to approve the consent agenda with removal of May 14 minutes, seconded by Mark**

**Chambers:**

**Chambers: Aye**

**LaFave: Aye**

**Player: Aye**

**Smith: Aye**

**Weyher: Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Action Items – Legislative - None**

**Administrative Non-Action Items**

**Council Department Reports:**

- Ms. LaFave asked about the reservation/schedule policy for the tennis courts/pickleball courts. Mr. Player said he was hopeful for the same kind of policy they used for the ballfield. Mr. Wixom said they needed a policy and were working on it. It would be ready for the July meeting.
- Ms. LaFave said the new parks employee was helping very much. Mr. Martin said this had been the busiest spring season he'd ever experienced and he was glad for the help.
- Mr. Wixom reported on the Irrigation manholes project: the NPS had issued a compliance letter; July 2 was the bid opening, approval of the bid was scheduled for the July 9 meeting.
- Mr. Chambers reported the planning of the Music festival was proceeding well. All of the bands were selected and most of the contracts executed. The board had met with the police chief and treasurer to work out security and other procedures.
- Mr. Weyher reported Tom Dansie was writing an RFP for designing and managing the streetlight project
- Mr. Weyher said he didn't need to point out the parking problem on busy weekends was still a major problem. One of the issues he was looking at with the staff was striping. There needed to be a better policy about what should be striped and what not.
- The Mayor said the new hotels had created additional parking spaces. If the hotels encouraged their guests to take the downtown shuttle and leave their cars in the hotel parking lot that would help. If the van pool 'took off,' that would reduce the number of employee parking spaces.
- The NPS was measuring parking areas as well as striped areas; they would be using GPS to map all the parking and suggest solutions.
- The Mayor was 'excited to announce' he was meeting with the Fiber Optics company – there were a lot of logistics to work out, but he hoped that project would take shape in the fall. It was moving along.
- He had met with the police committee and had sent the council a report on their meeting. Mayor Densley had informed them there were a few constituents in Virgin that questioned whether they were 'getting their money's worth' from the police agreement. Mayor Smith and Mr. Wixom had both assured him they were; but a sure way to reduce their cost would be to make all their citizens stop breaking the law.
- Jared Barker would be coming on as a fulltime officer now that the budget had been approved.

**Council Discussion:**

- Ms. LaFave said she had learned from a customer that other municipalities had enacted minimum wage laws. She thought that was a wonderful idea. She asked Mr. Wixom to look into it. Mr. Mabbutt said NPR ran a program about municipal minimum wage a few days ago.
- Mr. Wixom said the old ticket revenue checks had been sent to the court and the state.

**Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Adrian Player at 7:02 pm, seconded by Bill Weyher:**

**Chambers: Aye**

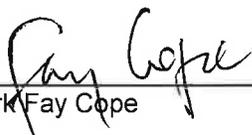
**LaFave: Aye**

**Player: Aye**

**Smith: Aye**

**Weyher: Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

  
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Town Clerk Fay Cope

  
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Approved

Z-Arts Monthly Report to Springdale Town Council  
Wednesday June 11, 2014

1. We completed our 2014 Writing Contest, organized by Literary Char Niles Ritter from Virgin, with a reading of winning works and an awards ceremony on May 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. A new CCC exhibit went up this week featuring the black and white photography of Michael Plyler in an exhibit titled "Maya of Guatemala".
3. A call for submissions also went out from our Visual Arts Chair, Carol Bold from St George, this week for the 2014 CCC Juried Art Show in which all Southern Utah artists are invited to participate.
4. This Friday, thanks to the talent and efforts of our Performance co-chair Nancy Guardabascio, we'll be submitting our "Local Arts Agency" annual grant application to the Utah Division of Arts & Museums.
5. Z-Arts and film has partnered with The Zion Canyon Field Institute to bring a live music-accompanied showing of the silent film "Ramona" to town on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Ramona was filmed in Zion Canyon in the 1920's.
6. And last but not least, I'm using this Council meeting to make Z-Arts' first public announcement of an important film screening event coming to Zion Canyon on September 11<sup>th</sup>. This documentary called "Wrenched" is about the life of Edward Abbey and the relevance of his thinking to the wilderness preservation and environmental movement of today. The film will play at the Zion Canyon Giant Screen Theatre. Z-Arts film co-chair Sarah Jeffreys put together this first partnership between the Giant Screen Theatre and Z-Arts. Another partner in this event is CCC Director Julie Hancock who will be organizing an expert panel of locals with ties to Ed Abbey. The panel will participate along with film director ML Lincoln in a post-screening Q&A.
7. For more information on these and several other upcoming events please visit [zarts.org](http://zarts.org)

