

**MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWN OF SNOWFLAKE  
HELD 12/13/2016**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Lynn Johnson, Vice Mayor Kerry Ballard, Byron Lewis, Allison Perkins all present; Stuart Hensley, Cory Johnson, Terril Kay, excused STAFF: Brian Richards, Bob Hall, Terry Cooper, Cathie McDowell, Don Camacho, Larry Scarber, Katie Melser, Willie Nelson, Dale Call, Mike Rogers

**2. PRAYER/PLEDGE** Perkins/Johnson L

**3. PROCLAMATIONS & RECOGNITIONS**

None

**4. CALL TO PUBLIC**

- Chris Wall, manager of the Silver Creek Senior Center, served close to 200 people at the Thanksgiving dinner and wanted to let the council and staff know that they appreciated what they did to volunteer. Would also like to extend an invitation to serve for the Christmas dinner on December 22, arrive about 11-11:30, begin serving at 12pm.

-Larry Brewer: would like to express appreciation on the work done on the golf course, especially Brian and Terry and the golf course staff. It is obvious things are improving and he has heard lots of positive comments.

Council appreciates the positive notice and still plans to follow through with their committee beginning at the first of the year.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

A. Approve Council minutes dated November 15, 2016.

B. Approve Accounts Payable

*Motion by Ballard, 2nd by Lewis, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed; unanimous*

**6. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

A. Dale Call addressed the council about the Chapmans. The ordinance requires a manufactured home to be 7 years or newer. Dale advised them of the variance option. He provided background information for the council including photos. Every other requirement besides the year has been met (it is a 2004). The Planning and Zoning commission recommended approval of the variance.

- Joel Chapman- spoke about the improvements he made on the roads. If he had known about the ordinance requiring newer homes, he wouldn't have done it. But he's in a spot now, it is a beautiful home, and it will make the property much nicer.

- Ballard thinks this looks like a big improvement.

- Call would add this home and property is not easily accessible, any adverse effect would be minimal because it is so out of the way.

*Motion by Ballard, 2nd by Perkins, to approve the variance request for the manufactured home. Motion passed; unanimous*

B. Richards: with turnover on council and among staff, signatories need to be changed. He would like Kerry Ballard, Lynn Johnson, Terry Cooper, and Don Camacho to be signatories at Wells Fargo and National Bank of AZ.

***Motion by Perkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Johnson L. to update the signatories on the Wells Fargo and National Bank of Arizona to be M. Lynn Johnson, Kerry Ballard, Terry Cooper, and Don Camacho. Motion passed; unanimous***

C. listen to recording or include reports from staff

Police- Chief Scarber prepared a written report, which will also be available on the town website after the final year end statistics are added. They are currently at full capacity for staffing, with one officer vacancy being filled by a cadet in the training academy. He mentioned the calls they have received this year. Some projects they have been working on is their dispatch center, and most of that work is being completed by Public Works employee Will Wilson. They have also transitioned from 40 caliber handguns to new 9 mm handguns owned by the department, where previously the officers used their own. Working hard to change their culture of mentality from warrior to guardian through training. 6 pillars of policing, they are all in report. Ongoing projects and challenges are community illicit drug use, it drives many other crime issues such as burglary, etc. Needs of the department- the recommended minimum staffing level by the League of Cities and Towns is 1.5 officers per thousand of population; when the cadet finishes academy, they will be at 1.4, so they need one more officer to meet minimum staffing. If they were able to get an additional officer, they would like to dedicate it to a full-time school resource officer. Several other issues like body-worn cameras were brought up, that are in the report.

Johnson L.- who is cadet officer? Scarber- Jacob Webber

Ballard- appreciates the newsletter, informative and fun to read. He has noticed a difference in attitudes of officers since Scarber has been here.

Lewis- the calls come to about 25 per day, that is very significant, and he appreciates the service  
Johnson L.- appreciates report

Fire- Nelson acknowledged that the police are trying to change their culture, and since the merger of the two fire departments, they have been trying to develop a culture. In the beginning, there were 4 full time employees, in the past year they have been able to put 3 staff captains in place for an ABC shift, and hire 3 more full time fire fighters to staff station 2 for 24-hour staff in Snowflake. There has been some recent arson in the community, one in highland park area. It isn't very far from the station, the home was fully involved, a neighbor's home was beginning to smoke, they could get a hose line on the house in time because they were here instead of waiting for a crew from Taylor which would have taken too long and the neighbor likely would have lost their home as well. They require a mandatory 2 times a year must pass a pack test, 3 miles with 45 lbs. pack. It is an arduous pack test. The #1 killer of firefighters is having heart problems on scene. They have added target solutions (training), Timber Mesa has allowed them to go online and do their training through them, a great benefit especially since timber mesa hasn't charged them for the use. they train together and cover for each other when needed. It is about 20 hours a month of training. It adds consistency throughout the region. The Orson task force meets regularly for sharing information as well. Been busy with 9 wildland call outs throughout the

year. With the money, they've purchased air packs that are all the same instead of the 3 different types of equipment. They also made some repairs to their engines. Recently ordered new turnouts and the current ones are 10-20 years old and the recommendation is for only max 10 years. They have ordered some new equipment including an Ambulance. Most of these costs come from revenue of wildland fires. Fire prevention week includes 8 schools and numerous presentations. They are at less than a half of a firefighter per thousand, where they should be at 1 per thousand. Working towards finishing the 2nd story of Station 2 in Snowflake. There have been 1300-1400 calls, 300 fire incidents, more than previous year. Appreciate support, continue to work to build the department.

Ballard- really appreciate what you've done. He was on the committee and a main thing was to have 24-hour service in Snowflake, and it sounds like that is happening. The lady next to the fire was very appreciative of the fire department for saving her house, only her fence was burned. What is the ratio of volunteers from Snowflake vs. Taylor? Nelson, it is hard with volunteers because the whole structure has changed. They mostly take the 3rd spot on a crew. Minimum staffing is a 3-man crew, optimal is 4-5. He doesn't have a number from where they're from, they are all one big family.

Johnson L- does NAVIT still have fire programs? Nelson- yes, they regularly work at the stations for trainings, it is challenging in that the retention of the NAVIT students hasn't been good because they train here and move somewhere else.

Lewis- 300 fires, one a day is a lot

Public Works- Mike Rogers, they were busy. Water department had the usual leaks and main breaks. They repaired the booster pump at well 4, surprised to find out that it was put in in 1996 and they hadn't touched it since then. Will completed many things, has been great. Sewer- had to drain and rehab ditch 1, they are draining ditch 3 to rehab. Gary Leach gave a tour to the boy scouts and they really liked it, maybe we should encourage more people to come out to see it.

Kellis lift station is about 20 years old and will be needing replacement soon. Streets- lots done, the drainage ditch for southern solution, many other projects done, including center line striping. Minor repairs and maintenance for all the facilities, Scott is doing a great job for a one-man crew. The employees are a good group of guys, everybody is working hard.

Ballard- the layover of the streets, helped with looks, people really appreciate it, makes the roads look like new. Woody Petersen would like to see millings or anything on the road by his house between 3rd west and 4th west.

Johnson L- thank you

Golf Course- Terry Cooper, thanks to Mike for the help he's given the PW dept. There has been good progress made at golf course. It was stressful, but a game plan has been made. They aerated the greens and fairways, able to spray for dandelions this year, the golfers really noticed. Disc golf course has been incorporated on the west 9, it is 18 holes of disc golf. The theory is to get more people using the golf course, takes about the same time as 9 holes of ball golf. There is a laundry list of upcoming projects, but this is what has gone on so far.

Johnson L.- promotion of disc golf? Richards says it hasn't been promoted very much. It is free right now while advertising and signs are going up, but once that is done it will be pay to play.

Ballard- church groups are always looking for activities. is this something they could do?

Terry- yes, they would like to establish leagues and tournaments, it would be good for groups

too. Ballard, what is it that you are aiming for when you through the disc? Cooper, chain basket; and there are different discs for different distances.

Lewis- the YSA of the communities are grateful for the event that you sponsored for them. The golfers that go by his house are pleased with the improvements that have been made. It looks good.

Perkins- family night? improved driving range? Cooper- once the committee is formed they will be discussing things like the range. The driving range is generic and dull, but with some improvements it could provide better entertainment.

Recreation and Parks- Don has had lots of teams for all the sports and tons of games. Thursday night at the park had 9 programs this year. Big shout out to Tri Starr and APS for the Christmas tree. Take care of the snowflakes and poinsettias and flowers on the main street lights. The racquetball courts were updated and look great. Next summer they will light the park until 10 PM and put in motion sensor lights if anyone wants to play later than 10. Trees have been planted, and general maintenance has been done on the parks and sports fields. They work on the Right-of-Ways. Cemetery will be put on the website, using Smallmelo, GIS to do the work. Have replaced some equipment and they are putting in some new sprinklers.

Perkins- Main Street looks great

Ballard- it looks great. Why weren't there lights on the garland from the Snowflakes down on the poles? Camacho, they ordered them but it was too late to put them up.

Lewis- it looks good

Johnson L- thank you

Library- Cathie McDowell- provided report to council. She has fabulous staff, smaller than any other library in the county. But the 2nd highest circulation in the county even with the smaller staff, it is pretty amazing, and it shows the community's desire to have a library. She enjoyed many things at the library this year, and gave some examples. The National election this year, it was enjoyable to see people using the library as their community space, and it even stayed civil even with the hot topics. Story about a shy girl who wouldn't interact with McDowell at all and one of the last times she spoke right up in the group, it is a great socialization tool for kids.

Walmart applications were done many times at the library. Helped apply for Social Security for elderly members of the community. Staff is able to provide and help the community download eBooks and magazines and comics for the newer devices; it is well used throughout the county. Disabled adults group that comes in throughout the week, pleased to use the library. Students that have online homework can use the library if they don't have them at home. The library is about community, involvement and engagement. They got some new computers and Wi-Fi routers through e-rate, only had to pay 25%, which was paid through a grant from the county, so at no cost to the town. Applied for a grant through the State Library for the Academy building. it is a 50/50 grant, we have to match 50% which is 40k. \$6900 left over that they want to give to the Academy. The SAF has approved the \$40k grant, but it may come down to asking the town to match the \$6900. This grant will be used for an emergency stairway exit; one more step on the way to use the Academy full time.

Ballard- how many computers? 9, people use them all day long, they have 2-hour time limits.

McDowell told them about the launch pads, it is like an iPad but it is made specifically for children. It is provided by the county; the county provides many services and grants and many other things, and we provide services to residents within the county that aren't in our town limits.

Lewis- single most checked out book? McDowell- probably Harry Potter

Johnson L- is it bad that he has never read those books? McDowell- yes, you're out of touch with life!

Perkins- thank you

Planning & Zoning- Dale Call, it's been very slow since 2007. He mostly works on code compliance. He gets lots of questions from realtors about zoning and setbacks. The planning and zoning commission only meet when there is an agenda item even though they are scheduled for twice a month. Thanked his staff (himself) and Katie for the support she provides for meetings and posting online. There are usually only minor code violations, citizens usually happy to comply once told of the issue. He does some flood plain verification occasionally. Mostly he works on call, and takes things as they come. This year he has been operating on a cut back schedule of Tue-Thurs and it has been working out well. Building department- minor permits, maybe 13 new construction permits this year. In 2007 there were 115-120 and there were several years where there were no new construction permits. With 12 this year it shows some growth coming back. His department is more reactive than proactive; he takes complaints and answer questions.

Ballard- any idea of foreclosed houses, are they being bought? Realtors told Call that the inventory is way down. Rentals are also at an all time low, they are difficult to get in to. Growth is positive, maybe not exponential though.

Johnson L- thank you

**D.** Johnson L.- how long have you been Vice Mayor, Kerry? Can you give a synopsis of all the things you do?

- Ballard- support the Mayor, attend meetings the Mayor may not be able to attend, represents the town on NACOG; also, he would like to continue as Vice Mayor.

- Lewis thinks Kerry does a great job, sees him as Mr. Snowflake.

***Motion by Lewis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Johnson L. to retain Kerry Ballard as the Vice Mayor. Motion passed; unanimous***

**E.** It was brought to Lynn's attention by a Jr. High student's parent that the congestion is difficult to navigate. Did converse with Richards and police officers since the issue was brought forward. It has been discussed before, but unsure if it came before the council, the bottom line is that a stop light would be an ADOT action, except for the expense; also, a school issue.

Understands that the Chief has observed during the congestion, can you give a comment on that?

Chief- contacted ADOT about road safety assessments, they bring in law enforcements, engineers, for observations, safety concerns; he has an application in but it is low on the list of priorities. School would support a no left turn rule, but there is a question about authority since it is a state roadway. Law enforcement doesn't have authority on the actual property because it is private property owned by the school. Parent involvement would be needed, and feedback from the school.

Johnson L- talked about this issue with a St. Johns councilman and what about having an officer do traffic control.

Chief- it is a high-volume time for calls, and with current staffing it would be difficult. There are potential solutions that could be looked at though, like maybe only allow right hand turns.

Johnson L- if the road that is south of the ball field paved all the way to centennial and get back to town from there? Chief- that would be something that would help if only allowing right hand turns from the school.

Ballard- the buses go right and turn at ProBuild to head back to Snowflake.

Johnson L- It was important to discuss this; wants to make sure people know that we listen to their comments and concerns. The city has some options, but much is determined by ADOT and the school. We can have some discussion with Mr. Merrell (superintendent) about the right-hand turn from the school.

## **7. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Lewis- broadband teleconference; some features of this is redundancy, safety (911), big for the area, recruit and maintain positions, recruiting businesses and professionals. Mayor Johnson and he met with Senator Allen to get the State involved.

Perkins- thank the town for sending herself, the Mayor and Katie to the League's newly elected officials training.

Ballard- enjoying the 12 days of Christmas, glad that our town does it. appreciates the Chamber and Heritage Foundation. Sharon Tate has health issues, have the town send a special Christmas card that we can all sign.

Johnson L- echo Perkins in that it was beneficial to go to the league training, he made some good contacts. received compliments on the 12 days of Christmas traditions, and knows it is an extra burden on staff and others, but they do a great job. kudos to PD, he has done some ride alongs, he enjoys visiting with them, witnessed first-hand the verbal abuse that an officer was taking, he was very professional and turned the situation around. He associated with Mike on jobs when he sees him out working, he really appreciates the staff, and all that they do. Cathie, he hears good reports about the library. First responders put it on the line every day. Wishes he could thank everyone individually. Can't say enough about the staff.

Richards- reiterate, have capable staff, they get a lot done, their dedicated, they work hard and they get a lot done. thank the staff for all that they do. legislative day on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> put on by the League of Cities and Towns, let Brian know if you want to attend; it is when you meet with legislators. also, he was put on the board for the risk retention pool (AMRRP), it is the 30th year of their existence, they'll be coming to Snowflake sometime and we'll have a get together.

Adjourned

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Town of Snowflake Council meeting held December 13, 2016. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

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Katie Melsner for Barbara Flake, Town Clerk