



TOWN OF TAYLOR & TOWN OF SNOWFLAKE JOINT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday May 2, 2019 7:00 pm
Taylor/Snowflake Fire Station #1
415 Papermill Road, Taylor, Arizona**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call:** Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
Taylor Council Present: Mayor David Smith, Vice Mayor Cosper (7:15 pm) Council Members Fay Hatch, Kyle Peck, Bill Baldwin, Jason Brubaker, Shawn Palmer (7:10 pm)
Taylor Council Absent: None
Taylor Staff Present: Manager Gus Lundberg; Planning & Zoning Administrator Allen Davis, Clerk Geri Judd

Snowflake Council Present: Vice Mayor Kerry Ballard, Council Members Hunter Lewis, Byron Lewis, Cory Johnson

Snowflake Council Absent: Mayor Lynn Johnson, Council Members Allison Perkins, Greg Brimhall

Snowflake Staff Present: Manager Brian Richards, Public Works Director Terry Cooper

Visitors: See list

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation:** Councilman Baldwin/Councilman Peck

- 3. Navajo County Update**

Supervisor Jason Whiting said last November the Jail District Tax was on the ballot and voted down; the intent of the jail district is not to build a new jail, rather to address the loss of revenue when the coalmine and power plant shut down. In March, forty community leaders came before the Board of Supervisors to request they seek the jail tax again; a Special Election will be held in August.

County Manager Glen Kephart said jail fees are over half million dollars; with the closing of the coalmine and power plant revenue loss will be \$1.6 million in sales tax from coal and \$900,000 in property tax.

Sheriff David Clouse said education on the jail district is important; the question has been if the tax will create a new jail; he said there is no need to remodel or build a new jail at this time. Municipalities currently pay jail fees some as much as \$100,000 per year; the benefit of the jail district is municipalities would no longer pay. He said police departments are looking at the decision to arrest or let the individual not serve time in jail as a cost savings. Sheriff Clouse said the decline in revenue would cause the sheriff's office to cut seven positions. He said the sheriff's department would not be able to provide backup to the communities due to minimal staffing.

Council asked how long the tax would be in effect for; Supervisor Whiting replied 20 years. Sheriff Clouse added that Yavapai county had a jail tax and when taken back to the voters it passed again. The tax to the public would be one-third of one percent. Council asked if the tax would ever go away; Supervisor Whiting said it would be up to the voters in twenty years.

Council asked what the jail district would fund; Supervisor Whiting said the jail district would offset the general fund for the lost revenue. Vice Mayor Ballard added that the town already pays \$40,000 per year; this would increase the fees.

A question from the public was what other options have been looked at to elevate the need for the jail district. Supervisor Whiting replied there are no other options at this time.

4. Taylor Council Public Hearing & Consideration of Zone Change Request for Parcel 205-32-122; SE Corner of Papermill Rd and Foothills Blvd

Mayor Smith opened the public hearing 7:26 pm: Mike Dickerson resides on Ranch Road; he said there are already existing apartments and new apartments going in. Carol Dickerson asked about parking and how that will work; Allen said there would be two off street parking for each unit.

Cindy Schrieber asked if the area outside the fencing would be maintained. David Mills replied that the project developer will be spending a lot of money and would make sure it is spent well.

Terri Anderson, a local realtor said she receives calls daily for housing; and it would benefit the community.

Allen Davis said at Tuesday night's Planning & Zoning Commission meeting the request to change the zone from Commercial to R-2 received no objections and was recommended for approval. Council asked about the sewer and water capacity; Allen said the system is able to handle the capacity.

Councilman Brubaker asked why the Dickerson's feel the apartments are not a good fit. Mr. Dickerson said that apartments do not have the same feel as single-family homes. Vice Mayor Cosper asked if the apartments are high end, Allen said they are not low-income housing or government assisted.

Councilman Palmer said he understands the Dickerson's concerns; he added that he is not opposed to apartments; the developer is responsible for upkeep and believes the apartments are beneficial.

Mayor Smith closed the public hearing 7:45 pm

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Cosper to approve the zone change request for Parcel 205-32-122; SE Corner of Papermill Rd and Foothill Blvd; seconded by Councilman Palmer; motion carried unanimously

5. Snowflake Council Consideration and Possible Approval of Amendment to the Flood Control Project Funding Intergovernmental Agreement

Manager Brian Richards said Federal grants have been received for the Industrial Park; there is a twenty-five percent match required; this is an amendment to the existing IGA with the Navajo County Flood Control District for additional funds.

A motion was made by Councilman B. Lewis to approve the Flood Control Project Funding IGA Amendment; seconded by Councilman H. Lewis; motion carried unanimously

6. Snowflake Council Consideration and Possible Approval of HURF Exchange Pavement Project Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Department of Transportation

Terry Cooper said the IGA with ADOT is for the construction phase of the pavement project; HURF exchange funds are in place to fund the project; he said the town will administer the construction and will receive ninety cents on the dollar for the project.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to approve the HURF Exchange Pavement Project IGA with ADOT; seconded by Councilman B. Lewis; motion carried unanimously

7. Northland Pioneer College Update

Bestyann Wilson, Executive Director NPC Friends & Family thanked both councils for supporting the disc golf tournament; the tournament is August 10th. Ms. Wilson added that tuition is half price in the summer; and fall

registration opened yesterday.

Dr. Amy Grey addressed the council and gave an overview of how she teaches History in her class. Dr. Grey asked council to speak with local employers encouraging them to allow employees to attend school.

NPC President Mark Vest said the college is a partner in the Northeastern Training Center; the facility is used for fire, police and emergency training. The center is currently operates out of trailers; NATC requested the Senate budget funds to improve the training facility so people do not have to travel to the valley for training. Mr. Vest said NPC's construction program could build tiny homes for cadet housing.

Vice Mayor Ballard asked how often the center is used; Mr. Vest replied that the facility is used daily.

- 8. Consideration of Addendum to the Intergovernmental Dispatching Agreement with the City of Show Low**
Police Chief Larry Scarber reported that Sgt. Elijah Toth has been promoted to Patrol Sergeant; Sgt. Toth will fill the vacancy created when Officer Rush retired.

Chief Scarber said the department has looked into the consolidation of dispatch services with the City of Show Low; the next step is for both councils to approve the IGA addendum for Show Low to assume dispatch services of police and fire.

Council asked what happens with current dispatchers; Chief Scarber said Show Low is accepting the departments vetting and any Snowflake-Taylor dispatchers wishing to transfer will be employees of the City of Show Low; Snowflake will payout accrued vacation time; health insurance Co-pays already paid will carry over to Show Low's plan. Staff will be available at the Snowflake office to provide services such as warrants, burn permits, and criminal history reporting.

A motion was made by Mayor Smith to approve the Dispatching IGA Addendum with the City of Show Low; seconded by Councilman Peck; motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to approve the Dispatching IGA Addendum with the City of Show Low; seconded by Councilman H. Lewis; motion carried unanimously

- 9. Consideration of Recommendation of Police Chief Appointment**

Mayor Smith announced that the Shared Services Committee has made a decision from applications received for the Police Chief position.

Chief Scarber said the Shared Services Committee met to discuss his replacement. Chief Scarber reached out to officers he knew who may be interested in the position, posted the opening in newspapers and websites. Chief Scarber said Lt. Bobby Martin was one of the applications received and there could not be a better choice; Chief Scarber announced that Lt. Martin would fill the position of Police Chief upon his retirement.

A motion was made by Mayor Smith to approve the appointment of Lt. Robert "Bobby" Martin as Snowflake-Taylor Chief of Police; seconded by Vice Mayor Cosper; motion carried unanimously

- 10. Consideration of Hospital Feasibility Study**

Councilman Hunter Lewis said according to State and Federal guidelines, our community is medically underserved; Snowflake and Taylor have approximately 12,000 residents; there are 38 cities in Arizona larger than Snowflake and Taylor; Maricopa, El Mirage and Eloy are comparable to our area and do not have a hospital. Councilman Lewis said the community could support a hospital; Summit Healthcare has no significant plans to increase service to the area; there has been tremendous growth and will continue to experience growth.

Currently the communities are part of Navopache/Summit Healthcare; a hospital district, special healthcare district or a partnership are possibilities to have a hospital in the community. Councilman H. Lewis requested the towns to come together and have a feasibility study done to see if a hospital is viable to the area.

Council asked what the study would cost; Councilman H. Lewis replied \$15,000 was quoted by one community

however, he feels vetting needs to be done to find the person to provide the information. Vice Mayor Ballard asked if Summit might have a person to provide that. Councilman B. Lewis said Sunrise Medical Center may be an option; the feasibility study will tell what services can be provided; quotes for the cost of the study would need to be obtained.

Both Councils agreed that someone with the training and background to provide more information on the study is the best approach.

A motion was made by Councilman Palmer to approve seeking options for a hospital feasibility study; seconded by Mayor Smith; motion carried 6-1 with Councilman Brubaker casting the dissenting vote

A motion was made by Councilman B. Lewis to approve seeking options for a hospital feasibility study; seconded by Councilman Johnson; motion carried unanimously

11. Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Certification of Minutes:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Taylor Town Council meeting held on the 2nd day of May 2019. I further certify that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 2nd day of May 2019

Geri Judd-Town Clerk