



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2011 - 7 pm

Taylor Town Hall

425 Paper Mill Rd. Taylor, AZ 85939



REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Debbie Tuckfield at 7:00

ROLL CALL:

Council present: Mayor Debbie Tuckfield, Councilwoman Jane Lee, Councilman Jay Whipple, Councilman Jared Hatch, Councilman Mark Reed and Councilman Robin Palmer

Council absent:

Vice Mayor Jordy Fuentes

Staff present:

Manager Eric Duthie, Finance Director Gus Lundberg, Engineer Stu Spaulding, Clerk Kelly Jones

Attorney:

Sterling Solomon present

Visitors:

“See list”

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIE:

Led by Councilman Robin Palmer

INVOCATION:

Offered by Councilwoman Jane Lee

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve minutes of the December 8, 2010 Town Council meeting
- B. Approve appointment of Taylor resident Greg Loper to the Taylor Economic Commission.
- C. Provision of a 60 day notice, as required by statute, to the Town Council of planned agenda discussions concerning fees adjustments and/or creation, relating to Town services, facilities and utilities.

A motion was made by Councilman Robin Palmer, seconded by Councilman Jay Whipple

To approve the consent agenda

The vote was unanimous (6-0)

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Discussion/Action: Approve/Deny future goals and continued support for the White Mountain Stewardship Project.**

Eagar Town Manager Bill Greenwood serves on the monitoring board for the White Mountain Stewardship Project and was present to give an update on their progress over the past five years. He stated he was appointed to the board as a representative for town governments. He said there are also State, Federal and Business representatives on the board so there is a wide spectrum. The board was

created to provide an advisory role for strategically thinking about healthy forest management issues and monitor economic, administrative, social and ecological impacts.

The project started in 2004 after the Rodeo/Chedski fire and covers the area from Forest Lakes to Hannagan's Meadow. The board's plans are to improve forest health and reduce and assure a flow of harvested material that could meet the needs of processing industries and to invest in the job industry. This is a ten year contract which was won by Forest Energy Inc., a wood pellet manufacturing plant and Walker Brothers, a harvesting operation business who partnered to produce Future Forest, LLC.

Future Forest guaranteed 15,000 acres per year for treatment. The federal government put up the funds but cut the acreage from 15,000 acres to 5,000 - 9,000 so they still need to find a new source of use for the demand.

Mr. Greenwood stated that this is the largest monitoring land scape contract in country. The board has entertained representatives from Washington DC and others.

They have done a 5 year report that gives a summary of where they are with the project. The average annual tax revenue has been \$678,238 per year. The material is low value making it a struggle to bring the cost of the contract down. Their goal is to get industry that could use this material since the more you sale the higher you can sell it for. Each year the contractor has been paid 2.5 million - 4 million with an additional \$200,000 in monitoring costs. A huge part of the residue needs to be burned and Renegy uses this material which has helped but they are looking for other uses to bring costs down. This project has created about 319 jobs and twenty businesses are purchasing material including Winner's Circle Soil located in Taylor.

The difference before and after treatment shows that treated areas are better for wildlife, cattle grazing and fires can be handled more efficiently.

Mr. Greenwood added that the board reviewed employment benefits in the region which showed Snowflake and Taylor as having the highest benefit with employment from this contract.

Mr. Greenwood reported that a survey will be done at the conclusion of the contract and their desire is to understand landscape level impacts.

In conclusion Mr. Greenwood stated he is not here tonight asking for funds but instead letting the Council know the benefits of this program and advising them that the federal government does not have the funds in their budget to continue this contract. They are looking at four more years but want the council to realize and be aware that if more funding is needed municipalities may be approached in the future.

A motion was made by Councilman Jared Hatch, seconded by Councilwoman Jane Lee To continue support for the White Mountain Stewardship Project.

The vote was unanimous (6-0)

- 1. Discussion/Action: Approve/Deny contractual documents for the continuation of Community Development Block Grant projects.**

Eric explained that the documents needed for this presentation were received today and staff has not had the opportunity to review them. This will be addressed at a later date.

2. Discussion/Action: Approve/Deny participation in the Arizona Small Communities Environmental Compliance Assistance Project offered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

Eric reported that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is attempting to gain compliance from municipalities with this program, which has been available since 2008 to help small communities throughout the State comply with State environmental regulations. He said it has benefits and gives us the opportunity to work with ADEQ on procedures, practices, policies, violations and potential violations without cost and will provide us with analysis.

By signing onto this program they put a good faith commitment which tells ADEQ we are serious about this and if we are in the program they can forgive penalties.

Eric, Ron and Stu have looked at this, are comfortable are not aware of any consequences. Eric added that the town may “opt out” of the program.

**A motion was made by Councilman Jared Hatch, seconded by Councilman Mark Reed To approve the Communities Environmental Compliance Assistant Project offered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
The vote was unanimous**

3. Discussion/Action: Update concerning Arizona Department of Health Services regulations governing medical marijuana dispensaries.

Eric informed the Council that there is a 47 page draft offered by the Department of Health Services regarding medical marijuana. Friday is the closing date for public comments on the draft. He said that he and other managers met with Navajo County regarding this issue.

The State of Arizona will allow 124 marijuana dispensaries. Eric said that 74 will be in Maricopa County, 30 in Pima County and the remaining 20 will be located throughout the remainder of Arizona with two in Navajo County. Show Low has been contacted about locating one of the dispensaries. We are in a 25 mile radius of Show Low so Taylor residents who obtain cards could make their purchases through the Show Low dispensary. Eric said there are still unanswered questions about geographically aligning the dispensaries and who can provide cards to purchase marijuana.

The reason for an ordinance is for municipalities to govern dispensaries if one opens in their area. If we don't have one in place by March we miss the opportunity to establish an ordinance.

Eric assured the Council that staff is moving forward and will be presenting the Council with more information for an ordinance as they get it. A special meeting will be held regarding this issue.

4. Discussion/Action: Update concerning the Arizona Smart Growth Scorecard and impact of program eligibility.

Eric reported that Smart Growth was established under statute in 2006 to insure that communities put procedures and policies in place that would give common ground and smart growth in future plans. It is a continuous process to guide the preservation, development or redevelopment of a neighborhood, community or region to promote the goals and ambitions of its residents when facing growth pressures. Taylor is considered a medium community and the more we comply and get policies aligned the higher we go on the list for state funding. In 2007 Taylor's was at 67%. In October 2009 it was 74% which moved us up to 21 out of 44. We submitted in November 2010 and are now at 87% which puts Taylor in a tie for 5th place in the State. We have gained 20 points in three years so we are higher on the list for State funding and to move forward. Staff has worked hard on this, procedure and policies are in place which is very important.

5. Discussion/Action: Update concerning the Navajo County proposal concerning jail and misdemeanor prosecution costs.

The Navajo County Board of Supervisors met last month and passed the ordinance concerning jail and misdemeanor prosecution costs that would be handed down to cities and towns. The ordinance has provisions that staff come back to their cities and towns to work this out.

Prior to the meeting Eric and other managers had met with Navajo Counties District 4 Supervisor David Tenney and discussed these issues. Managers have also met with attorneys and Justices of the Peace, identifying issues. Sterling put together concerns we share, legality, opinions and consequences.

This matter is to be implemented by July 1, 2011 and will be addressed several times before then. This will also be discussed at the next White Mountain Manager's Association meeting.

**6. Discussion/Action: The Town Council may adjourn into executive session to consultation for legal advice with the Town Attorney regarding possible litigation in accordance with A.R.S. 38-431-03 A (3) and A (4).
Mayor Tuckfield**

A motion was made by Mayor Debbie Tuckfield, seconded by Councilwoman Jane Lee To adjourn into executive session in accordance with A.R.S. 38-431-03 A (3) and A (4) and to have Attorney Sterling Solomon, Manager Eric Duthie, Finance Director Gus Lundberg and Clerk Kelly Jones present at the session.

The vote was unanimous (6-0) 8:08

The Council convened back into regular session at 8:32

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Jane Lee, seconded by Councilman Robin Palmer

To adjourn the meeting

The vote was unanimous

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 5th day of January, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2011

Kelly Jones
Town Clerk
Town of Taylor