



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MEETING

May 4, 2011- 7 pm

Town Hall

425 Paper Mill Road

Taylor, Arizona

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Debbie Tuckfield called the meeting to order at 7:10 welcoming those in attendance and acknowledging Scout Troop 744

ROLL CALL:

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

Council absent: None

Staff present: Manager Eric Duthie, Finance Director Gus Lundberg, Building Official/Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Johnson, EMS Director/Fire Chief Clint Burden, Police Chief Jerry VanWinkle, Engineer Stu Spaulding, Clerk Kelly Jones

Attorney: Sterling Solomon present

Visitors present: "See List"

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Councilman Jay Whipple

INVOCATION:

Offered by Councilman Mark Reed

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve minutes of the April 7, 2011 Town Council meeting

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

To approve the consent agenda

The vote was unanimous (7-0)

At this time Mayor Tuckfield entertained a motion to address "Call to the Public".

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Jordy Fuentes, seconded by Councilwoman Jane Lee

To move "Call to the Public" before action item number one

The vote was unanimous (7-0)

Brad Click as representative of the Northland Pioneer College (NPC) Booster Club thanked the Council for their support of the recent NPC Rodeo held at the Taylor Rodeo Grounds. He thanked Vice Mayor Fuentes specifically stating he was instrumental with this event which was a great success. Brad said there were no serious injuries and the facility was in great shape. Three of the eight NPC participants will qualify to go on to the College National Finals. They would like to continue to have this event in Taylor.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Discussion/Action: Accept letter of resignation from Jordy Fuentes as Vice Mayor and Town Council Member.**

Mayor Tuckfield reported that yesterday she was notified by Vice Mayor Jordy Fuentes that he would no longer be able to fulfill his appointment on the Taylor Town Council and will be resigning to pursue his education and enter law school.

Vice Mayor Fuentes presented his letter of resignation and stated that it has been a privilege to work with good people and he appreciates it. Mayor Tuckfield said Vice Mayor Fuentes has done a good job and has been able to fill in for her many times when she has been unable to attend events. She said he speaks very well with intelligence and from the heart. Mayor Tuckfield, Councilmembers and staff agreed that he will be greatly missed and gave him their best.

A motion was made by Councilman Jared Hatch, seconded by Councilman Robin Palmer To accept the letter of resignation from the Taylor Town Council from Jordy Fuentes and to thank him for his service

The vote was unanimous (7-0)

2. Discussion/Action: Accept nominations to fill Town Council vacancy; Approve appointment to fill vacancy of Town Council Member and administer Oath of Office.

Council comments:

Councilman Jay Whipple: This is a surprise and we are already moving forward to fill the position. This is not a courtesy to those who got elected to become a part of this.

Councilman Jared Hatch: We will have to appoint an individual either way and there is no set rule on how this is done. There are a few here tonight that are interested in the position and we need to hear from them.

Mayor Debbie Tuckfield: We are looking at the budget process and if we wait for three weeks we eliminate giving someone an opportunity, it puts them out of the budget process which is vital.

Councilman Mark Reed: Agreed with Mayor Tuckfield. He said that perhaps the appointment should go to the next person in line (from the last election).

Councilman Robin Palmer: If this is not an appropriate time we don't have to do this now.

Comments and concerns from those in attendance:

Jordy Fuentes: Knows an individual, Alan Ramage he feels is very well qualified and has good background and ties to the community for the position.

Erin Amos: Expressed interest in the position but does not believe it is fair to choose tonight. There are others who are qualified and this is not urgent enough to fill the position based on financial matters. It should be tabled until others are notified.

Alan Ramage: Has lived here for eight years and his wife is from Taylor. He has seen things thriving in Taylor and loves it here. He expressed concern with the finances we are facing and has financial experience. He wants to get politically involved and would love to be a part of the Council.

Council Elect Fay Hatch: Speaking for the three incoming Council encouraged the Council to not choose tonight. There may be other qualified individuals interested.

Councilman Robin Palmer: Came here tonight to nominate Greg Cordita who put in time and effort to run in the last election. There are many interested people.

Council Elect Gary Solomon: Would like to talk to some of the interested individuals. This is a surprise the town has voted for three to be on the next Council it would be courteous in that respect to wait.

Eddie Hancock: With the history of things it is wiser to slow down and let the word spread, be cautious and respect citizens.

Eric Duthie: Asked to have the record show that staff has nothing to do with this appointment. It is a Council decision.

A motion was made by Councilman Jay Whipple to table agenda item #2 nominations to fill Town Council vacancy. He then withdrew his motion to allow further discussion.

Cindy Scrieber: She is active in the Senior Citizens center and loves Taylor. She feels the appointment should go to the individual who got the next highest votes in the last election.

Councilman Jared Hatch made a motion to call a Special Meeting so this situation can be taken care of and to move forward, he then resended for further discussion.

Following further discussion:

Councilman Jared Hatch reinstated his motion that the Taylor Town Council schedule a special meeting for Wednesday, May 18th to be held in conjunction with the scheduled work session and to table the appointment of filling the Council vacancy left by Jordy Fuentes' resignation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jane Lee.

The vote was unanimous. (7-0)

Mayor Debbie Tuckfield asked to have the papers put in a notice that persons interested in applying for the vacancy on the Taylor Town Council may submit letters of interest to the Taylor Town Hall or send an email to the town with a deadline of Friday, May 13, 2011. This notice will also be posted on the town's website.

Council Elect Gary Solomon asked the record show that this appointment for the Council vacancy has been scheduled two weeks before the new Council is seated.

3. Discussion/Action: Accept nominations to fill position of Vice Mayor; Approve appointment of Vice Mayor.

A motion was made by Mayor Debbie Tuckfield, seconded by Councilman Mark Reed

<p>To table agenda item #3 accepting nominations to fill the position and appointment of Vice Mayor until there is a full Council and agenda item #4 Review of budget issues The vote was unanimous (7-0)</p>	
<p>4. Discussion/Action: Review of budget issues from Town Council Work Sessions of April 27 and May 4, 2011.</p> <p>“See the motion for agenda item #4</p>	
<p>5. Discussion/Action: Approve/Deny intergovernmental agreement between the Snowflake-Taylor Police and Show Low Police for acceptance of vehicles in exchange for enforcement assistance at various Show Low community events.</p> <p>Chief VanWinkle reported the Police Department received an opportunity to receive three surplus vehicles the Show Low Police Department are taking out of their fleet. The vehicles have lower miles and are in better condition than the ones we have. The agreement states that the Snowflake-Taylor Police Department will provide assistance at some of their events for the next two years in exchange for the vehicles. Two of the vehicles will be put in service and the third one will be used for parts.</p> <p>A motion was made by Councilwoman Jane, Lee, seconded by Councilman Robin Palmer To approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Snowflake-Taylor Police Department and the Show Low Police Department for acceptance of vehicles in exchange for enforcement assistance at various Show Low community events. The vote was unanimous (7-0)</p>	
<p>6. Discussion/Action: Approve/Deny employee health insurance plan options.</p> <p>Gus reminded the Council that in February when the town joined the Rural Arizona Group Health Trust (RAGHT) for employee benefits the Council expressed exploring options of having employees pay a portion of their premiums. The town has been paying 100% for employees and their dependents. Gus presented numbers for the Council to consider. He informed the Council that effective July 1st there will be an increase in Arizona State Retirement rates which will also affect the net amount of employee paychecks. The employee manual states that the town will provide health insurance coverage to all employees working 40 hours or more in a pay period. This may need to be amended. RAGIT did have an increased this year by 3% which is the first increase in 3 years. They have been in existence for ten years and offer a sound plan. They are now offering the option for a Health Savings account or a PPO.</p> <p>Gus went on to say that the premium includes health, dental and vision lumped into one which costs the town \$280,000 annually to insure 15 people. Open enrollment starts on May 19th with implementation of new rates on July 1st. To join RAGHT the terms state that the town must pay 90% of the employee’s premium. Councilman Jared Hatch stated he has reviewed this and Taylor has a good package but due to budget crisis we need to decide where we can cut. If we remained at 100% it would be costly. He likes the 80% option and feels it is reasonable and can be reviewed each year. Councilman Robin Palmer added that the average is around 80%. Gus said the Council could offer employees the option of the PPO or a Health Savings Account which would not cost the town any more than the PPO. The Health Savings Account does not change the towns cost but could be a benefit to the employee.</p>	

A motion was made by Councilman Jared Hatch, seconded by Mayor Debbie Tuckfield To approve the employee health insurance plan of offering the choice of a PPO Plan with the town paying 80% and the employee paying 20% or the option of the Health Savings Account not to exceed half of the deductible category as presented by Gus The vote was unanimous (7-0)

7. Discussion/Action: Approve/Deny reconsideration of previous Council action on April 7, 2011 regarding the 2010 Council adopted funding agreement for the Special Days/Special Events Committee.

Councilman Jared Hatch petitioned the Council to reconsider their decision made at the last Council meeting regarding funds, 20k per year for the next three years that was awarded to the Special Days/Special Events Commission for the town's three yearly events. He said we have been discussing insurance and employee lay-offs due to the budget crisis and he feels we rushed into approving an amount that he does not see how we can pay. He has a presentation to offer so they can understand more detailed information on the Rodeo Grounds. Sterling advised that under rules a motion to reconsider has to be made at the same meeting or the next meeting after a decision has been made. It must be made by someone who voted with the majority and cannot be discussed unless the Council chooses to reconsider by majority. Mayor Tuckfield said she has a hard time rescinding something we already approved and agrees things are tight with budgets. There was a misunderstanding as far as the money went but it is difficult to reopen it when we have already committed. Councilman Jay Whipple agreed. Councilman Hatch said he believes there is a win-win solution that won't cost the town or make it go in the hole. Everyone has a problem with government going more and more into debt. He can't respect something that did not sit well and that we can cut everywhere else.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Jane Lee, seconded by Councilman Mark Reed To reconsider previous action taken on April 7, 2011 regarding funding agreement for the Special Days/Special Events Committee and look at what Councilman Jared Hatch has to say. The motion carried with "yes" votes from Councilman Robin Palmer, Councilman Mark Reed, Councilman Jared Hatch and Councilwoman Jane Lee. Mayor Debbie Tuckfield and Councilman Jay Whipple voted no. (4-2)

8. Discussion/Action: Revisit the 2010 Council adopted funding agreement for the Special Days/Special Events Committee.

Councilman Jared Hatch made a power point presentation showing revenues and expenses for all three town events, Trapper Days, the 4th of July and the Sweet Corn Festival for the last ten years. After much review he said the decision which he feels was made in haste does not sit well with him when we have to cut in other areas. He feels they need to review details of what they did adding that there was lots of misunderstanding. He said he is not here to tear down the Special Events Committee he is here to uphold the special events we have and every event is very important to our community. He said we have to budget according to law. He explained what he feels gives the understanding of the profit of 16k when the Committee understood 52k. He questioned if the Council took time to analyze and see the impact on the budget? We need to take care of our assets and move forward with

the plan. He reviewed 2005 – 2010 revenues and expenses. Improvements that have been made to the rodeo grounds for the past ten years were reviewed showing a total cost of \$666,970.20. Mayor Tuckfield said this review is showing a lot of costs but not showing revenue brought in through sales tax and other revenue. Brad Click stated that the improvements have gained in value for the facility and that small businesses sponsor these events. They have worked off of the money coming in. Stu Spaulding said that as engineer the problem we have is lighting which could cost 50K to 60k and should be done this year. Councilman Hatch said this is a budget thing and presented three proposals for yearly projects to go toward capital improvements and the Committee can spend how they choose.

“Plan A”

Yearly profits go toward capital projects per committee
Deficit remains at \$30,958
Town pays for maintenance costs

“Plan B”

Give 20 per year
Yearly profits go toward capital projects per committee
Increases deficit to \$90,958
Town pays for maintenance costs

“Plan C”

Yearly project go to general fund
Deficit continues to diminish

Councilman Hatch said he feels plan “A” is a win-win solution and the Committee will continue to get funding. Fees can be paid and events will pay for themselves and we will still have a budget. It can be done as it has been done before. He asked if we want to increase our deficit or do we want to build on profits and the town will continue to be responsible for maintenance.

Vance Muder Chairman of the Special Days/Special Events Committee said there are capital improvements to be done but adding the fireworks would take least half of the 16k. He said the Committee has not done a list of who does what to turn into staff/council. It also needs to be determined what are capital projects and what is maintenance? **Councilman Hatch** said he wants these events to move forward and pay for themselves. **Vance** said with plan “A” if the Master Plan Committee makes a determination that a project is maintenance they will need to come back to the Council and he understood they would not have to come back for situations like this. Plan “A” would need a list from the Committee on what is maintenance and what is Capital. **Councilman Hatch** stated he feels the committee would be further ahead by plan “A”. **Councilman Jay Whipple** said in plan “A” they will do the maintenance where will it come from. **Councilman Hatch** said this is a wonderful town with lots of volunteers and businesses involved. As a Committee they would need to come up with charges. **Eric** added that the fee issue was discussed last year and needs to be reviewed beyond the deposit. **Councilman Mark Reed** said he understands that proceeds would go back to the

Special Days/Special Events Committee the 50k would be seed money to do what the town has done in the past except for capital improvements. **Councilman Robin Palmer** said the minutes or the budget does not say there is seed money. **Councilwoman Jane Lee** said she understood the 50k to be a budget annually. **Stu** said the idea that we break up what the town and what the committee does is a good idea. It should be worked out what maintenance is. **Erin Amos** said if they are going to take money from parks and recreation for maintenance are they taking this money from the budget and how much will it increase the budget. There are way too many unanswered questions for this to be going on. **Councilman Hatch** said he voted for this but when he does something he feels wrong about he needs to address it. He wants to move forward with a win-win situation and feels Plan "A" will do it, it is a business proposal. It is up to us to move forward with a business plan and the Committee can bring in more funds. **Vance** said we need to have a sit down meeting with the Committee and Council to hammer these things out and make sure they are written in a clear and concise manner. **Councilman Mark Reed** said he understands where Councilman Hatch is coming from we all have a responsibility and there are lots of lots of questions and things to get resolved.

A motion was made by Councilman Mark Reed, seconded by Mayor Debbie Tuckfield

EMS Director/Fire Chief **Clint Burden** stated that with budget cuts his department lost a position but the rodeo stayed the same and there are some unhappy firefighters and some won't be with the department for long. They will be asking shortly for a new fire truck and ambulance and struggled last year and this year they will be in survival mode and continue to try to cut back.

Loretta Whitlow addressed the Council stating that she is involved with the Silver Creek Senior Citizens Center and they get donations and are feeding the hungry. They take individuals to doctor's appointments and to the grocery store and they don't get any other money. She said they serve over 1000 meals a month and they don't have money but they can't let them starve. The Senior Center is having a silent auction to get more money to feed people. She said she understood the Special Days/Special Events Committee would get the 16k and build on it. She questioned why the rodeo committee can't do something else to bring in donations adding that they can get money other ways. The town does not have it and they can raise their own money. Rodeos started with no money, why do towns have to do the funding for all these organizations.

Brad Click said he hates to see cuts in EMS. They are the Special Days/Special Events Committee and it is the town's events and celebrations. They have to bring in thousands of people to the town to spend money and are only asking to bring the facility up to grade. It is their heritage and everyone is hurting but he does not see any other alternative. **Councilman Hatch** said he is not talking about doing away with the celebrations he is talking about making them self-sustaining.

Erin Amos added that there are people in need in all things but she feels they need to go back to the drawing board and use a formula that works for everyone.

Gary Solomon said he has been here since the rodeo started and we can get anything done.

Eric explained the difference between capital improvements and maintenance, adding to or building something is a capital project once it is completed it becomes maintenance.

Mayor Tuckfield said there needs to be clarification on what the Committee and what the Council is responsible for in writing.

At this time Councilman Mark Reed withdrew his motion

**A motion was made by Councilman Jared Hatch, seconded by Councilwoman Jane Lee
To accept Plan "A" as described and outlined
"Yes" votes from Councilman Jared Hatch, Councilwoman Jane Lee and Councilman Robin
Palmer, "NO" votes from Councilman Jay Whipple, Councilman Mark Reed and Mayor
Debbie Tuckfield.
The motion failed due to the lack of a majority vote**

The funding agreement for the Special Days/Special Events Committee will stayed as it was approved at the April 7, 2011 Council meeting.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

This item was addressed at the beginning of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Jane Lee, seconded by Councilman Mark Reed
To adjourn the meeting
The vote was unanimous (7-0) 10:24**

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 4th day of May, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 5th day of May, 2011

Kelly Jones
Town Clerk
Town of Taylor