



## TAYLOR TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, April 21, 2015 7 pm

Town Hall

425 Paper Mill Road Taylor, AZ 85939

### Mayor

Fay Hatch

### Vice-Mayor

Shawn Palmer

### Councilmembers

Jason Brubaker

Gary Solomon

Carl Cospers

Lynn DeWitt

David Smith

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Fay Hatch called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Mayor Fay Hatch, Vice Mayor Shawn Palmer, Councilman David Smith, Councilman Carl Cospers, Councilman Lynn DeWitt, Councilman Gary Solomon, Councilman Jason Brubaker

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Manager Gus Lundberg, Building Official Allen Davis, Fire Chief Clint Burden, Clerk Geri Judd

**ATTORNEY:** Karl Lautz

**VISITORS:** See list

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Councilman Cospers

**INVOCATION:** Offered by Councilman DeWitt

### ACTION ITEMS

#### 1. Discussion: Proposed Fire/EMS Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA)

Gus stated the proposed IGA has been completed and is ready to be brought before Council and the public; Gus added that the Administrative Committee has met on a number of occasions and has worked through the document. Gus gave some history and read through a summary of the IGA. Gus noted that the department will be known as the Taylor–Snowflake Fire Department. Council asked if this agreement mirrored the police IGA; Gus stated that there are a few variations such as; the Police IGA has a 6 member committee and the Fire IGA has an 8 member committee; the percentage each Town pays will be different from the current Police IGA. The Fire IGA will be in effect for 3 years; after which either Town may opt out with written notice. The Administrative Committee will consist of the Mayors, Vice Mayors, one Councilmember from each Town and both Town Managers. Gus added that the intent is to incorporate these changes into the Police IGA.

Mayor Hatch called upon the Citizens for public comment;

**Tom Wing** addressed the Council; he asked what stage the agreement was in? Gus stated the agreement is being proposed to both Town Councils, he noted that there will be a joint meeting with Snowflake next Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> in Snowflake. Mr. Wing gave each member a list of 5 questions concerning the IGA.

**Cindy Schreiber** asked; with 8 members on the committee how will there be a tie breaker if the issue arises. Councilman Brubaker stated if the committee cannot reach an agreement the IGA states a Navajo County Judge would appoint a mediator.

Gus addressed the list of questions from Mr. Wing; Gus stated Taylor needs more EMS employees and the IGA will allow more efficiency for both communities. He went on to say both Towns have separate policies and procedures that will be taken into consideration. Councilman DeWitt added if both departments are working together they will have the same training, when responding to calls they will understand how to work together therefore; being more efficient. Gus stated the hiring and firing of the Fire Chief will involve both Town Managers along with another committee member most likely not a Councilmember. He went on to say that the financial burden of each Town will be broke out by a percentage. Council asked if after revenue has come in and there are still expenses remaining would the expenses be split by both Towns. Gus stated any leftover expenses would be divided based on census populations.

**Scott Vowel** addressed the Council stating he believes this is a great idea and should have been done 10 years ago; he added that this is about customer service; and relying on volunteers is not feasible when the calls are heavy, he feels this will assist in call responses. Scott added that between Taylor and Snowflake they average about 1500 calls per year.

Mayor Hatch asked Chief Burden if he would like to address the issue tonight; Clint stated the IGA is a good thing; it isn't going to be easy and will take a lot of work. Clint added that having a second crew during the day will relieve some of the pressure. Clint believes they have done a good job with the limited budget they currently have.

**Steve Foster** addressed the Council stating that partnerships can be detrimental to both sides; adding that he would also like to know where every penny is going.

**Monica Smith** addressed the Council asking what the Town is saving by joining the 2 departments. Council responded that there is not a money savings but service will be increased; by gaining more employees there will be more help; adding that they are not sure how either Town can continue to do things on their own, this agreement is about service to both Towns.

**Stuart Hensley** addressed the Council stating that the recent combined departments in other Towns have been a huge benefit to the communities.

Karl Lutz added that joining the departments reduces response time therefore decreasing the liability for both Towns.

**Clifford Maxwell** addressed the Council stating he believes the combining of other Fire Departments minimizes the issue of having several departments going after the same grants; and with only 1 department in the community seeking funds it may be easier to get funding.

**Justin Krier** stated currently the Fire Department has to wait for volunteers to respond from their homes, before the department can respond to a call. He went on to say that adding another crew will streamline this process; most are dual certified, Fire and EMS and this agreement will provide better service for our community.

**Dale Call** addressed the Council stating he does not see where the benefit is going to be from this agreement; he agrees the ambulance service needs more help; he went on to say that there will be the same amount of people responding to the calls; unless there are more full time crews at the station nothing is going to change. Mr. Call added that nothing in this IGA will allow him to buy more equipment. He went on to say that both departments can work and train together and feels there will not be a budget increase and that the budget is the big issue. Council responded if we continue to do nothing we are going to stay where we are at; this IGA is working toward making a difference. Mr. Call stated that if the Town of Taylor is going to put additional money into this agreement then why not use that money toward hiring more crews and get the same effect without an IGA. He added that he is not against the IGA. Council asked where the budget is addressed in the IGA; Gus stated after a Chief is hired he will work with the Chief to develop a budget. Mr. Call added that unless the Town is willing to spend money and hire personnel the IGA is not going to be a benefit.

**Scott Vowell** added that he is for a Fire District and believes you get what you pay for.

**Gerald Whipple** addressed the Council stating that funding is a huge thing for Fire Departments everywhere; he suggested the Town look into getting tax revenues to address the budget issues.

Council added they are trying to avoid imposing a tax and are trying to make this a success and appreciate everything our Fire and EMS employees do for the community.

**2. Discussion/Action: Proposed Change in Dates for the Taylor Town Council Regular Meetings and Designating an Effective Date**

Gus stated at the last Council meeting request was made for a future agenda item for a possible change to the day the Council meets; Gus added the change will be done by Ordinance. Council would like to stay with the first week of the month; Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the first Tuesday of the month.

**A motion was made by Councilman Solomon to change the Regular Town Council meetings to the first Thursday of the month; seconded by Councilman Smith; passed unanimously (7-0)**

**The next couple of regular Wednesday meetings will be cancelled; Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> will be the next meeting.**

**3. Discussion/Action: Consideration of Property Purchase Located at 100 W. Cattle Lane, Taylor**

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A)(7) the Town Council may Adjourn into Executive Session

**A motion was made by Mayor Hatch to adjourn into Executive Session; seconded by Vice Mayor Palmer; passed unanimously (7-0) 8:55 p.m.**

**Council reconvened the special meeting at 10:05 p.m.**

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Palmer to Table item #3; seconded by Councilman DeWitt; passed unanimously (7-0)**

**4. Adjourn: A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Vice Mayor Palmer; passed unanimously (7-0) 10:10 p.m.**

*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 21st day of April, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2015

---

Gerri Judd  
Town Clerk