



TAYLOR TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

6:00 P.M.

August 6, 2015

Town Hall

425 Paper Mill Road Taylor, AZ 85939

Mayor: Fay Hatch

Vice-Mayor: Shawn Palmer

Council Members: Gary Solomon, Lynn Dewitt, David Smith, Jason Brubaker, Carl Cosper



Council present: Mayor Fay Hatch, Vice Mayor Shawn Palmer, Councilman David Smith, Councilman Carl Cosper, Councilman Lynn DeWitt, Council Jason Brubaker 6:45 P.M.

Council absent: Councilman Gary Solomon

Staff Present: Manager Gus Lundberg, Building Official Allen Davis, Clerk Geri Judd

Attorney: Karl Lautz

Visitors present: Steve Foster, P&Z Commissioner Wayne Jones

1. Discussion: Open Meeting Law & Robert's Rules of Order

Robert's Rule of Order: Attorney Karl Lautz discussed the rules of procedures that govern town meetings. Karl reminded the attendees that the town's policies are governed by Robert's Rules of Order. Karl shared some history on Robert's Rules of Order; which were written by Brig. Gen. Henry Robert in 1876 adding that there are currently 11 editions of the book with the latest containing over 800 pages.

A question was asked concerning if continued discussion of an agenda item is permitted after a motion has been made; Karl stated yes, that after a motion is made and seconded that discussion can continue until a vote is called for. He added that public comment can be taken up until the motion is made. After a motion is made there can be a motion to table the item; which would require a second.

Councilman Cosper asked; since there are 11 editions is the current edition the one to follow or the one in 1983 when the town elected to operate under Robert's Rules of Order; Karl stated his thought is the town operates under the current version.

Karl pointed out that 2.10.290 allows the council to suspend the rules if there is a three quarter vote to do so; the example would be if there is a unique item on the agenda; the council could choose to decide each Councilmember gets a time limit for discussion; that would require a second with a three quarters approval.

Open Meeting Law: Karl stated that the two core concepts are to insure all meetings by public bodies are open to the public; and an agenda with information must be posted in a timely fashion. Karl added that the Open Meeting Law protects the public as well as the governing body.

Karl addressed how technology has changed the open meeting laws. He noted that email and text messaging can run into issues concerning the open meeting law if the "string" email violates the quorum rule. He further advised that group text messages can run into problems.

Gus added in reference to emails he sends he cautioned to be careful not to "reply all" to avoid violating the open meeting law. Gus noted the reason staff asks for a count of who will be attending functions is so a notice of quorum can be posted. Karl clarified what Gus is referring to, is best practices for the town; the statutory refers to a quorum being present where town business will be discussed. Karl felt that not posting a quorum notice if town business will not be discussed, in his opinion, is not in violation.

Karl noted that calls to the public are at the discretion of the council and is not required. Karl went on to say the Open Meeting Law requirements have a detailed explanation of Executive Sessions and how they can be used. Karl feels the council has used Executive Session according to the laws.

Steve Foster asked why the town charges for copies of minutes when there are residents who do not have access to a computer. Gus stated there are copies of minutes at Town Hall that can be read through at no charge.

ADJOURN: 6:50 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 6th day of August, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 7th day of August, 2015

Geri Judd-Town Clerk