

FREDONIA TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING -MINUTES

June 25, 2024

25 N. Main St, Fredonia AZ, 86022

7:00 pm

Pursuant to ARS 38-431.01, notice is hereby given to members of the Fredonia Town Council and the Public that a Public Meeting will be held on June 25, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order - Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

Roll Call – Mayor Johnson

Vice Mayor Scott

Councilor Ballard

Councilor Johnson

Invocation – Vice Mayor Scott

Pledge of Allegiance - All in Attendance

Public comment (The council shall not discuss or take legal action on matters unless the matters are properly noticed.)

1) *Ted Jenson thanked the police department and all they do.*

A. Consent Items: (The following items may be approved by a single motion, unless a member of the Town Council requests that any item be considered separately and acted upon accordingly. Each item considered separately may be approved by motion of the Council as though originally listed as an action item)

1. Agenda for June 11, 2024

2. Minutes from May 28, 2024

3. Approval of Payment Report for June 25, 2024

Councilor Ballard made a motion that we accept All three consent items.

Vice Mayor Scott seconded the motion.

All in favor.

B. Reports (The council shall not discuss or take legal action on matters unless the matters are properly noticed)

1. Mayor: *Mayor Johnson thanked everyone for the work they do. He appreciates the police department for the work they do.*

2. Council Members:

3. Department Heads

4. Town Office Updates:

a. Ted Jensen

i. Budget update

Ted gave notice that the budget is still ongoing. There are 3 stages

for the budget, (Draft, Tentative and Final.) Projected growth in Arizona is down and that will affect the amount of funding being sent to the town. There will be a decrease in Urban Sharing, Arizona State Income Tax is down, Vehicle License Tax is up. Councilor Ballard asked what perpetual care was. He was told is money for the cemetery. Ted explained that there are steps that have to be taken to finalize the budget. It must be posted in the newspaper for 2 weeks. Ted went on to explain about hiring a part time employee. If a person works 30 or more hours you must provide benefit. Above 19 hours that employee will receive a pension. Ted noted that when we interview, we will let the applicant know that it is 19 hours and have them sign their agreement.

C. Action Items

Mayor asks to have Discussion 1 move to the end.

1. Discussion and possible action regarding: Rezoning the Parcel Numbers on Cowboy Drive and US Highway 89A.
Vice Mayor Scott introduced Matt Salmon he was a State Representative from Arizona. He is now here representing a company that would like to expand into Fredonia. They have purchased three parcels on Cowboy Drive and US Highway 89A, and have combined them and split them into two parcels. They now would like to have the Southern Parcel changed from Open Space into Commercial. Councilor Ballard made a motion to approve the change from open space to commercial. Councilor Johnson seconded it. All were in favor.
2. Discussion and possible action regarding: Defund the Police and go to County Contract or significantly reduce Police Force: *Mayor Johnson said that the Council was looking at several ways to make the budget work with the Police request. Said we could go to county contract. Councilor Ballard said we had could go to county contract at \$200,000 a year per officer. The town would not have a say on how many officers we would have or when they are here. When Councilor Ballard spoke with another town who had at one time used County Police, he was told problems got worse so don't do it. We would not get the coverage we needed. Vice Mayor Scott went on to tell how the police handled many different things. Councilor Ballard said that we all need to curtail our spending, not just the police. Councilor Johnson said that we need to think about it really strong but, he didn't want the county to take over. Councilor Ballard suggested that this be tabled for now. That if the town had something to say, to please write letters.*
3. Discussion and possible action regarding: Revisiting the approved positions by the City Council on June 13,2024, (in light of the revised budget.)

Ted spoke again about the 19 hours for part time and that he does not want layoffs but the saving will be depleted in 3 to 4 years if something is not done. He also added that Fredonia does not have property tax, and that the state gets 67% of what the police bring in. Judge Cutchin will talk more about this when she speaks. Mayor Johnson said that there were question he would like to ask Lars. Hopefully we can have him back at a meeting to help us.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding: increase in IGA for additional full time Clerk and Increase in Judges Salary

Judge Cutchin addressed questions from the Council about how much the police bring in. Last year, the police took in \$514,000 and \$21,590 came back to the town for the general fund with more coming in to other things, like roads, etc. Peace Officer equipment fund etc. Judge Cutchin explained that Tina is retiring and that Dusty is working over 12 hours a day to keep up with the citations and the processing of fines and fees. With the four police officers the courts are on track to process over 2000 citations this year. She went on to explain that the county pays the wages and benefits and town pays the county. Councilor Ballard asked what would happen if the Council did not approve the new clerk. He was told that the courts would fail their audit. Judge Cutchin explained that for years she did not take a raise. She wanted the office staff to be paid what they were worth. Councilor Ballard makes a motion to keep all of the posted positions and a raise for Judge Cutchin. Mayor Johnson seconded it and all in favor

D. Discussion

1. Future Agenda Items:

- a. New form for land combination/split/lot line adjustment
- b. Evaluation of Magistrate's Wage
- c. Town Committees and departments; council representation
- d. Sawmill Estate Subdivision progress
- e. General Plan
- f. 911 Readdressing the streets
- g. Emergency preparedness-backup generators, get quotes
- h. Secure water supply
- i. Utility Board
- j. Model City tax code
- k. Equipment and vehicle policy
- l. Levee repairs
- m. Purchasing policy
- n. Purchasing electrical structure on the old Kaibab land
- o. Wages for Volunteers working in Town Office

Adjourn: 8:07

Approved

Attest

Don Johnson, Mayor

Traci Goodall, Town Clerk

Certification- I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held.

Traci Goodall, Town Clerk