

SUMMARIZED MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF COLORADO CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020, AT 25 SOUTH CENTRAL STREET, COLORADO CITY, ARIZONA

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Joseph Allred.

Roll call showed present: Mayor Joseph Allred and Council Members Alma Hammon, Ralph Johnson, Joanne Shapley, Jeffery Jessop, and Donald Richter. Anthus Barlow asked to be excused.

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 10, 2020 regular meeting and the August 17, 2020 meeting were presented with a few minor corrections noted.

Motion was made by Jeffery Jessop to approve the corrected minutes of the August 10, 2020 regular meeting and the August 17, 2020 meeting. There was a second from Donald Richter, and all voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT/INFORMATIONAL SUMMARIES

None

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION TO BE HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2020, AT 5:30 P.M. FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL FOR LEGAL ADVICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARS 38-431.03.

Alma Hammon made a motion to set an executive session in advance to discuss pending or contemplated litigation, claims and demands to be held Monday, October 12, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. MDT in Accordance with ARS 38-431.03(A)(3)(4) for discussion and consultation with legal counsel for legal advice and/or for negotiations. The motion was seconded by Ralph Johnson and passed unanimously.

PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION, CLAIMS AND DEMANDS

None

COUNCIL MEMBER SERVICE AWARDS

In the absence of Vice Mayor Anthus Barlow, Mayor Joseph Allred presented an 8 Year Service award to Councilmember Jeffery Jessop, and to himself, Joseph Allred. Mayor Allred then expressed his appreciation for each of the Councilmembers, the Departments, and the employees.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Airport

Ladell Bistline Jr. reported that there were 415 operations in the past month. He said the smoke haze from the wildfires has reduced visibility for the pilots which is concerning. On the fencing project, he said they will probably hold off until next year. He reported that they have completed the pavement projects, but there is still some work needed before the storm water can flow comfortably. Other items of note were the redoing of part of the outside sprinkler system, and the installation of a more powerful Zoom computer for the front room.

Building Department

Building Official Andrew Barlow reported everyone has been in the learning process in using the new online system, and he has spent a lot of time in explaining it. He said the Bee's Market project is moving slowly, with the opening date projected for March 2021.

Andrew reported that the CDBG projects are going well, and the construction on the West Mohave project is now complete. The East Mohave project is essentially complete. The road has been opened and, in a week or two they will wash it down and put the fog coat on.

Our project for the 2020 SSP grant was not funded this round. He said we will need to go through another public participation process to put in an application for the 2021 SSP. We could potentially apply for the same project if it is selected through that process.

Police Department

Chief Marshal Robb Radley reported that the Department has started a motorcycle/ATV helmet drive in conjunction with Cherish Families and the Adrenaline Junkies Dirt Bike Club. The effort is to increase motorcycle safety, equipment awareness, and helmet use. The goal is to see the vast majority of kids who are riding motorcycles and ATVs wearing helmets.

Chief Radley noted that after starting this community partnership with Cherish Families a young man riding a dirt bike was hit by a truck after he failed to yield right of way. The young man was not wearing a helmet and received severe injuries. A helmet in the case of this young man would have made a significant difference.

At this time there are donation sites at the Marshal's Office and Cherish Families where people can donate new or gently used helmets. Hildale City has set up a donation link on their city web page where people can donate money to purchase new helmets for the initiative.

An additional feature of the helmet drive is to reach out to the youth and provide motorcycle safety education and help them to be in compliance with the traffic laws and regulations governing motorcycle/ATV use. This initiative should give the Marshal's Office opportunities to engage the youth in a positive manner.

Chief Radley also reported that Deputy B. Barlow was cleared by the Mohave County Attorney's Office on the use of force regarding the officer involved shooting. The new tasers are in and will be issued as soon as the officers have received the updated taser training.

Public Works/Landfill

Public Works Director John T. Barlow informed the Council that we have been very busy with the crusher plant in trying to keep up with making our own chip for the ongoing projects and the trade agreements we have made.

The West Mohave Ave. and the East Mohave Ave. paving projects are essentially complete. They plan to add a layer of fog on the East Mohave project to help seal and preserve it. He said they have finished the chip sealing on Barlow St. and on Carling Street by the Water Canyon School and the school parking lot. They also did some chip seal one block north of Utah Ave. on Maple St.

The project in the Pioneer Trailer Park on Hammon Street is started, and one block on Edson Ave. is ready for chip. We are planning to chip the first layer on Wednesday, September 2nd. We have the first section of Uzona Ave. ready to chip and will chip it along with the Pioneer trailer park project.

The Council complimented the department on the new pavement projects and said they looked forward to seeing the paint stripes added.

John informed the council that our mechanic Paul Black has put in his two-week notice, and we have posted a job opening for the position. Kendall Pipkin has also put in his two-week notice, and we have hired Brigham Dutson full time as a driver to take his place on the garbage truck.

Utilities

In the absence of Utilities Manager Harrison Johnson, Weston Barlow reported that well #22 is still down because the motor is lost in the bottom, and the casing is rusted out. He stated it will be a major project to repair the well and they may need to abandon it and drill another well.

The Council asked about the progress of the effort to bring natural gas to the community, and it was explained that the Department is still in contact with Dominion Energy, and they seem to be supportive, but it is moving forward slowly. It was also mentioned that our fiber partner, TKS, has grown discontented with both Colorado City and Hildale over the progress of our fiber program. The Department feels that they will increase communications with TKS as soon as some of our well emergencies and other more critical maintenance issues have been dealt with.

It was also noted that the City of Apple Valley has approached the Department about a potential agreement to serve Jepson Canyon with sewer and natural gas services. The developer's next step will be to submit engineering estimates and plans along with a proposal for pricing and operations; they are planning to put in 300 homes. Weston noted that if service is provided into Apple Valley, we would probably provide service to Cedar Point also.

Administration

Town Manager Vance Barlow reported that we have completed our field audit work for this fiscal year. He said the Town has received the titles to the land on seven of the wells from the UEP Trust, and we expect to receive the titles to the remaining wells sites and also the lot that the water treatment plant is located on in the near future.

He reported that the final payments on the ADA ramp project have been received and that project is now complete. The CDBG projects on Mohave Avenue are nearing completion with the major construction now completed, and both projects are down to the few remaining details.

Vance said he has spent a lot of time on zoning issues, and we are currently faced with a business that has relocated, without any prior communication with the Town staff, to an area that is not zoned for that type of business. The Planning Commission and staff are continuing a detailed review of the Land Division Ordinance and will be working on some clarifications and updates, as well as looking for potential conflicts with the Zoning Ordinance.

Vance reported during the last month he has attended sessions of the League conference, GFOAZ training and the APA conference, all virtually.

The utility IGA is still out to the AMRRP attorney and we are expecting the first draft of the Public Works IGA in the near future. The plan is to have all the IGAs between Hildale & Colorado City reviewed and updated by early next year.

ZONING MAP AMENDMENT PARCEL 404-53-433 FROM RE-1A TO R20

Town Manager Vance Barlow explained to the Council that Shannon Lee has requested a rezone of parcel 404-53-433 from RE-1A (one acre residential) to R1-20 (single family residential 20000). This property is located on the Southwest corner of Garden Avenue and Hildale Street.

The property owner has met the requirements to have the rezone considered by the Planning Commission and the necessary publications and notices were completed and a public hearing was scheduled and held at the September 8, 2020 Planning Commission meeting. There were no members of the public who spoke at the hearing for or against the rezone and the Planning Commission after some discussion voted to recommend that the Town Council approve the proposed amendment to the Town of Colorado City zoning map. Vance said this request is the first of many for rezone from a 1-acre lot to approximately two ½ acre lots. If the re-zone is approved, then the requestors will do a lot split, with the intention of putting a house on each lot which will require utilities to both lots. Vance noted that the zoning map has to be changed by ordinance.

There was considerable discussion on this, and concern was expressed about how to get utilities to the second lot, with the possibility of doing an easement or creating a flag lot with access to the second lot cutting down the side of the first lot. Mayor Allred expressed his concern of setting a precedent and seeing a flood of similar requests, creating odd-shaped lots. He voiced his concern of starting something like this and what it will do to the neighborhood. Vance cautioned the Council that if you deny a zoning request you will need to have a very clear reason because you are telling people what they cannot do with their land. He said as more of this land goes into private ownership, many people do not want the responsibility of maintaining a large lot. The demographics are changing, and what people need and want is changing. The question was asked if the Council decides they prefer one-acre lots, is that reason enough to deny it? The reply was that it would not be a very good reason in a legal challenge because a ½ acre lot and a 1-acre lot are both considered low density. Staff explained that there are guidelines established in our Development Standards to limit what can be done as far as lot layout and size.

Ralph Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-04 amending the zoning map for the Town of Colorado City. There was a second from Joanne Shapley. Donald Richter voted in favor. Alma Hammon, Mayor Allred, and Jeffery Jessop voted no. The motion did not pass. The Mayor voiced that the requestor has the option of presenting it again to see if it will pass.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Vance explained that at the June 15, 2020 council meeting the Town Council appointed John T. Barlow Interim Public Works Director with a performance review to be completed and a recommendation made to the Town Council at the September 2020 Town Council meeting. The time has passed very rapidly, and the Public Works crew has been very busy with multiple street improvement projects.

Vance reported that John has done a good job of coordinating the crews and communicating with the Town Manager and Hildale City Manager. He has also reassigned the daily managerial duties of the Landfill so he can focus on the bigger overall picture.

John has continued the communication and coordination of the floodplain mapping that is still in process. He has also maintained the communication and attended the WACOG meetings and other interaction with the various agencies that the department interacts with. (ADEQ, ADEMA, ADOT, MSHA, AFMA, SWANA, APWA, BLM, etc.)

Hildale City management is also recommending John T. Barlow for a permanent appointment, and both Towns are recommending that John take some training in professional development and leadership skills as part of the position.

There was a motion from Donald Richter with a second from Jeffery Jessop to appoint John T. Barlow Public Works Director for the Town of Colorado City at the same pay rate. All voted approval.

CONSIDER DONATION ACCOUNT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DRIVE

Chief Radley presented a concept of setting up an account in which donations can be accepted and set apart to use for public safety options such as a helmet drive, which he is currently working on. He has established a Helmet Hair Project in conjunction with Cherish Families and The Dirt Bike Club. If an account is set up it will be a separate account for accepting donations. Chief Radley said he would like to have a spot on our website people can click on and donate money. He expects to add animal issues and improvements to our pound as options in the future.

There was a motion from Alma Hammon with a second from Joanne Shapley to set up an account for accepting donations for use in public safety projects. All were in favor.

BUDGET REPORT AND ORDER TO PAY DUE CLAIMS

The Council reviewed the budget report and a detailed report of the due claims. We are at 17% of the fiscal year.


Motion was made by Joanne Shapley to pay the due claims as they become due and as funds become available. It was seconded by Alma Hammon, and all voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Council of Colorado City held on the 14th Day of September 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 19th day of October 2020.


Town Clerk

