

THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M.
CASTLE VALLEY TOWN BUILDING - 2 CASTLE VALLEY DRIVE

****This meeting was a hybrid meeting held electronically by Zoom and also in person at the anchor site the Town Building.**

Council Members Present: Mayor Duncan and CM O'Brien at the anchor site, Council Members Gibson and Hill on Zoom.

Absent: CM Holland

Others Present at Anchor Site: Dorje Honer, Colleen Thompson and Ron Drake.

Others present on Zoom: John Groo, Laurie Simonson, Pam Hackley, Bob Lipman, Anna Amidon, Ryan Anderson and Duncan Fuchise- WUI Specialist - Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

M Duncan called the Meeting to Order at 6:30 PM, Buck called role.

Regular Town Meeting

1. Open Public Comment: None

2. Approval of Minutes:

CM Hill motioned to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing and Regular Town Council Meeting October 19th, 2023 as presented; CM O'Brien seconded motion passed unanimously.

3. Executive Reports:

* Duncan Fuchise- WUI Specialist - Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL)

Fuchise showed a power point map explaining the upcoming mastication project down at the Town green belt off of Rimshadow. The County Roads Department has the equipment and FFSL will probably pay them to do the work sometime in January. They will leave the cottonwoods and try to shred and mulch most of the Russian olives. As they will not be using any herbicides he asked the Town for some help to maintain the clearing after the initial work is done. CM O'Brien thanked Fuchise for not using herbicide.

*Water Agent and Water Committee Report - John Groo/ CM O'Brien

CM O'Brien reported on the MAWP meeting, there could be a potential funding opportunity to get partial flumes on Castle Creek from the Colorado River Authority. John Groo reported the Water Advisory Committee will be focusing on the Water Master Plan. The Water Budget survey testing work has begun Groo spent the day with Janae Wallace and her crew measuring 13 wells, they will need 11 more to come up with 30 total measuring wells including and in addition to the sampling wells. Groo will be recruiting more wells. The UGS crew working in the Valley that day consisted of 9 people and 3 trucks, Groo added with this Study we are going to learn more about the aquifer than ever before.

*Road Department Report- Dorje Honer No questions

*Planning & Land Use Commission- Colleen Thompson. Minutes and report provided.

*Community Renewable Energy Act-CM Gibson see item 10

*Fire District-M Duncan /Chief Drake reported the burn window will close at the end of November.

4. Correspondence: None

5. Administrative Matters & Procedures: No Town letters. No response from the BLM on the Chen/Waldron wedding mess. CM Gibson reported several media outlets have done interviews with her and have run stories on the wedding. In those interviews she has emphasized that what we want is for the BLM to re-evaluate their event policy. She would also ask the wedding party to apologize to the BLM and the Town.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Discussion and Possible Action re: Approval of 2024 Meeting dates

CM Gibson motioned to approve the 2024 Meeting dates, CM Hill seconded motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Possible Action re: Approval to pay Jones DeMille invoice for Low Water Crossing Engineering \$10,025.00.

M Duncan explained this amount will be reimbursed to the Town through our CDBG grant.

CM Hill motioned to pay the next payment of \$10,025.00 Jones DeMille invoice for the Low Water Crossing Engineering CM O'Brien seconded motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and Possible Action re: Memorandum of Understanding with the Castle Valley Fire Protection District.

M Duncan explained the Fire District has already approved this MOU. CM Hill wanted language added to clarify that any Fire red carded Town employee that has had the appropriate training can operate Town equipment for emergencies.

CM Hill motioned to approve the Fire District MOU with that language added; CM O'Brien seconded the motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and Possible Action re: Establishing general thresholds for earth moving language to be added to Ordinance 85-3.

M Duncan explained the problems with run off , flooding and drainage issues has come about because there are no standards or requirements for drainage reviews and dirt moving in situations where a building permit drainage reviews are not involved. Question is how much dirt moving would require some kind of inspection and/or permit; the PLUC would like some direction and feedback from the Council on size or amount of dirt moving / disturbance thresholds. The Council, Thompson and Honer discussed the need for requirements for disturbances near structures, on hill sides, in drainages and setbacks. Anderson explained County and State standards need to be incorporated in this ordinance language and standards. Thompson and Honer clarified that so far the suggested threshold parameters/ trigger points could be: a simple no fee inspection, then for larger or more complex projects requiring a permit to include required mitigation and then beyond that threshold would be the required State permitting. It is the thresholds that need to be figure out. CM Gibson asked how the process would be explained to the general public. Anderson and Thompson both added that this will require an upfront proactive education period to notify lot owners, contractors and back hoe operators. M Duncan asked Honer would the thresholds be measured by the acre or in square footage. Honer explained both as well as in cubic yards on hillsides. This approach could involve exemptions for disturbances close distances from buildings, for gardens plot and/ or driveway culverts. CM O'Brien and Hill liked the three tiered approach. CM Hill added that she wanted to see something specific about disturbances along property lines and in setback areas that could really impact neighbors not only from run off but also from weeds and dust. Honer wanted ideas on remediation and M Duncan stated these could be included in the permit standards. Buck reminded everyone to be mindful of how these regulations/standards can and will be enforced. Thompson added that a lot of this is already in State and County law. The Council thanked Thompson, Honer and Whitney for their work.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. Discussion and Possible Action re: Approval of the Community Renewable Energy Program Utility Agreement (tabled) (Separate handout on Town and Public Notice website).

CM Hill motioned to untable Item 10, CM O'Brien seconded motion passed unanimously.

CM Gibson and the Council thanked Simonson for finding the typos/format issue in the Agreement that other Communities had signed on to and never noticed.

CM Hill motioned to approve the Community Renewable Energy Program Utility Agreement; CM Gibson seconded motion passed unanimously.

The Council thanked CM Gibson for all her work on the Community Renewable Energy Program.

11. Closed Meeting (not necessary)

12. Payment of the bills.

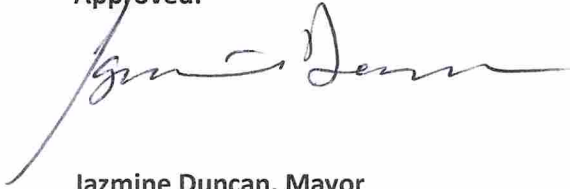
CM Gibson motioned to pay the bills, CM O'Brien seconded, motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

CM Hill motioned to adjourn, CM Gibson seconded, motion passed unanimously.

M Duncan adjourned the Meeting at 7:52PM

Approved:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jazmine Duncan", written over a horizontal line.

Jazmine Duncan, Mayor

Attested:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jocelyn Buck", written over a horizontal line.

Jocelyn Buck, Town Clerk