

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, HELD SEPTEMBER 4, 2012, AT 6:00 P.M., AT THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS BUILDING, 826 NORTH MAIN STREET, COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Joens called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Diane Joens, Mayor
Karen Pfeifer, Vice Mayor
Jesse Dowling, Council Member
Tim Elinski, Council Member
Ruben Jauregui, Council Member
Linda Norman, Council Member
Terence Pratt, Council Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Doug Bartosh, City Manager
Marianne Jiménez, City Clerk
Steve Horton, City Attorney
Iris Dobler, Human Resources Manager
Jason Little, Recreation Manager
George Gehlert, Community Development Director

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Bob Richards lead the Pledge of Allegiance and was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Mayor Joens.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Mr. Bartosh announced our library will begin opening on every Monday from 10-2; he reminded everyone Thunder Valley Rally would start on September 14 and run through the 16th in Old Town.

Council Member Pratt stated he and fellow council members attended the League of Arizona Cities & Towns (conference) and got to see our deputy clerk make a presentation on paperless agendas and did a great job. We got to see our city manager receive the Zimmerman award, and our booth at the showcase was voted the best in general feedback.

Mayor Joens stated our city manager won the Gabe Zimmerman award which was well deserved; she had been asked by Elva Coor of the Sandra Day O'Connor House to sit on a panel about civic engagement; she was the chair of the Greater Arizona Mayors Association

and they all wanted to work to repeal the elections bill, HB2826, and work on an accelerated sunset of HB2643, and they picked a project of supporting state parks; she wanted everyone to know she had been accepted to the Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy; she was awarded her eight year plaque from the League; and she had been following a couple of veterans, Travis Mills and Taylor Morris, who were injured in Afghanistan and returned home with all four limbs missing; she requested contributions for special housing for these young men be made through www.buildingforamericasbravest.org or call 718-987-1931.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA—No items.

NEW BUSINESS—The following items are for Council discussion, consideration, and possible legal action.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2659—APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Mr. Little stated staff was requesting Council appoint a member to the Parks and Recreation Commission to fill the term that had expired which had been filled by Dr. Bob Richards. The opening had been advertised and Dr. Richards was the only application received for the three year seat.

Dr. Richards addressed the Council and stated he was very interested in parks and rec. He had enjoyed being on the commission for the last year and had learned a lot.

Council Member Pratt stated considering Dr. Richard's service to the city, and as he was the only person who applied, this was a no brainer.

Council Member Pratt then moved to approve Resolution Number 2659, appointing Dr. Bob Richards to fill a three year term which expires August 16, 2015. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowling, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Joens requested the City Clerk read Resolution Number 2659 by title only.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2659

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, APPOINTING ROBERT D. RICHARDS A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND ESTABLISHING HIS TERM OF OFFICE.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 587--AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, FOR A PARCEL OF LAND TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 8.060 ACRES, LOCATED AT 533 NORTH WILLARD STREET, APN 406-42-007, SO AS TO CHANGE CERTAIN DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND CLASSIFICATIONS THEREOF FROM THE PRESENT ZONING OF R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO PAD (PLANNED AREA DEVELOPMENT); FIRST READING

Mr. Gehlert stated this was a request to rezone approximately 8 acres located along the east side of Willard Street formally owned by the Catholic Church. The site itself was encumbered by a variety of very significant sloping areas. It includes the little Catholic Church built in 1925, and until very recently, a larger administrative building that was located to the rear that was recently destroyed in a fire. The site is surrounded on two sides by R-1 zoning, to the south it is occupied by the Cottonwood Elementary School, to the west you have a series of older residences, and to the north you have the CR district which is a combination of commercial and residential uses. Areas to the east are zoned multi-family but are vacant at this time. The applicants are proposing to redevelop the site as a ten bed hospice facility located on the same site as where the old church is. They are proposing to move the church somewhat east and south of its present location in order to make use of the flattest part of the site. There were a couple of other building pads that were highlighted in the proposal as possible additional building sites as time passes. There were a couple of issues in the review of this by the Planning and Zoning Commission. One had to do with the preservation of access to the school site that was shared for parking; the second proposal preserves that access as well as provides for some additional landscaping of that area. A community meeting was held on July 9 regarding the zone change request. It was lightly attended and there was not much of a turnout at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting either. They did not receive many comments on the proposal in general. The Commission recommended approval of the request subject to the stipulations that are highlighted under Ordinance Number 587.

Council Member Pratt questioned if the sewer and water lines were installed or would there be an extra cost for all that.

Mr. Gehlert stated he thought it was connected to the sewer.

Mayor Jones stated she noticed that it said all outdoor lighting will meet the dark sky ordinance. In one place it talked about one of the lights facing up.

Mr. Gehlert stated there was some uplighting on the building and there was an allowance for unshielded lighting by code, but staff tried to avoid the uplighting all together. The recommendation was for them to meet the code and they were going to ask them for some alternate cut sheets on the lighting.

Rick Peterson from the Verde Valley Medical Center (VVMC) stated it had been about 6 or 7 years that the VVMC board has had great interest in developing a hospice house for Cottonwood and the Verde Valley. Currently, there was not a hospice facility in the entire valley. He explained the setting and design of the 10 room facility.

After discussion regarding how the old church building would be moved and the design and construction of the building, Mayor Joens requested the City Clerk read Ordinance Number 587 by title only.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 587

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, FOR A PARCEL OF LAND TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 8.060 ACRES, LOCATED AT 533 NORTH WILLARD STREET, APN 406-42-007, SO AS TO CHANGE CERTAIN DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND CLASSIFICATIONS THEREOF FROM THE PRESENT ZONING OF R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO PAD (PLANNED AREA DEVELOPMENT).

DISBANDMENT OF THE CITY'S SENIOR COMMISSION

Ms. Dobler stated the Senior Commission was created by the Council in 2008 to promote, support, and enhance the lives of Senior Citizens. The current members of the Commission recommended she talk to the Mayor and discuss the possibility of disbanding the Senior Commission because they felt the Commission was not doing anything. She looked back in previous minutes and found the Commission had not done any projects of its own, but supported other things in town and volunteered for projects that can be done individually by any of the Senior Commission members. They felt most everything they thought of that might be done was either already being done or could be done by a local organizations, such as the Senior Center of one of the NACOG groups.

Council Member Pratt stated this was probably a no brainer considering all the redundant organizations that are already doing work.

Mayor Joens stated she agreed. We do have the Verde Valley Senior Center that does so much in the community for seniors, as did NACOG. She then asked for Council Member Norman's advice as she had been on this Commission since its inception and had worked really hard and has taken all of the minutes.

Council Member Norman stated she agreed. It had gotten to the point when they would leave a meeting she would think, "What are we accomplishing? Why are we meeting?" With all of them saying the same thing, she thought it was having meetings for no reason.

Mayor Joens stated she wanted to be sure that everybody in the community knows that they were very concerned and supportive of senior issues. They donate to the Verde Valley Senior Center to ensure people have meals and food.

Council Member Norman stated she missed the last meeting, but from the minutes and in talking to Ms. Dobler, it sounds like the people that have been on the Commission are still very interested in volunteering in any way they can or wherever they are needed.

After brief discussion on whether or not a motion was needed, the Mayor directed staff to bring this back on the 18th for more public comment and the first reading of an ordinance.

ADOPTION OF THE CITY'S WATER STRATEGIES

Mr. Whitmer stated as the council was aware, water was perhaps one of the most valuable resources the city has. With growth anticipated to continue to occur it was imperative that the city begin not only developing, but adopting water policies and strategies that are designed to ensure the sustainability of the resource. The seven water management policies/strategies that were before the council were developed specifically to provide guidance and a vision for the city's current and future activities as they relate to the management and development of water resources. He hoped the council adopted this formally.

Council Member Elinski stated he read through it and was impressed with and proud of it.

Mr. Whitmer stated this was the first step in a multi-faceted process. On the 11th he would be bringing forth a water conservation consideration to begin discussions, and ultimately out of that we were hoping we come up with a rather comprehensive water conservation program that will touch on all facets of conservation. This was the first phase of the process and was designed to lay direction out for the city and provide a vision in terms of what it intends to do with regard to water resources, planning, management and development of the future.

Mayor Joens stated this was something she was really excited about and looked forward to reading about the conservation plan.

Council Member Pratt stated he thought this was a valuable one too. To approve it, it showed we were proactive and being realistic and it was really important for our future.

Council Member Pratt then moved to adopt the city's Water Strategies, as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Norman, and carried unanimously.

CLAIMS & ADJUSTMENTS

Council Member Norman moved to pay the Claims and Adjustments. The motion was seconded by Council Member Elinski, and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Joens moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Pfeifer, and carried unanimously. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Diane Joens, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marianne Jiménez, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Cottonwood held on August 21, 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called, and that a quorum was present.

Marianne Jiménez, City Clerk

Date