

**MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF SNOWFLAKE
HELD 09/27/2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Tom Poscharsky, Vice Mayor Kerry Ballard, Lynn Johnson, Stuart Hensley, Byron Lewis—excused, Cory Johnson, Terril Kay STAFF: Brian Richards, Bob Hall, Barbara Flake, Terry Cooper, Dale Call, Don Camacho

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE Kay/Johnson C

3. PROCLAMATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Poscharsky recognized Hunter Lewis, candidate for Mayor and Allison Perkins, newly elected Council Member.

4. CALL TO PUBLIC

Robert Yellowhair family presented the unfinished painting commissioned by the Town of Snowflake. Mr. Yellowhair's son said his father spent all the time that he could painting until his death. He pointed out the sketches on the canvas showing what would have been painted. He said, speaking for his mother and family, they thank the town for all they have done.

Fife Symington stated that they have been the owners of the greenhouse for a little over 2 weeks and have 32 employees—26 residents of Snowflake and 2 in the process of moving to town. He said they looked for people who worked for Eurofresh and Naturesweet that had experience in the greenhouse and had lost jobs. He said Mark Goodman will be coming back from Michigan and will start on Monday. He said Lee Heyl from Costa Farms will be the new manager. Mr. Heyl visited from South Carolina and loved the town. He has been in the plant or produce business for 35 years. Mr. Symington thanked the Council for the time and attention they have given to this issue.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve Council minutes dated September 13, 2016.

B. Approve Invoice from Brown & Brown Law Offices, P.C. dated September 2016.

C. Approve Invoices from Schmitt Schneck Smyth Casey & Even, P.C. dated September 2016.

D. Approve (*pursuant to ARS 9-471*) Zoning Assignment of Light Industrial for Annexed Parcels #202-27-033D/#202-39-008.

Motion by Ballard, 2nd by Poscharsky, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed; unanimous

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Ballard, 2nd by Johnson C, to move Item 6E before Item 6A. Motion passed; unanimous

E. Consideration & Possible Approval of Snowflake Golf Course Five-Year Plan. (Brian Richards)

Richards said play at the golf course has deteriorated and he feels it is due to the condition of the course. He said staff has ideas to improve the course and new equipment would need to be purchased. He said that new equipment has not been purchased in 20 years. Richards stated the plan is to purchase new equipment on lease purchase over 5 years with an increase of \$50/60,000 annual expenses. Terry Cooper explained the complaints being received—rough grass is too high, hot spots because of outdated water system and filtration system into the pumps, poor condition of greens and tee-boxes. He said the plan to improve the course is as follows:

- Purchase the needed equipment.
- Improve fairway conditions through annual “top dressing”.
- Improve green and tee-box conditions through more intense management.
- When conditions improve, implement marketing strategy to attract more golf play.
- Discuss fee increases and/or discussion of liquor license implementation.
- Improve irrigation system by improving filtration system.

He said good experienced people have been hired. He said it is a goal to drain and dredge the ponds this winter. He is optimistic about next year. He said people used to come for the golf course layout and he feels this plan can turn it around and can get tournaments here. He asked Council if they are willing to go forward with the plan. There was discussion regarding the plan for the golf course as follows:

- Johnson L—is golf pro included in this plan; feels it is necessary
- Cooper—no
- Richards—when the course is where it needs to be that will be looked at
- Johnson L—Cry is why 27 holes; why not repurpose 9 and have 18 holes; maintenance will go down
- Cooper—from staff’s point would like to see that but which 9 holes should close—Temple or West; options were pursued but did not come through
- Johnson L—if the church offered to help with repurpose, how long do we try and would they still be willing to help if plan does not work
- Richards—Staff wants to keep original and Temple nine and if necessary close the West 9
- Cooper—Temple 9 is best 9 but from operational standpoint closing the Temple 9 makes sense
- Hensley—church would only participate with Temple 9 and not the rest
- Johnson L—looking at investing in a business that is declining; asked Larry Brewer about the national outlook on golf
- Larry Brewer—purpose for being here is to give support for what is being presented by the manager and keep things going; feels West 9 takes care of self financially; fees will greatly increase on the other 18 if they are brought up to the condition of 2005-07; feels can get golfers back and raise revenue; regarding golf on the decline—it takes time to play golf; important training is available for the High School Golf Team and then they are hooked; something for the youth to do; opportunity for locals to come and enjoy playing golf; it is a program that will involve people; feels it is the responsibility of Council to provide amenities for people to do; swimming pool was lost and the same will happen to the golf course if don’t bring it out; there are a lot of municipal courses—176

in Phoenix metro area; regarding top dressing—concern about bringing marijuana plants/seeds onto the golf course

- Johnson L—Mark Wilson worked himself to death and the Town is deeply indebted to him; asked Cooper how he can do what needs to be done with his responsibilities to the Golf Course and the Public Works Department
- Cooper—does not see his position at the Golf Course as long-term; has good help in Public Works; would be difficult to hire a golf superintendent with the course in its current condition
- Johnson L—adding \$50/60,000 does not address water system
- Cooper—key to existing water system is the filtration system and staff will be draining and dredging the ponds; can make small improvements to irrigation system; does not feel the need to consider new filtration system
- Kay—thanked Cooper for stepping up to help; appreciates the golf course but consideration of what the costs are to the Town is constant; looking at citizens and the Town think money could be better spent; if in 5 years the course is not in a better situation there has to be an end; asked Richards what the budget is for the golf course
- Richards—subsidize \$350,000 a year
- Kay—have spent a lot of money on what all the citizens don't use; will support but at some point a tough decision needs to be made and it keeps being put off
- John Davis—grew up on the golf course since 6 years old; received golf scholarship to college; played professional golf; regarding trend in golf—there are municipal golf courses that have reservations 2 weeks out; need driving range and sell driving range passes; greens are too long; drew up a plan with Paul Watson; has to be run by someone who knows the course—described watering needs; potential moneymaker that has not been utilized; willing to help without charge; can show an inexpensive way to make targets for driving range; if course stays the same might as well close it down; need a Junior Program—leads into parents playing; Steve Schneider organized family nights; course means a lot to me and will help without charge; would give up Silver Creek membership if Snowflake would be better
- Barry Nix—member at Torreón, used to come 3 to 4 times a month; don't think plan will make money but maybe could soften the blow; would like to see this go and would like to come back—won't come now
- Larry Chavez—member at Pinetop Country Club, used to play as much in Snowflake but that has changed; brought 12 couples last year and the course has gone downhill; town is beautiful with Main Street and flowers; hate to see the golf course go downhill
- Lynn Ellsworth—built the West 9 in the 80's; did a study of municipal courses and all were subsidizing more than Snowflake; does not hurt to subsidize; producing good citizens; love Snowflake; can bring the course up; don't kill it
- Kirk Brimhall—was not here when 1st 9 built; Council approached him for donation of land for the 2nd 9; donated the land because saw benefit of bringing people to the area; 3rd 9 was started and the Temple was placed and surrounded by homes; first step is getting the right equipment
- Gene Hall—was involved in the 3rd 9; is the reason the Temple is here; is a commitment from the Town to the church to keep the golf course; used to be golf tournament capital benefiting motels, fast food, and restaurants; supports the golf course, marijuana farm for the jobs; are lots of ways to get money

- Johnson L—asked Johnny Davis if he sees that it will take 5 years or less to see returns
- John Davis—it is all about around the clubhouse; do the driving range; have good range balls; would take a couple of months; build a bunker with a drain; make a green with 6 or 7 holes for a putting green; could be up to standard in a year; would not be embarrassed to play there; change the holes—there are people who will donate time to do it; get the greens so roll decent; get practice facilities; can be addictive to hit range balls
- Cooper—a lot of those things are in the plan for this winter; have range balls now; greens are better than they were for 24th tournament
- Kay—asked if a work session could be planned

Johnson C, Kay, and John Davis would like to be on a committee.

Poscharsky said there has been a problem with the golf course for some time. He said he fully supports putting in a big effort to save a true asset but if it does not work out or if golf declines then those on the course need to be put on notice that there is not a promise that it will be there forever. It has been researched and no written commitment to keep the golf course has been found. He said the town is trying hard to keep a good asset.

Motion by Kay, 2nd by Hensley, to approve 5-year equipment, maintenance, and revenue plan for the golf course as presented. Motion passed; unanimous

- A. Consideration & Possible Approval Ordinance No. 2016-04 Rezone Residential 1 Acre (R1-A) to Residential Transitional (RT). Property is located at 68 W. Flake Avenue. Owner is Jace Baum. (Dale Call)

Call said the property is 6.3 acres and zoned R1-A with access from Flake Avenue. He stated the Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing and recommends the zoning change. He said notices were sent to surrounding residents and no comments were made at the public hearing. He said the property use is permitted under Town Code 10-4-3C-12. Jace Baum stated he would build a block building with 12 foot high wall and a metal roof. He said there will be fencing to keep the yard contained and nothing will change along the highway. He said he keeps scrap metal which is taken to the junkyard periodically. He said the property will be maintained and organized.

Motion by Johnson L, 2nd by Ballard, to approve Ordinance No. 2016-04. Motion passed; unanimous

Motion by Johnson L, 2nd by Ballard to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 2016-04. Motion passed; unanimous

Johnson L read Ordinance No. 2016-04 by title only.

- B. Consideration & Possible Approval Resolution No. 2016-14 Adopting Navajo County Community Wildfire Protection Plans. (Brian Richards)

Richards stated that all other communities in the area have adopted the Community Wildfire Protection Plans. He introduced Mary Springer. Mary Springer said the plans have been in place since 2009 and need to be renewed every 5 years incorporating what has changed and incorporating partnerships with fire departments and districts. She said these plans aid when applying for grants to clean up areas. Willie Nelson, Assistant Fire Chief, said there is no negative to approving this and the Town only stands to gain in getting funds. Ballard asked if the

funds would be available to private property in need of clean up. Springer said they are looking into ways to get funding to assist homeowners. Poscharsky said he is concerned with getting funding in case a fire would threaten Snowflake and Taylor. Nelson said this plan does not give grants but puts in a mechanism to move in that direction.

Motion by Ballard, 2nd by Kay, to approve Resolution No. 2016-14 Adopting the Navajo County Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Motion passed; unanimous

C. Consideration & Possible Approval of the Purchase of John Deere 1570 Commercial Mower for Recreation & Parks Department. (Don Camacho)

Camacho said he is seeking approval to purchase the mower. He said an increase in the sales tax raised the cost slightly from what was provided to Council. He said this purchase is budgeted in the Recreation and Parks Department. Johnson L asked if Camacho researched comparables. Camacho said the purchase is through a state contract.

Motion by Johnson C, 2nd by Johnson L, to approve purchase of John Deere 1570 Commercial Mower. Motion passed; unanimous

D. Consideration & Possible Approval of Lease with Wells Fargo for 30 2017 Yamaha Gas Golf Cars. (Brian Richards)

Richards said the lease is up on the existing cars. He said the current lease is for \$1,750 a month and the new lease will be for \$1,932 a month for 48 months with the same leasing company. He said the new cars 23% more efficient and are as quiet as electric cars with more miles per gallon. He said essentially golf cars are a “must have” item.

Motion by Ballard, 2nd by Johnson C, to approve lease with Wells Fargo Leasing for 30 2017 Yamaha Gas Golf Cars. Motion passed; unanimous

F. Discussion regarding use of technology to improve public access to Council Meetings. (Brian Richards)

Poscharsky requested this item be on the agenda. Poscharsky said the meeting was being streamed tonight and that Hensley had researched more information on this item. Hensley expressed concern that there be control over what is being created. He recommended looking into Live Stream.com. He said there are 3 networks in the valley that use this company. He said the company backs up and stores what is created. He said this would allow control over who comments and uses what is created. Poscharsky asked Bob Hall to research regarding the public record aspect of creating recordings. Hensley will head up a committee to look into this item.

G. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: ARS § 38-431.03(A)(3) or § 38-431.03(A)(4)** Discussion or consultation with the attorney or attorneys of the public body for legal advice or to consider its position and instruct its attorneys regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in pending or contemplated litigation, or in settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid or resolve litigation.

1. Litigation

No executive session was needed.

H. Post Executive Session Action

No action—no executive session was held.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Ballard announced today is Bob Hall's birthday. He said he has heard a lot of nice things regarding the roads and appreciates the work that has been done. He said he is excited that the Verizon tower is coming.

Hensley announced that the Snowflake Academy Foundation is going to do a boutique at least 2 times a year. He said the building is continuing to move on. He thanked Officer Martin for his service streaming the Council meetings.

Poscharsky stated that Dr. Thacker works at a new cancer facility in town. Office hours will be 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month in Snowflake. He recognized Barbara Bruce, White Mountain Independent, as an award winning reporter in investigative reporting—3rd Place.

Johnson C said school enrollment is up from last year. He said it is from general population growth and in the last couple of weeks from hiring by Copperstate.

Kay welcomed Fife Symington. He said he appreciates him providing jobs and being a part of community. He said Symington has done all that he said he would do and believes he will continue to do so. Kay said people are moving here because of family values and the people and he is glad to be a part of it.

8. ADJOURNMENT at 8:51 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Town of Snowflake Council meeting held September 27, 2016. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Barbara Flake, Town Clerk