

**MINUTES
EAGAR TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
22 W. 2nd St., Eagar, AZ
October 20, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Kim Holaway called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Mayor Holaway said to let the record show that Vice-Mayor James Nelson, Jr., and Councilor Guy Phelps are absent and that all other council members are present.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Kim Holaway, Mayor
 Byron Smith
 Steve Erhart
 Melissa Webb
 Gary Finch

COUNCIL ABSENT: James Nelson, Jr., Vice Mayor
 Guy Phelps

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Greenwood, Town Manager
 Mike Hogan, Chief of Police
 Katie Wood, Finance Administrator
 Bruce Ray, Community Development Director
 Eva Wilson, Town Clerk

ITEM #5: SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

A. MAYOR

Mayor Kim Holaway announced the Capitol Christmas Tree event that will be held on November 7, 2009, at the rodeo grounds. Everyone is invited for the program; light refreshments will be served.

Eagar will host the Homeland Security meeting on November 12, 2009, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Eagar Council Chambers.

B. COUNCIL

Councilor Byron Smith attended the Springerville-Eagar Regional Chamber of Commerce Board meeting on October 16th. The Chrome in the Dome report asked for \$300 sponsors. The Chamber Board approved the hiring of a new Chamber Director, Becky Christensen. Ms. Christensen is the past Chamber Director of Aztec, NM. The committee was very enthusiastic about her qualifications, background, and experience.

Councilor Smith stated that the White Mountain Regional Transportation Committee for October was cancelled.

Councilor Smith reported that the Little Colorado Recreation Committee is going forward developing a strategic plan. The Committee is contemplating hiring a consultant in fund raising.

Councilor Melissa Webb is currently undertaking NIMS and strategic planning training. She has been attending training regarding H1N1 (Swine Flu) and plans to educate Town of Eagar personnel. The H1N1 vaccination can be obtained at the Apache County Health Department and high-risk groups are being considered first. Northland Pioneer College Springerville-Eagar Campus will hold a H1N1 vaccine clinic on October 27, 2009.

Councilor Gary Finch reported that he has been attending Incident Command training on behalf of the Sheriff's Posse, where the H1N1 has been the topic of discussion. He stressed that the Town needs to review their emergency plan in case of pandemic.

C. STAFF

Town Manager Bill Greenwood reported on the Mayor/Council Association concerns that Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is installing salt brine containers and that they plan to use salt to de-ice the region's highways. It was asked that mayors and councils attend the annual snow removal meeting to protest the salt brine usage. The ADOT meeting will be held in Show Low on October 21, 2009, at 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Show Low Public Library. Public Works Administrator Elwin Browning normally attends these annual meetings and Mr. Greenwood will forward any concerns with Mr. Browning.

Town Clerk Eva Wilson reported that the *Eagar Breeze Newsletter* would be mailed at the end of this week or the first of next.

Police Chief Mike Hogan reported that the police department would be testing five applicants for the vacant officer position. It will be later summer before a non-certified officer will be trained to patrol solo.

Chief Hogan stated that the Apache County Substance Abuse Prevention Summit would be held October 27, 2009, in St. Johns.

Chief Hogan reported that there has been a rash of penned livestock being shot with paintball guns. This is making the livestock very skittish for the owners. The majority of incidents are happening along roads.

Finance Administrator Katie Wood reported that the annual fiscal audit is just about wrapped up; she has two remaining items to submit to the auditors. The audit report will be available much sooner this year than in years past.

ITEM #6: OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Joe Sitarzewski wants to commend Public Works for patching the potholes.

ITEM #7: CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EAGAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD SEPTEMBER 2009

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2009: BANK TRANSMITTALS 1-26, NATIONAL BANK OF AZ CHECKS WRITTEN FROM 26888-27043, PAYROLL DIRECT DEPOSIT VOUCHERS 9100901-9240936, COMMUNITY FIRST CREDIT CARD PURCHASES

Councilor Byron Smith moved to approve the Consent Agenda for filing. Councilor Steve Erhart seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 5-0

ITEM #8: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL REPORT, AND THE TOWN'S SALES TAX REVENUE REPORT

Ms. Wood advised the Council that when the audit adjustments are made, revenues would show a noticeable swing because of July's revenue that is moved back to June. The Town is holding money that is owed to the Town's savings account. When the grant revenue arrives, the savings account will be satisfied.

If the State Shared Revenues are reduced, the Town has budgeted for a 13.5% reduction of these revenues.

Mr. Greenwood reported that he has contacted the Bashas' comptroller in hopes of clarifying the approximate 50% discrepancy over last year's sales tax revenue. All other sales tax areas are normal.

B. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF A CITIZEN REQUEST TO MANDATE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF CATS AND DOGS

Joe Sitarzewski asked that the Council consider this issue. After reviewing various ordinances from other jurisdictions, Chief Hogan determined that there was an additional fee or deposit, or higher fees required when an owner chooses to leave their animal "unaltered".

The Town of Eagar currently abides by State Law in that any animal that is adopted, the owner must make a deposit ensuring that the animal is altered within a designated time frame. If the animal is not altered the deposit remains with the Town; and the deposit is returned if the owner shows proof of the alteration. The Town is unable to alter every dog and cat that is impounded, as there is no insurance that the owner will reimburse the Town.

The number of cats and dogs that are euthanated each year in Eagar alone, 495 in 2007, surprised the Council. After much discussion the Council determined that there are two deterrents to mandatory altering:

- It is not the licensed dogs that are being uncared for and resulting in euthanasia.

- There are pet owners who do not care if their animal is impounded. A mandatory altering program is not going to make them pick up their animals, if anything it will deter them from claiming the animal if they have to pay a higher fee.

Chief Hogan made a recommendation in his report that the public, especially school-aged children be educated about this problem. There was also discussion, and Mr. Sitarzewski volunteered, to place some type of adoption promotion on the Town's website to help some of these unwanted animals be adopted before the Town has to resort to euthanasia.

ITEM #9: NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-08 AMENDING THE TOWN CODE BY AMENDING TITLE 15, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TABLE 1-A – BUILDING FEES

When it was decided that the Impact Fees would be modified, it was recommended that the Building Permit Fees be adjusted to make up for some of the loss of those revenues. After comparing the 1997 fees to the 1988 fee schedule the increase would be from 62% to 73% for the 1997 fee schedule. (The Town is currently on the 1988 fee schedule.) Feeling that the increase was too high; Mr. Ray recommends a 30% increase for a typical 1200 square foot home and up to 42% for a typical 2200 square foot home. The more expensive the project is, the higher the percentage will go up.

The Town automatically modifies the fees based on the nationally published square footage cost for buildings. With the housing market decline, it is safe to say that the square footage cost will be reduced next year; this will lower the cost of building permit fees.

ITEM #10: SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

The Council signed the Minutes of September 2009.

ITEM #11: ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Steve Erhart moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Councilor Byron Smith seconded; all were in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Attest: _____

Mayor: _____

Vice-Mayor _____

Council: _____

Regular Council Session
October 20, 2009

CERTIFICATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular session of the Town of Eagar, Arizona held on October 20, 2009. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Eva M. Wilson, Town Clerk