

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHOW LOW CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 181 NORTH 9TH STREET, SHOW LOW, NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZONA

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Leech called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Leech, Vice Mayor Kakavas, Councilman Adams, Councilman Allsop, Councilman Clark, Councilman Hatch, and Councilwoman Wilson.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Muder, City Manager; F. Morgan Brown, City Attorney; Justin Johnson, Deputy City Manager; Bill Kopp, Public Works Director; Brad Provost, Police Commander; Jeff McNeil, Police Commander; Joe Shelley, Police Chief; Rick Austin, Public Works Operations Manager; Tom Bahr, Airport Manager; Nicole Hudson, Legal Assistant; Rachael Hall, Deputy City Clerk; and Tamra Reidhead, City Clerk.

GUESTS: Laura Singleton and others.

3. Invocation.

Councilman Adams gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Mayor Kakavas led the Council and audience in pledge of allegiance.

A brief video in honor of former Councilman Kelley was shown.

5. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Any citizen desiring to speak on a matter that IS NOT scheduled on this agenda may do so at this time. Comments may be limited to three minutes per person and shall be addressed to the City Council as a whole, and not to any individual member. Issues raised shall be limited to those within the jurisdiction of the City Council. Pursuant to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the City Council cannot discuss or act on items presented at this time. At the conclusion of the call to the public, individual City Council members may (1) respond to criticism made by those who have spoken, (2) ask staff to review a matter, and (3) ask that a matter be put on a future agenda.

None.

6. **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- A. Promotion of Detective Troy Eberline to Police Sergeant. (Joe Shelley)

Chief Shelley said he was proud to promote Troy Eberline to police sergeant. He presented Troy Eberline as Show Low's newest sergeant. Sergeant Eberline's wife, Katie, pinned his new badge on his uniform.

- B. Presentation of "State of the City" Address. (Mayor John Leech, Jr.)

Mayor Leech and the Council presented the "State of the City" address (see Attachment "A").

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A. Consideration of Second Addendum to Portable Hangar Use Agreement from Doug Riggins to Stephen and Jane C. Aeschlimann. (Tom Bahr)

- B. Consideration Noncommercial Ground Lease with J & C Companies, LLC and Termination of Noncommercial Ground Lease with J & R Property Holdings, LLC at Show Low Regional Airport. (Tom Bahr)

- C. Consideration of Award of Purchase of City of Show Low Vehicles. (Rick Austin)

- D. Consideration of Minutes of Show Low City Council meetings:
(1) Regular Meeting of January 5, 2021.

COUNCILMAN CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED; SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR KAKAVAS; PASSED 7 TO 0 WITH MAYOR LEECH, VICE MAYOR KAKAVAS, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS ADAMS, ALLSOP, CLARK, HATCH, AND WILSON VOTING IN FAVOR.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Consideration of Approval of List for Job Order Qualified Contractors for Water Wells. (Rick Austin)

Mr. Austin said the City of Show Low's water production system included 14 wells. The depth of these wells ranged from approximately 550 to 800 feet. The sizes of the wells ranged from four to sixteen inches and

production ranged from 120 to 700 gallons per minute. The system included submersible and line-shaft vertical turbine pumps. The average water use in the system was about 900,000 gallons per day.

Mr. Austin said the wells required regular maintenance and replacement. The abrasive effect of the native Coconino sands in the aquifer wore pumps at a fast rate. Most pumps in the system were replaced every three to five years. The City's water system was operated as an enterprise fund, with a total maintenance budget of approximately \$290,000.00 per year.

Mr. Austin said the City of Show Low conducted a competitive process to retain up to three contractors for a job order contract (JOC) to provide labor, furnish and install materials relating to repairing and maintaining water wells, and repair existing water facilities at various locations. JOCs would streamline procuring well repair and replacement services in days instead of weeks. Time was especially critical during high-water usage during the spring months. Each individual project would be bid competitively among the three approved firms.

Mr. Austin said individual job orders should not exceed \$125,000.00 and a majority of the well projects should not exceed \$50,000.00. The estimated annual budget for well maintenance was about \$200,000.00. The term of these contracts would be three years with two one-year renewal options. Services would be requested on an as-needed, if-needed basis, and the resultant contract was not a commitment by the City that the contractor's services would be required.

Mr. Austin said in December 2020, City staff solicited statements of qualification for well service firms to provide job order contracting services. The solicitation process followed Arizona Revised Statutes Title 34 wherein prospective companies submitted statements of qualifications, which were reviewed and ranked by a selection committee of City staff and a licensed contractor. A total of six statements of qualifications were received and graded, resulting in the following list of three qualified firms:

Willis Drilling and Pump
Beeman Drilling
Weber Water Resources

VICE MAYOR KAKAVAS MOVED TO APPROVE THE LIST OF QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS FOR WATER WELLS AND TO ENTER INTO JOB ORDER CONTRACTS WITH THE LISTED FIRMS; SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN WILSON; PASSED 7 TO 0 WITH

**MAYOR LEECH, VICE MAYOR KAKAVAS, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
ADAMS, ALLSOP, CLARK, HATCH, AND WILSON VOTING IN FAVOR.**

9. **SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS:**

A. Council Members

Councilman Allsop attended a Meals on Wheels meeting. He encouraged citizens to contribute to the Senior Center through the tax credit program. He shared that he went on a ride-along with Sergeant Clark and encouraged citizens to sign up for a ride-along with the police department to learn more about what they do on a daily basis. He thanked staff for the tribute video shown for former Councilman Kelley.

Councilwoman Wilson reminded citizens that beginning this year law enforcement could write citations for any citizen using a cellphone while driving. Citizens could use their cellphones in a hands-free mode only.

Councilman Clark participated in an Arizona League of Cities Legislative call. He encouraged citizens to know the issues that were being discussed at the State Legislature.

Vice Mayor Kakavas said the number of positive COVID-19 cases continued to climb. She said vaccinations were being distributed and citizens could register for a vaccine at www.podvaccine.azdhs.gov or www.summithealthcare.net.

Councilman Hatch encouraged citizens to register for the COVID-19 vaccine.

B. Mayor

Mayor Leech said the City began preparations for the eighth annual BBQ Throwdown special event. More information would be forthcoming.

Mayor Leech presented Ms. Reidhead with a clock from the Council for her years of service and thanked her for her service.

Vice Mayor Kakavas said Ms. Reidhead had provided excellent representation for the City and thanked her for her service.

Councilman Hatch thanked Ms. Reidhead for her service.

C. City Manager

Mr. Muder thanked Ms. Reidhead for her many years of service.

Mr. Muder said the City had begun the process to prepare the City's fiscal year 2022 budget. A town hall budget meeting specifically for citizen input would be held on January 21. All budget meetings were open to the public.

Mr. Muder said the City had been awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, by the Government Finance Officers Association. He congratulated the finance staff for their commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

Mr. Muder said in public works projects, the City's contractor continued working on the SR260 waterline crossing project at night. The crossing at Auto Zone was just completed, and they would be working on the final crossing near the Victorian building next. Work continued on the West Cooley phase II sewer project along West Cooley between 4th and 8th Avenues. Work was also continuing on the fence in the Meadow along White Mountain Road. He thanked the citizens for their patience as these important projects were completed.

10. **SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS:**

Scheduling of meetings, which may be brought up at this time.

None.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.**

There being no further business to be brought before the Council, **MAYOR LEECH ADJOURNED THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHOW LOW CITY COUNCIL OF JANUARY 19, 2021 AT 7:44 P.M.**

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Rachael Hall, City Clerk

John Leech, Jr., Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council of Show Low held on January 19, 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____.

(SEAL)

Rachael Hall, City Clerk

STATE OF THE CITY

January 19, 2021

MAYOR LEECH – The start of the new year is the perfect time to reflect on what we accomplished last year and to share our plans for 2021. Your City Council has identified four major priorities that drive our policies and decisions: (1) to preserve and repair our infrastructure (especially roads, water, and sewer), (2) to pursue community and economic development, (3) to improve our quality of life (including better safety, education, and opportunities), and (4) to maintain an organization with solid and stable leadership. Our major accomplishments over the past year, our financial health and outlook, and our future plans consistently support these four priorities.

Our city's economic outlook continues a steady upward trend. As evidence, monthly sales tax revenues in 2020 showed increases over 2019, with retail comprising almost 80% of total collections. We saw increased construction activity in the residential sector, with 2020 being our most active year for residential construction since 2007.

Our longstanding policy of fiscal conservatism and saving money for the future allows us every year to complete important projects. 2020 was no exception and we completed several key projects to maintain and improve existing infrastructure.

COUNCILMAN ALLSOP – In road projects, we used Community Development Block Grant funds to revitalize the downtown by constructing roadway and pedestrian improvements along East Hall between North 11th Street and South White Mountain Road, including new curbing, gutters, sidewalks, and paved parking. A walking path was completed on 16th Avenue from McNeil to Old Linden Road, including new concrete curbing, gutters, sidewalks, and decorative wood fencing.

In wastewater projects, we completed sewer improvements on West Cooley from Central to 8th Avenue, and replaced sewer lines on 24th Drive.

In water projects, we upgraded waterline lines citywide, including in Cub Lake Road and Siesta Lane, and water line improvements were completed on West Cooley from Central to 8th Avenue. We began work on the Deuce of Clubs and White Mountain Road waterline crossing improvements, which will take place at four separate locations.

And a newly designed entryway sign was installed at the US60 and SR260 intersection to welcome visitors to Show Low.

With your safety in mind, since 2018 our police department has expanded dispatching capabilities with intergovernmental dispatching agreements with the Towns of Pinetop-Lakeside, Snowflake, and Taylor and five area fire districts. Consolidated dispatching has greatly improved response times and citizen safety across southern Navajo County.

COUNCILMAN CLARK – In pursuit of economic development and business growth, we welcomed Culver's Restaurant that opened along Evergreen and South White Mountain

Road in early 2020, and construction was completed on a new store and standalone car wash at the new Circle K on White Mountain Road.

Boutique Air, the city's commuter airline since August 2015, continues daily flights between Show Low and Phoenix with steady use by passengers. Even with the pandemic, Boutique was able to average about 79% of passenger numbers in 2020 compared to 2019, which was better than the industry average, which reported about 40% of passenger numbers compared to 2019.

We're proud of our heritage of bringing hope and the prospect of a better life through our community projects and holiday assistance programs. In observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, the city has sponsored an annual service day since 2009, but because of COVID-19, we didn't do a project in 2020. However, depending on conditions, we have tentatively scheduled a Day of Service this year on April 24. We also supported the 8th annual Community Fast of Compassion, helping our community raise a record \$47,000+ for individuals and families in need during the holidays. We thank everyone who donated their time, money, and efforts.

We held our election in August, with three council seats and the mayor's seat on the ballot. All seats were for four-year terms. Councilwoman Connie Kakavas was re-elected and newcomers Jon Adams and Dawn Wilson were also elected. John Leech, Jr. won the mayor's race.

COUNCILWOMAN WILSON – In terms of our financial position, the Council and staff are committed to using your taxpayer dollars wisely. Our conservative fiscal policy ensures we have the necessary funds to meet your needs and withstand economic downturns. We never spend more than we've budgeted. We also save money to pay for at least a portion of larger, more expensive projects in future years. Our department managers share that vision by carefully analyzing every program to ensure efficiency. We're proud to say our fiscal policies have allowed Show Low to survive difficult economic times and see modest growth.

We believe in retaining local control over the city's budget, which must be balanced according to state law. To protect you and our city's assets, we have two permanent mandates—to maintain at least a minimum of a million dollars in reserves and to require a super-majority vote of the sitting Council to approve any tax increase.

Our cost-conscious approach supports our pledge to deliver full police and public works services, community events, and recreational activities to meet your needs and interests. We offered our 22nd annual free Project Clean Sweep beautification program, provided a Christmas tree recycling site, and co-sponsored the 12th annual electronic waste and used tires collection event, with Navajo County.

VICE MAYOR KAKAVAS – To improve your quality of life—another Council priority—our employees are dedicated to providing a variety of events, including sports leagues, kids' and family-friendly events, library and aquatic center activities, holiday happenings,

and music in our parks.

Although we had to cancel our Fourth of July parade and FreedomFest in 2020, we are hopeful that we can again celebrate our freedom in 2021 with spectators and participants from across the region. Our signature Show Low Shines for the Holidays illuminated our city with sparkling Christmas lights and holiday spirit. The beautiful lights in our downtown area drew praise from residents and visitors alike, and our Christmas Light Parade was enjoyed by spectators in person and online, hosted by Show Low TV.

To improve amenities and attractions, at Archibeque and Raeland Parks, we installed new playground structures and concrete curbing. A new ramada was built at Raeland, while an expanded playground surface was added at Archibeque. We completed improvements at the Old Pavilion at City Park, including restoring the fireplace, installing underground power, and adding new asphalt in the parking area. The pavilion and restroom facility at the Show Low Bluff trailhead were completed, and grant funds were used to construct a 2,000 lineal foot American With Disabilities Act walking path along Show Low Creek. Two fishing piers, also grant funded, were built alongside the path. We're also researching the feasibility of developing a convention, events, and sports facility in Show Low—a long-term vision to make our city a destination.

COUNCILMAN ADAMS – Looking ahead to 2021, our plans include:

- Completing the fence in the Meadow along SR260 near the new pavilion and along White Mountain Road.
- Completing decorative lighting and trees along East Hall between North 11th Street and South White Mountain Road.
- Making sewer capacity improvements in East Savage and replacing wastewater manholes.
- Replacing waterlines in Fawn Brook subdivision and installing a new 1 million gallon water storage tank.
- Replacing waterlines in 11th Avenue between West Owens and West McNeil.
- Making roadway improvements including adding a sidewalk along Show Low Lake Road from Scott Ranch Road to Show Low Lake Campground.
- Constructing West Owens between Pine Haven subdivision and the existing portion of West Owens behind Horne Auto.
- Repaving 14th Loop subdivision, Hillcross subdivision, 6th Street, and 16th Avenue.
- Improving city campus parking lot by adding lighting, sidewalks, and new pavement.
- Also this year, ADOT will mill and repave the Deuce of Clubs and SR260 from the Deuce of Clubs to Wagon Wheel, with new right-turn lanes added and better alignment at the South White Mountain Road, Show Low Lake Road, and Cub Lake Road intersection.
- Installing several more newly designed entryway signs welcoming visitors to Show Low.

We will continue to collaborate with other communities to provide added-value services to our region, such as our much-needed transit system and supporting tourism marketing efforts.

COUNCILMAN HATCH – We attribute much of our success to the able assistance of our employees and volunteers who deliver their best to serve you. Our advisory committees, Senior Patrol, and Library Friends all provide their services for free—saving taxpayer dollars. Come volunteer your time, talents, or materials to better our community. We invite you to join us on April 24 for our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service project. Or participate in our civic process when the Council and staff meet to discuss next fiscal year's budget. Every budget meeting, held here in Council Chambers, is open to the public. We begin the process in January, with a town hall-style meeting designed specifically for citizen input this Thursday, January 21, at 6:00 p.m. We'll hold another budget town hall for public input on Thursday, April 15. The entire budget calendar is posted on our website.

Your City Council thanks you for your confidence in our ability to handle city affairs, a sentiment shared by your fellow Americans. Polls show that for more than a decade, Americans continue to trust local governments more than state governments or the federal government. Because the Council and our staff are dedicated to remain accessible to you, we welcome your feedback, we are responsive and transparent, and we work together as a group in a non-partisan way.

MAYOR LEECH – We want to thank the residents who took the time to participate in the 2020 Census. While it only took a few minutes to complete the questionnaire, the city will benefit for years to come. Every resident who was counted equals more shared revenues for our city--revenues which are used to build and maintain roads, provide water and sewer services, recreational facilities and parks, and fund the police, senior citizen centers, schools and day care centers.

The political and social landscape has gone through many changes over the past year. Let that not deter us from supporting each other, focusing on the positive, and enriching the world as we embark on the new year. Let us leave behind a legacy of a better city for tomorrow and for future generations.

2020 was a difficult year in some regards, including losing two outstanding Council members, Gene Kelley and Rennie Crittenden. They both gave many years of dedicated service to our community, and their influence on the Council will be remembered for many years to come.

We appreciate all you do to make our community a wonderful place to live. We thank all of you—our citizens—and wish you and your family the best of health, peace, and happiness in 2021, and may God continue to bless us and prosper our community