

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT STUDY SESSION OF THE SHOW LOW CITY COUNCIL AND PINETOP-LAKESIDE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE PUBLIC SAFETY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING (DARRIN REED MEMORIAL COMMUNITY ROOM), 411 EAST DEUCE OF CLUBS, SHOW LOW, NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZONA**

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Leech of the City of Show Low called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

**SHOW LOW CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor John Leech, Vice Mayor Connie Kakavas, Council members Jon Adams, Mike Allsop, Brandt Clark, Brent Hatch, and Dawn Wilson.

**SHOW LOW CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**PINETOP-LAKESIDE TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Stephanie Irwin; Vice Mayor Jerry Smith; and Council members Sterling Beus, Mazie Hastings, Lynn Krigbaum, Jim Snitzer, and Paul Watson.

**PINETOP-LAKESIDE TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**CITY OF SHOW LOW STAFF PRESENT:** Ed Muder, City Manager; F. Morgan Brown, City Attorney; Justin Johnson, Deputy City Manager; Brad Provost, Interim Police Chief; Jay Brimhall, Community Services Director; Lisa Robertson, Grants and Transit Manager; and Rachael Hall, City Clerk.

**TOWN OF PINETOP-LAKESIDE STAFF PRESENT:** Keith Johnson, Town Manager; Kevin Rodolph, Finance Director; Matt Patterson, Public Works Director; Jill Akins, Town Clerk; Tony Alba, Community Services Manager; and Annie DeRosier, Marketing Coordinator.

**GUESTS:** Doug Roberts.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Wilson led the Councils and audience in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Invocation.

Councilman Clark gave the invocation.

5. Discussion of Local Special Events. (Mayor Leech)

Mayor Leech suggested that each community work together to promote each other's special events on social media and on their websites. He said it was important to promote and know all activities that were being done in the area to let visitors and citizens know about all activities.

Mayor Irwin agreed and said communication was important between the two communities.

Ms. DeRosier said the White Mountain Partnership was a group that the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside (Town) and City of Show Low (City) staff members were involved in and the target for the group was to communicate and promote all special events that were in the White Mountain area. She said the focus of the group was promoting tourism for the area.

Mayor Leech mentioned he was not able to find the White Mountain Partnership's social media pages and believed it should be better promoted for citizens to find. Ms. DeRosier said the Facebook page was called "AZ White Mountains" and it was hard to find because it had not been active recently.

Mr. Alba said with regular communication between the Town and City staff he believed each community could find better ways to promote each other's special events. He suggested meeting with the City's communication manager once a month to plan and gather information on special events. He said each community could post each other's flyers and information to social media and websites.

Mr. Alba said the Town and City could collaborate or co-sponsor events in the future to help with tourism for both communities.

6. Update on Regional Transit System. (Lisa Robertson, City of Show Low)

Ms. Robertson gave an overview of the transit system. She said the Four Seasons Connection and White Mountain Connection were the two bus lines servicing the White Mountains. Four Seasons Connection began operating in 1997 and served Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside, and the Hon-Dah Resort Hotel and Conference Center. White Mountain Connection between Pinetop-Lakeside and Holbrook began in 2009 and ran three times a day, five days a week.

Ms. Robertson said overall ridership was down by 33% in the last year due to COVID-19 restrictions. She said the senior bus-pass program, where citizens aged 60 and older could ride the buses for free, continued doing fairly well. This program was funded by Northern Arizona Council of Governments and she hoped they would fund it indefinitely.

Ms. Robertson said the current fleet had mostly new vehicles. Staff would start working on grant funding to begin replacing bus shelters around the community.

She hoped that by mid-year of 2022 there would be more sturdy shelters in place for citizens waiting for transportation.

Mayor Leech asked about the process to add or move a bus stop. Ms. Robertson said the process to add or move a bus stop location was for staff to review ingress and egress of the suggested location to determine if the bus could get in and out of easily and also determine if the property was public or private property.

Councilwoman Hastings asked if a bus stop could be added to the Senior Center in the Town. She commented that senior citizens often took the bus to the Town's library and would walk to the Senior Center but it was a long walk for them. Ms. Robertson said staff could review the location for an additional bus stop.

Vice Mayor Smith thanked Ms. Robertson for her work with the transit system.

7. Update on White Mountains TRACKS Trail System. (Council member Krigbaum/  
Council member Snitzer)

Councilwoman Krigbaum gave a brief overview on the White Mountains TRACKS Trail System which was a volunteer group dedicated in promoting and preserving trails in the area. She said there were 200 miles of non-motorized trails in the area that the group of 450 members helped maintain. TRACKS was free to join and citizens could sign up online. The group met every second Saturday of each month except in June where they were scheduled to meet on June 5 at Woodland Lake Park to celebrate National Trails Day.

Councilman Snitzer said the non-motorized trails were a great asset for the communities and brought in a lot of summer visitors.

Vice Mayor Smith said a group called the White Mountain Open Trails Association was working on creating the "Alpine Trail" that would connect to a large trail system starting from Payson and would go through Heber, Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside, Springerville and Hannigan Meadow. He said the loop would connect each town and would be primarily used by off-highway vehicles. He said this trail system would encourage visitors to visit and stay in the communities they went through and could provide economic benefits for each community. He said the group would be meeting with each municipality to review and research routes that officials would want the trail to go through.

8. Adjournment.

The joint study session of the Show Low City Council and the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council of May 25, 2021 adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachael Hall, City Clerk

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John Leech, Jr., Mayor

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**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the **JOINT STUDY SESSION** of the City Council of Show Low and the Town Council of Pinetop-Lakeside held on May 25, 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