

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF THE SHOW LOW CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 181 NORTH 9TH STREET, SHOW LOW, NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZONA

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Seymore called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Daryl Seymore, Vice Mayor Mike Allsop, and Council members Rennie Crittenden, Brent Hatch, Connie Kakavas, and Gene Kelley.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: John Leech, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT: Ed Muder, City Manager; F. Morgan Brown, City Attorney; Jay Brimhall, Community Services Director; Justin Johnson, Administrative Services Director; Bill Kopp, Public Works Director; Rick Austin, Public Works Operations Manager; Joe Shelley, Chief of Police; and Ann Kurasaki, City Clerk.

GUESTS: Steve Williams, Navajo County Supervisor; Brad Carlyon, Navajo County Attorney; Glenn Kephart, Navajo County Manager; Bryan Layton, Navajo County Assistant Manager; and Tom Kakavas.

3. Discussion and Impacts Regarding Proposed Jail District.

Mayor Seymore introduced County Supervisor Steve Williams. Supervisor Williams said County Attorney Brad Carlyon, County Manager Glenn Kephart, and Assistant County Manager Bryan Layton were also present tonight to discuss the jail district proposal. He said last year the Board of Supervisors placed a proposition on the ballot asking voters to approve a special taxing jail district to lessen the negative financial impacts of the coal-powered plants closing. Sadly, the proposition failed by about 160 votes out of an estimated 35,000 votes cast. The County Sheriff was anticipating going before the Board at the next meeting to ask that the Board consider presenting it to voters again. They were here tonight to talk about the reasons for a jail district and to answer questions.

Specifically, Supervisor Williams wanted to discover what kind of support or concerns each of the Council members had about this proposal. If it were to return to the voters, it probably wouldn't have much chance of passing unless there was a unified voice of support from the cities, towns, and county.

Supervisor Williams said in the last decade, the county had cut 16% of its jobs because of legislative cost shifts by the state of about \$5 million. The impending

loss of the power plants also cut revenues. The county housed federal inmates and Hopi tribal members, but the Hopi Tribe just broke ground on a jail of its own, resulting in another revenue loss. This fiscal year, the budget was reduced by half a million dollars and another \$2 million reduction was projected for next year. Although he firmly believed in streamlining and efficiency, there came a point of no return and the county was no longer able to provide what it was mandated to do.

Mayor Seymore said he had been invited to attend next Tuesday's Board meeting to show support for the jail district but he didn't want to do without the Council's support. He asked for their thoughts.

Councilman Hatch asked how many inmates the new Hopi prison would hold. Mr. Carlyon said it would be large enough to house at least the current Hopi tribal inmates of about 70. Councilman Hatch asked about the Navajos. Mr. Carlyon said the county normally did not house Navajo National tribal members, but they did have some White Mountain Apache tribal members. They also accepted federal prisoners if they could to earn revenue.

Councilman Crittenden felt a major responsibility of government was law enforcement and ensuring citizens' safety. He supported a jail district as long as it improved public safety.

Mayor Seymore asked what the sales tax increase would be. Supervisor Williams said it would be a third of a cent, the same amount as presented to the voters last year. The tax was not tied to property taxes.

Mr. Carlyon said this tax would not generate more money to provide more services. The county was merely trying to replace what it lost to the state when the burden of costs shifted to the county.

Councilwoman Kakavas asked how the jail district tax not passing affected the City. Mr. Layton said cities and towns would have to pay for services now provided by the county to prisoners, especially medical costs. The county could no longer sustain full costs for prisoners. For example, the county spent over \$600,000 annually for 24/7 medical coverage in the jail. They also provided emergency medical care, about \$300,000 this year. Staff was analyzing the Sheriff's budget to determine what costs could be shifted to cities and towns. Mr. Kephart said jail fees the City currently paid would disappear if the jail district passed. Mr. Layton said it came to about \$130,000 a year for Show Low.

Mr. Carlyon said the daily cost of charges and booking costs would increase and medical costs, as Mr. Layton said, would shift to the City. The County Attorney's office would no longer be able to handle misdemeanor prosecutions, which took about 30% of his work week. These costs, i.e., paying for a municipal judge,

would have to be shouldered by the City. In addition, the City would have to hire public defenders and their administrative costs, which included sending letters to all victims (which usually averaged about ten letters per victim). There were other partnerships between the City and the county that would cease.

Councilwoman Kakavas asked if any of the county officials knew why voters opposed the ballot proposition last year. Supervisor Williams said many voters didn't understand what it meant. Although county representatives made 45 presentations prior to the election, it was apparent that further education was needed. At one meeting, there was opposition and general disdain for government; at others, there was some support but they didn't understand the question. One important note was that the Board of Supervisors was authorized by the State Legislature to send it back to the voters, but only if it was done again this year. If the county missed this window of opportunity, it would take another act of the Legislature. Mr. Carlyon explained that this authorization was granted because it was a sales tax and not a property tax.

Mr. Carlyon said part of the problem with last year's election was the number of ballot propositions and contested elections. What was heartening was that south of I-40, about 45% of the voters supported the tax. They learned that where they delivered the message, support ensued. He felt as a standalone issue and with every elected official voicing their support, it could pass next time. He urged the Council members to attend next Tuesday's to show support and learn more why this tax was critical. When the public saw other government entities understanding and supporting the need, maybe voters would listen and understand the tax would sustain the level of services the county currently provided.

Mayor Seymore asked if the question would be on the Primary Election ballot in August. Mr. Kephart said yes.

Councilwoman Kakavas said she supported Mayor Seymore representing the City at the upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting.

4. Discussion Regarding Future Plans for Butler Property.

Mr. Kopp said the Council approved purchasing the Butler building a couple months ago and staff was looking for a beneficial use. The Parks and Facilities Maintenance division recently joined the Public Works department and needed a centrally located storage and shop area. The parks crew had materials at every park and at the cemetery, and it was preferable to store and access everything in one central location.

Mr. Kopp said the current building layout showed it had been divided into many rooms over the years. In its current state, the building wouldn't serve their storage needs.

Mr. Kopp presented a revised building layout that showed the main room would be used as a shop for equipment (e.g., lawn tractors and mowers), storage, and inventory plus other rooms and areas to store custodial items and cleaning supplies, hardware and materials for locks, hand tools, electrical supplies, and a shop with woodworking tools. The roof also needed to be repaired.

Mr. Kopp said in terms of the Butler building and surrounding property, plans for the larger area included adding 24 parking spaces and patching cracked concrete in the existing parking area, repairing and/or relocating fencing and gates along Old Linden Road, constructing outdoor storage, regrading and leveling the old pond, removing the Russian olive trees near the pond, and removing rock piles.

Mr. Muder said staff had previously shared ideas about the larger Butler property. For minimal expense, staff envisioned making minor repairs and working with the disc golf group to build a course and with a bike group to build bike trails. Mayor Seymore noted that adding parking spaces would give people to access to the bike trails and disc golf.

Councilman Crittenden asked about costs. Mr. Kopp said with the exception of some asphalt for parking expansion, fencing materials, and hiring a roofer, all work would be done by City crews so costs would be minimal. Mr. Austin estimated \$35,000 to repair the roof.

Mr. Muder said when the master plan for the Butler property was developed, the City wasn't considering purchasing the Butler building so that changed the parking layout.

Mr. Brimhall said there was lots of parking adjacent to Old Linden Road. The plans and locations were preliminary. He said adding a disc golf course would be relatively inexpensive. And staff was working on an idea with local bike enthusiasts to add bike trails. The idea of adding an amphitheater, pavilion (for use by families for parties and picnics), and restroom facility along the northwest side had been introduced to the Council. And unorganized grass fields were added after the Council expressed interest in adding them. Councilman Crittenden asked him what he meant by "unorganized." Mr. Brimhall said the Council had asked staff to incorporate non-sports grassy areas to use for picnics and as play areas.

Mayor Seymore asked if the design of the property allowed such events as Show Low Days or the BBQ Throwdown to be held there. He noted the plans didn't

show drainage to address any possible floodplain issues. Mr. Brimhall said staff didn't think this area would be the best venue for these types of events. The ideas were simply conceptual, so drainage issues would need to be addressed. Mayor Seymore wondered about moving the amphitheater to the east side and adding amenities on the south side instead of the west side.

Councilman Crittenden asked if the plans included taking back the property the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) was using currently. Mr. Muder said the area in question was west of the parking area and would be a joint parking area that VFW patrons could use. The ideas shown were conceptual, but staff was interested in moving ahead with using the Butler building as a storage facility.

Councilwoman Kakavas asked if smaller pavilions could be erected rather than one large one. Mr. Kopp said yes, there could be smaller restrooms and more pavilions.

Vice Mayor Allsop envisioned this area as a venue for the annual farmers' market & art walk, with vendors putting up their own canopies. He liked the idea of adding grassy areas, which he thought was more feasible than putting a disc golf course in the middle of the property. He wanted it to accommodate a broader range of uses rather than a few disc golfers.

Mayor Seymore asked how much it would cost to create a disc golf course of 9 or 18 holes. Mr. Brimhall said about \$9,000 for 9 holes or \$18,000 for 18. Mr. Muder said the golf course would be primarily around the perimeter.

Vice Mayor Allsop noted there was nothing marked for access from the Deuce of Clubs. Mr. Muder said there was an access but it had been earmarked primarily for commercial use. For recreational purposes, the access on Old Linden Road and Central was probably sufficient.

Councilman Kelley asked if the grassy areas would have to be mowed and maintained regularly. Mr. Muder said everything wouldn't happen at once. This was a future plan as there were other parks in the City that were higher priority. The bicycle trails and disc golf course were interim plans.

Vice Mayor Allsop liked creating a park in which the entire family could recreate and enjoy.

Councilwoman Kakavas asked if staff had thought about water features or ponds. Mr. Brimhall said the students involved in the EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service) program had suggested some water features. It was an idea to consider.

Mr. Muder told the Council members if any of them had issues or concerns about staff's proposals, to contact him. If no other comments were made, staff would move forward with their plans to use the Butler building for storage.

5. Adjournment.

There being no further discussion, **MAYOR SEYMORE ADJOURNED THE STUDY SESSION OF THE SHOW LOW CITY COUNCIL OF FEBRUARY 5, 2019, AT 6:51 P.M.**

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Ann Kurasaki, City Clerk

Daryl Seymore, Mayor

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the **STUDY SESSION** of the City Council of Show Low held on February 5, 2019. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____.

(SEAL)

Ann Kurasaki, City Clerk