



City of Apache Junction, Arizona

Meeting Minutes City Council Meeting

Meeting location:

City Council Chambers
at City Hall
300 E. Superstition Blvd
Apache Junction, AZ
85119

apachejunctionaz.gov
Ph: (480) 982-8002

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wilson called the city council meeting to order.

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Rizzi gave the invocation and then council said the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Wilson
Vice Mayor Rizzi
Councilmember Evans
Councilmember Schroeder
Councilmember Biggs
Councilmember Nesser
Councilmember Gremmel

City Staff in Attendance:

Bryant Powell, City Manager
Matt Busby, Assistant City Manager
Joel Stern, City Attorney
Jennifer Pena, City Clerk
Al Bravo, Public Information Officer
Thomas Kelly, Chief of Police
Raquel Schatz, Project Engineer
Jill Bright, Deputy City Clerk (remotely)

D. CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Mayor Rizzi moved, seconded by Councilmember Nesser to accept the consent agenda as presented.

Yes: 7 - Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Rizzi, Councilmember Evans, Councilmember Schroeder, Councilmember Biggs, Councilmember Nesser and Councilmember Gremmel

No: 0

1. [21-235](#) Consideration of acceptance of agenda.
2. [21-236](#) Consideration of approval of minutes of the regular meeting of May 4, 2021.

E. AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

3. [21-215](#) Certificate of Appreciation to Councilmember Tess Nesser for her volunteer efforts in the Criminal Investigation Division of Public Safety.

Chief Kelly presented a certificate of appreciation to Councilmember Nesser for her many years of volunteer work in the Criminal Investigation Division in the Police Department.

Councilmember Nesser thanked Chief Kelly and encouraged everyone in the community to volunteer. She said that it took her five years to get all of the cases logged and complete the project.

F. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CURRENT EVENTS

4. [21-238](#) Announcement of current events from mayor and councilmembers.

Councilmember Biggs shared that he attended a meeting hosted by Congressman Gosar in regards to the potential closure of the Apache Junction Social Security Office. He is still working on the largest flag in Arizona project. Founders Centennial Day is going to be January 8, 2022 at Prospector Park.

Councilmember Gremmel shared that Kiwanis is inviting the community to get involved. The meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Salvation Army.

Councilmember Nesser shared that the shop local program started May 1st and goes until October 31st and cards can be picked up at the Chamber. Spring into Savings program is still occurring at the Chamber and their annual golf tournament is September 24th.

Mayor Wilson shared that he also attended the meeting hosted by Congressman Gosar and he would like the council to send out another letter in opposition of the relocation of the social security office.

G. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

5. [21-237](#) City Manager's Report.

City Manager Bryant Powell shared a positive comment from a citizen who applauded the code compliance staff and the visual improvement of the city. He reminded council that tomorrow is Chief Farber's retirement party. Officer Eaton's daughter was killed in a car accident and her funeral was today and his thoughts are with him and his family. He clarified that the next step in the medical marijuana item is continued to a public hearing on June 1st.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. [21-216](#) Consideration of application for a permanent extension of premises for Dirtwater Springs located at 586 W. Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ, 85120. The next step in the process is for the council to hold a public hearing on the application and make a recommendation of approval or denial to be forwarded to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control.

Vice Mayor Rizzi moved, seconded by Councilmember Schroeder that the application for a permanent extension of premises for Dirtwater Springs located at 586 W. Apache Trail be recommended for approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses & Control.

Yes: 7 - Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Rizzi, Councilmember Evans, Councilmember Schroeder, Councilmember Biggs, Councilmember Nesser and Councilmember Gremmel

No: 0

City Clerk Jennifer Pena explained that Dirtwater Springs is requesting a permanent extension of premises. It is the same area that council previously approved for a temporary extension of premises and all divisions recommend approval.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing.

Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing and asked for a motion.

I. OLD BUSINESS

J. NEW BUSINESS

7. [21-240](#) Presentation, discussion and consideration of Resolution No. 21-09, a resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Apache Junction, Arizona, authorizing the City to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Arizona's Department of Transportation (ADOT) for the Delaware Drive Roadway Improvement Project.

Councilmember Biggs moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Rizzi that Resolution No. 21-09, a resolution of the mayor and city council of the City of Apache Junction, AZ authorizing the city to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Arizona's Department of Transportation for the Delaware Drive Roadway Improvement project be approved.

Yes: 7 - Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Rizzi, Councilmember Evans, Councilmember Schroeder, Councilmember Biggs, Councilmember Nesser and Councilmember Gremmel

No: 0

Project Engineer Raquel Schatz presented that staff is requesting council to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Arizona Department of Transportation for roadway improvements on Delaware Drive from 16th Avenue to Broadway Avenue. The improvements include sidewalks, bicycle lanes, curb, gutter, center shared turn lane, street lights and storm drain. The city has been approved for federal aid funds in the amount of \$3,108,422.00 which leaves the city's cost at \$598,910.00 for the entire project. Design is anticipated to begin this fall with construction anticipated to start in 2024.

K. COUNCIL DIRECTION TO STAFF

L. SELECTION OF MEETING DATES, TIMES, LOCATIONS, AND PURPOSES

8. [21-239](#) Executive Session at 6:00 P.M. for Tuesday, June 1st in the city council conference room located at 300 E. Superstition Boulevard in Apache Junction, Arizona and other meetings scheduled if necessary.

Vice Mayor Rizzi moved, seconded by Councilmember Schroeder that an Executive Session at 6:00 P.M. for Tuesday, June 1, 2021 be held in the city council conference room located at 300 E. Superstition Boulevard in Apache Junction, AZ, and other meetings be scheduled if necessary.

Yes: 7 - Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Rizzi, Councilmember Evans, Councilmember Schroeder, Councilmember Biggs, Councilmember Nesser and Councilmember Gremmel

No: 0

M. CALL TO PUBLIC

Lynn Lawson, 2605 S. Tomahawk Road, has previous experience working with the mentally ill and has learned that Apache Junction has criminalized the homeless with an anti camping ordinance even though Apache Junction has no homeless shelter. She would like council to decriminalize homelessness.

Gary Smith, 800 W. Apache Trail, expressed his support for all the work that is done to take care of the homeless in Apache Junction. His church, Desert Chapel, is available to assist wherever they can. They feed about 100 homeless every Saturday and would be interested in doing more.

Patrick Jensen, 800 W. Apache Trail, volunteers at a local church Desert Chapel to help feed the homeless on Saturdays and getting clothes for them to wear.

Brenda Jensen, 800 W. Apache Trail, volunteers at a local church Desert Chapel and would like the city to come up with a plan to help the homeless a little more.

Jeffrey Leonard, bought the Greyhound Facility for homeless veterans. City staff has done nothing but fight him on it. He cleaned the property up. He wants help from the council in getting his facility up and running.

Mehmood Mohiuddin, 234 N. Apache Trail, asks council to look into the homelessness problem.

George Schroeder, 2444 W. Virginia Street, says that mental illness is not right. He got the last biker gang out of the city. The city needs money and the two city managers are not helping. He doesn't know why his street isn't getting fixed. The city council is failing as a whole. Code compliance is doing nothing about people living in other people's yards.

Councilmember Biggs asked Mr. Powell to provide an update to council on the Greyhound Facility being considered for homeless veterans.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Wilson adjourned the city council meeting.

ACCEPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2021, BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA.

SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2021.

CHIP WILSON
Mayor

ATTEST:

JENNIFER PENA
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
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 the City of Apache Junction, Arizona, held on the _____ day of _____, 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2021.

JENNIFER PENA
City Clerk