



MINUTES OF WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF YOUNGTOWN, AZ

THURSDAY, April 3, 2014, TOWN CLUBHOUSE, 12033 CLUBHOUSE SQUARE

1. **Call to Order** Mayor LeVault called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:**

Council present: Mayor Michael LeVault, and Councilmembers Margaret Chittenden, Dorena Mello, Shirley Gustafson, Judy Johnson and June Miller.

Absent: Vice Mayor Jacob Duran

Staff present: Town Manager Jeanne Blackman, Town Attorneys Kelly Schwab and Trish Stuhan, Citizen Services Specialist Stacy Anderson, Economic Development Manager Gayle Cooper, Economic Development Coordinator Gregory Arrington, Public Safety Manager Mike Kessler, Public Works Manager Marty Mosbrucker, Library Manager Heidi Speed and Town Clerk/Treasurer Diane Cordova.
3. **Business**
 - A. **Presentation and Discussion Re: Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Report (report attached) Captain VanAusdal**
 - The MCSO Report of Activity for the month of April has been made available. We are looking into presenting this report back to you in a much better format.

Councilmember Chittenden

 - It's good to see the high number of patrol watches on this report.

Councilmember Miller

 - Thank you MCSO for the patrol watches.
 - B. **Presentation and Discussion Re: Youngtown's Facebook Page**

Citizen Services Specialist Anderson

 - The Town Council and staff recognize the value in using social media sites, to broaden information and communication regarding government services and facilitate greater citizen engagement. Social networking has been found to be a key factor in connecting and engaging individuals to new ideas and opportunities. The Town of Youngtown's Facebook page is intended to serve as a one-way means of communication. The Town's Facebook page shall not be used as a public forum for discussion. No public comments are permitted on the Town's website or social media sites.
 - When someone signs up and likes the Facebook page our social media policy agreement will appear and the individual must agree, verifying that they have read, understand and agree with the Town of Youngtown's Facebook policy.
 - Everything that is presently placed in the Town's Website Calendar will automatically transfer into Youngtown's Facebook.

Mayor LeVault

 - Will it capture the individual email addresses?
 - Youngtown's Facebook page will only be a one way communication?

Councilmember Chittenden

 - This is only to communicate information out correct?
 - The Youngtown calendar events on our current website will transfer over onto Facebook? What about a scheduled Dog Park Committee meeting? How about the clubs that take place here in Youngtown?

Councilmember Johnson

 - What you are saying is that this is not a blog.

Councilmember Miller

 - Will it allow me to view without typing in an email address?

Mayor LeVault

 - Stacy, who will be the gatekeeper?

Citizen Services Specialist Anderson

- I will be the gatekeeper.

Councilmember Mello

- Do you know that there is another Youngtown Facebook out there? I believe it started in 2012.

Citizen Services Specialist Anderson

- Yes, there is another Youngtown Facebook page that was started by an unknown private individual. We cannot get in to disable it. The person that initiated it would be the only individual that would be able to remove it.
- Many other municipalities have Facebook: City of Avondale, City of Surprise, and City of El Mirage along with many others.
- Go into the Town of Youngtown website and on the home page at the top right side is the symbol for Facebook, left click on the Facebook symbol. The social media policy agreement will pop up and you must click "yes" and enter a valid email address to access the Town's Facebook page. Then click submit and you will be in.

Citizen Comment

Kathryn French, President of Agua Fria Ranch Homeowners Association

- I think I can assist with removing the Facebook page that was created several years ago. I believe it was a college project of one of my students. I will look into having it removed if indeed it was one of my students.

- C. A proposal on a fee increase for the rental of Uribe Park sport field to non-resident youth sport teams from \$40.00 to \$50.00 per night.

Citizen Services Specialist Anderson

- A review of the Uribe Park Sports Field costs offering the fields to youth sports teams for practice events and charging them \$40 per night (dusk to 10:00 pm) no longer covers the Town's cost. Staff is recommending an increase in the non-resident fees for the use of Uribe Park to \$50 per night effective July 1, 2014. We propose to keep the rate for residents at \$40 per night.
- Staff researched various websites of other communities to see what other municipalities where charging for the use of their recreational facilities. In some cases, the facilities reviewed offered more amenities than found in our parks; in others, they were comparable.

Mayor LeVault

- How will this be policed?

Citizen Services Specialist Anderson

- There currently is no policing.
- When an individual comes in to reserve a park, a permit will be issued and will be posted at the park.
- Each park can be reserved for exclusive rights.

Councilmember Chittenden

- Will a bulletin board be placed on every ramada?

Mayor LeVault

- Does this require a credit card or do individuals pay \$200 refundable deposit in cash?

Councilmember Mello

- We are proposing a fee increase from \$40 to \$50?

Citizen Services Specialist Anderson

- The \$40 fee is for residents and the \$50 fee would be for non-residents per night for lights.

Councilmember Johnson

- The basketball court lights are on a timer, but how are the lights turned on at Uribe Park?

Citizen Services Specialist Anderson

- The lights at Uribe Park are turned on by a web-based program through a computer and/or a smart phone.

Councilmember Miller

- If someone rents the park for four hours one day and the next day someone rents the same park for four hours, who checks to see if any damage was done?

Citizen Services Specialist Anderson

- We haven't yet had rentals back-to-back.

Town Manager Blackman

- This is a work in process and we are ironing out the kinks. We are looking into providing top notch customer service and also making some enhancements to our procedures.

Mayor LeVault

- What are other cities' rental fees?

Citizen Services Specialist Anderson

- Other municipalities rental fee for a four-hour block is anywhere from \$30 to \$100.

Mayor LeVault

- Is the \$10 increase in fee enough between a resident and a non-resident?

Councilmember Johnson

- Can I request that a new bulletin board be placed at Uribe Park, to replace the old one above the water fountain?

Citizen Comment:

Kathryn French, President of Agua Fria Homeowners' Association

- Who is checking the cleaning at Uribe Park after an event? There was an awful mess left several weekends ago; broken glass, trash left behind; irresponsible use of the park.
- The rules, Conditions For Use Of Park Facilities, the fifth bullet point, "no person shall drive or ride in any automobile, truck, motor scooter, motor-driven vehicle, horse or other animal in a Town park needs to be reviewed and rewritten properly.
- I don't think the fee increase is enough to cover all the costs.

Mayor LeVault

- That happened on the three-day weekend, didn't it?

Kathryn French President of Agua Fria Homeowners Association

- Yes, there were two different things going on at Uribe Park that weekend. There were cases of beer bottles all over. A vehicle drove out on the football field.

Mayor LeVault

- Did anyone reserve the park that weekend?

Citizen Services Specialist

- No, no one reserved the park that weekend? Staff was not aware that that had happened.

Community Development Coordinator

- On the reservation form, the information is shared with MCSO. They get a copy of the reservation, along with Public Works Department.

Mayor LeVault

- MCSO is getting a copy of the reservation form?

Community Development Coordinator Arrington

- No one reserved the park for the weekend that was mentioned, so therefore no reservation form was given out. We must remember that these are public parks.

D. Discussion Re: The 5-year Consolidated Plan to lay the foundation for future infrastructure needs for the Town of Youngtown and CDBG Community Development Block Grant opportunities.

Town Manager Blackman

- At our last council meeting, Councilmember Mello requested that we begin re-evaluating and set priorities regarding the 5-year consolidated plan for the future infrastructure and economic development needs of the Town and CDBG Community Development Block Grant opportunities. Staff had discussions about this, and the items that came about in discussion were street lights, sidewalks, redevelopment, Commerce Park and a community recreation program.

Community Development Coordinator Arrington

- We have completed a needs assessment on the street lights and found that street lights have a substantial distance between them. There is a need for adding more street lights.
- The sidewalks would allow for many wheelchair-bound individuals to get around.
- A recreational program would get youths involved.

Mayor LeVault

- Discover U on 113th and Michigan has a gymnasium that the Town can partner with. It's been done in the past.
- The sidewalks; bike and ped paths can be paid through SCTS Small Cities Transportation Study funding. MAG-TIP Transportation Improvement Program funding can pay for the 115th and Peoria Avenue re-alignment.

Community Development Coordinator Arrington

- Yes, we have spoken with Discover U and we have a place holder in the budget.

Economic Development Manager Cooper

- We will begin the fiscal year with the creation of a re-development district. The re-zoning is in our General Plan.

- We can also create a CDFI - Community Development Financial Institute that could money for the Commerce Park. Economic Development should be a priority, it takes money to make money, and we must invest money to create money.

Mayor LeVault

- We need strategic planning; grants can pay for streetlights.

Councilmember Mello

- We are not limited to submitting one grant application to CDBG. Youngtown is much respected; we have done our due diligence.
- When the fire flow project was completed, we should have amended the 5 year consolidated plan and reprioritized. Our re-zoning and re-development plan would have been right on track along with street lights. We need to pay attention to our consolidated plan each year.

Mayor LeVault

- Youngtown does have a good reputation. We have always been under budget and on time with all of our projects funded through CDBG.

Town Attorney Schwab

- Unfortunately the SCTAP Maricopa County Small Cities Transportation Assistance Program funds are only if streets are established as county highways pursuant to Title 28 of the Arizona Revised Statutes. Unfortunately, because such city streets are not county highways, this means SCTAP cannot be continued. There is a legal written county attorney opinion.

Mayor LeVault

- Any chance of getting a copy of that written opinion?

Town Attorney Schwab

- We are working on it.

Councilmember Chittenden

- I would like to thank Larry and Shirley Oglesby. Larry was the first in obtaining grant funding for Youngtown.

Councilmember Oglesby Gustafson

- How about having solar street lights?

Town Manager Blackman

- I did speak with Carl Morgan, Maricopa County Project Coordinator and he has agreed to come out and speak to council.

4. Public Comments:

Ronald Nace, Resident

- I would like to know what are we doing to attract businesses to our Town and what the incentives are for business?
- The Facebook page, no address needed to log in. It allowed me just now to go on.
- How long does it take for meeting minutes to be place on the website?

Mayor LeVault

- We have just approved the Youngtown Community for Good, Biz Council and Buy Local programs, which all directly improve Youngtown's commercial environment.
- The commercial vacancy rate is down to just over 10% and is considered to be very low and is a direct reflection of our prior economic development efforts.
- We continue to work with business owners and property owners to improve commercial properties through gentrification and rehab.
- We are looking at amending zoning changes to improve our commercial districts and add vitality.
- The March 6, 2014 meeting minutes were tabled due to some corrections.

Announcement of next Regular Council Meeting: Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn – Councilmember Mello

Second – Councilmember Johnson

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


Michael LeVault, Mayor

Attest:



Diane Cordova, Town Clerk

Minutes approved at April 17, 2014 regular meeting