



WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF THE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF YOUNGTOWN, AZ
THURSDAY, February 5, 2015, TOWN CLUBHOUSE SQUARE, 12033 CLUBHOUSE SQUARE

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor LeVault at 7:01 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Council present: Mayor Michael LeVault, Vice Mayor Jacob Duran, Councilmembers Margaret Chittenden, Dorena Mello, Shirley Gustafson, Judy Johnson, and June Miller.
Staff present: Town Manager Jeanne Blackman, Town Attorney Kelly Schwab and Trish Stuhan, Economic Development Manager Gayle Cooper, Community Developer Coordinator Gregory Arrington, Public Safety Manager Michael Kessler, Court Administrator Lisa Lipinski, Library Manager Heidi Speed and Town Clerk/Treasurer Diane Cordova.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:** Councilmember Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Vice Mayor Duran offered the invocation.
4. **Communications:** Comments, Commendations and Presentations by Mayor, Council Members, staff or members of the public. The Council may not propose, discuss, deliberate or take any legal action on the information presented pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02.

A. Communications from Council:
Mayor LeVault

- The flight line at Luke Air Force Base is filling up with F-35's. Brig. Gen. Scott Pleus is very pleased to announce the arrival of number 18 which is unique to that line up, as it's the first Australian F-35 to come in from Australia. It is a start of a partnership that will train pilots internationally.
- The Mayor from Sonora, Mexico, Hermosillo Mayor Alejandro Lopez Caballero met with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Economic Development Committee to discuss how to further efforts to grow binational economic relationships.

Councilmember Chittenden

- I want to thank Mayor LeVault, Town Manager Jeanne Blackman, and Matt Lore, Communications and Education Director of the Arizona League of Cities and Towns, for their presentation to the Citizens' Academy. The topic for the first session was Local Government. Thank you Gregory Arrington for coordinating the Citizens' Academy.
- I spoke with Senator John Nelson, District 12, Republican, and a member of the ADOT – Arizona Department of Transportation Legislative team, regarding synchronizing the traffic lights through Grand Avenue. He stated that it is impossible due to the traffic lights being too close together; that the trains and the fire trucks, and emergency responders trigger the traffic lights.
- There will be a Dog Park committee meeting, Saturday, February 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Methodist Church.
- I also would like to thank Public Works, Marty Mosbrucker and his crew for all they do.

B. Communications from Staff:

Town Manager Blackman (staff report attached)

- A Chief Financial Officer has been hired, James Alcantar. He will be joining our team on February 23, 2015.
- I am working on a task force, in collaboration with Luke Air Force Base on regional collaboration on projects and services with all West Valley Cities/Towns.
- The staff report has been given to Council. Economic Developer Gayle Cooper that would like to give a brief report on the leadership conference she attended to IEDC – International Economic Development Council.

Economic Developer Manager Cooper

- I attended a four day Leadership Conference in Palm Beach Florida. The Leadership Conference is an International Leadership Conference. These conferences are a requirement for continued certification in economic development. I received my certification this past November. In addition to the regular sessions, I attended the ethics training class.

5. Citizens Comments/Appearances from the floor:

Betty Trolen, resident of Youngtown

- I want to thank staff for coming through on our 4th Annual Paper Drive. We exceeded our goal!

6. Business:

A. Discussion Re: The potential remodel of Council Chambers.

Town Manager Blackman

- This agenda item is for discussion purposes only. Councilmember June Miller has asked to bring this item forward for discussion.

Councilmember Miller

- A remodel of Council Chambers will provide better communication between Council and staff. As we sit here right now, Councilmembers cannot see nor hear each other. Town Manager Blackman, Public Works Manager Mosbrucker and I went and visited the Chamber of Commerce in the City of Surprise. They had curved tables where everyone is able to see one another. They were at floor level. The tables are folding tables with rollers whereas it would be easier to move them around and not so heavy for staff to move. We also need new chairs that sit up straight and do not look like lounge chairs. It was suggested to me that perhaps the entire room should be remodeled.

Mayor LeVault

- I've been in other municipalities and their chambers look like shrines. We don't want that here. I do agree in increasing the flexibility of this room.

Public Works Manager Mosbrucker

- I agree with the Mayor, I've also seen where other cities Council Chamber look like shrines.
- What we are proposing is utilizing this room for multi-purposes; perhaps look into renting out the room.

Councilmember Johnson

- How much of a multi-purpose?
- It is hard to see everyone at floor level as well.
- Doesn't the court have to be held in a higher raised position?

Mayor LeVault

- From a security aspect the court has standards/regulations that have to be met, correct?

Court Administrator Lipinski

- I contacted AOC – Administrative Offices of the Courts and found that they do not have set guidelines for courtroom standards. However the National Court Standards recommends that the Judge is elevated 18" and court staff is elevated 12". For our court here in this room, the Judge sits where the Mayor currently sits. A Judge is a person of authority and sitting at an elevated position commands respect. We set up a recording device to his left on days we have cases that are on the record, such a bench trials and civil traffic hearings. The Judge passes the file to court staff and the staff meets with defendant at the table. Currently the court staff is using a folding table and meeting with the defendant at ground level. Defendants could easily reach across the table that court staff assists them at. An elevation for the Judge and court staff provides an element of protection. If I may make a suggestion, perhaps test a meeting at floor level before deciding to remove the dais.

Councilmember Chittenden

- Good points, security and respect.
- Just because we sit up here, it doesn't mean we are above anyone. It does allow for respect because of our position. Our names wouldn't be seen at floor level. I like looking out to the audience.
- Currently how high is this dais?

Public Works Mosbrucker

- From the floor is elevated up 14 inches. The dais is 48 inches, 4 feet in height.

Councilmember Mello

- Our town code currently does not allow for us to rent this room.
- At ground level the audience wouldn't be able to see councilmembers.

Mayor LeVault

- I cannot remember when this room was last touched. The aspect of the room is beginning to show some wear and tear. What if we looked into reconstructing the dais, perhaps create a horseshoe that would sit the council and staff members?

Councilmember Mello

- Having staff as part of a horseshoe dais is a good idea.

Councilmember Johnson

- At floor level, I would not like to have our backs to the audience.
- Perhaps we can remodel by purchasing new blinds and chairs. Currently our chairs stack vertically. The new chairs being recommended from the handout shows the chairs stacking horizontal. Do we have room to store them and where will they be stored?

Public Works Mosbrucker

- We have a store room where the chairs are stacked and we do have room.

Councilmember Miller

- What are the dimensions of the room?

Public Works Mosbrucker

- The room is 25 X 60

Mayor LeVault

- As stated by Councilmember Mello, the room cannot be rented out.
- We will be hosting the West Valley Mayors/Managers meeting here. AARP meets here as well as other functions. Let's look into what it would cost for a remodel (facelift) of the room and also the cost of reconstructing the dais.

Town Manager Blackman

- There was no disrespect meant towards the Council or to the Judge regarding to this discussion of having everyone on floor level. A Councilmember asked staff to bring forth ideas. This room is utilized for many functions. We would like to see what options are available and also to see it function with greater mobility for event set up by our Public Works team.

Councilmember Mello

- Many other municipalities have the availability of having separate court rooms, that would be nice, but we don't have that here. This Council Chamber holds two functions.

Councilmember Chittenden

- Perhaps remodeling, updating the blinds and the microphones.

Councilmember Gustafson

- The blinds and new carpet were installed when a remodeling was completed many years ago.

Councilmember Miller

- If we decide to remodel, will that include curving the dais?

Councilmember Mello

- I would encourage us to meet the National Court Standards and have staff elevated.

Town Manager Blackman

- We currently are not meeting court standards.

Public Works Mosbrucker

- There will be a cost to tearing down and rebuilding the dais.

Mayor LeVault

- Let's continue to brainstorm and seek out alternatives. Let have another work session with costs for remodeling and costs for rebuilding the dais.

Citizens Comments/Apearances from the floor:

Chloe Correa, resident.

- I was an employee many years back. Historically speaking, at that time, the council would sit at tables. There were complaints that Council could not be seen nor heard. That is why the podium was brought in and the dais was established.

Mayor LeVault

- I am against all the money that has been spent toward council chambers in other municipalities.

Councilmember Chittenden

- Has this remodeling project been budgeted for 2015?

Town Manager Blackman

- It will be budgeted for next fiscal year 2015-16. The remodeling would take place in August when Council is in recess.

Mayor LeVault

- Our expenditures are way below budget; our revenue is greater than expenditures.

7. Call for Executive Session:

Mayor LeVault called Council into executive session for the following:

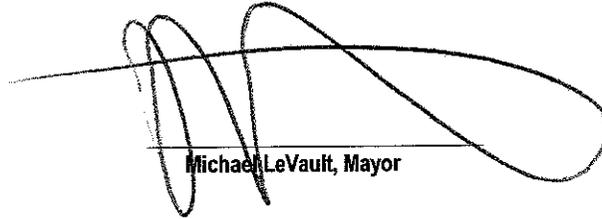
- A. An executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) for discussion and consideration of the Town Manager's performance evaluation and planning and setting of goals for 2015.
- B. An executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (A)(7) for discussion and consultation with the Town Attorney in order to obtain legal advice, consider its position, and instruct its representatives regarding

negotiations for the abandonment of alleys located in the Cook's Corners – Unit I Subdivision, between Missouri Avenue and Peoria Avenue and 114th Avenue and 117th Avenue.

9. Future Agenda & Meetings:

- A. There may be discussion of whether to place an item on a future agenda and the date, but not the merits of the item.
- B. Announcement of next Regular Council Meeting: Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn regular council meeting and go into executive session – Councilmember Mello
Second – Councilmember Johnson
Meeting Adjourned 7:57 p.m.



Michael LeVault, Mayor

Attest:



Diane Cordova, Town Clerk

Minutes approved at February 19, 2015 regular meeting.