



**MINUTES
WORK STUDY SESSION
QUEEN CREEK PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
QUEEN CREEK COMMUNITY CHAMBERS
20727 E. CIVIC PARKWAY
JANUARY 8, 2020
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 6:00PM REGULAR SESSION**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01PM.

2. Roll Call (one or more members of the Commission may participate by telephone)

Commissioners in attendance: Matheson, Young, Sossaman, Spall, Gillette, McWilliams (Commissioner Benson was absent).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

These items are for Commission discussion only and no action will be taken. In general, no public comment will be taken.

3. Law Enforcement Study

Tracy Corman, Assistant to the Town Manager, presented on the Town of Queen Creek Police Services Study. Ms. Corman noted that the Town has worked over the past few years on this master planning effort. Ms. Corman noted that at the 2018-2019 strategic planning session, the Town Council discussed police services. Council directed staff to conduct a study to analyze growth and police services.

Ms. Corman noted that they are now in a 60-day public comment period to collect input on the study. Ms. Corman noted that the driving factors of the study do not reflect the service received from MSCO District 6, but rather growth is the driving factor of the study. Ms. Corman summarized growth statistics for the Town.

Ms. Corman stated that a multi-department team was established to assist with the study, including Captain Lugo. Ms. Corman provided a brief history of law enforcement and law enforcement studies in Queen Creek. Ms. Corman presented the expectations and desired outcomes for Town Law Enforcement Services including:

- Community oriented policing
- Intelligence lead policing
- Communication

Ms. Corman noted that the study evaluated three police service options which included:

- Contract with another municipality

- Continued contract with MCSO
- Queen Creek Municipal Police Department

Ms. Corman summarized the advantages and disadvantages of each option

Commissioner Young inquired: would the Queen Creek Police Department Use the existing Law Enforcement Building? Ms. Corman responded, stating yes.

Ms. Corman presented the 5-year Financial Plan for a Queen Creek Police Department, which, Ms. Corman noted would not require new taxes or revenue sources. Ms. Corman stated that the Queen Creek Police Department proposal includes adding two new police officers each year vs a new beat every two years with MCSO

Commissioner McWilliams inquired: what was the cost of the current MSCO contract for last year? Commissioner McWilliams also asked for clarification on the 5% increase in salary and the 3% discretionary item identified as part of the MSCO contract. Commissioner McWilliams also asked for clarification on where this increase may be in future years. Ms. Corman referenced a page in the study, showing the cost of the MSCO contract, which identifies a 5% increase for increased benefit costs and wages. The 3% shown in the study references this FY for the MSCO contract where there is a 3% administrative fee. Ms. Corman noted that this fee is not included in the table showing the 5-year financial plan for Queen Creek Police Department.

Ms. Corman summarized the totals for each option over the next five fiscal years.

Commissioner Gillette inquired: Would we purchase police equipment in advance of adding new FTEs or as we add new FTEs? Ms. Corman responded, stating new equipment would be purchased as officers are added.

Commissioner McWilliams inquired: Is there a point in time where it is more cost efficient to have a Town police Department than contracting services? Ms. Corman noted that population is a factor when deciding to add new officers and crime rate is also a factor. Ms. Corman stated that consultants felt that at some point the lines will cross where a contracted police service would become more costly.

Ms. Corman summarized the next steps for the 60-days of public outreach for the study.

Commissioner Spall inquired: Is MCSO District 6 just in Queen Creek? Ms. Corman responded, stating yes.

Chairman Matheson inquired: if the Town moves forward with its own police department, the Town may not have the same equipment that MCSO has access to, do police departments work together to address those needs? Ms. Corman responded, stating that there are intergovernmental agreements and police departments have to work together in a regional way until we development into a larger department.

Commissioner Sossaman inquired: What happens with County islands? Ms. Corman responded stating that the Town would still maintain those relationships with MSCO.

Commissioner Gillette inquired: What would be the transition plan for current MSCO District 6 staff if the Town started its own police department. Bruce Gardner, Assistant Town Manager, stated that if the Town Council decides to move forward with municipal services is that the intent is to hire a police chief, at least one year in advance of the transition. The police chief would hire a lieutenant to assist in developing the policies and procedures of the organization prior to the recruitment of the rest of the staff. Hiring would be a lateral program that will require the Town to hire staff with a diverse set of

experience levels. Mr. Gardner also noted that the town previously went through a transition of service with the Fire Department and Utilities Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

4. Recent activity update.

Mr. Swanson provided a summary of the single family permits issued, with 1,295 permits issued since January 2019.

5. Summary of Events from members of the Commission and staff. The Commission may not deliberate or take action on any matter in the "summary" unless the specific matter is properly noticed on the Regular Session agenda.

Mr. Swanson reminded the Commission of the Special Planning Commission Meeting on January 29th.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:35PM:

1st: Spall

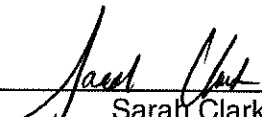
2nd: Young

Vote: 6-0 (Commissioner Benson was absent for the vote)

Planning and Zoning Commission



Alex Matheson, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Sarah Clark, Senior Planner

I, Sarah Clark, do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the forgoing Minutes are a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the January 8, 2020 Work Study Session of the Queen Creek Planning and Zoning Commission. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.



Sarah Clark, Senior Planner

Passed and approved on February 12, 2020.