



Minutes
Regular and Possible Executive Session
Queen Creek Town Council
Queen Creek Town Hall, 22350 S. Ellsworth Road
Council Chambers
May 18, 2011
7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

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

Council Members present: Alston; Benning; Brown; Oliphant; Wheatley; Vice Mayor Barnes and Mayor Barney.

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Council Member Wheatley

4. Invocation: A moment of silence was observed for servicemen and public safety officers.

5. Ceremonial Matters: Presentations, Proclamations, Awards, Guest Introductions and Announcements.

A. Volunteer Recognition: Eagle Scout Nick James

Mr. James led a group of volunteers in the construction and installation of 13 birdhouses along the Queen Creek Wash Trail.

B. Volunteer Recognition: Cub Scout Pack 738

Council Member Benning assisted Mayor Barney in recognizing Pack 738 and leaders for a clean-up project along the Queen Creek Wash near Desert Mountain Park.

6. Committee Reports

A. Council summary reports on meetings and/or conferences attended. This may include but is not limited to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport; MAG; East Valley Partnership; CAAG. The Council will not propose, discuss, deliberate or take legal action on any matter in the summary unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

- Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG): Council Member Benning reported on the May 11th meeting. The board approved the FY12 budget and dues assessments and staffing consolidation; and heard an update on the Pathways program, a federally funding training and job placement program in green industries. The next meeting is June 17 in Payson.

Minutes for the Regular Session
Queen Creek Town Council
May 18, 2011
Page 2

- Council Member Oliphant reported on her participation on a Follower Leadership Panel in Tempe.

B. Partner agencies quarterly or periodic updates to Council. This may include but is not limited to Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce; Queen Creek Performing Arts Center; Boys & Girls Club of East Valley; and Maricopa or Pinal County Board of Supervisors or other governmental agencies. The Council will not propose, discuss, deliberate or take legal action on any matter in the summary unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

- Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce – 3rd Quarter Report: Chamber Director Marquis Scott reported on the Chambers events, membership and ribbon cuttings during the 3rd quarter. Mr. Scott also reviewed the 4th quarter plans for increasing business development and member training.

C. Town Center Committee – May 11, 2011: Committee Chair Jason Gad reported on the update on the ASU Capstone Project review and possible joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission; marketing update and Town Center projects in regard to the directional signage and postponement of the Ellsworth Road improvements.

7. Public Comment: Members of the public may address the Town Council on items not on the printed agenda and during Public Hearings. Please complete a “Request to Speak Card”, located on the table at the rear of the Council Chambers and turn it in to the Town Clerk prior to the beginning of the meeting. There is a time limit of three minutes for comments.

None.

8. Consent Calendar: Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. Public Hearing items are designated with an asterisk (*). Prior to consideration of the Consent Agenda, the Mayor will ask whether any member of the public wishes to remove a Public Hearing item for separate consideration. Members of the Council and or staff may remove any item for separate consideration.

A. Consideration and possible approval of the May 4, 2011 Work Study and Regular Session Minutes.

B. Consideration and possible approval to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Regional Transportation Agreement with Southwest Ambulance to provide ambulance transportation for the Town of Queen Creek.

C. Consideration and possible approval of **Resolution 880-11** and **Ordinance 497-11** amending the Town Code by adding Chapter 18 – Fire Prevention and Protection.

**Minutes for the Regular Session
Queen Creek Town Council
May 18, 2011
Page 3**

D. Consideration and possible approval of **Resolution 881-11** concerning Town financial policies regarding development fees.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented (Brown/Alston/Unanimous)

PUBLIC HEARINGS: If you wish to speak to the Council on an item listed as a Public Hearing, please complete a Request to Speak Card and turn it in to the Town Clerk. Speakers will be called upon in the order in which their cards are received. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes each.

None.

FINAL ACTION: If you wish to speak to the Council on an item listed under Final Action, please complete a Request to Speak Card and turn it in to the Town Clerk. Speakers will be called upon in the order in which their cards are received. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes each.

9. Discussion and possible action on the Tentative FY11-12 Budget.

Town Manager Kross reviewed the Budget Committee meeting schedule and budget adoption process and presented the proposed FY11-12 general operating budget and capital improvement program as recommended by the Budget Committee and Town Manager. Mr. Kross pointed out that the first step in the budget approval process is approving the Tentative Budget with sets the ceiling on expenditures and Final Budget adoption is the second step and scheduled for June 1, 2011.

Mr. Kross reviewed major points of the proposed budget: closing a \$4.7 million gap by reducing payroll with the elimination of 42 full-time positions and six vacant positions; continuation of the reduced work hours for non-exempt employees and 6 ¼% salary reduction for exempt employees; continuation of the freeze on COLA and merit raises; as well as reducing Town hosted events, reducing the number of Town-owned vehicles and phasing out some functions of the Utility Department. Mr. Kross stated that due to the reduced revenue from property tax, one beat will be eliminated, saving approximately \$500,000. Mr. Kross said MCSO can support the reduction and Queen Creek will remain comparable to other cities/towns coverage. Mr. Kross added that some changes in programs offered through the Fire Department, Parks and Recreation and Utilities will also be necessary.

Council Member Brown, Chair of the Budget Committee, stated that difficult choices had to be made in the budget process and careful consideration was given to all.

Council discussed future budget issues when property tax revenues are even lower based on the property valuations. Mr. Kross responded that several options for generating revenue could be considered including sales tax equalization and/or a policy resolution which earmarks a percentage of sales tax to Public Safety. Council Member Brown stated that the Budget Committee did discuss and consider sales tax increases.

**Minutes for the Regular Session
Queen Creek Town Council
May 18, 2011
Page 4**

Motion to approve the FY11-12 Tentative Budget as recommended by the Budget Committee and setting the Public Hearing for June 1, 2011 (Brown/Wheatley/Unanimous)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: These items are for Council discussion only and no action will be taken. In general, no public comment will be taken.

10. Update on Horseshoe Park & Equestrian Centre (HPEC).

Economic Development Director Doreen Cott provided a brief overview of the transition of Horseshoe Park & Equestrian Center to Economic Development from Parks & Recreation; hiring of General Manager Tim Lynch; capital improvements (seating & barns); marketing plan and revenue goal expectations. Ms. Cott also announced that due to the equine herpes epidemic in the Western states, HPEC is being pro-active and closing for a 21-day quarantine period.

HPEC General Manager Tim Lynch provided a review of current sponsorships and contracts; events scheduled; and possible future contracts for additional events. Council asked how many events were cancelled due to the 21-day quarantine. Mr. Lynch responded that three lower-revenue events were cancelled mutually and rescheduling would be attempted. Council also asked if there had been any follow-up on lawn mower races. Mr. Lynch said it was sporadic but he had some interest in flat-track motorcycle racing. Council also asked if there were any mounted shooting events. Mr. Lynch responded that the championships are held in October.

11. Presentation of 2010 Crime Statistics.

Town Manager Kross stated that the crime statistics report was annually presented to Council in May.

Public Safety Manager Joe LaFortune provided an overview of the 2010 service levels consisting of five beats (25 deputies) and other sworn officers assigned to the Town; calls for service and on-view incident reports. Mr. LaFortune added that during review, an error in on-view incident reporting was discovered in the 2009 report, which would add an additional 2, 649 calls for service to the 2009 total.

MCSO Chief Frank Munnell provided detailed report information on the reporting systems used by MCSO and explained how the increased on-view statistics related to the increased beat (5th beat) with the additional deputies looking for activity. He also explained the support for reducing coverage to four beats based on anticipated population increases not happening and stability of Priority 1 calls and response times. Mr. Munnell added that additional deputies are available in District 1 and by Pinal County PCSO. He also provided a brief review of the 2010 crime statistics.

Council expressed appreciation for the consistency of service provided by the MCSO deputies.

**Minutes for the Regular Session
Queen Creek Town Council
May 18, 2011
Page 5**

Mr. LaFortune provided comparison data of surrounding communities and website information.

12. Motion to adjourn to Executive Session: The Council may reconvene the Executive Session for any of the items listed on the Executive Session Agenda.

None.

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:35pm (Brown/Barnes/Unanimous)

TOWN OF QUEEN CREEK

Gail Barney, Mayor

Attest:

Jennifer F. Robinson, MMC

I, Jennifer F. Robinson, do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing Minutes are a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the May 18, 2011 Regular Session of the Queen Creek Town Council. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

Jennifer F. Robinson, MMC

Passed and approved on June 15, 2011.