

**TOWN OF KEARNY
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF KEARNY,
ARIZONA, AT THE KEARNY TOWN HALL LOCATED AT 912-C TILBURY DRIVE ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017, AT 7:30 P.M.**

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

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|---------------|-------------------|
| Mayor | Debra Sommers |
| Vice Mayor | Daniel Radcliffe |
| Councilmember | Rose Bradford |
| Councilmember | Lana Dalton |
| Councilmember | Nancy Hinojos |
| Councilmember | Samantha Misita |
| Councilmember | Sheila Stephenson |

TOWN STAFF PRESENT

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|-------------------------|---------------|
| Town Manager | Anna Flores |
| Town Clerk | Cathy Woolery |
| Town Attorney | Steve Cooper |
| Town Police Sergeant | Neil Wells |
| Interim Chief of Police | Captain Leos |

VISITORS PRESENT

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|----------------|---------------|
| Tino Flores | Jean Slater |
| Diana Herrick | Edna Lawrence |
| Carol Lewis | Bill Dunn |
| Becky Dunn | David Wade |
| Chris Misita | Jake Meyer |
| Amiee Meyer | Dennis Sartor |
| Annie Sartor | Mike Elliott |
| Lhunna Elliott | Jamie Ramsey |

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Sommers called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Pastor David Wade, Lighthouse Assembly of God Church, delivered the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Sommers requested Town Clerk, Cathy Woolery, to call the roll. Quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilmember Stephenson, **second** by Vice Mayor Radcliffe to approve minutes from the December 19, 2016 Regular Meeting and the December 29, 2016 Special Meeting. **Vote** - All members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Sommers announced call to the public. No persons addressed the Council.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: OFFICER NEIL WELLS PROMOTION TO POLICE SERGEANT

Mayor Sommers introduced Captain Leos who is doing the presentation for Officer Wells. Captain Leos expressed Officer Wells was recently promoted to Sergeant Wells and he wants to recognize his hard work. Captain Leos stated since being here in October that Officer Wells has shown leadership and is a really dedicated officer to the Town. Sergeant Wells expressed he is looking forward to continuing working with everyone as he has for the past two years. He said if anyone does not know him or needs anything just come up and he will tell you what he can.

PRESENTATION REGARDING THE TEEN CENTER

Mayor Sommers requested Jacob Meyers approach the Council. Jacob stated he would like to discuss the recreation center known as the Teen Center. He stated the facility is only being used for storage for the library and could be used for a recreation center for kids with no age restriction. He said he has been coordinating with the library to get it cleaned up with 100% volunteers to get the ball rolling. It will be supported by donations from certain organizations and businesses throughout the Town. He feels the kids in Town need something to do. He grew up in Kearny and spent much time at the recreation center they had at that time. He is requesting permission from the Council for opening it as a recreation center which would be very beneficial for the kids to have something to do. Councilmember Misita asked if he is with an organization. He stated no that he just wants something for kids as he has two kids himself that would use it. Councilmember Bradford asked if he wanted it for a youth center with no age restrictions, and also would he have a schedule in mind for times such as evenings and weekends. Jacob said yes a recreation center, but he has not come up with a schedule yet. He does have a few people interested in volunteering. He is seeking approval from the Council first. Councilmember Bradford stated the center would need adult supervision as they have had things there before; unless they have adult supervision in command there has been trouble. Jacob stated he was thinking of one adult for 10 to 15 kids. He said he is retired, and he and his wife are willing to be the leaders. After school tutoring and activities would be one idea for use of the center. Councilmember Bradford thinks it is a great idea, but how would the volunteers be looked at and selected. Jacob stated he could be in charge of that and look at backgrounds, fingerprinting for a few volunteers which would be paid for by cash donations. Councilmember Misita asked if he had ideas for classes or just a place for them to gather. He stated he could also get with the Senior Citizens center and do things such as Arts and Crafts. He believes this is a stepping stone for the kids to be part of the community. Vice Mayor Radcliffe commented he thinks it is a good idea and if they can come back with a tentative schedule. Jacob stated there is a volunteer already who will be painting. Families will also be volunteers to help clean it up and have an open house. Councilmember Misita asked if there are things there for kids. Town Manager Anna Flores stated there are the games still in there. Jacob stated they can start with volleyball, basketball, and games. Amiee Meyers also commented there are all kinds of games in there to use. Councilmember Misita asked about hours of opening the center. Jacob Meyers stated it depends but somewhere for kids to go when parents are not home like after school. Also, he has plans to open Fridays and possibly Saturdays, and also from noon to 2:00 or 3:00 on Sundays. Mayor Sommers expressed this is a good idea and directed Jacob to meet with Anna on this for details. Councilmember Misita thanked Jacob and Amiee for volunteering.

KEARNY RIVER FIRE RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE AND DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION TO CREATE A COMMITTEE

Mayor Sommers introduced Bill Dunn, President of the Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District, who is here to give us an update on the Kearny River Fire Restoration Project. Bill Dunn

stated the Winkelman RCD will have a \$300K grant for communities along the Gila River and the majority will be for Kearny. The grant is a 50/50 in-kind grant which could be volunteer labor and equipment use counting toward the match. As part of that we can do some preliminary work on the park. FEMA will be doing all the clearance such as endangered species and natural resources. Hopefully, the money will be distributed before the Southwestern Willow Fly Catcher starts nesting which would hold it up all summer. He hopes that we use the opportunity to start building a park down here and use the river as an economic driver. He thinks the Town Council will have to authorize any work as it is town property and there will be liability issues. He is asking for the blessing of the Town Council. There are two other landowners which are the Gillaspys and ASARCO. Land arrangements would have to be done with those landowners. Former Mayor Hosler was working on a land swap with ASARCO. He feels there are opportunities such as using the old boat ramp as a campground. The watering of wetlands that the Town has been doing needs to stop and the water can be used for Town purposes. Town Manager Anna Flores could get in touch with Fish and Wildlife to get that done. There is also a well that could be rebuilt and used for something in the park. Also, ASU has already designed parks and wetlands for that area which could be utilized. Bill stated the loader can be used and get things started fairly quickly. He reminded us that there were a bunch of people down by the river last Easter who left a terrible mess which other people cleaned up. There are people who will come here to use it, but this needs planning and rules. Bill is requesting a committee be formed to support and lead this project as an economic driver for the Town. He thinks one or two of the Council needs to be on the committee. He is proposing this for the Council to approve since it would have to involve the Town. He suggested branding for Kearny as something such as "The River Park Town". Becky Dunn commented that Rick Bater has equipment to donate. Councilmember Bradford stated the first thing that needs to be done is to consult with our attorney and insurance company before getting approval for liability and legal issues. Bill said also with the land status. Councilmember Misita asked if it is a total of \$300K. Bill stated yes and the district would put money in and the in-kind also. Councilmember Stephenson asked if they would put grills in for families. Bill stated he does not know but the design would plan for that and also plan for it to be flooded so they would need to be moveable along with moveable cattle guards and fences; no permanent structures. Councilmember Misita expressed that the ASU students had previously designed plans for stopping flash floods and erosion which would make it a pretty usable space. Bill said they have been talking with Arizona Game and Fish Department who has some urban park money for grants and also Arizona Community Foundation also. Councilmember Misita asked if this is something that needs to be started fairly soon. Bill said his idea is if the Council okays this and forms a committee to get that committee meeting within a month. He will get stuff back to the Council in a month then because of the need to get this going before the Southwestern Willow Fly Catcher comes back. Councilmember Bradford stated she just talked to a guy from the Audubon Society and he said he could not do anything about the bird. Bill said it is an extinct species. Councilmember Hinojos asked if Mr. Dunn would be in charge of the committee. He agreed to do that. Councilmember Misita commented on the last year Easter problem with all the people with no rules and no organizations. They loaded up the large town trash cans and there was still garbage all over. She thinks if that many people wanted to come with no amenities then the park could be an economic driver to get some income for the Town. Councilmember Bradford asked if they were local people or out of town people. Councilmember Misita said they were out of town people. Councilmember Bradford stated that she is all for the park and they have done some great work on this, but she cannot be on the committee. She volunteered her husband Ron to operate the heavy equipment if they need someone. Councilmember Misita suggested some of the 'jeep people' be on the committee. Vice Mayor Radcliffe asked if Anna could run an ad in the newspaper. Bill Dunn stated he does not think they want to get too big. They have a couple of people in mind and are looking at a

committee of 6 to 8 people. Mayor Sommers stated the Council will direct Town Manager Anna Flores to work with Bill Dunn on forming the committee. Councilmember Bradford stated she will ask some of the 'jeep people'. Councilmember Misita suggested having passes for the campsites and numbered campsites. Councilmember Bradford stated there are some people camping at the lake. Anna stated they are not being charged right now until there are numbered. Bill stated we need to get the road in shape at the river so the cops can go there first and have rules listed for enforcement. Becky Dunn said that ASARCO has also been at all their meetings. Mayor Sommers asked Bill to get with Anna. Bill also asked for Town Attorney Steve Cooper's assistance.

POSSIBLE DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF SPEED HUMP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,600

Town Manager Anna Flores introduced this agenda item explaining that a resident's truck was parked in his driveway and was hit by an out of control driver due to speeding around a turn on Croydon. Also, a dog was hit and killed on this same turn. Mr. Elliott is requesting a speed hump for safety reasons. Bid was obtained from Impact Asphalt of \$1,600 which includes speed hump six feet wide with two warning signs and striping. EMS supervisor also recommends the speed hump for less wear and tear on the ambulance. This item was presented on November 21, 2016 and tabled at that time. Residents, Mr. Elliott and Mrs. Sarter, are here to answer questions the Council may have. Mr. Elliott expressed that there is a need for the speed hump as the kids use this as a challenge to take the turn as fast as they can like a game for them. He feels adequate posting of the speed hump will draw attention and work for the blind turn. He is begging the Council to consider this. Dennis Sartar stated last year he lost a 6 month old puppy in the street which got hit and killed. This past year he heard a loud noise which was the vehicle hitting Mike Elliott's truck. He would like more than one speed hump along the curve. Annie Sartar stated there are many kids on the curve and down the street. Mike Elliott asked if there were any accidents by the Mormon Church as they have speed humps. Jean Slater stated there has been one accident but not reported. Dennis asked what the speed limit is for all the streets. Sergeant Wells suggested the speed limit may need to be decreased from 25 to 15 mph. There is only one officer on duty so it is difficult to catch the speeders. Also, it is easier to police 15 mph instead of 25 mph. Dennis asked if there could be signs posted around the curve with the speed limit. Sergeant Wells stated that the people that are going to speed are unfortunately not going to care about the sign. Interim Chief Captain Leos stated that enforcement, education, and engineering are the components of addressing traffic issues. It may be signage or a combination of all. He thinks we are leaving out the education, and he suggested putting a trailer there with information such as you are approaching a curve. Councilmember Misita explained that because they are on such a sharp curve it presents a problem. The kids use it as a fun curve and especially at night. Mike stated as soon as the speed humps are in place that would take all the fun out of it and that may stop it. Mayor Sommers requested Captain Leos have a chance to research and provide information about the trailer and speed humps. Councilmember Bradford asked if he had a trailer that would tell the speed. Captain Leos stated yes he would look at it this week. Councilmember Misita said there is no way the curve should be 25 mph. Mike Elliot thinks it is great to get more information but he is asking for the speed hump. He thinks no one would want the trailer in front of their house. He appreciates the fact that they are looking at things but would like a speed hump. Councilmember Stephenson said with our budget and price of \$1,600 it is pretty steep and is worth looking into first. Vice Mayor Radcliffe also stated that also Town Manager Anna Flores can get a couple more bids from different firms. Captain Leos stated he can help do that. Diana Herrick asked why the town workers cannot do the work themselves. Mayor Sommers stated because it needs to be constructed a certain way, and Town Manager Anna Flores stated for legal purposes. Chris Misita also explained the hump has to be engineered properly for

proper run-off. Bill Dunn asked about the portable rubber speed humps. Chris Misita asked if cost weren't an issue would the Council approve it. Mayor Sommers reiterated that they would give Captain Leos the opportunity to do some research and Anna can also find other bids. Councilmember Misita stated the engineering now is probably different than when the streets were designed. Vice Mayor Radcliffe also asked about researching the rubber speed humps. Councilmember Bradford reminded us that there were several citizens that stated they race on their streets, and she wants everyone to know that they race on her street and almost every street. She now understands better that curve is too sharp and why they feel that they need it more than others because of the curve. Mike Elliott asked if the Council had seen the picture of the truck. Mayor Sommers stated we will see if we can table this and get more information until the next meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Stephenson, **second** by Councilmember Misita to table this item until additional information, costs, and different options are obtained. **Vote** – All members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Town Manager Anna Flores said CAG Legislative Day is being held on Thursday, February 23, 2017 and needs to know which Councilmembers are attending. She also announced Pioneer Days will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2017 through Sunday, March 19, 2017 this year. Councilmember Bradford asked where the CAG meeting is. Anna stated it is at the League and she will be taking a van.

REPORTS

Mayor Sommers asked if there was any discussion on the reports. No discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Stephenson, **second** by Vice Mayor Radcliffe to accept the reports. **Vote** – All members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**


ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Bradford, **second** by Councilmember Misita to adjourn. **Vote** – All members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED.** Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.


Debra Sommers, Mayor


Anna Flores, Town Manager

ATTEST:


Cathy Woolery, Town Clerk