

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CHINO VALLEY
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024
6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 202 N. STATE ROUTE 89 | CHINO VALLEY,
ARIZONA 86323**

1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Jack Miller, Vice-Mayor Tom Armstrong, Councilmember Annie Perkins, Councilmember Eric Granillo, Councilmember Sherri Phillips, Councilmember Robert Schacherer

Absent: John McCafferty

Staff Present: Town Manager Cindy Blackmore, Town Attorney Andrew McGuire - remote, Public Affairs Director Terri Denemy, Development Services Director Laurie Lineberry, Finance Director Katie Pehl, Public Works Director/Town Engineer Frank Marbury, Economic Development Manager Maggie Holmberg, Community Services Director Cyndi Thomas, Audio Visual Technician Lawrence Digges, Deputy Town Clerk Sara Burchill, Town Clerk Erin N. Deskins

2. INTRODUCTIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND PROCLAMATIONS

- a. Presentation from the Prescott National Forest regarding updates on the Yavapai Ranch Conservation Projects.

Heather Reading, Conservation Advisor for Land Advisors Organization, presented the following:

- Land Advisors was a commercial real estate brokerage that only sold land. It was the largest brokerage in the nation. She joined the organization because of the Yavapai Ranch Conservation Project to lead a conservation division. The brokerage had several ongoing conservation projects.
- Presented a map showing the location of Yavapai Ranch within the Verde River Basin. 75% of the ranch was within the Verde River watershed, the other 25% was in the Williams River watershed. The Yavapai Ranch area was nearly as large as the City of Phoenix.

John Kava, Bradshaw-Chino Valley Deputy District Ranger for Prescott National Forest (PNF) presented the following:

- Yavapai Ranch was a large portion of the Prescott National Forest (41,000 acres within Prescott National Forest boundaries).
- PNF had been trying to consolidate the land for 40 years with the current land owner.
- The conservation benefits included water, climate, cultural resources, etc.

- PNF had managed the land since the early 90s as one ownership.
- The Chino Valley Ranger District Landscape Assessment was completed about five years ago which would allow them to do a lot of vegetation treatment to help with restoration.

Heather Reading presented the following:

- These endeavors were part of a much larger conservation effort to protect the Upper Verde River aquifer through acquisition of conservation easements over private ranches. It was a willing buyer, willing seller, voluntary market-based approach as an alternative to groundwater regulation.
- The Yavapai Ranch owners were the first who were willing to sell a conservation easement over a portion of the ranch to participate in the aquifer protection program which led to the success of a grant award through the Farm Bill Regional Conservation Partnership Program (Upper Verde River Aquifer Protection & Resilient Grassland Conservation Strategy).
- Discussed funding and agencies involved in the conservation effort.
- The biggest threat to the aquifer was industrial scale agriculture.
- Provided a list of 41 supporters (federal, tribal, state, and local governments, nonprofits, and corporate companies) of the conservation effort. She had been told that at the federal level this was the most support that had been seen for a conservation project.
- The project was ranked #9 for United States Forest Service priorities.
- They were requesting continued support from the Town by writing a letter of support so the project could continue with the grant application.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC - Individuals requesting to speak, please complete a Speaker Comment Card and return to the Clerk.

Call to the Public is an opportunity for the public to address the Council on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Council that is not on the agenda. Public comment is at the discretion of the Council and not required by law. Individuals are limited to speak for three (3) minutes, yielding of time will not be permitted. The total time for Call to the Public may be up to 30 minutes per meeting. Council action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date, or responding to criticism. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated; this includes loud outbursts, profanity, and disruptive discussions among our audience.

4. CURRENT EVENT SUMMARIES AND REPORTS

This item is for information only. The Mayor, any Councilmember, or Town Manager may present a brief summary or report of current events. If listed below, there may also be a presentation on information requested by the Mayor and Council and questions may be answered. No action will be taken.

- a. Status reports by Mayor and Council regarding current events.

Mayor Miller presented the following:

- He thanked the community for their outpouring of love, support, and help during his

family's time of need. He stated that Chino Valley was an awesome town.

- b. Status report by Town Manager Cindy Blackmore regarding Town accomplishments, and current or upcoming projects.

Cindy Blackmore, Town Manager, presented the following:

- Territorial Days events would run from August 30th to September 2nd and would include a movie in the park, pancake breakfast, parade, corn dinner, car show, fireworks, Ichor Airsoft event, etc. The Town was still looking for parade entries.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

All those items listed below are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. Any Councilmember may request to remove an item from the Consent Agenda to be considered and discussed separately.

MOVED by Vice-Mayor Tom Armstrong, seconded by Councilmember Eric Granillo to approve Consent Agenda items a-h.

AYE: Mayor Jack Miller, Vice-Mayor Tom Armstrong, Councilmember Annie Perkins, Councilmember Eric Granillo, Councilmember Sherri Phillips, Councilmember Robert Schacherer

NAY: None

6 - 0 Passed – Unanimously

- a. Consideration and possible action to approve Job Order No. 1 to the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Fann Contracting, Inc., for the New Public Works Office Building Remodel project for \$344,700.
- b. Consideration and possible action to approve Job Order No. 2 to the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Fann Contracting, Inc., for the New Human Resources Office Building Remodel project for \$248,400.
- c. Consideration and possible action to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for Upper Verde River Watershed-Yavapai Ranch (Phase IV) Land & Water Conservation Fund Request by Prescott National Forest.
- d. Consideration and possible action to rescind Bill Burns's appointment to the Public Safety Retirement Board.
- e. Consideration and possible action to approve the June 11, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

- f. Consideration and possible action to approve the June 25, 2024, study session, regular meeting, and special meeting minutes.
- g. Consideration and possible action to approve the July 9, 2024, study session and regular meeting minutes.
- h. Consideration and possible action to approve the July 10, 2024, study session minutes.

6. ACTION ITEMS

The Council may vote to recess the public meeting and hold an Executive Session on any item on this agenda pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussion or consultation for legal advice with the Town Attorney. Executive sessions are not open to the public and no action may be taken in executive session.

- a. Consideration and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2024-1268, declaring and adopting the results of the 2024 Primary Election held on July 30, 2024.

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2024-1268, declaring and adopting the results of the 2024 Primary Election held on July 30, 2024.

Erin Deskins, Town Clerk, presented the following:

- The ballot for the July 30, 2024, Primary Election included a mayor, three councilmembers, and Proposition 475.
- If approved, staff would issue certificates of election to those candidates who received sufficient votes to be declared elected.
- The Mayor-elect and Councilmembers-elect would take their Oath of Office and begin their terms of office on December 10, 2024.
- There was a reporting error by the County discovered on the morning of the Council meeting regarding the total number of ballots cast. The County had provided new canvass documents. The most recent updated numbers were reflected in the Resolution and presented to Council. Voter turnout increased to 44.79%. No outcomes were affected, and all other numbers were correctly reported.

The following individuals were elected: Tom Armstrong – Mayor, Eric Granillo – Councilmember, Larry Holt – Councilmember, and Robert Switzer – Councilmember.

MOVED by Vice-Mayor Tom Armstrong, seconded by Councilmember Annie Perkins to adopt Resolution No. 2024-1268, declaring and adopting the results of the 2024 Primary Election held on July 30, 2024.

AYE: Mayor Jack Miller, Vice-Mayor Tom Armstrong, Councilmember Annie Perkins, Councilmember Eric Granillo, Councilmember Sherri Phillips, Councilmember Robert Schacherer

NAY: None

6 - 0 Passed – Unanimously

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. An executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) for discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, or salary of Cindy Blackmore, Town Manager.

Mayor Miller read an email from Councilmember McCafferty stating that he would not be able to attend tonight's meeting and requested a subsequent Executive Session.

Andrew McGuire, Town Attorney, recommended moving forward with whether or not there was a motion to move into Executive Session.

MOVED by Councilmember Annie Perkins, seconded by Councilmember Robert Schacherer to enter into Executive Session.

AYE: Mayor Jack Miller, Vice-Mayor Tom Armstrong, Councilmember Annie Perkins, Councilmember Eric Granillo, Councilmember Sherri Phillips, Councilmember Robert Schacherer

NAY: None

6 - 0 Passed – Unanimously

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilmember Sherri Phillips, seconded by Councilmember Annie Perkins to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

AYE: Mayor Jack Miller, Vice-Mayor Tom Armstrong, Councilmember Annie Perkins, Councilmember Eric Granillo, Councilmember Sherri Phillips, Councilmember Robert Schacherer

NAY: None

6 - 0 Passed – Unanimously



Jack W. Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Erin N. Deskins

Erin N. Deskins, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Chino Valley, Arizona held on the 13th day of August, 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 10th day of September, 2024.

Erin N. Deskins

Erin N. Deskins, Town Clerk