

Minutes of a Special Meeting of The Common Council of The Town of Clarkdale
Held on Tuesday, April 22, 2003, in the
Men's Lounge of the Clarkdale Memorial Clubhouse, Clarkdale, Arizona.

A Special meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Tuesday, April 22, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Men's Lounge of the Clark Memorial Clubhouse.

Town Council:

Mayor	Michael Bluff
Vice Mayor	Ellie Bauer
Councilmember	David Leibforth
	Rex Williams
	Tom Groom

Staff:

Town Manager	Gayle Mabery
Town Clerk	Joyce Driscoll
Planning Director	Lyle Richardson
Fire Chief	Berry Van Hook
Acting Police Chief	Pat Haynie
Admin. Assistant	Charlotte Hawken

Others in attendance: Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Sandy Boothe, Claude Lankford, Sharon Driver, Guinda Reeves, Angela Welles, Frances Judd, Richard Hamberg, Dustin Jones and others who did not sign in or whose names were illegible.

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Bluff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that all Council members were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT - *Frances Judd*, 1495 Abbey Road South, stated that she regretted hearing Mr. Handverger resigning from Clarkdale Water Action Committee. She stated that an article in the Verde Independent on April 18 stated that Cottonwood Water Works could currently service the land trade area. She stated that some Haskell Springs residents would like to be on city water and that Jerry Brown says his well has gone down 12" in the last three weeks and 24" in the last year. She stated she is opposed the Ruskin land trade and would like to see more sensitivity to the needs of Haskell Springs area residents.

Sandy Boothe, 123 Sunset, stated she has two

F. Grant Applications - Approval of submitting a series of grant applications to the Arizona

questions:

1. She was hoping the Council would speak to Mayor Bluff's comment in his letter to Senator McCain about how the Town is saving water by going through with the trade when it looks like it's moving water users from the current Ruskin land to the Verde Valley
2. The bill as it's currently written calls for limited water use on the Clarkdale parcel and puts the responsibility for monitoring that use on either the state or some smaller governmental body, presumably the Town of Clarkdale. She wonders how that use might be monitored, particularly if the state does not wish to do so, how the Town would take care of that and ensure that the water use meets the requirements in the trade.

Mayor Bluff closed public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA - Without objection the Council adopted Items A through G.

A. Request by Clarkdale Chamber of Commerce - Approval of a temporary liquor license and closure of 10th Street by the Clarkdale Chamber for a Business Block Party being held on May 16, 2003.

B. Agreement - Approval of a lease agreement with Transylvania International regarding lots at the corner of Main Street and Ninth Street, tax parcels 400-03-178 through 400-03-181.

C. Proclamation - Approval of a proclamation proclaiming April, 2003 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month".

D. Agreement - Approval of an agreement with the Clarkdale Chamber of Commerce for use of town facilities.

E. Request by Verde Valley Little League - Approval of a request by Verde Valley Little League to place a temporary "snack shack" at Selna Ballfield.

Department of Commerce, Energy Office, Municipal Energy Management Program to

supplement remodeling and renovations under the approved portions of the Facilities Master Plan.

G. **Resolution** - Approval of a resolution supporting energy conservation throughout the Town of Clarkdale, as well as, within the scope of town operations.

NORTHERN ARIZONA NATIONAL FOREST LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2003 (SB 849) – Consideration and possible action regarding the most recent legislation, introduced by Senators McCain and Kyle, which relates to the exchange of over 50,000 acres of federal and private land in Arizona, including land located in Clarkdale. Councilmember Leibforth noted that the new bill covers a large territory and is simpler than the previous bill. He stated there are things in the bill which are not explained expecting that in the course of debate it is likely there will be changes and refinements. He stated that unexplained items include the monitoring of the water.

There was some discussion about the scope and wording of this item. Mayor Bluff moved that the Council support the new legislation, Senate Bill 849, and draft a letter to that effect. Vice Mayor Bauer seconded.

Councilmember Leibforth stated four concerns:

1. The 150 acre feet of water being allotted to usage on the Clarkdale parcel. Is this removed from the site or does it come from somewhere else? This is not clear. What happens if they go over or under this amount? Can water be 'banked'?
 2. Details of monitoring the water restrictions - who will do the monitoring and what happens if the restrictions are not abided by.
 3. The extensive inholdings, including 3-4,000 acres near the family homestead, which would be retained by Mr. Ruskin.
 4. The inclusion of the Verde Valley parcels and the loss of accessible forest lands to Verde Valley
- MAYOR'S ROLE - Consideration of the Mayor's role as a spokesperson for the Town of Clarkdale, specifically including, but not limited to, the**

residents.

He stated the difficulty of supporting the bill is the inclusion of these concerns and therefore it's not the appropriate thing for the Council to do.

There was not necessarily a consensus on the following issues, which were presented during discussion:

1. The Arizona Department of Water Resources is in the best position to help whatever entity does the monitoring.
2. The Forest Service will get one half of the water from the three wells on Yavapai Ranch.
3. There are scheduled public meetings regarding the bill.
4. The Verde Valley will grow and now is the opportunity to develop sustained long term water sources.
5. The Yavapai Ranch inholdings are going down from 55 to 5 sections.
6. Concerns about existing wells in Haskell Springs.
7. Any more development than 275 homes on 3-acre lots will ;have to go through the zoning change procedure of the Town.

Mayor Bluff clarified the motion, to support the bill with a letter from the Council thanking the delegation for resubmitting a cleaner bill and stating the two items that the Council is concerned about: 1) A monitoring process needing to be in place that will assure that the State Department will have some enforcement mechanism for the water restrictions and 2) That if the land is traded into private hands and it is developed, a buffer zone be developed around the Haskell Springs area so that the water resources in that area are not adversely affected.

The motion passed four to one, with Councilmember Leibforth opposed.

letter dated March 14, 2003 sent to the Congressional Delegation by Mayor Bluff on behalf of the Town of Clarkdale stating support

of the Yavapai Ranch Land Exchange. Mayor Bluff stated there were two issues: first, whether to direct staff to develop a policy on when the Mayor or a Councilmember may speak representing the Council, and second, whether the Mayor should have sent the March 14, 2003 letter reiterating support of the land trade.

Councilmember Leibforth stated that his concern was that a new letter with new things in it, which went beyond the stated position of the Council, was sent representing the Town, without review by the Council.

Town Manager Mabery suggested that any letters that go out by anyone, whether it be the Mayor or a Councilmember, should be copied to the Town and to the other Councilmembers so, if there is a problem with the way things are being represented, it can be brought to the table and corrected.

Mayor Bluff noted that parliamentary procedure rules provide a remedy for the situation. Disagreements can be brought before the body for action. Under Parliamentary Rule 6 is a list of possible disciplinary procedures that could be used.

The Council agreed they did not need to ask staff to develop a policy, but rather they could use the mechanism in Robert's Rules of order.

Councilmember Leibforth paraphrased the questionable insertions in the March 14, 2003 letter, as follows:

1. That the town needs more private land to make existing developable land less expensive.
2. That the Yavapai Ranch land trade saves water.
3. That Mr. Ruskin's development will contain affordable housing, when Mr. Ruskin has stated it will be upscale.
4. That residential development provides a greater tax base.
5. That Clarkdale needs more private land.

Councilmember Williams moved to ratify the letter

6. Growth in the area means an increasing number

dated March 14, 2003. Vice Mayor Bauer seconded.

After some discussion, Councilmember Williams called for the question. The motion passed four to one, with Councilmember Leibforth opposing.

WORKSESSION - A worksession regarding interim administration of the Fire Department; review of past discussions regarding consolidation of Verde Valley fire and EMS services; and discussion of initiating a review of Clarkdale's options for future fire and EMS services. Town Manager Mabery noted that Fire Chief Van Hook will be leaving the Town. Fire Chief Van Hook summarized the history of emergency consolidation in the Verde Valley. There have been items that have been functionally consolidated. These include dispatching, purchasing and response. Staffing is the one major area not functionally consolidated. There is a unified Verde Valley Fire/EMS dispatch, excluding Camp Verde. They are on the verge of going to the next step, which is closest unit response.

There was not necessarily a consensus on the following issues, which were presented during discussion:

1. Consolidating on the ground services requires that the Town address meeting the standard of two people on fire duty per shift, which will cost an additional \$120,000 per year. Currently there is one person per shift.
2. The Town could use the next six months to study the consolidation options before hiring a new fire chief.
3. This study would include public discussion of where the department is, where the department wants to go to and how it will get there.
4. With consolidation, the public may see an increased cost without a perceived increase in service, because of the automatic aide. However, a reduction in response would result.
5. 85% of Clarkdale's calls are EMS calls. of EMS and fire calls and the department will soon

need more staff to maintain the level of service.

7. There are several different ways change can take place: merging with other fire departments, paying a fee for another entity to provide service or forming a district.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION - Direction to Staff regarding the negotiation of a contract with Verde Valley Fire District for interim fire department administration services.

Town Manager Mabery noted staff recommends a six month contract with Verde Valley Fire District for administrative services and a group to study consolidation options.

Without objection, *Mayor Bluff directed staff* to pursue discussions with Verde Valley Fire District.

ORDINANCE - Consideration of an ordinance making changes to the Town Code, Section 2-1-1, B., Elected Officers. Town Manager Mabery noted this ordinance would bring the Council back to a staggered three/two election cycle. Vice Mayor Bauer moved to approve the ordinance making changes to the Town Code in Section 2-1-1, B., Elected Officers. Councilmember Groom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT - With no further business before the Council, and without objection, Councilmember Bluff adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

APPROVED:

Michael Bluff, Mayor

SUBMITTED:

Charlotte Hawken, Admin. Assistant

ATTESTED:

Joyce Driscoll, Town Clerk