

Minutes of a Special Meeting of a Joint Meeting of the Common Council of The Town of Clarkdale and
the Common Council of the City of Cottonwood
Held on Thursday, November 13, 2003, in the
Clark Memorial Clubhouse, Men's Lounge, Clarkdale, Arizona.

A Special meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Thursday, November 13, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. in the Clark Memorial Clubhouse, Men's Lounge, Clarkdale, Arizona.

Clarkdale Town Council:

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

Cottonwood City Council:

Mayor	Ruben Jauregui
Vice Mayor	Bob Rothrock
Councilmember	Joan Cerny
	Steve Dockray
	Randy Lowe (absent)
	Diane Joens
	Karen Pfeifer

Clarkdale Town Staff:

Town Manager	Gayle Mabery
Town Clerk	Joyce Driscoll
Town Attorney	Robert Pecharich
Fire Chief	Don Eberle
Interim Planning Dir.	Steven Brown

Cottonwood Staff:

Town Manager	Brian Mickelsen
Fire Chief	Mike Casson

Others in Attendance: Tom Foster, Marilyn Pomerence, Beth Escobar, Robyn Prod'homme-Bauer, David and Maria Puzas, Everett L. McElroy, Mark Dixon, Bruce Hagberg, Shawn McCallum, Matt Robertson, Seth Murphy, Jeff Boyd, Ken Inchaust, Dan Mastrianni, Pamela Mastrianni, Tim Wills, Roger Davis, Angela DeWelles, Mike Rauton, Robert Collingwood, Bill Ferguson.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayors Bluff and Jauregui.

Tom Foster summarized a meeting held with major property owners along the corridor. His feeling was that in the end they felt the roundabout proposal was better than signals since persons can get into their businesses easier. They felt that more roundabouts would be better to shorten the time for

It was noted that all of the Clarkdale Town Council was present and Vice Mayor Lowe of Cottonwood was absent.

WORKSESSION - A worksession to discuss ADOT's proposed design alternatives for the improvements to State Highway 89A between Black Hills Drive and Cement Plant Road/11th Street.

Tom Foster of ADOT stated that ADOT discussed the advantages of roundabouts vs. traditional street signals.

A Power Point presentation on using roundabouts on 89A was shown. It was noted that roundabouts have a 4 second delay whereas stop lights have a 13 second delay per vehicle.

Tom Foster stated that he feels that the intersection at Cement Plant road should be 2 lanes with a larger circle in the middle. It was discussed that originally it was discussed realigning Blackhills Drive. The thought now is to possibly not realign.

An education video, "Driving Modern Roundabouts" was shown.

Discussion followed. The first round-about was built in 1992. Others, called traffic circles, do not work. Now roundabouts are being built all over. Highway 89A is no longer a through highway, but more of a local road. Traffic circles are bigger and approaches are high speed, and people in the circle yield to those entering.

Discussion of bicycles and roundabouts followed.

Tom Foster stated that emergency vehicles can get through a round-about without dodging cars. With a round-about "T-boning" isn't a concern.

Town Manager Mabery stated that Clarkdale has discussed that public education will be a critical piece if roundabouts are used.

U-turns and enhances safety. He stated that a few in attendance at the meeting felt that left handed turns should be allowed wherever they were wanted. He stated that they saw the need for traffic control.

Town Manager Mabery stated that five roundabouts would be built now and future

developers would build more if needed.

The meeting was opened up for public comment.

Marilynn Pomeranke, 2050 W. Highway 89A Cottonwood, stated that she had many concerns. Highway 89A bypass was built to move cement. She stated that the local economy is heavily dependent on the senior population. She stated that Lampliter currently has 300 homes with more planned to go in. She stated at least 600 seniors go in and out of pine shadows. A lot of older people will be intimidated with roundabouts, they will be upset and frustrated. She stated that some cannot drive so neighbors take them, and they will give up driving due to the roundabouts. She continued that it will be harder to sell their homes and will devalue their property. She also expressed concern regarding emergency vehicles. This may be the cheapest way to build, but people should come first.

Another lady in the audience who did not identify herself stated that she lives in Mingus View Estates. She stated that people are going to go down Old Jerome Highway to avoid the roundabout. She stated she was concerned about the traffic.

It was mentioned that the General Plan calls for Mescal Spur to access 89A in the future.

WORKSESSION - A worksession to discuss the Town of Clarkdale's proposal to form a Clarkdale Fire District.

Town Manager Mabery stated that Clarkdale formed a fire services committee in July. The committee identified five options: for the fire department to remain as it is; to join another fire department through an Intergovernmental agreement; contract with another department to run the department; annex into another district; or form a district.

She stated that the group met three months. The council decided in September that it was in the best interest of Clarkdale to promote the formation of a district in Clarkdale. A staff member has been hired to move the process forward. She stated that there are timing issues regarding the collection of property taxes. She stated that it is not typical for municipal departments to form a district. She stated that the department was started in 1912 and was all volunteer until 1996. Today there is a full time Chief and

three firefighters, one per shift. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to provide staffing and it is felt that the appropriate level of service can be better accomplished through a district.

Discussion of the fire district tax followed.

It was also discussed that the district may want to join another district in the future. The district will consider including lands outside of Clarkdale that currently do not have service.

The Town cannot raise property taxes to pay for the additional service needed, because of state laws. 95% of Clarkdale calls are EMS. Clearly there will be an overall tax increase, even though it is anticipated that Clarkdale would reduce its taxes once the department is a district.

Tim Wills, 1400 W. Foy Drive, stated that the consolidation report is a dated document and that current standards should be met.

WATER COMPANY - Discussion and possible action concerning the possible approaches to the proposed acquisition of local water company or companies.

Without objection the councils moved into executive session.

ADJOURNMENT - With no further business before the Council, and without objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Michael Bluff, Mayor

SUBMITTED:

Joyce Driscoll, Town Clerk