

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale Held on Tuesday, April 27, 2005.

A Special meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. in the Men’s Lounge of the Clark Memorial Clubhouse, 19 N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, Arizona.

Town Council:

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| Mayor | Doug Von Gausig |
| Vice Mayor | Jerry Wiley |
| Councilmember | Frank Sa |
| | Patricia Williams |
| | Vacancy |

Town Staff:

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| Town Manager | Gayle Mabery |
| Town Clerk | Joyce Driscoll |
| Town Attorney | Robert Pecharich |

Others in Attendance: Robyn Prudhomme-Bauer, Ellie Bauer, Ed Knight, Amy Bayless and Tim Wills.

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Von Gausig called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and noted that all members were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

INTERVIEWS – Interviews of potential new Council Members to fill the position recently made vacant by the resignation of Rex Williams.

Mayor Von Gausig thanked *Ed Knight* for applying and noted that his application shows he has been on several town boards, attended the board training and attended the League training at Yavapai College. He stated Mr. Knight’s response to the question of what he sees about Clarkdale that is going in the right direction, as follows:

1. A strong historical background that supports tourism
2. A great need for commercial development
3. In favor of clustering commercial development
4. See some industrial development, such as Verde Iron co.
5. Sees the smelter area as developing into and industrial park.

Mayor Von Gausig asked Mr. Knight where the

town would derive income with commercial development income tax. Mr. Knight stated the Town needs to go out and encourage commercial activities. Types of businesses that support residents, keep money in the community instead of it going to Cottonwood.

Mayor Von Gausig asked how the Town would encourage that. Mr. Knight responded by building on art history and parks and recreation to attract people.

Mayor Von Gausig stated that one way the Town has to get money for needs caused by growth is impact fees. Mr. Knight stated raising impact fees can deter people, but he feels the Town is entitled to some impact fees.

Mayor Von Gausig asked what Mr. Knight would get out of being a Council member. Mr. Knight stated that he wants to get closer to the “end” point, that he has been on boards and commissions, but you do not get the whole picture until you are where the final decisions are being made.

Mayor Von Gausig asked if Mr. Knight sees big pitfalls in Clarkdale’s future. Mr. Knight stated that water and wastewater discharge are problems. He feels the town’s acquisition of the water company is a good thing and gives citizens some control.

Councilmember Sa asked what population Mr. Knight would consider feasible. Mr. Knight noted there are 800 units in the works now and that the town needs controlled growth.

Mayor Von Gausig asked for Mr. Knight’s view on the fire district. Mr. Knight stated he would like to see a local fire department, but he understands the problems with manpower, etc., especially with population growth.

Mayor Von Gausig explained that the fire district raises property taxes. Mr. Knight stated he feels the residents should be supportive. However, the town must be sure they get what they pay for.

Councilmember Williams noted the large time

commitment required to be a Council member. Mr. Knight stated he has enjoyed his tenure on town boards and hopes he made a valuable contribution.

Vice-Mayor Wiley asked Mr. Knight how he feels about a four-year term. Mr. Knight stated he couldn't guarantee anything, that it depends on his experience and situation at the time.

The Council recessed at 5:47 p.m. and reconvened at 6:20 p.m.

Mayor Von Gausig thanked *Tim Wills* for applying and noted that his application shows that he currently employed by the City of Cottonwood. He asked if Mr. Wills sees any conflict in that. Mr. Wills stated he doesn't see any conflict, as he is not a policymaker for the City of Cottonwood.

Mayor Von Gausig asked Mr. Wills for his feelings about the fire district. Mr. Wills stated he feels the current services are inadequate. The District probably is the best and fastest way to address the situation. He stated he had offered his services to the committee. He feels the public health and safety should be at the top of the list of priorities. He commended the Clarkdale Council for passing the fire sprinkler ordinance.

Mayor Von Gausig asked Mr. Wills about his statement on his application that there was a critical void on the Council. Mr. Wills stated he feels it needs to be a full Council to talk to people in the community, do research, etc.

Mayor Von Gausig asked Mr. Wills about his statement on his application that he favors a progressive approach to growth. Mr. Wills noted why people he knows came to Clarkdale. People want to come here, but where does the Town draw the line? The Town can't stop it, the community is going to grow, but it can maintain the quality of life that citizen's value.

When asked about his employment, Mr. Wills stated he has worked for Cottonwood for sixteen years, the last ten years as Fire Marshall.

Mayor Von Gausig asked Mr. Wills about the roles of town staff vs. the Council.

Mr. Wills stated the Council sets direction and the

staff carries out that direction.

Mayor Von Gausig asked if Mr. Wills was appointed and he feels there is a situation with the Fire District that is not being addressed, how would he handle it? Mr. Wills stated he would work with the town manager and staff. He may have some expertise to offer on the issue. He would bring it back to the Council as a partner with the department head..

Mayor Von Gausig asked Mr. Wills how he sees the balance between services, growth and maintaining quality of life. Mr. Wills stated he favors using the General Plan as a guide. However, there are opportunities in the plan to make changes if it is not a good fit for the community in the future.

Mayor Von Gausig asked Mr. Wills what problems he sees other than growth. Mr. Wills stated the Town's need to ensure it has water now and in the future makes the acquisition of the water company a good thing to do.

Mayor Von Gausig stated that the acquisition means raising the water rates and asked Mr. Wills how he'd feel about being on the Council that does that. Mr. Wills stated this is a tough issue. People want water, good streets, and fire safety and they need to realize that it will cost them money. He personally does not like the large jump to the new rate system and would like to see it increase over time, which would make it more palatable.

Mayor Von Gausig asked what Mr. Wills thinks is accomplished by acquiring the water company. Mr. Wills stated the Town gains more control over a resource that the community needs. It can then work with development regarding water needs.

Vice-Mayor Wiley asked Mr. Wills what is the greatest deficit in Clarkdale in regards to emergency services. Mr. Wills responded emergency medical services.

Councilmember Williams asked Mr. Wills what his working hours are. Mr. Wills stated he works one day on and one day off, but he has opportunities to take time off.

Councilmember Williams asked Mr. Wills if he has any interest in running for a four-year term. Mr.

Wills stated he is interested to some extent. Now there is an opportunity to step in where there is a need. He feels like he can make a difference. He would most likely run for a four-year term. He knows it can be a thankless job and appreciates the time it requires.

Mayor Von Gausig asked Mr. Wills about his views on roundabouts. Mr. Wills stated he has driven them and they are workable. There is a learning curve for drivers. He feels that roundabouts will improve the amount of serious accidents.

The Council recessed at 6:40 p.m. and reconvened at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Von Gausig thanked *Amy Bayless* for applying and asked her why she had. She stated she had lived here a couple of years and wanted to get more involved.

Mayor Von Gausig noted that her application stated she went to college. Ms. Bayless stated she had studied finance, more project management than taxes.

Mayor Von Gausig asked if Ms. Bayless had attended Council meetings. She replied that she came once in a while and the Council seemed well run and everyone worked well together.

Mayor Von Gausig asked Ms. Bayless what she would bring to the Council. Ms. Bayless stated she has the perspective of a person new to the area. She has lived in other small towns that have experienced a large amount of growth, including Patagonia.

Mayor Von Gausig asked Ms. Bayless about the problems of small towns. Ms. Bayless stated that there had been residential but not much commercial development in Patagonia. Residential development and commercial development need to be balanced.

Mayor Von Gausig asked if there were other issues, besides growth and infrastructure problems, that the Town would need to look at in the next ten years. Ms. Bayless stated that holding on the old ways and not wanting to change can be a problem. Commercial development is not being pushed and there is no economic base, so that the Town is becoming a bedroom community. The Town needs

to seek commercial development and take an active role to promote the Town.

When asked if economic development was part of a finance degree, Ms. Bayless responded that it was not specifically.

Mayor Von Gausig asked Ms. Bayless if she has philosophical feelings on impact fees. Ms. Bayless stated that impact fees are a necessary evil, but have to be done with balance.

Mayor Von Gausig asked about water company fees. Ms. Bayless stated she understands rising costs because of the arsenic standards and improvements that have not been done in the past.

Mayor Von Gausig asked about attendance and Ms. Bayless replied that she has a flexible schedule. She outlined other volunteer activities that she has done.

When asked about her feelings about the Fire District, Ms. Bayless stated the District is the best option. The Fire District is a better opportunity to address needs of citizens and the Town does not have the funding.

Mayor Von Gausig asked about the raising of property taxes due to the formation of a Fire District. Ms. Bayless stated that the taxes are necessary, although the Town needs to be prudent.

Councilmember Williams asked if she is interested in a four-year term. Ms. Bayless stated she might be interested, she would see what it's like before deciding.

Mayor Von Gausig asked what is going right/wrong in Clarkdale. Ms. Bayless stated that getting development, sprinkler ordinance, balancing changes and showing forethought are going right. Problems include that information is hard to get at times and it is frustrating when it is not easily accessible.

Mayor Von Gausig asked about the difference between Council and Town staff. Ms. Bayless stated that staff manages day to day, a thankless job. The Council directs staff.

Mayor Von Gausig asked Ms. Bayless what she might contribute to the Council and she replied that she has a cool head and likes long range planning.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – None.

ADJOURNMENT - With no further business before the Council, and without objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

APPROVE:

Doug Von Gausig, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Driscoll, Town Clerk

SUBMIT:

Charlotte Hawken, Admin. Assistant