

## **Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale Held on Tuesday, August 26, 2008**

A Special Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Tuesday, August 26, 2008, at 3:00 PM. in the Clarkdale Magistrate Courtroom, 49 North Ninth Street, Clarkdale, Arizona.

**Town Council:**

Mayor Doug Von Gausig  
Vice Mayor Jerry Wiley

Councilmember Patricia Williams - Absent  
Councilmember Curtiss Bohall  
Councilmember Richard Dehnert

**Town Staff:**

Town Manager Gayle Mabery  
Public Works Director Steve Burroughs  
Finance Director Carlton Woodruff  
Planner II Normalinda Zúñiga  
Building Inspector Paul Grasso  
Police Chief Pat Haynie  
Deputy Town Clerk Walt Good

Assistant Town Manager Janet Perry  
Community Development Director Sherry Bailey  
GIS Planner Guss Espolt  
Building Official Mike Baker  
Utility Director Wayne Debrosky  
Town Clerk Kathy Bainbridge

**CALL TO ORDER at 3:00 PM** by Mayor Von Gausig, Mayor noted that Councilmember Williams was absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – The Town Council invites the public to provide comments at this time. Members of the Council may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.01(G), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date. Persons interested in making a comment on a specific agenda item are asked to complete a brief form and submit it to the Town Clerk during the meeting. Each speaker is asked to limit their comments to five minutes.

No Public Comment

**CONSENT AGENDA** - The consent agenda portion of the agenda is a means of expediting routine matters that must be acted on by the Council. All items are approved with one motion. Any items may be removed for discussion at the request of any Council Member.

- A) **Facilities Use Agreement** – Approval of a 2008-2009 Facilities Use Agreement for the use of Town Facilities by the Yavapai Community College District.

Vice Mayor Wiley moved to accept consent item A as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Bohall. Approved unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**SPONSORSHIP OF “ARIZONA MAKE A SPLASH WITH PROJECT WET WATER FESTIVALS 2008” – Discussion and possible consideration of a sponsorship to the Verde Valley Water Festival to be held at Dead Horse Ranch State Park on October 23, 2008 for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from all over the Verde Valley, including the Clarkdale-Jerome School District.**

Town Manager Mabery informed Council that the Town has \$8,000.00 in the Water Conservation Fund that is funded by each water company customer at the rate of \$0.25 per month. These funds are to be utilized in promoting water conservation.

Councilmember Bohall wanted to know what the parameters were for use of this fund and that if there are none, the Town Council should set the parameters. Councilmember Bohall is in favor of setting up a program that would aid those who could not afford to personally fund a conservation issue be allowed to request some assistance.

Discussion was held on if the Town should use the funds to sponsor this request and if so, at what level.

Vice Mayor Wiley moved to approve the sponsorship of the Verde Valley Water Festival in the amount of \$1,000.00. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dehnert. Approved unanimously.

**WORKSESSION REGARDING WATER- Discussion of several water topics, including current and long-term water supply status, long-term outlook for water adequacy in Clarkdale and future policy.**

Mayor Von Gausig opened the worksession to open discussion to the Council and to the public present. The Mayor handed out “Water Work Session” information which included a statement and outline for this discussion, and also handed out “A Water Primer” information that gave a glossary of the terms that might be used during the discussion. The discussion is to review possible options for the long term water issues of water quality, water supply, and what to do with our wastewater. The reason the Mayor wanted the discussion is that he is the primary board member representing the Town of Clarkdale on various water boards such as the Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee, Verde River Basin Partnership, and the Bureau of Reclamation Study. The main topic of discussion is long range water acquisition for the Central Northern Arizona area. The Mayor wants a level of comfort that the Council is aware of the issues and that he is presenting these committees the Town of Clarkdale’s view on these issues. We need to get a clear idea as to what the Town wants as we go into the General Plan process to guide those discussions and processes.

One of the Mayor’s concerns is clarification on the abstract of a continuum of where Clarkdale can be in reference to water supply and future water supply. The points submitted were; A) The Town will not drill any more wells and will live with-in or current supply

means, “this is the amount of water we have and we will have to live with it.” B) The other end of the spectrum is we will be bringing in water from the Colorado River, ice bergs and where ever we can get enough water to supply the needs of the future allowing for unlimited growth. Option A would be the lowest water rates and Option B the highest water rates. The base line discussion is where we want to be on the continuum between Option A and Option B.

Considerations of what we would do in both options to get water for future use. Can we or will we in the future be able to control the amount of water being pumped out of the aquifer and what effect it has on the availability of the water now and in the future. No one knows the amount of water available in this area, no study has been preformed to evaluate the supplies, and the cost of such a study would be \$3,000,000.00 or more. This would be a study similar to the study done on the Big Chino. We do know how much rain and snow fall in the area and approximately how much is being withdrawn from wells and those numbers are not the same, we probably take out more than is replenishing the aquifer, but nobody knows for sure. However, most of the rain ends up in the Verde River and flows down to Phoenix.

NAMWUA is looking at the possibility of importation projects such as the possibility of purchasing water rights from the Colorado River water user and the Colorado River Compact. How those water rights are handed out has been decided by the Colorado River Compact. First in time and first in right is how the Colorado River water is allocated. When you establish a farm on the Colorado River and establish the amount of water you drew off first then you have the right to that amount. There are four tiers of rights on the Colorado River. The Native American Rights supersede all others. First tier of water rights on the Colorado River are presently being sold for \$20–30,000.00 per acre foot. An acre foot of water at our present water consumption rate would supply approximately 2 ½ homes per year in Clarkdale. The augmentation need in Northern Arizona is for about 30,000 acre feet at a cost of about \$1 billion for acquisition of first tier rights and then another 1-2 billion dollars for the pipeline to deliver the water. A total of 2 to 3 billion dollars would be needed to augment the water supplies of Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino, Williams, Flagstaff, Winslow, Camp Verde, Cottonwood and Clarkdale. This is a very substantial project and the state and federal government have shown no interest in assisting the area in funding the project. Moving these quantities of water will be very expensive and require higher water rates for our consumers. This would be about \$12–20,000 per citizen of Clarkdale.

Some of Clarkdale’s options for the future could be conservation, new wells, or acquisition of Sedona’s effluent for recharge injection pumping into the aquifer. There are surface water possibilities such as Pecks Lake whose water rights are owned by Freeport-McMoRan with an average flow of about 6 cfs which is about 600 acre feet per year which would serve 5-6000 people per year.

Mike Baker, Town Official asked about the possibility of making our effluent clean enough for direct use. The Mayor replied that it is being done in other areas of the world now and that is a possibility. This could increase our availability by 35-50% and may not be any more expensive than drilling two new wells. New equipment is being made and price is reducing

on the equipment needed to accomplish the purification of effluent and the removal of the potentially harmful items that are not usually filtered out at the wastewater plant.

Discussion on the amount of use per household in the Town of Clarkdale was held and that conservation is a viable opportunity for the Town to explore.

There is a possibility in the future of a Water District that owns the water resources for the whole area and distributes those resources in an equitable way. This would require legislative changes and attitude changes plus other changes 20-30 years in the future.

Salt River Project has the right to and is legally working on the wells in the sub-flow areas for the rivers that provide their water and the affect the amount water pumped has on their water rights.

Mayor Von Gausig read the following into the minutes. This statement came from Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMUWUA) which is made up of communities in Maricopa, Pinal, and Pima Counties:

#### Funding Principles

The cost of funding rural water resource development should not be the responsibility of the state or water users or taxpayers that are residents of Maricopa, Pinal, and Pima Counties. At this point in time, it is simply unrealistic for rural Arizona to expect the state and urban water users and taxpayers to fund its water resource development needs, even though many rural residents think it is the state's fiduciary obligations to do so. Some in rural Arizona believe the state, including rural water users, and rural taxpayers actually financed the CAP for the benefit of urban Arizona. They contend that it is now rural Arizona's turn to receive the same benefit. Apparently, some in rural Arizona do not understand that the CAP is being paid for by its water users and the taxpayers in Maricopa, Pinal, and Pima Counties (the CAP service and taxing area). State funding and rural tax monies are not involved.

The Mayor read this to show Council the attitude that AMUWUA has pertaining to the rural water problems of the rest of the state. This attitude is that of the majority of people represented in the state legislature.

The point is, do you "live within your means or go out and get as much water as you can". We know that the Town has the capability to pump about 2,000,000 gallons of water a day but do not know how long our current water would be available or what the draw down on the wells would be because we do not know the depth of our well water. The Town will be operating our own wells probably within a year and then we will begin to gather the information needed to make decisions.

Two items of major influence on area water availability are global climate change

– the Southwest will not be better off in the future, and that water rights of the Colorado River were established when flow was at a high and flow now is at about 2/3 of that rate with projections that it will decrease. Do we believe that it is possible to fulfill Clarkdale's future need with acquisition of first tier water rights? Or, do we need to look at other ways of providing water supply for the future. Conservation is important but cannot be used to as a total point of supply for our water needs in the future.

The formation of a water portfolio to supply our future needs and decide what amount the residents of Clarkdale are willing to pay for their water in the future has to be determined while we decide how we will build the Town's water portfolio. The higher the water rate the more possibility of future water supplies in the Town's Water portfolio and the more conservation the users will perform. The pipeline being built and acquisition of the first tier rights would cost about \$15,000,000.00 for Clarkdale and would not include the annual operation cost.

This is not just an Arizona problem, nor a United States problem but this is a worldwide problem. Desalination of the ocean water is being done and this also has its own environmental impacts.

This is a complicated issue and the Council needs to continue the discussion to formulate the Town of Clarkdale's idea of what we want in our possible water portfolio.

Councilmember Dehnert said that climate change is an unknown factor as is the assumption of the current population growth. Both these items could be affected by several other items. What decisions have to be made and when do they have to be made?

The Mayor responded that we need to be discussing the acquisition of water rights because the price is not going down and if the Town wants to be in the group that is purchasing rights, it is the first decision. The problem is that no one has the money to fund these projects.

The possible future Water Portfolio could consist of existing wells, conservation, surface rights, purchase of other community effluent for reuse, and our own potable reuse. These all add up to the ability to double the number of people served now.

The Mayor wants to continue these water issue discussions in the future and describe where the water user associations are headed and ensure that the Mayor is knowledgeable of the policies the Council and citizens of Clarkdale want on those issues.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - Listing of items to be placed on a future council agenda.**

Councilmember Dehnert requested a proclamation on MatForce awareness.  
Councilmember Bohall requested a discussion on the use of the Water Conservation Program fund.

**ADJOURNMENT at 5:45 PM**

APPROVED:

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Doug Von Gausig, Mayor

ATTESTED:

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Kathy Bainbridge, Town Clerk

SUBMITTED:

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Walt Good, Deputy Town Clerk