

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale  
Held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009**

A Special Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009, 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  
Councilmember Curtiss Bohall  
Councilmember Richard Dehnert

**Town Staff:**

Town Manager Gayle Mabery  
Public Works Director Steve Burroughs  
Police Chief Pat Haynie  
Deputy Town Clerk Walt Good

Town Clerk/Finance Director Kathy Bainbridge  
Community Development Director Sherry Bailey  
Utility Director Wayne Debrosky  
Assistant Town Manager Janet Perry

**CALL TO ORDER** at 3:00 PM

**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.

Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale, the League of Women Voters are hosting a water forum at the Verde Campus of Yavapai College in Room M137. The forum is in conjunction with Yavapai College and acknowledges April as being Water Awareness Month. Date of the event is Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 10 AM.

**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) Reports** - Approval of written Reports from Town Departments and Other Agencies
  - Building Permit Report – February 2009
  - Capital Improvements Report - February 2009
  - Magistrate Court Report – February 2009
  - Police Department Report – February 2009
  - Water and Wastewater Report – February 2009
  - Clarkdale Fire District Report and Mutual Aid Responses Report – February 2009
  - Cottonwood Area Transit (CAT) Operations Report – January 2009

- B) Proclamation of April as Clarkdale Water Awareness Month**– Approval of a Proclamation declaring the month of April as Clarkdale Water Awareness Month
- C) Sedona Recycles, Inc. Agreement** – Approval of an agreement with Sedona Recycles, Inc. for recycling drop off services in the Town of Clarkdale.

Councilmember Williams moved to approve the consent agenda as prepared by staff. Motion seconded by Vice Mayor Wiley. Motion approved unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**PRESENTATION BY COTTONWOOD AREA TRANSIT ON FIVE YEAR PLAN** – Presentation by Shirley Scott, Cottonwood Area Transit (CAT) and Jeff Meilbeck, Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transit Authority (NAIPTA), regarding the five year transit plan and the implementation of July 1, 2009 route change phase.

Presentation by Shirley Scott of CAT and Jeff Meilbeck of NAIPTA on the five year transit plan that eventually will go from Flagstaff to Cottonwood and Clarkdale. Mr. Meilbeck presented a PowerPoint presentation to Council on the history of NAIPTA, the 1 to 3 year plan, and the 5 year goals.

NAIPTA is a transit coop and has no taxing authority. NAIPTA is operated by a Board of Directors made up of elected or appointed members of NAIPTA members – City of Flagstaff, Northern Arizona University, City of Sedona, City of Cottonwood, Coconino County and Yavapai County. The regional view is the inter-connection between communities. The advantages are shared expertise, staff and facilities, efficiency of operation, reduced duplication, transfer liability, and expanded federal funding opportunities. Ridership for CAT has increased 65% over the past 5 years. CAT average ridership passengers per hour is 3.17, Flagstaff Mountain Line is 25 and the State average is 5.27 passengers per hour average. This makes CAT cost per passenger \$16.08 and Flagstaff Mountain Line \$3.58. The options were to continue to do the same, add more routes or evaluate and change the existing service for more efficiency. The July changes will delete the Hwy 89A corridor and will do a loop from Old Town Cottonwood area via Broadway to Clarkdale Main Street to the Clarkdale/Jerome School and return back to Cottonwood via Main Street to Broadway.

Mayor Von Gausig asked if the current ridership cost of \$16.00 per person and the anticipation to double ridership would then reduce the cost to about \$8.00 per person. Reply was that was the goal. Mayor Von Gausig then said that the reduction in cost then would be shared by Clarkdale reducing our amount. Reply was that money would be used to defer the Dial a Ride/ADA Plus for Clarkdale riders. Mayor Von Gausig asked what the taxi rate from Clarkdale to Wal-Mart was, response was \$10-15.00 estimated and the CAT rate would be \$2.00 for ADA Plus, each direction.

Councilmember Dehnert asked about the difference between Dial a Ride and ADA Plus. The Plus in ADA is the old Dial a Ride.

Councilmember Bohall, earlier in the day had been to the eye doctor and his eyes were dilated. Councilmember Dehnert read Councilmember Bohall letter into the record.

I am speaking only for myself based on observations that I have made, and conversations with Clarkdale residents.

We have, have as a town, made annual payment to the Cottonwood Area Transit System for our share of the operating cost of the system. I feel we have received good value for the taxpayer dollars that we have spent.

We recently have had several meeting with management and staff at CATS and have found them to be very helpful and willing to hear our concerns. However, some degree of reorganization appears to have taken place, and NAIPTA seems to have a greater influence in route planning. Based on the latest map, the scheduled service to the Clarkdale area will be significantly reduced.

With the abolition of the 89A portion of the route, service to a large area will not be as convenient as before. The route being abolished serves a much greater population base, approximately 1500 residents than the Main/Street Broadway area that is being retained with a lower base population.

I have had some conversation with Staff (Town of Clarkdale Staff) and the idea of a Clarkdale Circulator was discussed.

Monday I traveled a proposed route starting at Garrison Park, down Mingus to Main, through Old Town Cottonwood to the Clarkdale town hall complex. This took 15 minutes with four one minute stops along the way. From there I continued west on Main to Cement Plant Rd. Then south to 89A I entered Mingus shadows at the roundabout and came out on Mingus Shadows Drive. From there to the park in Centerville, back out to 89A, a stop at Lamplighter Village. From there I turned west at Scenic, made a stop at Old Jerome Hwy. and on to Yavapai College via Sky Drive. From the College to the new Family Dollar store, to Mingus and back to Garrison Park. The total round trip was 43 minutes and with 14 one minute stops. I should have gone over Candy Lane to the medical complex/hospital returning to Mingus via Willard. I don't think this would have added more than five minutes.

I feel that we are losing much more than we are gaining by the proposed route change and something similar to the circulator route that I have described would be a much better choice for our area.

Discussion was held as a result of this information and on the new routes and Jeff Meilbeck will

work with Steve Burroughs and Councilmember Bohall on the Hwy 89A area service and return to Council with his findings.

Mayor Von Gausig is concerned with the defacto reduction of services to Clarkdale. What is the \$56,000 buying Clarkdale?

Councilmember Dehnert asked if demand service and route service ridership information was available. The CAT did gather information last week.

Councilmember Dehnert asked about the demand service ADA qualification process. Ms. Scott said that the information would be mailed out and if the individual had any questions they could call the CAT office for assistance or CAT would go pick the individual up take them to their office to help them fill out the 13 page application.

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF CLARKDALE AUTHORIZING THE FORFEITURE OF BONDS AND DEMAND FOR COMPLETION OF IMPROVEMENTS OR PAYMENT FROM BOND SAFEGUARD INSURANCE COMPANY PERFORMANCE BONDS ON THE MOUNTAIN GATE SUBDIVISION PROJECT** – Discussion and consideration for possible action the forfeiture of bonds for completion of improvements at the Mountain Gate Subdivision.

**Resolution #1293**

Community Development Director Bailey explained to Council the reason for the resolution prepared by the Town Attorney for the forfeiture of the Mountain Gate Subdivision bonds. This is the next step in getting the infrastructure done and the amount in the bond will not cover the total cost of the drainage system, roadway, fencing, lighting, and the arsenic removal system. Ms. Bailey has a meeting on March 25, 2009, with Safeguard personnel to discuss this issue. They will then decide if they will get contractors themselves to complete the list up to the bonded amount or pay the Town so we could hire and control the work to our standards. Last time this group met, Safeguard stated that this is a lower amount and maybe Safeguard will allow the Town to control the project.

Councilmember Dehnert asked if the Town could get more money to cover the items we now feel will not be covered. Ms. Bailey said the Town will only get the amount of the bond.

Vice Mayor Wiley moved to approve the resolution authorizing the forfeiture of bonds and demand for completion of improvements or payment from bond Safeguard Insurance Company Performance Bond on the Mountain Gate Subdivision. Motion seconded by Councilmember Williams. Motion approved unanimously.

**2009-2010 FISCAL YEAR TRIAL BUDGET WORKSESSION** – A worksession to discuss the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Trial Budget.

Town Manager Mabery and Kathy Bainbridge, Town Clerk/Finance Director, presented Council a PowerPoint presentation on the 2009-2010 Trial Budget. Due to the unprecedented financial challenges that currently face the Town, the Council desired a new way to increase public

awareness and involvement in the budget process. We would like to use this process to define how Clarkdale will adjust to a new economic reality next year and in the future. The Town will hold Public workshops on the Trial Budget. The dates of those meetings to be held in the Men's Lounge are:

- Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM
- Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM
- Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2 PM
- Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM

The Town intends to place a meeting announcement flyer with the utility billing, place the trial budget on the website, set out temporary signage to announce the meeting and have the press publish and broadcast the information to the public.

Discussions were held on each major fund with information at the bottom of the PowerPoint page indicating where the information was gathered from or conclusions made.

Vice Mayor Wiley and Mayor Von Gausig thanked Ms. Bainbridge for her presentation stating that it was very understandable. Town Manager Mabery stated that the Town staff had met this morning and reviewed the budget and has a good perspective of the budget. Vice Mayor Wiley was glad to see that the Town would be returning to 40 hours. Town Manager Mabery stated that if the budget is approved the Town staff would return to 40 hours but because of the unknowns in the economy she is recommending to make it four ten hour days. This is in case the Town has to return to a 36 hour schedule in the future to balance the budget.

Mayor Von Gausig stated that even with the best of projections and planning these are only expectations, however, they are best guesses and provide the Town with the tools needed for a balanced budget.

The budget will be brought back to the Council in May with updated information.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR A 2009-2010 FISCAL YEAR TRIAL BUDGET** – Public hearing to gather public comment on the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Trial Budget

Mayor Von Gausig opened the meeting for Public Comment.

Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale, the proposed property tax and sales tax increases for the Town, the proposed sales tax increase for the State and other tax increases being discussed are adding a burden to residents and business.

Mayor Von Gausig read an email into the record from Carol Johnson, Clarkdale:

Dear Mayor and Town Council,  
It is difficult for people who are working to attend worksessions during the week in the afternoon.  
These are difficult economic times for everyone. I request the Town Council consider the impact of raising sales tax, property taxes,

wastewater rates and fees and other fees as part of the budget for 2009/10 in light of the impact to the citizens and businesses in Clarkdale. If possible, please extend these increases over more than an one-year period.  
Thank you,  
Carol A. Johnson

Mayor Von Gausig closed Public Comment on this item.

**FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 SWIMMING POOL BUDGET OPTIONS** – Discussion and consideration of swimming pool budget options for the FY 2009-2010 budget.

Assistant Town Manager Perry presented Council the proposed plan to close the pool for the 2009 season. Discussion was held on if the pool should be drained or left full of water which would cost the Town about \$8,800.00. No decision was made on the draining of the pool.

Vice Mayor Wiley moved that the Clarkdale Pool not be opened in 2009. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

**FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX RATE BUDGET OPTIONS** – Discussion and consideration of the Transaction Privilege Tax Rate (local sales tax percentage) options for the FY 2009-2010 budget.

Kathy Bainbridge, Town Clerk/Finance Director, provided Council the probable economic result if the privilege tax rate increase is approved by Council.

Mayor Von Gausig opened Public Comment.

Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale, stated that we are not Cottonwood and do not need to have the same rate as them. In fact an advantage of not having the same rate is the advantage a new business would have. Ms. Bauer would hope that the Council would set the increase at 2.75% instead of the proposed 3%.

Mayor Von Gausig closed Public Comment.

Vice Mayor Wiley moved to instruct staff to begin the process to increase the Town's Privilege Tax Rate to 3%. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

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

Clarkdale Peddlers License – Councilmember Bohall

**ADJOURNMENT 5:38 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