

Please fill out a "Request to Speak" form if you wish to address the Council at "Call to the Public" on any agenda item

## MINUTES

TOWN OF PARKER COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1314 11<sup>th</sup> STREET  
TUESDAY, February 1, 2022 6:00 P.M.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT: Please silence or mute your electronic devices during the Council Meetings

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor Bonds called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL: Mayor Bonds, Vice Mayor Hooper, Council Member De Leon, Council Member Savino, Council Member Shontz, Council Member Hartless (Zoom), Council Member Lucas

Staff Present: Town Clerk Amy Putnam, Community Development Director Nora Yackley, Community Health Outreach Program Director Lee Ann Anderson (telephonic), Chief of Police Micahel Bailey, Library Manager Tracy McConnell, Public Works Director Steve Ziegler, Town Attorney Christina Estes-Werther, Lori Wedemeyer (telephonic).

Others Present: Deniese Perez, Doris Ferris, Tony Mallinger, Lois Moore, Anjela Bucklew (telephonic), Loren Page, Melissa Newton, John Gutekunst

INVOCATION: Given by John Gutekunst

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Given by all in attendance

PROCLAMATION: Career and Technical Education Month

*Tony Mallinger from Parker High School reads the proclamation. Mayor Bonds thanks him for his attendance, pictures are taken.*

PROCLAMATION: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

*Deniese Pereze from the Colorado River Crisis Services reads the proclamation. Mayor Bonds thanks her for her attendance, pictures are taken.*

**PRESENTATION:** Thank you to Local Businesses

*Mayor Bonds thanks all of the local businesses for their participation during the recent Best in the Desert Off Road Races.*

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

If you wish to address the Council during this meeting, please read and fill in the information on the "Call to the Public" form and hand it to the Town Clerk. Please limit your comments to a maximum of **3-minutes**.

There is one call to public presented to the clerk

1. *Loren Page- Mr. Page thanked the public works department for working on the ball fields in preparation for the upcoming Little League season and thanked the Town for their sponsorship to the program.*

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

All items in the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine or have been previously reviewed by the Council, and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests. If requested, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion and action.

***Approve the following:***

- a. Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2022

**MOTION:** Move to Approve Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2022  
**BY:** Council Member Shontz  
**SECOND:** Council Member Savino  
**VOTE:** With all others in favor, the motion passed;

- b. Approval to Pay McCarthy, Burgess & Wolff Collection Services \$4,380.68 (unpaid Frontier Communications Bills)

*A brief explanation of this item is provided by Amy Putnam, Interim Town Manager/Town Clerk. It is noted that she tried to contact the collection company to see if we could negotiate a lower price and was unsuccessful.*

**MOTION:** Move to Approve Pay McCarthy, Burgess & Wolff Collection Services \$4,380.68 (unpaid Frontier Communications Bills)  
**BY:** Vice Mayor Hooper  
**SECOND:** Council Member Savino  
**VOTE:** With all others in favor, the motion passed;

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

***Discussion and possible action on the following item(s)***

1. Discussion and Action to Approve/Deny Well 8 Water Meter Purchase

Steve Ziegler, Public Works Director

*The Public Works water department respectfully requests the Mayor and Council to authorize staff to purchase a 6-in M2000 Badger Mag Meter from Instrumart for \$3,643.20. The well 8 water meter was installed over 20 years ago and is beyond its life expectancy. Water meters typically last from 15 to 20 years. As these age the accuracy begins to decline and therefore we are not properly accounting for the water being pumped from the well. Over the last 10 years we've begun to replace these large meters in our system with a new technology called magnet meters. These meters have no mechanical parts that will wear out, this technology is now the industry standard for metering. One of the key features that these meters have is the ability to send the flow of information to our scada system so when this well is an operation we will be able to see how many gallons per minute we are pumping. We currently have two M2000 Badger Meters in our system, well 7 and 1 inside the water pump house. Steve notes that he reached out to 3 suppliers for proposals, Badger meter for \$3,928.54, Hydro Specialties Company \$4,405.34 and Instrumart for \$3,643.20. The funds to pay for this are coming from the proposed FYI 21/22 capital budget for the water department where we budgeted \$20,000 for water meters. Following the approval we will execute the purchase agreement and in an issue a purchase order for the meter. Council member Shontz asks if other meters need to be updated as well? Yes, well number 6 needs to be updated as well. She also asks when we can have this done. Steve hopes to have this completed by the end of the FY. She also asks how well these work, Steve notes that he is very satisfied with their performance. Vice Mayor Hooper asks about the timeline for all of the home meters. Steve notes that we are working on that and site supply issues we are only allowed to order 20 meters at a time. There is no further discussion on this item.*

**MOTION:** Move to Approve Well 8 Water Meter Purchase  
**BY:** Council Member Shontz  
**SECOND:** Council Member De Leon  
**VOTE:** With all others in favor, the motion passed;

2. Discussion and Action to Approve/Deny Resolution 04-2022 Adopting Juneteenth Holiday

Amy Putnam, Town Clerk/Interim Town Manager

*Amy Putnam respectfully requests the Mayor and Council to approve resolution 04 – 2022 amending section 22 of the town of Parker policies and procedures as related to holidays, recognizing and designating Juneteenth as a paid holiday to be observed on June 19th of each year. Juneteenth commemorates the declaration of the abolishment of slavery which occurred in Galveston Texas on June 19th 1865. On June 18, 2021 President Biden proclaimed June 19, 2021 is Juneteenth day in observance and signs a new law recognizing June 19 as a federal holiday. The holiday will be paid to all covered employees each year. The approximate cost of the town is \$4,300. Following the approval of this item we will update the policy and procedures manual and update the holiday calendar. Council member Savino asks if the \$4,300 includes everything. Amy notes that this is a rough number we took the average payroll and divided that by the days in the pay period and that left us with this number. It's not exact but should be close to what the cost is. There is no further discussion on this item.*

**MOTION:** Move to Approve Resolution 04-2022 Adopting Juneteenth Holiday  
**BY:** Council Member De Leon  
**SECOND:** Vice Mayor Hooper

VOTE:

With all others in favor, the motion passed;

3. Discussion and Action to Approve/Deny Creation of Finance Manager Position  
Amy Putnam, Town Clerk/Interim Town  
Manager

*Amy Putnam respectfully requests the Mayor and Council to approve the creation of a new Finance Manager position. On January 25, 2017 in a letter to the town manager our audit company made several recommendations regarding controls over finances. At this time it appears that many if not all recommendations were never implemented. We would like to start correcting the deficiencies to ensure that we are following all recommended Minimum Accounting Standards, following Arizona Revised Statutes as related to management of public funds, and general best practices when dealing with our finances. Taking these steps will help to protect the town against fraudulent activity and separate the functions of the town manager. After a review of the comparable cities and towns of our size and La Paz County, the pay scale was set for \$48,446.40- \$68,744.00. Due to the educational requirements and the skill and expertise associated with this position we feel this is a fair salary scale and will attract qualified candidates. The current FY22 budget has three GL line items that we can use to cover the salary for the remainder of the fiscal year. 01-513-309 Town Offices-Other Professional Services \$40,000, 01-519-39 Finance-Other Professional Services \$17,000 and 01-507-309 Admin-Other Professional Services \$20,000 for a total of \$77,000 following the approval we will advertise for the position and conduct interviews. CM Savino is concerned about filling the position at this time. He would like to further discuss this item in e-session. He notes that we haven't really had any discussion about this item and we're in a position now in an interim. He has other items concerning this that he'd like to discuss. Mayor Bonds notes that these recommendations are from several years ago. Council member Savino says we've been discussing this for the last 40 years to separate our positions but, because of our financial situation we haven't done it and it's been a council decision all along. He would just like to get into more of a dialogue so the group can discuss it more because we're in a situation right now where we're waiting for an investigation to come back to clarify things. He really feels if we start trying to fill positions in. If and when we get a new manager, if it comes to that point, it should be that manager's prerogative to be able to fill positions, not for an interim to do it. We need to move things along in the right way. We should be a little bit more organized. Interim Town manager Amy Putnam notes that this was already in the works before any of this even happened, Vice Mayor Hooper agrees that it was already in the works. It is noted we cannot go into e-session because it was not posted. We can only go in about legal advice not for discussion. Council member Savino notes that he would like to table this item for e-session. Council member Hartless disagrees with Council member Savino. He notes that we were told we didn't have the funds all these years but I think we all know the real reason now that we never had it because it was the right thing to do. It would have uncovered a lot of illegal activities and fraud. He notes he does not need any more conversation about this himself. Council member De Leon asks if all of the areas that we pull money from for this position are going to affect current positions that are open? Amy notes that the funds for this position were all listed under other professional services. She notes that our audit has its own line item and she's not expecting any other large purchases from these accounts. It is noted that we will budget next year for this position. Council member Savino would still like to table it for e-session; he feels that we should not be jumping into filling executive positions like this unless we have a manager that's in place for a time that way we can move our system along. There are some other areas that he is very concerned with, but states at the end he'll go around with the majority. Mayor Bonds notes that these are not new recommendations and they are not new findings. Council member Savino agrees with her but this is not the time for us to move forward. He thinks we need to wait. Council member Lucas makes a motion to accept the creation of the finance manager position; there is a second from Councilmember Hartless. A vote is taken and the motion carries however Councilmember DeLeon was wanting to have a little more discussion however the vote was closed. He notes while he voted no however he did want to vote yes, he just wanted a little*

more conversation about it. He supports having another office and place because he likes the accountability of that. He just wanted to dive in more to the pay scale of the budgeted funds and do a little more research. The advertising of the position is discussed. Council member Hartless notes that whatever the cost is, it's a drop in the bucket compared to how much this town has lost by not having this separation of duties. Council Member Savino notes that we have not lost anything. There is no further discussion on this item.

**MOTION:** Move to Approve Creation of Finance Manager Position  
**BY:** Council Member Lucas  
**SECOND:** Council Member Hartless  
**VOTE:** With Council Member Savino and Council Member De Leon voting "No" all others in favor, the motion passed;

4. Discussion and Action concerning documents returned to Town Hall from Yuma County Sheriff's Office relating to the pending investigation. The Council may vote to discuss this matter in executive session pursuant to the A.R.S § 38-431.03(A)(2) and (3).

**MOTION:** Move to Approve discussing this matter in e-session  
**BY:** Council Member De Leon  
**SECOND:** Council Member Shontz  
**VOTE:** With all others in favor, the motion passed;

**The council takes no action on this item.**

COUNCIL MEMBER/LIAISONS REPORTS WITH POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- \*Chamber of Commerce-CM Savino + Manager Wedemeyer\*
- \* Tourism-CM Hartless \* Joint Venture-VM Hooper + CM Savino\* PAACE-CM Lucas\*
- \*Tribal Committee -Mayor Bonds + CM Savino \*
- \*Parks & Recreation- CM Lucas + VM Hooper\* Senior Center-CM De Leon+ CM Savino \*
- \*Streets & Traffic -VM Hooper + CM Savino\*
- \*Library Board-CM Shontz\* La Paz County Fair Board-Mayor Bonds\*
- \* WACOG-CM De Leon + CM Savino\*
- \*WAEDD- CM Hartless\*

*Council member De Leon notes that he has been over to the senior center several times. He provides a quick update on lunch numbers and upcoming trips. He notes the valentine's day celebration that is planned.*

*Vice Mayor Hooper notes that he attended Joint venture, The general Manager resigned, they have appointed a new general manager at their last meeting and now the job will go out to bid.*

*There are no other updates*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Saturday	February 5, 2022	Elite Customs Annual Car Show	9:00AM-1:00PM
Friday and Saturday	February 11 and 12, 2022	Book Sale @ Parker Public Library	10:00AM-12:00PM
Monday	February 14, 2022	Parks and Rec Committee Meeting	4:00PM
Monday	February 14, 2022	Library Advisory Board	6:00PM
Tuesday	February 15, 2022	Next Regular Council Meeting	6:00PM


*Unless so noted, all meetings are held in the Council Chambers located at 1314 11<sup>th</sup> Street.*

ADJOURN: Mayor Bonds adjourned the meeting at 7:32 PM

Some members of the council or the town attorney may attend the meeting either in person or by telephone conference call. Persons with a disability may request reasonable accommodation by contacting the town clerk, (928) 669-9265, at least (72) hours before the scheduled meeting. Facilities are handicapped accessible

The council may vote to recess into an executive session which will not be open to the public, for the purpose of obtaining legal advice regarding any of the agenda items, pursuant to a.r.s. §38-431.03(a)(3).

Approve



Karen Bonds, Mayor

**ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
February 1, 2022 6:00 PM Arizona

Join the Zoom Meeting from your computer with the address below. Follow the instructions on the Zoom website.  
(Available for Audio and Video)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86723865745?pwd=WFhURHVkbTlrYncwMTBkU3NrcDFKU3R09>

Meeting ID: 867 2386 5745  
Passcode: 470276

Or

Dial one the numbers below. If one is busy, try the next. Once you're connected follow the prompts.

346-248-7799  
669-900-6833  
253-215-8782  
312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 867 2386 5745  
Passcode: 470276