

MINUTES

TOWN OF PARKER COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Town Council Chambers
1314 11th Street, Parker AZ 85344
Thursday, March 31, 2016 5:15pm

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT: Mayor Beaver asked all in attendance to silence or turn off their electronic devices during the meeting.

CALL THE SPECIAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION TO ORDER: Mayor Beaver called the work session to order at 5:15 PM

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL: Present; Mayor Dan Beaver, Vice Mayor Jerry Hooper, Council Members Frank Savino, Marion Shontz and John Yackley.

Absent: Council Members Hal Collett and Vivian Hartless.

Staff Present: Town Manager Lori Wedemeyer, Chief Clay Romo and Jennifer Alcaida

Others Present: John Gutekunst, Ralph Beard, Chase Rather, Karl Hartmetz, Kathy Denton, Don Denton, Richard Bierbrodt, Jeffrey Anderson, and Marcos O'Campo

Purpose:

1. Discussion and direction to Town staff regarding the matter referenced below. No action will be taken on this matter.
 - a. Parker South - Fire Service

Lori Wedemeyer, Town Manager

Town Manager Lori Wedemeyer started the meeting off stating that the Town is in the beginning stages of developing Parker South and would like to make sure that Parker South is covered for fire service. We have heard that possibly we are under the Bouse Fire District. We would like to open this up for an open conversation to see where Parker Fire stands and what the next steps will be. Dan Beaver stated that he is happy with Parker Fire Department and that he looks on Parker Fire as his department and would like to see a simple agreement between the Town of Parker and Parker Fire Department for services out at Parker South. Lori Wedemeyer asked if Parker Fire is willing and able to provide services out at Parker South and what do they feel the next steps are. Council Member John Yackley spoke up and mentioned that he is on the Fire Board and so is Chief Clay Romo. Councilman Yackley feels that ultimately whatever agreement is discussed will have to go before the Fire Board and the attorneys before any decisions can be made. Asst. Chief Karl Hartmetz asked the Council

where they got the idea that Parker South would fall under the Bouse district. It was mentioned that Parker South falls under the Bouse school district and therefore they thought the fire would fall under Bouse as well. Asst. Chief Hartmetz let the Council know that the school district is different from the Fire District and that Parker South falls under no man's land. Asst Chief Hartmetz goes on to mention that Parker South was discussed at their last Board meeting and they came up with a few possible scenarios. One option is that the Town of Parker takes on the service themselves. A second option is that the Town of Parker contracts with the Parker Fire Department for a certain dollar amount. Another option is that the Town holds an election to annex Parker South into the Parker Fire District. According to A.R.S. if a department responds outside of its district, the fire department must bill for the response in fairness to its tax payers. CM Hooper asked how many fire fighters respond to any given call and if they received pay for calls. Asst. Chief Hartmetz responded with at any given call anywhere from two (2) to fifteen (15) fire fighters respond and they are paid \$10.00 per call they respond to. Asst. Chief Hartmetz also mentions that they currently have a contract with Arizona State Lands for wildfires and they charge \$142 per hour for an engine, \$100 per hour for water tender and their specialty rigs are billed accordingly. CM Hooper asked if in an election, would it be the voters of Parker South voting or the voters of the Town of Parker? Asst. Chief Hartmetz said it would be all the voters of the district which starts at mile post 148, which is the top of the hill in Lakeside, to the center of the river, down to Second Ave., to Laffoon Road, diagonally to Mile Post 141 on Highway 95 to the base of P-Mountain then angles back up to Mile Post 148 on Highway 95. Chief Ralph Beard asks what the expectations are of the people that are going to live out there. TM Wedemeyer mentions that the developer the Town is working with anticipates 180 homes for starters. Chief Beard mentions that their current average response time is 15 to 20 minutes and reminds us that they are a volunteer department. CM Shontz says that as a property owner in Parker South, she is under no illusions of the service out in Parker South. She understands the lack of services out there currently. She has done some research of Yuma, and depending on where you live, you get an annual bill for fire services. You pay or you have no service. CM Yackley mentions that a lot of the Town people do not want to support Parker South. CM Hooper says that eventually Parker South will be able to support itself. Lori Wedemeyer asked what they saw as the best option. Chief Beard said to get Parker South annexed into the district, get a manned fire station out there and lower the response times for that area. Mayor Beaver says that is a great long term goal but what do we do in the interim? It is brought up that we still need to get an on-call agreement together. Asst. Chief Hartmetz says that ultimately the Board has the final say. His suggestion is make the agreement currently and when the citizens see progress out in Parker South they will be more agreeable to annexing Parker South into the fire district. CM Savino recaps for us that 1. We need to get an agreement between Town of Parker and the Fire Department 2. Hold an election for annexation of the boundary 3. Make sure that the voters are well informed to know that any assessment for fire services will come from the building of new properties. Chief Beard and Asst. Chief Hartmetz mention that the next step for the fire department is to go before their board in two weeks with a possible action item. Their meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm and are open to the public. After that then they will need to discuss it with their attorney, Bill Whittington out of Prescott. An agreement is a start, with an election to follow in 2 years. CM Yackley asks how the hydrants out there are and Asst. Chief Hartmetz responds that they are awesome. Parker South runs on a reverse osmosis system and the water is better than here in town for the equipment. The hydrants run at about 3,000 gallons per minute. TM Lori Wedemeyer asks if someone from the Town should be at the next Fire Board meeting and it is decided that there will be Council representation. More work sessions may be needed in the future to further along the agreement. Mayor Beaver thanked all in attendance for coming and let the Fire

Department know that they are appreciated. We are all of the same mind that we want what is best for the Community and the Fire Department.

ADJOURN:

Mayor Beaver adjourned the Special Council Work Session at 5:49pm

Approve

Dan Beaver, Mayor

Work session minutes are not official Council minutes. The work session was called to order and a quorum of the Council was present; however, no official action was taken.

Jennifer Alcaida for
Candy Cockrell, Town Clerk