

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

Due To COVID-19 And Social Distancing Requirements
This Meeting Will Be Open To The Public in Limited Capacity
For Additional Meeting Information
Please See The Last Page Of this Agenda or Email The Town Clerk
clerk@townofparkeraz.us

MINUTES

TOWN OF PARKER COMMON COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1314 11th STREET
TUESDAY, April 20, 2021 6:00 P.M.

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

CALL THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER: Mayor Bonds calls the public hearing to order at 6:00 pm

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL: Mayor Bonds, Vice Mayor Hooper, Council Member Savino, Council Member De Leon, Council Member Lucas, Council Member Schontz, Council Member Hartless.

Staff Present: Town Manager Lori Wedemeyer, Town Clerk Amy Putnam, Director Of Public Works Steve Zeigler, Chief Of Police Michael Bailey, Library Manager Tracy Mcconnell, Senior Center Director Darla Tilley, Community Health Outreach Director Lee Ann Anderson, Sergeant Johnny Ferris.

Others Present: Yoli Holt, Dolores Ferris, Candy Cockrell. Nancy Reed, Ruthie Davis, Sheri Downer, Phil Hede, Jeanne Hentzer, Marlene Stuart Rick Silva, Vivian Heartless, Nina Chumley, Mike Chumley, Dave Cook, Miguel Torres, Philo Lara, Barb Vandendris, George White, Carissa Heartless, Linda Bloxham. Miriam Moreno, Jose Moreno, Roanlee Robinson. Ray Cornelius, Janine Acton. Devanie Settles, Kaylee Crayton, Donna Perkins, Stella Baker,

Jeannie LoPresti, Brenda Gardner, Carolyn Morgan, James Morgan, Della Vindiola, John Nelson, John Gutekunst, Hollie Bonds, and Melissa Newton

1. Discussion

a. USDA Grant-Spillman Flex Upgrade Project

Michael Bailey, Chief of Police

Chief Bailey gives counsel an overview of the Spillman Flex upgrade project. This public hearing is being held in order to provide time for public comment on the submission of the USDA Grant. There are no public comments and there are no questions from Council

CALL THE REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor BONds call the regular meeting to order at 6:05 PM

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL: Mayor Bonds, Vice Mayor Hooper, Council Member Savino, Council Member De Leon, Council Member Lucas, Council Member Schontz, Council Member Hartless.

Staff Present: Town Manager Lori Wedemeyer, Town Clerk Amy Putnam, Director Of Public Works Steve Zeigler, Chief Of Police Michael Bailey, Library Manager Tracy Mcconnell, Senior Center Director Darla Tilley, Community Health Outreach Director Lee Ann Anderson, Sergeant Johnny Ferris.

Others Present: Yoli Holt, Dolores Ferris, Candy Cockrell. Nancy Reed, Ruthie Davis, Sheri Downer, Phil Hede, Jeanne Hentzer, Marlene Stuart Rick Silva, Vivian Heartless, Nina CHumley, Mike Chumley, Dave Cook, Miguel Torres, Philo Lara, Barb Vandendris, George WHite, Carissa Heartless, Linda Bloxham. Miriam Moreno, Jose Moreno, Roanlee Robinson. Ray Cornelius, Janine Acton. Devanie Settles, Kaylee Crayton, Donna Perkins, Stella Baker, Jeannie LoPresti, Brenda Gardner, Carolyn Morgan, James Morgan, Della Vindiola, John Nelson, John Gutekunst, Hollie Bonds, and Melissa Newton

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Given by all in attendance

PRESENTATION: 15 Year Business Awards

Mayor Bonds reads the names of the recipients of the 15 year business awards and thanks them for serving our community.

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 were 7 calls to the public presented to the clerk. Each statement has been transcribed verbatim from the recorded meeting.

1. *Ruthie Davis: "You all know me this is a very sad day for me to hear about the situation with Darla. I've given you 27 years of my life in the library. And Darla has done the same in every*

position she's been in. Giving you more than 40 hours a week, she's bent over backwards to do for the public and the seniors in our community. It's a shame that these accusations have come up against her and she wasn't able to defend herself to you guys. It's just sad to me. I feel that anybody with the same city or town or whatever has the right to defend themselves and that's the main thing. I think it's a shame I'm very sad this is happening to a wonderful person. She's like me. If we have a beef with somebody we're going to go straight to them to find out what's going on. If we have a question or don't agree with something we're going to voice our opinion. What kind of staff member that's the head of a department would you want to be just yes person, okay whatever you say, you want them to be able to stand up and say whatever is right and now that's called harassment or bullying that's just wrong it needs to be looked at differently. I pray for you all and ask that you think about this. Thank you."

2. Jose Moreno: "All right guys so I've got several issues. First of all I mean do you guys have any type of structure? Do we have a town manager? Do we have a chain of command just like your police department has? Who's your chain. At this point you have a senior center being ran by two different individuals having access to private information, time cards. I mean do we know who's in charge? I mean what's going on here? I know you can't answer questions. Do we know what's going on? As far as myself it's personal to me because my wife works there. When somebody has access to her information that's private to the employer themselves it shouldn't work that way. In my case with having 85 individuals under me everything's kept private. That's the way it's kept. I do not disclose any personal information to anybody. I have to keep everything private. So when you have two or three individuals who are not leave the vet Department Twitches employee documents why is this happening that's one of my issues. Next one of my issues. You have your leads from a department asking why people are taking sick leave. I mean it's a right that every employee has within your town to allow sick leave there's no reason why a town employee, Town Manager, whatever the case may be is asking why they should be taking sick leave. If you have eight hours of leave you should be able to take those and they should not be asking why. Those are covered under HIPAA laws and if they come to you and say "Why did you take it?" I don't have to tell you why I take it. It's my personal reasons why I took it. So again there's several things I think you guys need to get under control as far as what's going on here. One of your individuals Lee Ann is what is under the tobacco program? Now she's running the senior center. She's on a grant. Where are these funds going? I mean if you're under a grant you should be running your program that you're being paid for not a whole different program. You got another one stepping in there, whatever the case may be running around with time cards and the whole nine yards that's what specifically irks me. You have several individuals running the department without justification of who these individuals are. In my wife's case, who should she go to? Who is your chain of command? I think you guys need to figure it out before it causes a lot of issues."
3. Rick Silva "Most of you know me, I've done work for you. I just wanted to make sure I looked each one of you in the eyes before I say what I have to say. I don't approve of what you guys are doing when it comes to Darla. You want to pass this down (hands out old newspaper). If you could read that top title. I don't approve of that either. All I want to know is when it's going to stop? Unfortunately for me the one I love to face is not here. I don't know how somebody of her stature holds two positions. Things need to change and for you guys to get rid of Darla, a wonderful woman who I've heard wonderful things about wonderful things. Who has put in over 20 years of her life, just like my own mother. I think it's shameful and I think you need to push the reset button and get control of this. So my only question to the one I wanted to face is how much is enough? Who's the next one that's going to be thrown under the bus when they disagree with someone or somebody doesn't like because somebody said something to somebody who's going to be next? I'm sorry I'm raising my voice, I mean no disrespect. I thank you for your time. I don't like where this is going. I don't like where the dirty water is flowing in this town I've lived here all my life. I remember the days when there was only two stop lights, one stop light, and we could count how many bums there were in this town. We didn't have transients and registered pedophiles. We didn't have any of that crap here. Now we've got it. My grandmother before she died, she was 96 years old, she asked if you could have 2 wishes in life mijo what would they be? My first wish would be to take this town and lift it with my two hands and flip it over and shake out all the rotten

and push it into one of those sinkholes that keep popping up around the earth. My second wish would be to take all the diseases and cancers in this world and abolish them and get rid of them. She said do you have a third? Yes I do. I would like to rewind time back to the most comfortable times in my life when I was most happiest and freeze it there and get older. I say once again I don't like where this is going. I don't like what certain people are doing to others who have spent years and years of time in this town and whether it was my mother or Darla herself somebody needs to change this."

4. Kerry Norris: "Kerry Norris I've lived here about all my whole life. I never got involved with politics because I didn't particularly like that that was my sister. I worked with Darla and many people at the senior center for about a year-and-a-half. I've never seen anybody work harder and give of themselves like she has. We had a deal, we had a meeting, the Mayor was there the Vice Mayor and we discussed some things that we had some issues with at the senior center because we I guess did not follow the guidelines. Residents-only this and that we had members from La Paz County and things like that. I thought we got that all resolved. Lois Moore President resigned Ray resigned and I resigned so we could join the new advisory committee for the senior center. The last time I spoke to Lori I thought everything else had been resolved. The one thing I asked her about any of the issues in the past are in the past. She said yes. I don't feel like that was the case and after what councilman Hartless said I just couldn't believe but, Lori is the town manager she's also human resources. If a city employee has an issue she can't go directly to you guys so their only other option is to file a complaint with the state and that doesn't make sense to me because if what I read was correct today you guys don't deal with individual employees. I know you can't answer that. But to me something's wrong somewhere, and to hire somebody who's trained under her who's going to do her bidding as well needs to come from an outside source. And I believe that so I just think that everything that we've done up to date has just got tossed out. I just can't help to think that was the whole plan all along, I might be wrong but I just can't believe it wasn't her plan that's all I have to say."
5. Vivian Hartless: "Hi Town Council, Mayor Im Vivian Hartless the La Paz County fiduciary and I also served on a lot of the WACOG Boards. I also serve on our FEMA board and I've actually sat where you sit now for 5 years. So I know the services that are available to our seniors in this community and I know the lack of services. I'm going to tell you right now the money that the senior center was getting from wacog and fema was not nearly enough to cover the needs of our elderly in the community. Our baby boomers are aging and that need is going to rise and there's no way we're going to be able to meet them. In other counties they have what they call a turn away list where they can no longer provide services to the elderly. We've prided ourselves here in La Paz County that we've don't have that kind of list, that the other counties do and the only reason we have that is because of Darla. If there was somebody in need she made sure that person didn't go hungry, She did that with the help of her peers. She did that with her wonderful outstanding senior committee. She did that through her fundraisers which I'm sure all of you were a part of. I respect each one of you up there. I've never had beef with any of you until now. Now I have beef with all of you. You know what happened to Darla was unfair and uncalled for. On April 7th the town manager did a big disservice to our seniors. No no no sorry that was the day that Darla was asked to put in her exit plan. I'm sorry oh no let's say the 9th, no no no no that's the day that the town manager locked the doors to the senior center prior to Darla's handing in her resignation. You know there's employees out here that I've done horrible things. You've either docked their pay or given them administrative leave. What I can't figure out, is except maybe you view those people as invaluable but there's no employee more valuable than Darla was. I work personally with her, we went to see the seniors that live in these conditions that we've seen. It's awful, it's terrible, so I'm going to speak to the heart to each one of you now. That Senior Center is more than a building. It's not a business it's not just a building it's where the disabled and elderly that are homeless went because they needed a place of refuge. Where they looked out for each other. Right now the makeup and high heels people you have over there have no clue. Darla had a clue not only did she have a clue but she gave a damn. I'm going to ask each and every one of you for the town manager to say that the senior center is running without a hitch is a straight up lie. On Monday the meals were late, on Friday they were closed and on Monday they

were closed and the aerobics have been kicked out of there for whatever reason. So Town Council enough is enough I want you guys do the job that we the people elected you to do and for the sake of our seniors please terminate the real bully thank you”

6. Dennis Crawford: “ My name is Dennis Crawford. I came here 35 years ago and thought this place was a pretty nice Town I started a family, raised a family and I liked it until this episode here. It's not my business to pry into everybody's situation but Darla used to take the money when I used to pay my bills over here and when she started the senior center I visited her over there. People were taking care of old people, people who weren't able to take care of themselves so when I heard what happened I'm thinking when they want somebody out of there. You're stealing their pride, you're making them feel like they're nothing and that's the biggest travesty. She was treated like some kind of crook. I'm ashamed that somebody would do that to a lady that's given so much to this town. I'm sorry it has to be this way but it just burns my gut when someone like her which has given her so much to be treated like a criminal. I don't mind a criminal being treated like that. I've been treated like that because I'm a criminal but that lady should have never been treated like that. So that's all I got to say you know darn well you owe her apology. Fred (last name inaudible) if he was here he would tell you right is right and that's the issue and that wasn't right what ha[[ened to her. I hope something good will come out of this.
7. Cady Cockrell: “3 years ago Jerry Hooper came to my office at the time when I was the Town Clerk and presented me with a signed letter placing me on administrative leave effective right then. I was to give Lori my Town keys and my Town phone and stop all communications with everybody at the town and that I was not allowed on Town property until further notice. 6 months later in November of 2018 somebody made a motion to terminate me and the motion was there's always two sides to the story nobody ever asked my side. I'm sure there's two sides to Darla's story. Karen you work with her you know. You know you put things together with her. Bully? Yeah may be a bully but dammit she got shit done. Others have followed me Corina Crispin, Jackie Johnson, Ruthie Davis, and Clay Romo and now Darla Tilley. there's a pattern here. Like Mr Hartless said there's a pattern here something needs to be done. Does it need to be done with the 7 or does it need to be done with the one who's not here today? Does she have a tummy ache again? Someone on Council or enough of the good citizens out there in our county and our town know something needs to be done and I hope you straighten it up and get it done. If not shame on you.”

At the conclusion of the call to the public Mayor Bonds made the following statement:
"The council will take into consideration the comments that were brought to us at call to the public tonight. That we need to authorize an outside agency to come in and do an investigation. In addition the town staff we need to direct to do research to bring outsourcing of Human Resources to the Town"

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:

None

REGULAR AGENDA:

Discussion and possible action on the following item(s)

1. Approve/Deny CDBD 117-21 Water Tank Improvement Contract

Steve Ziegler, Public Work Director

The Director of Public Works respectfully request the Mayor and Council to approve the CDBG 117 - 21 water tank improvement contract for MMI tank and Industrial Services to perform the painting of the water tanks. On April 6th 2021 the mayor and Council ordered MMI Tank and Industrial Services the CDBG 117 - 1 Water Tank Improvement Project. The contract for this project is attached for your review and requires your approval prior to being executed because it was not included in your approval of the invitation to bid package on March 2nd of this year. Brandon with Pierce Coleman has reviewed and approved the contract and said this procedural matter is necessary because our town code isn't very clear on this. There are no questions on this item.

MOTION: To approve CDBD 117-21 Water Tank Improvement Contract
BY: VM Hooper
SECOND: CM Shontz
VOTE: With all others in favor, the motion passed;

2. Approve/Deny Resolution 05-2021USDA Rural Development Grant

Michael Bailey, Chief of Police

Chief of Police Michael Bailey requests resolution 05 - 2021 USDA Rural Development Grant be approved in order to move forward with the application and acceptance of matching grant funds for the Spillman project discussed earlier in this meeting. There are no questions regarding this item.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 05-2021USDA Rural Development Grant
BY: CM Savino
SECOND: CM Shontz
VOTE: With all others in favor, the motion passed;

3. Approve/Deny Recommendation from Library Advisory Board, New Member Application

Amy Putnam, Town Clerk

Town clerk Amy Putnam requests the Mayor and Council to approve the recommendation from the Library Advisory Board for a new member Michael Penn. The application was reviewed by the committee and they requested the recommendation to be approved. There are no questions on this item.

MOTION: To approve Recommendation from Library Advisory Board,
New Member Application
BY: Vm Hooper
SECOND: CM De Leon
VOTE: With all others in favor, the motion passed;

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 Shontz notes that she attended the Library Advisory Board meeting and a library is back open and she knows that she's excited about the addition of Mike Pence to the library Advisory Board. Council member Lucas advises cancel that he attended the Parks and Recreation committee meeting. He notes the success of the Easter eggstravaganza scavenger hunt. There are no other reports at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Wednesday	April 21, 2021	Joint Venture Board	10:00 AM
Friday	April 23, 2021	Colorado River Crisis Services Sexual Assault Awareness Walk	6:00 PM-8:30 PM Pop Harvey Park
Monday	April 26, 2021	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Special Meeting	4:00 PM
Monday	April 26, 2021	Streets and Traffic Advisory Board	5:15 PM
Saturday	May 1, 2021	Town of Parker Community Health Program Annual Health Expo (Virtual)	See Website For Further Details http://www.healthylapaz.org/
Tuesday	May 4, 2021 I	Next Regular Council Meeting	6:00 PM

Unless so noted, all meetings are held in the Council Chambers located at 1314 11th Street.

ADJOURN: Mayor Bonds adjourns the meeting at 7:04 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
Time: April 20, 2021 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)

Meeting ID: 849 3740 1851
Passcode: 535288

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
646-558-8656
301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 849 3740 1851
Passcode: 535288