

TUSAYAN TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

PURSUANT TO A.R.S. 38-431.02 & 38-431.03

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2013 @ 6:00 PM

TUSAYAN TOWN HALL

845 Mustang Drive, Tusayan, AZ 86023

TUSAYAN TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARIZED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bryan called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon roll call the following were present:

MAYOR GREG BRYAN

COUNCILMEMBER BILL FITZGERALD

COUNCILMEMBER JOHN RUETER

COUNCILMEMBER CRAIG SANDERSON

VICE MAYOR MONTOYA WAS ABSENT.

Also present: Will Wright, Town Manager

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CLOSURE OF THE GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, INCLUDING VIEW AREAS

Mayor Bryan began by reviewing all the activity surrounding the closure of Grand Canyon National Park. He indicated that this closure was devastating our local economy to the tune of about \$150,000 a day for our local businesses. That was translating into losses to the town's sales tax revenues upwards of an estimated \$8,000 a day. The Mayor said he had talked with many of our elected representatives from the Governor's Office to members of the State Legislature and to our federal representatives, including Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick and Senator Jeff Flake. The big question he had posed to them was why third party contributions could not be used today as they were in 1995 to reopen the Grand Canyon National Park. These federal legislators assured him that they were working on getting an answer from these federal agencies.

He'd also spoken to County officials and with Mayors of several communities in northern Arizona to solicit their support. The Coconino County Sheriff had given his support for any public safety needs along Highway 64. Further, some of these cities/towns were going to take this issue up in their future Council meetings and that they would get back to him.

Additionally, Mayor Bryan indicated he had received upwards of \$125,000 in pledged contributions to assist in reopening the Canyon, at least on a partial basis. He'd also received an opinion that we could contribute local funds from the town to assist financially along with private donations to reopen the Park.

Clarinda Vail thanked the Mayor and Council for their efforts and encouraged them to continue this work. She had talked to representatives from other cities/towns who expressed a willingness to contribute to this cause that is affecting the economy of the entire State of Arizona. She wondered if the Town would serve as the entity to accept these funds from these other entities in order to pass them through to the park, when that becomes available? She also thought the town could keep the list of those who had pledged a contribution with the amounts they are willing to give for this cause.

Mayor Bryan indicated the town could keep the list of potential contributors, which now totals about \$126,000. The following businesses have pledged their support, including: 1) Red Feather - \$25,000; 2) Best Western Squire Inn - \$25,000; 3) Papillon Helicopters - \$25,000; 4) Grand Canyon Airlines - \$25,000; 5) 7 Mile Lodge - \$1,000; and 6) the Stilo Group - \$25,000 for a total of \$126,000 in private pledges from area businesses.

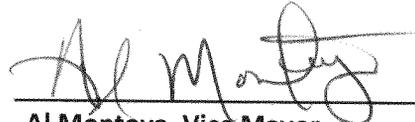
Councilmember Sanderson expressed concern with Highway 64 through the park being closed as there were residents who worked in Tusayan that traveled to the Cameron area to get home. Further, he indicated that this effort should be a high priority with this area already taking a big hit economically by this announcement as visitors are now changing their itineraries due to the Park closure. Councilmember Rueter said the town had budget funds for a contingency in case of an emergency and that in his opinion this was an economic emergency that needed the town's assistance.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated that he would like a cost estimate from the Park on what it costs on a daily basis to operate the park. He felt the worst thing we could do is open the park for only a short time then see it close again, resulting in the credibility of the town and the Park being hurt in that eventuality. Mayor Bryan indicated that it cost about \$18,000 a day to run the park on a partial basis and that would probably be from \$20,000 to \$25,000 a day for a rough estimate. Councilmember Sanderson said he felt we should not just stand by with the dire consequences harming our citizens and those of the Grand Canyon and do nothing. He stated that he would like to see the Town of Tusayan take the lead in getting the Park reopened.

Councilmember Sanderson made a motion to spend up to \$200,000 to assist in pursuing all remedies to reopen the Grand Canyon National Park. He moved that \$50,000 could be used for contract services in this effort, while \$150,000 for park operation. Councilmember Rueter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

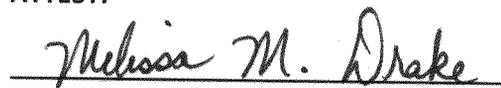
4. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Councilmember Rueter made a motion to adjourn at 6:48 pm. Councilmember Fitzgerald seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous for adjournment.



Al Montoya, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Melissa (Malone) Drake, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION

State of Arizona)

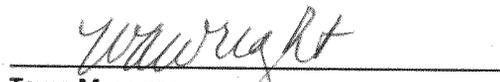
) ss.

Coconino County)

I, Will Wright, do hereby certify that I am the Town Manager of the Town of Tusayan, County of Coconino, State of Arizona, and that the above minutes are a true and correct summary of the meeting of the Council of the Town of Tusayan held on October 3, 2013.

I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

DATED this 11th day of October, 2013



Town Manager