



MINUTES¹

TUSAYAN TOWN COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING

WAS HELD PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 38-431.02(D) ON

Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

TUSAYAN TOWN HALL BUILDING

845 Mustang Drive, Tusayan Arizona

TOWN COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES²

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Vail called the Emergency Meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. and led Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **ROLL CALL** - *One or two Council Members may attend by telephone.*

MAYOR CLARINDA VAIL – Present

COUNCILMEMBER JOSH COLLET – Present

VICE MAYOR GREG BRUSH – Absent

COUNCILMEMBER ANDREW ALDAZ – Present

COUNCILMEMBER BECKY WIRTH – Attended by phone

Guest in Attendance: Lieutenant Brian Tozer, Coconino County Sheriff's Office

3. Consideration, discussion, and possible action regarding spending priorities in light of the Proclamation of Emergency.

Mayor Vail commented that some of her priorities for clean-up were the streets and sidewalks.

Town Manager Hendrix explained that whenever we work in the ADOT right-of-way, technically, she is supposed to put in a work order which does not need to be approved; it is just a notification to ADOT. She suggested that we write a very broad, encompassing notification.

Councilmember Collet suggested listing on the work order: restoration of the landscape. He asked if we could have Mike, Town Maintenance, turn on the irrigation in order to look for breaks before we put any dirt back.

¹ For economy of space and ease of reading the minutes have been organized according to the agenda language. Items as they appear on the agenda have been italicized with the actual minute entries entered in plain type for reader convenience.

² Minutes are organized by agenda item in the order in which they were discussed.

Town Manager Hendrix clarified that the Town can only ever restore, and we are only discussing substantially equivalent restoration.

Councilmember Collet asked if we want to classify debris as forest debris that could be returned to the forest, and muck that will dry out and powder down into nothing.

Councilmember Aldaz asked if a piece of equipment could be rented to sweep the dirt from Long Jim Loop or RP Drive.

Councilmember Collet suggested using the water truck to wet it and then broom it.

There was discussion of the hazard of children using scooters, skateboards, etcetera and getting to school on a bus through the mud.

It was noted that ADOT sent their broom out and swept Highway 64 yesterday during clean-up.

Town Manager Hendrix encouraged the Council to give her all their priorities, and then at the end, we will prioritize the priorities, followed by a discussion of which budgets to use.

It was noted that the Town cannot clean-up private properties.

Town Manager Hendrix stated that the public access way between Long Jim Loop and RP Drive is privately owned.

Mayor Vail commented that we have an IGA with ADOT, and the Sanitary District owns the roads, or they are public access roads which we can fund. She also commented that the County helped with the repairing of the RP Drive in between the valley and the Sanitary District.

Councilmember Collet commented that the Sanitary District has a mechanism built in to rent services.

There was discussion of where to store the silt.

Mayor Vail pointed out that we have only had one emergency in the thirteen years the Town has existed.

Mayor Vail commented that we need to find out what the needs are.

Mayor Vail suggested that she research with the businesses to see if silt storage is needed, first, and if it is needed, then we will research what the options are.

Councilmember Collet proffered that the first step we could agree on is for us to open the offer for people to stage their forest debris at the school site. He asked if the school is OK with that.

Mayor Vail replied that they were OK with the roll-offs.

Councilmember Collet commented that if the pile at the school becomes large enough that we have to do something with it, then we can suggest they reach out to the Forest Service to ask if they can use their Designated Dumping Pit. He also commented that they could go to our IGA partners at the District who have a ten-wheel which moves a large amount.

Councilmember Collet restated that the muck will turn into dirt once the water is out of the mud.

Mayor Vail asked a Councilmember to be her helper, and Councilmember Collet agreed to do it. She commented that she and Town Manager Hendrix will look through the ADOT IGA again to know for sure what we can do within that.

Councilmember Collet asked what was to be done about dust abatement.

Mayor Vail commented about a street cleaner and a water truck.

Town Manager Hendrix asked what questions Mayor Vail had regarding the IGA.

Mayor Vail replied that she was interested to know what we can do, or if ADOT will say they are responsible.

Town Manager Hendrix advised that we also need to be thinking about insurance and what might be insured.

Councilmember Collet asked: with there being a state of emergency, can we be a pass-through for the Sanitary District to clean the side of the road such as RP Drive where the muck is eight to twelve inches deep?

Town Manager Hendrix advised that the County has funded their portion of the recovery effort. Moving forward, anything procured by the Town will need to be paid by the Town. She explained the Council would have to find a new place in the Town Budget from which to take it. She commented that there is a place in the Budget for Other Council Projects, but there is no anticipated revenue to fund that line item. She continued, usually there is more income than expenses, but the sales tax dollars have been taking a hit this year, and the Council has a lot of ambitious projects planned for this year.

Councilmember Collet asked if it is correct that there is no state money to come through.

Mayor Vail responded probably not, maybe in the future, but we do have other monies. She stated we have to clean up the Town; it is going to be September, and it will be busy, and it is time to dip into the pocketbooks.

Town Manager Hendrix advised that if the Council does this now, they will probably have to give up something later.

Councilmember Wirth commented that we have CDs.

Mayor Vail indicated we do not know how much money will be needed.

Councilmember Collet commented that the Sanitary District can arrange for a broom and a water truck.

Town Manager Hendrix stated the procurement still has to come through the Town. She explained that when the Council declares an emergency, according to the ordinances, she, the Town Manager, has the power to do the procurement. She further explained that it changes (simplifies) the procurement policy, but she is still the one who has to do the procurement.

In response to a question about procuring a rented machine, Town Manager Hendrix stated she can do it.

Mayor Vail noted that looking at the muck and gunk all along the Grand Hotel and how long it has been bad. To her, the Town is completely behind, and this is a great opportunity to fix the landscaping.

Councilmember Aldaz commented that the drainages need to be addressed.

Culverts and mapping for the culvert system, from when ADOT redid the road, was discussed.

Town Manager Hendrix commented that the Town Engineer wants to know if there is an infrastructure map of the culvert system.

Councilmember Aldaz asked if we would have had more notice of how much rain was coming if the rain gauges had been placed further out.

Town Manager Hendrix replied no, and she explained that the reason the rain gauges were not out there is because we could not get the permits from the Forest Service to place them. She commented that she and Town Engineer Jack Moody had a conversation about this, and to have a comprehensive system of rain gauges and to be able to monitor them, would cost millions of dollars.

Councilmember Collet suggested the use of a dump trailer.

Mayor Vail commented that we should provide a staging area in Town.

There was discussion of some of the clean-up that had already taken place.

Town Manager Hendrix commented that there have been some questions about displaced individuals. The Community Assistance Center, CAC, has called and asked what kind of assistance the Town would be able to provide the families with. She noted the CAC basically asked if there is any help that we, the Town, would be able to provide and what we would be able to do.

Town Manager Hendrix asked the Council if they would like to one, as a Town, help, or two, have Town Manager Hendrix reach out to some of our partners to try to get assistance. The third option was for Town Manager Hendrix to go back to the County and say just do what you can.

Mayor Vail asked about using ARPA funds.

Town Manager Hendrix advised we cannot provide assistance out of our General Fund monies; we would have to help out of grant monies and some of our other funds. She asked the Council if they wanted to use those limited funds for these resources and how they would pick and choose. She listed categories of need: vehicle damage, personal property, clothing, and storage needs.

There was a discussion of storage options.

Town Manager Hendrix stated she had spoken to one of our partners, and they are looking into assistance with personal property.

Town Manager Hendrix commented we could do an ARPA distribution for everyone; we cannot do ARPA for only affected households; it needs to be for everyone. She noted the ARPA distributions will not be as big as they were last time because of the money we have given to the school.

There was another discussion regarding storage.

There was discussion about what 'personal property' includes and with what, generally, employers in Town provide their employees.

Councilmember Wirth commented that she thought most of the people in need were the employees who have housing and have lost personal property. She noted the Town could help with clothing and food.

Mayor Vail noted the Town will put out an announcement tomorrow regarding hours and how to receive donations from the Canyon Closet.

All types of donations were discussed.

Town Manager Hendrix recommended that ARPA funds be distributed just like last time. She noted this is the remainder of the money and it will be divided among all the applicants with the same qualifications as last time.

ARPA fund distribution amounts and possible tax liability were discussed.

In response to a question regarding storage, Town Manager Hendrix recommended that the Council authorize staff to find out what, if any, price difference there is between just bringing a Conex box here and doing storage somewhere else.

There was discussion of various types of Conex and storage containers as well as possible locations for placement.

Town Manager Hendrix asked the Council if they were comfortable with staff working with our outside partners on personal property aid because the Council does not want to use Town monies unless it is ARPA funds for everyone. She clarified with the Council that they want staff to start putting together a proposal for a second ARPA payment. The Council so directed.

Town Manager Hendrix commented that all these priorities are a full-time job, and we have a full slate of other projects. She asked the Council if they wanted the recovery to be the priority and then those other projects to blend in as they can. The Council agreed.

Town Manager Hendrix commented that Councilmember Collet and she could talk to Bob Petzoldt of the Sanitary District about procuring a street cleaner.

There was discussion of vehicles in Town damaged by the flood.

Town Manager Hendrix commented that there was one question asked by the Council, if the Town could assist with the cost or maybe the processing of laundering clothes. She asked if the Council would be comfortable if we assisted with that.

The Council agreed to assist with the laundering of clothes.

Town Manager Hendrix commented that the CAC is just a term for how they are gathering all the County's resources together.

Councilmember Wirth suggested the Town contact Randall, with the wrecker, in Valle, because he has many connections in Flagstaff with independent mechanic shops. She thought Randall may be able to contact a mechanic who might be willing to try to refurbish flood damaged cars and get them running again.

Councilmember Collet commented he would reach out to Alberto to find out what they want.

Councilmember Wirth asked what we will do to help prevent this from happening again.

Mayor Vail commented that Congressman Crane was here this morning, and she and Town Manager Hendrix told him that they will put an email together of all these entities. Mayor Vail noted we have heard from the President's Office, both Senators, Congressmen, and the Governor. The email will show the congressional spending that was requested for this, for floods; we are going to highlight that we sure could have used that a little bit ago. Mayor Vail explained they all reached out and asked what they could do.

Mayor Vail spoke in response to Councilmember Wirth's question about preventing this from happening again. Mayor Vail explained it gets complicated.

Councilmember Collet commented that everything is possible once we first acknowledge that something must be done, and then we commit to do it, and that is it; the journey starts with a single step.

Councilmember Wirth commented that if we have Congressmen, Senators, and the government asking us what they can do, this is what we need.

Mayor Vail commented that is exactly right, and that is the main thing she sees as the silver lining of this event because they will probably listen to us now.

Town Manager Hendrix commented that Town Engineer Moody told her this is not a fast fix problem.

Councilmember Wirth stated we are very, very fortunate that there was no loss of life.

There was discussion of some of the scenes and events witnessed during and after the flooding rains.

4. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mayor Vail moved that we adjourn at 8:33 p.m., and Councilmember Collet seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Aye: Mayor Vail, Councilmember Wirth, Councilmember Collet, Councilmember Aldaz


Clarinda Vail, Mayor

9/13/23
Date

ATTEST:

Tina M. Abriani

Tina M. Abriani, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF ARIZONA

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COCONINO COUNTY

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I, TINA ABRIANI, do hereby certify that I am the Town Clerk of Town of Tusayan, County of Coconino, State of Arizona, and that the above minutes are a true and correct summary of the emergency meeting of the Council held on AUGUST 24, 2023. I further certify that the emergency meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Tina M. Abriani 09-14-23
Town Clerk Date

