

**TOWN OF MAMMOTH
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE MAMMOTH TOWN COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 29, 2022**

**These are the Minutes of a Special Meeting held by the Mammoth Town Council
On September 29, 2022 pursuant to the notice required by Law.**

Due to the COVID-19 Virus and our efforts to slow the spread, and to keep all members and attendees safe in this time of crisis. We require that all those in attendance are adhering to Social Distancing Measures.

1. CALL TO ORDER – This meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM Mayor Armenta.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT MEMBERS

Mayor Armenta
Vice Mayor Bustamante
~~Councilwoman Martinez~~
Councilman Martinez
Councilman Dietz
Councilman Brewer
Councilwoman German

PRESENT STAFF

~~Attorney S Cooper~~
Town Manager J. Schempf
Town Clerk A. Sanchez
~~Police Chief H Muller~~
Town Recorder S. Christiansen

ABSENT MEMBERS

Councilwoman Martinez (Excused)

4. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REZONING OF 306-21-0640 A PROPERTY IN MAMMOTH ARIZONA

S. Christiansen-This is the public hearing for the rezoning of property that is at 602 South old highway 77. It was previously zoned for manufactured homes. The gentleman would like to actually build a house there. He's purchased both properties to make it larger. And that will add increased revenue as far as our property taxes and also will increase our property values in that area. We've done the all the assessments, we've sent out all the letters to the neighboring people. We posted that there was a public hearing to be had, which is now so if anyone has any additional comments or objections to that rezoning. Now's your chance to talk.

There was some discussion amongst the Council. No objections have been received by any residents in the area. There are no comments from the public hearing at this time.

A Sanchez- Well, mobile homes go down in value every year, houses go up in value every year. So she's right. I think that it would be okay. It would be to the town a benefit to build a house rather than having a mobile home.

S Christiansen-Are there any other comments or concerns? Hearing none we will close the Public Hearing Portion of this meeting.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REZONING OF 306-21-0640 FROM MANUFACTURED HOME TO RESIDENTIAL FOR TRADITIONAL HOME CONSTRUCTION

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN DIETZ SECOND BY COUNCILMAN MARTINEZ

MOTION PASS 6-0

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – NONE

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION OF STAFF CONCERNING WINDOW TINTING AT MAMMOTH COMMUNITY CENTER.

After some minor discussion over need for tinting at this time.....

MOTION TO TAKE NO ACTION AND REVISIT THIS SUBJECT IN SIX MONTHS
MOTION BY COUNCILMAN DIETZ SECOND BY COUNCILMAN MARTINEZ
MOTION NO ACTION TAKEN 6-0

B. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MAMMOTH SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFING

1. APPROVE HIRING PART-TIME TREASURER/CODE OFFICER

J. Schempf-I'll kick this off. Angie is here to finish it up. I have to tell you, folks, I wish this wasn't on the agenda. And I'll tell you why. Since I let you folks know that I'm gonna be leaving at the end of October. I've been counting the phone calls and emails and people coming in to see me and I'm keep wondering to myself, who's going to do that? And I don't have the answer for that. I mean, if you had a full staff, I would not be recommending a town manager position. And I'm still not, but I yield to the numbers person.

A Sanchez- Okay, so, John and I have gone back and forth over this situation. And we of course, like he said, we don't completely agree on the course of action, but that's not our job. That's yours. I think that the town can move forward with a financial manager or a part time financial manager and a full time town clerk. I think that the financial manager, someone who can number one, oversee accounts payable and make sure that they stay within budget and then prepare the budget and really, look for grants and do reporting on grants. And then John says that that they need to oversee planning and zoning. So you could hire a part time financial manager who could handle that, and go back to a Council and Town Clerk form of government and hire a full time Town Clerk to handle those things, then the big decisions come back to the Council, then the council has a little more control over what happens. There are going to be times when a Town Clerk is not going to feel comfortable making the kind of decisions that the Town Manager makes. And in that situation, the Mayor and the Vice Mayor would need to be available, and with the financial manager, sit down and make decisions in the best interest of the town in those situations. But I think that the reason they had problems before when you had a Town Clerk and Council form of government was that you had a town clerk who's making decisions, she shouldn't have been making alone. She didn't have the financial background. That's what you were missing before. That's the reason you got into the debt and had the issues that you were having. I mean, what do you have to lose, if you give these to people who've applied for the position, give them a chance, hire a full time town clerk and let him/her do the clerk duties, and let them oversee that, then come back to the council and hire a financial manager. And then when big decisions need to be made, you've got someone to ask, "Hey, okay, do we have enough money to do this? Where are we at?" That person is going to give you a monthly reporting, because you're not gonna have a town manager anymore, that person is going to report to you monthly, where you're at, what percentage you're adding on your budget, on all your line items, so that you can make more informed decisions. Because the towns been flying by the seat of its pants for a long time. And it's time that the council start to make some hard decisions about financially, what you're going to do now, and what you're going to do in the future because I have been harping on you for the past two years. But the fact that the town is going to be in a hard financial situation very soon. And the town's not going to be able to afford to pay a full time town manager, you're gonna go out there, and we're gonna bring a town manager in here for less than what you're paying. I'm surprised John works for what he's paid. On top of the fact that there are no benefits. There's no retirement. Just not a lot to offer. But you need a lot of help. And I think that if you have two people here that are willing to try, give them six months. I mean, I know it's frustrating when he's going through the accounts payable and you know, and asking what is this board? But that's what you should be doing? You should be asking those hard questions, especially if you don't have a town manager to oversee those things. So I mean, it is different? Yeah, it's going to be different. It's going to be different for you guys to go back to that. And it's scary to go back because you guys were a half a million dollars in debt and HERF, almost \$240,000 in debt to excise tax, you can't go back. Moving forward, you guys, each one of you have a responsibility of financial and fiscal responsibility to make sure that you're making good decisions for this town. And you can do it, I think you can. And I'll help as much as I can on the outside, you know, trying to if they have questions, or they have concerns, I'll be happy to help. But I need to step back because I have responsibilities at the county. I'm just kind of filling in and, answering questions here and there. But I'm not here every day. I can't watch what goes on financially every day in this town. And I don't want you to think that that's what I'm doing because that's absolutely not what I'm doing. It's impossible for me to do that from Florence. So I think that you guys have some real hard decisions to make you have you have some good options.

Mayor Armenta- Before they make a motion, I just wanted to say the two workers need to be to know that, first, we have to come up with a starting date. But for a part time person, there is no vacation or sick time, for the full time

they would work 40 hours a week with zero insurance, they will get sick time and one week vacation. Then after six months, we will look at how they're doing. Maybe we can afford to give them a raise? Maybe? I don't know. I would recommend that you make that motion pending completion of a background check. Recommended by Our Attorney, because they will be working on a lot of money.

I think 100% of background check needs to be done because you don't want somebody who has been, you know, charged with fraud or something. And now you're hiring that that should count. Yeah. Yeah. But here's, here's the thing. I understand completely what you're saying. And it's not that you're not right. I think you're absolutely right. Can the town clerk act as the Chief Financial Officer 100%, the town clerk can do that. But in the past, that has not been good for the town, because there was no checks and balances. So things were things of people weren't paying attention. When you come to the council meeting. What do you ask? Do we have enough money for that? And if your town clerk's I was going like this? Yeah, we do. Yeah, yeah. We have money for that. Sure. Sure. Sure. Yeah, we do. What happens at the end of the year when there's no money at the end of the year. Do you know our general fund last year was the first time in 10 years that our general fund finished with a positive fund balance. There wasn't a lot but the first time in 10 years, and you know how much we have left. With \$35,000 left. That was it. That was it for the whole year. Someone and knows what they're doing has to be in charge of the money has to be watching the budget. has to be paying attention. And that can't be the same person who's running around trying to get agendas together, running around trying to make sure that people aren't claiming, you know, tons of overtime and making sure that that, you know, the issues of the town are being taken care of. You need, you need a town clerk, you need somebody who can watch your budget, somebody who can handle the finances, you need somebody who can write grants, and do grant reporting, because that's a lot of work too. And you need code enforcement, and a lot of work for one person, if you can find one person who can do all that. You got to put a cape on them, because that's Superman.

Motion is to accept and offer the job to Guilia Lewis for treasurer/code enforcement, it would be 40 hours every pay period and part time 20 hours every week at will at will to the council. With Completed Background check.

**MOTION BY COUNCILMAN DIETZ SECOND BY COUNCILMAN MARTINEZ
MOTION PASSED 6-0**

2. APPROVE HIRING FULL-TIME TOWN CLERK

J. Schempf-The other one she's from the area. She was here when we interviewed her name was Ana Carrera.

Motion to hire full time clerk A. Carrera pending Background check at 80 hours per pay period.

**MOTION BY COUNCILMAN DIETZ SECOND BY COUNCILMAN MARTINEZ
MOTION PASSED 6-0**

*****NOTE—There was some discussion on the water issues at the Booster Pump and an update on the issues that arose from that problem and its repairs*****

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS—

Councilman Brewer-On how to manage administrative staffing, options include disincorporation, I hope nobody on this council was thinking it will come to that. We would have to have a town hall meeting first to let the public know. So maybe somebody out there we'll come up with somebody who knows, but before we do anything that they're asking, we have a town hall meeting at the school and everybody including the county has to approve it before it goes anywhere.

Vice Mayor Bustamante- the only comment that I want to make is for Neighborhood Watch. We're going to get together as a neighborhood trying to do some cleanup at the Community Center, in the horseshoe pit area over here and try to get some get some volunteers, whoever shows up and do some work on cleaning up that general area.. Maybe they're bringing their shovels, weed eaters, other clearing tools, and we're doing some trimming of the tree branches too. Come to Tuesday at 7am. And we want to also make sure we do pre-approval, for a possible quorum.

Councilwoman German- I have a question for the chief of police. A lot of phone calls from people asking me what's going on with the police we have on the highway, there's a lot of speeding cars. The other day, I got a call about a girl who was been asleep by the market, she was asleep on a slab of cement there. To begin with, they need to know who to call they said and that girl was face down and there was no cop to call. And later on when they passed by there was a gentleman with a backpack and he was sitting there with elbows on his knees. And no one knew who he was. And you don't want to go and approach anybody because you never know there could be a knife. And on the highway, I have to stop at that stop sign, right before circle K. There's times when cars just zoom by or I'm going 45 the way it's supposed to be and they're passing me. And I noticed a lot that are Arizona license plates. But I don't know what to tell to the people because I don't even know when cops are on duty.

Chief Muller- So, you have a couple issues there. One, I'll start with the past out lady because I'm aware of that. I just spoke to our fire chief today. And he was addressing that. Apparently those callers did know who to call, but they hung up because they got frustrated with the questions that were being asked. I think it's a lack of understanding and maybe we need to communicate to the community a little bit better. When they're asking those questions. It's not like the way it used to be where you have, you know, our dispatcher in a room, and they're writing furiously on a note pad. And they are on the phone, and they're taking as much information as they can. Maybe asking a few questions, didn't even have the script that they're supposed to be trained on. These now are certified emergency 911 dispatchers we have now and they're asking this list of questions. So they can go ahead and punch that in and they're sending it out on screen. And it's either getting something medical, or it's getting sent to an officer on our screen at the station. Or it's being given to the specialist or the call taker taking it, who's now voicing it over the radio. So it's happening immediately in real time, as before, where they're jotting down, hoping they get all the information, and then getting on the radio, or yelling down the hall to the officer that's typing paperwork or whatever, hey, this is what's going on over there. So they're getting asked a lot of questions that they probably didn't get asked before. And it's just to provide better service and give better information and get better response. These people got frustrated and they hung up. So yes, there's officers on, there's people to help. I don't know what our particular response was, because I haven't looked at our call logs to see if anybody came out there. If they followed up on that, but that's what I got from our fire chief on that particular incident. As far as the speeding goes, I can tell you, I've been out on the highway personally, at least three times this week for an hour or more at a time. I worked day shift and I've worked night shift with, Corporal Chase, and Sergeant Green. I can tell you Officer Sanchez, he has been on the highway up until like, as I'm coming into town at 05 55 in the morning, for day shift. He's on graveyards, and he's still there, posted up at the edge of town. We wrote numerous tickets. I haven't looked at our stats. Exactly. But I know it's more than what we've been writing. I posted up on the highway and I make some stops. I've made a few. But I tell you, majority of the people have slowed down and I don't know what it is. But there's times where even me and I'm used to running radar. I look at a car and that one's going pretty good. It's like five miles over. Maybe they're even at the speed limit sometimes and just looks like its coming fast through town. I think when you're out there on the sidewalk, sometimes it seems like it's going faster, but it's actually right around 45 Maybe 50. But you know, I pull the car over at 50, and then on goes by 55. You try but you can't get them all. Okay, as far as the people there, I mean, the only thing I can say is what I do, at every neighborhood watch meeting or any community engagement event that we have is when you see something, say something, call it whether it's 911, or non emergency number, you're not going to get a hard time from us. If you think that person is suspicious, and they're up to no good 911 is appropriate, it's fine. And you will get an officer's response, I guarantee it.

8. **ADJOURN**
MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:15PM
MOTION BY Councilman Martinez SECOND BY Councilman Dietz
MOTION Passed 6-0

I certify that the preceding is a true and correct copy of the Town of Mammoth Council Meeting held SEPTEMBER 29, 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held.

John Schempf, Interim Town Clerk