



**TOWN OF MAMMOTH
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE MAMMOTH TOWN COUNCIL AND
MAMMOTH MUNICIPAL PROPERTY CORPORATION
February 24, 2022**

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Mammoth Town Council
On February 24, 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** J. Schempf
3. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT MEMBERS

Mayor Armenta (by phone)
Vice Mayor Bustamante
Councilwoman Martinez
Councilman Martinez
Councilman **DIETZ**
Councilman Brewer
Councilman Ponce

PRESENT STAFF

Attorney S Cooper
Town Manager J. Schempf
Police Chief, Hank Mueller

ABSENT MEMBERS

4. **Public Announcements**

John Schempf, Town Manager discussed the following announcements:

Former Councilmember Bob Sloan passed away

Advertisement for Town Clerk only one applicant so far

Free COVID vaccine and testing at the Mammoth Community Center Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM during the month of March

Shred-A-Thon and Drug Take Back

Marijuana Community Forum featuring the Pinal County Attorney and Chief Mueller

National Night Out

5. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

A public body may make an open call to the public during a public meeting subject to a three-minute limitation to allow individuals to address the public body on any issue within the jurisdiction of the public body. At the conclusion of the call to the public individual members of the public body may respond to criticism made by those who address the public body. They may ask staff to review a matter or have the matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the public body shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public.

Handicapped individuals with special accessibility needs may contact the ADA Coordinator for the Town of Mammoth at (520) 487-2331 (V/TDD)

Denis Oswald requested sidewalks in front of his home on Tiger Drive. He also asked for help with enforcing the noise ordinance due to loud music. He also stated that he has had issues with dogs at large in his neighborhood.

The town manager asked that item 10.A up in the agenda be moved up because Judge Lujan would like to present this item. Councilwoman Martinez made a motion to move Item 10.A up in the agenda to be heard prior to the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Councilman Martinez. Motion passed 6-1.

10.A Request for Mammoth Council to Approve a Memorial Monument for Fallen Mammoth Police Officer James Ross, presented by former Police Chief Rudy Lujan.

Mr. Lujan asked that a monument be erected in honor of Corporal Ross who was killed in the line of duty on June 10, 1988, in the Town of Mammoth. Mr. Lujan explained that he would like the monument to be placed in the triangle median in the rose garden in front of the police station. He stated that it would be funded by the Officers Fund and a Saddlebrooke organization. He asked that the town Public Works staff clean the area in preparation for the installation of the monument.

Councilman Brewer stated that he believed that that area was previously dedicated to former councilmember Joe Tamayo. Mr. Lujan asked if it was possible to have a small corner of the area for the fallen officer or place it in front of the Police Department.

Motion to allow Mr. Lujan to place the monument in a small section of the rose garden and direct staff to research the prior dedication and if necessary, consult the Tamayo family

Motion by Councilwoman Martinez

Seconded by Councilman Martinez

Motion Passed VOTE 6-1

6. CONSENT AGENDA

ALL ITEMS SET FORTH BELOW ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE MATTERS AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE (1) MOTION AND ONE (1) ROLL CALL VOTE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION ON THESE ITEMS UNLESS A COUNCILMEMBER SO REQUESTS, IN WHICH EVENT THE ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND CONSIDERED IN ITS NORMAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS.

Motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of the Public Works Report and the Minutes for February 3, 2022.

Motion by Councilwoman Martinez

Seconded by Councilman Martinez

Roll Call Vote:

Vice Mayor Bustamante

YES

Councilman Martinez

YES

Councilman Dietz

YES

Councilman Brewer

YES

Councilman Ponce

YES

Councilwoman Martinez

YES

Mayor Armenta

YES

Motion Passed Vote: 7-0

Councilwoman Martinez asked to pull the Public Works Report because she wanted to know why the overtime hours for the past week was not included. Town Manager Schempf explained that this was due to the cutoff for the agenda reports were due on February 17th. Councilwoman Martinez also stated that she and other council members have received numerous complaints that the Public Works staff was sitting up on Old Mine Road for hours not working, which is unacceptable given the overtime hours reported.

Councilman Ponce stated that he had concerns about the overtime and there are still two aerators down at the water treatment plant. He also expressed that there are still 8 broken fire hydrants. It has been a month since he went to the yard and there were new hydrants in the yard, and they need to be installed immediately. If they are not the correct ones, they need to be returned and get the correct ones installed. Councilman Brewer stated that he has personally seen Public Works employees at the cemetery sitting around. Councilwoman Martinez asked that the Minutes from February 3rd be tabled until the next meeting to give the council time to review them.

Motion to approve the Public Works Report and table the Minutes for February 3, 2022, to the next regular meeting.

Motion by Councilwoman Martinez

Seconded by Councilman Martinez

Motion Passed Vote: 7-0

Recess the Regular Meeting of the Town Council

7. Meeting of the Mammoth Municipal Property Corporation

The Mammoth Municipal Property Corporation was called to Order at 7:41 PM by Vice Mayor Bustamante.

Roll Call:

PRESENT MEMBERS

Mayor Armenta (by phone)

Vice Mayor Bustamante

Councilwoman Martinez

Councilman Martinez

Councilman *DIETZ*

Councilman Brewer

Councilman Ponce

A. Approve two Resolutions Required for the \$500,000 Loan from USDA.

Town Manger Schempf explained that this loan was to pay back the bridge loan.

Motion to approve the Resolutions Required for the \$500,000 Loan from USDA

Motion by Councilman Brewer

Seconded by Councilwoman Martinez

Motion Passed Vote: 7-0

B. Receive Updates on the Water Project

Town Manager Schempf explained that the water project has begun. Town staff is exposing and verifying the condition of the pressure valves and the engineer will inspect. The new design will show both wells working together so we will only use one chlorinator rather than two to save money and increase the amount of pipe in the ground. Staff has identified four roads that are very bad for example

5th Street and would like them included so we can get those replaced and paved. Councilman Brewer asked about the possibility of establishing a new well. The Town Manager Schempf explained that the town is redoing the two existing wells and testing the water to improve the quality of the water.

8. Adjourn Mammoth Municipal Property Corporation

Motion to adjourn the Meeting of the Mammoth Municipal Property Corporation at 7:51 PM.

Motion by Councilman Brewer

Seconded by Councilman Martinez

Motion Passed Vote: 7-0

Regular Meeting Reconvened at 7:52 PM

9. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discuss and approve contract for Dispatching Service with Pinal County Sheriff Department

Town Manger Schempf explained that the Town of Kearny has withdrawn from consideration for dispatch services. He explained that the \$37,000 fee will be due in quarterly payments rather than all in one payment. Chief Mueller explained that in regard to IT and Spillman the estimate is approximately \$3-\$4,000 per year which will also be payable in quarterly payments. Kearny will still be able to dispatch for the Fire Department. He also stated that the contract can be modified as needed if the Town has cost issues. He also stated that the IGA can be approved for one year rather than the original 3-year contract. Councilwoman Martinez asked about possible reduction due to call volume. Councilwoman Martinez clarified it would be \$37,000 per year and \$4,000 for Spillman to be paid quarterly. Councilman Brewer expressed concerns that this would lead to the loss of our police officers and the increase in cost. Councilwoman Martinez stated that if the council does not contract out for dispatch the town will end up unincorporating due to the financial situation. This will save the town \$130,000 per year that could be used to do other things in the town. Vice Mayor Bustamante stated that there are structural deficits in the budget, including a balance owed to PSPRS retirement for the officers. The loss in census numbers and town must take action to address these financial issues. Councilman Ponce stated that the council should not approve the contract until they have it in front of them and can review it. Councilwoman Martinez stated that the changes in the motion must be in the contract, or it cannot be signed.

Motion to approve the contract for dispatch services with Pinal County with the following changes: the \$37,000 will be paid in quarterly payments, start up cost to be paid in quarterly payments, the effective date to be April 1, 2022, change Don Jones to John Schempf.

By Councilwoman Martinez

Seconded by Councilman Martinez

Roll Call Vote:

Vice Mayor Bustamante

YES

Councilman Martinez

YES

Councilman Dietz

YES

Councilman Brewer

ABSTAINED

Councilman Ponce

NO

Councilwoman Martinez

YES

Mayor Armenta

YES

Motion Passed Vote: 5-2

B. Discuss Mammoth Property Ownership Resolutions; Approve both the BLM Lease for the Soccer Field and Cemetery Expansion

The Town Manager Mr. Schempf stated that the town owns the property from the community center up to the park and over to the cemetery. He stated that this property can be used to expand the cemetery. He also stated that the town has a 25-year lease with BLM for the soccer field. This lease needs to be

renewed because the only property linking the annexed Cielo Project is at the soccer field. Councilwoman Martinez asked about the use of the soccer field for a helicopter pad. The Town Manager stated that there is no issue with the lease to use the property for an emergency helicopter pad. He also mentioned an alternate site for the soccer field in the back of the little league field and a possible grant for the project.

Motion to approve the BLM Lease for the Soccer Field and Cemetery Expansion
By Councilwoman Martinez **Seconded by Councilman Martinez**
Motion Passed Vote: 7-0

C. Discuss and Approve Direction to Staff to Proceed with Obtaining Fund for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Vice Mayor Bustamante explained that electric cars are on its way, and we need to be prepared. There is federal funding earmarked for these types of projects. Councilman Ponce stated that he feels we will need multiple charging stations. The town manager explained that this would be done only with grant funds not tax dollars. This will help the businesses in town. Vice Mayor Bustamante stated the town should use town property designated for a charging station.

Motion to direct staff to proceed with obtaining grant funding for electric vehicle charging stations.
By Councilwoman Martinez **Seconded by Councilman Martinez**
Motion Passed Vote: 7-0

D. Reconsider Approval of Air Medical Contract in view of Mammoth's Financial Situation

Councilwoman Martinez asked legal counsel if it would be possible to put a ballot proposal to see if the residents want the town to provide this service. Town Attorney Cooper stated that time is limited to get items on the ballot and cautioned the council on directing decisions to the voters that should be made by the council. Town manager stated that he was concerned about spending this money now and the town will not be able to pay for it in the future. Also, resident who are on Medicaid are not eligible for coverage. Councilwoman Martinez expressed her support for the contract.

Motion to approve the Air Medical Contract.
By Councilwoman Martinez **Seconded by Councilman Dietz**
Motion Passed Vote: 7-0

E. Discuss Community Communications and Direct Staff to Explore and contract Not to Exceed \$5,000 per year with a communications company

The Town Manager stated that this will not be needed as the town will collect email addresses for free so the town can contact residents to inform them of issues in town such as water leaks, missing persons, etc.

No action taken.

10. NEW BUSINESS

B. Approve and Sign the Inter-Governmental Agreement for Provisions of Services by the Pinal County Elections and Recorder's Departments

The town manager explained this is for the County to handle our election and if everyone receives the majority then the town will not need the second election. The cost is \$600 per election which is very reasonable.

Motion to Approve and Sign the Inter-Governmental Agreement for Provisions of Services by the Pinal County Elections and Recorder's Departments

By Councilwoman Martinez

Seconded by Councilman Martinez

Motion Passed Vote: 7-0

C. Planning and Zoning Issues

The town manager explained that staff is estimating that with \$130,000 the town could clean up approximately 10 properties. This project would clean up properties and the town would decide which projects will be cleaned up. Councilwoman Martinez asked about other projects that were discussed and that the sidewalks and cross walks and a hawk light are a better use of the grant. The town manager explained that this grant will only pay for the design work. The town will have to get money and permission from ADOT. Councilman Brewer asked for a special meeting to discuss this issue. The town manager explained that the grant has to be completed by March 7th. The town manager stated that the town funds should not use community funds for something ADOT should be responsible for.

a. Decide to Use Community Development Block Grant for Derelict Structure Clearances and occupied Property Exterior Clean-up

b. Change Dog Registration from \$7 to \$10 for Spayed/Neutered and \$15 for Natural

c. For Unregistered Vehicles, Change Time frames for Action from Thirty Days to Fourteen Days

Motion to Use Community Development Block Grant for Derelict Structure Clearances and occupied Property Exterior Clean-up

By Councilman Brewer

Seconded by Councilman Martinez

Motion Passed Vote: 6-1

Motion to Change Dog Registration from \$7 to \$10 for Spayed/Neutered and \$15 for Natural

By Councilman Brewer

Seconded by Councilman Martinez

Motion Passed Vote: 7-0

Councilwoman Martinez stated she was not in favor of reducing time from thirty to fourteen days. She also stated that the items are unclear.

Item C- No Action Taken

D. Serious Discussion on Ideas to help Mammoth's Financial Future to Include Outsourcing Services, hiring a Manager/Financial Director/Clerk, Reducing Parks and Fields, Etc.

Vice Mayor Bustamante asked for discussion item only. Councilwoman Martinez stated she was not in favor of reducing parks and fields for the kids. We should hire a Manager/Financial Director/Clerk and look at getting the town manager help. She stated the town should hire a grant writer to help the town move forward. Councilman Brewer stated that the cement slab below the town hall would be a good site of a charging station. Also, the town should develop town property of the highway to bring new businesses. The town manager explained that he would like to have the former town clerk Angela Sanchez work for the town as an independent contractor at \$30 per hour to help with grants, financial issues and train the new clerk. Councilwoman Martinez asked if Ms. Sanchez could be hired under this item. The attorney stated that the council should wait and bring the item back at a later date. The town manager stated that there was only one applicant for the clerk position.

11. Mayor and Council Comments

Councilwoman Martinez asked about packets for the open council seats and get it posted so interested parties have time to get the paperwork in by the deadline. Also, Public Works employees should be working if they are getting paid not sitting in a truck doing nothing.

Vice Mayor Bustamante stated that those using the parks should be mindful to clean up. There is a need for signage for the neighborhood watch.

Councilman Brewer explained that he was unhappy that the Chief of Police made him the subject of his report last month.

12. Adjourn

Motion is to adjourn meeting at 9:24 PM

Motion by: Councilman Dietz

Second by: Councilman Martinez

Motion Passed Vote 7-0

I certify that the preceding is a true and correct copy of the Town of Mammoth Council Meeting held February 24, 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held.

John Schempf, Interim Town Clerk