

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PINETOP-LAKESIDE, ARIZONA, HELD DECEMBER 16, 2010 AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Mayor Smith called the Special Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

<u>ROLL CALL:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Luke Smith	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Stephanie Irwin	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Vice Mayor Rich Crockett	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Kim Webb	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Woody Biscoe	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>	Leslee Wessel	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Norris Dodd	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>			

STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly Udall, Town Manager; Lu Anne Frost, Town Clerk; Jack Barker, Interim Town Attorney; John Vuolo, Parks & Recreation Director; and Mary French-Jones, Grants Coordinator.

ITEM NO. 2, RESOLUTION NO. 10-1159 SUPPORTING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL FUNDS:

Mary French-Jones stated this Resolution addresses the Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grant, and said it is based on the recommended activities from the Planning Assistance for Rural Areas (PARA) Study. She stated, in September of 2009, the Arizona Department of Transportation awarded the Town funds to complete a pedestrian and transportation study. She said the Town conducted two public meetings, polled business owners, members of the School District, corporations and other officials regarding pedestrian safety with special emphasis on schoolchildren. She said the primary activity is a dedicated signalized pedestrian crossing, and said the secondary activity is re-opening the ingress in front of the old junior high school. She said they have witnessed 64 potential pedestrian-motorist conflicts between the Woodland Road/SR260 and Yellow Jacket Lane/SR260 intersections. She said the School District staggered start times, dedicated staff to direct traffic, specified drop off zones, and segregated drop off points for the buses, but said they still have problems for walkers. She said, over the past three years, they have conducted Annual Walk to School events. She said the first and second events included 50 children each year; and said this year, there were 100 participants consisting of kindergarten through eighth grade students. She said the high school students were not included in this application; and said they counted the number of younger children walking during the event. She said the Safe Routes to School Committee members and Town staff selected this project as the best way to improve conditions for schoolchildren crossing to and from school, and said they felt this project would be the best for the community.

Mr. Udall stated the proposed crossing and Hawhlight on SR260 would have an impact on the community. He said it was important the right people were at the table to help the Council understand the project's intent and make their decision. He said Chief Eldredge, the School Superintendent, Mayor/Vice Principal, Mary French-Jones and Tom Thomas were present to defend why this project is important for the safety of the schoolchildren. He said they are excited about this project. He stated snow removal would be a concern, as ADOT would be

plowing snow into the median. He said Tom Thomas, the Town's Public Works Director, assured them his department would allow the time and resources to remove snow from the median. He said the PARA Study identified this project as an important element for public safety and for the safety of the kids. He said currently kids have to run across five lanes on SR260, and said that eventually there would be an accident. He said some of the concerns with stacking could be alleviated. Ms. French-Jones stated there would be both driver and pedestrian education processes. She said currently there is stacking at several points, and said the children have to cross the road between cars. She said 308 kids live within a 2-mile radius, and said 145 children live within a one-mile or less radius to the schools. She said drivers would have to re-think how they travel to the school, and said they would address this effort as a community-wide solution.

Councilmember Wessel asked if they are doing the study, design and construction. Ms. French-Jones said this was a concept design; the project would be ADOT managed, and said there would be a public participation process. She said the stakeholders would come up with a crossing that is amenable to everyone. She said the funds would come from the Safe Routes to School Program, and said it does not require matching funds from the Town.

Vice Mayor Crockett asked if the crossing would be located by the elementary playground area. Ms. French-Jones said because of the curve, this location would be valuable to the line of sight. Councilmember Dodd stated this would be a significant location, and said the kids are cutting across the road there. Vice Mayor Crockett asked how the traffic flow would affect Yellow Jacket Drive. Mayor Smith stated both public safety and school representatives would address traffic flow. Ms. French-Jones stated, with the third ingress, connectivity would move the children to the school property directly and as safely as possible. Mayor Smith stated sometimes the turning lane is backed up to that point, and said it is important to reopen the third ingress to relieve congestion at the light. Ms. French-Jones said it goes back to driver awareness, and said this action is to become more pedestrian friendly. Mayor Smith said it should be posted as a 15 mph school zone. Councilman Dodd stated this project meets the intent of the Safe Routes to Schools Program, and said this could be a prototype for use in other locations. He said a "Whereas" could be added to the Resolution stating, "This application would be a significant and priority step forward in implementing the ADOT funded PARA Study completed in 2009," and said they could reference the enhancement grant. Ms. French-Jones stated connectivity was addressed in the proposal.

VICE MAYOR CROCKETT MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 10-1159 SUPPORTING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL FUNDS. COUNCILMEMBER DODD SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Special Meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Dated this 27th day of December 2010.

PINETOP-LAKESIDE TOWN COUNCIL

/s/ Susan Stein
for Lu Anne Frost, Town Clerk