

September 18, 2023

### Town of Chandler Council Meeting Minutes

The Chandler Town Council meeting was called to order September 18, 2023, at the Chandler Town Hall, 401 E. Lincoln Ave. at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll call: Present** - Kim Burnett, Sandy Elder, Tonya Wester, Ron Whitledge

**Absent** – Cheryl Amos

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Minutes:** Minutes for the September 5, 2023, regular meeting was presented to the council. Motion was made by Sandy Elder to approve the minutes, second by Kim Burnett. **Roll call:** Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

**Citizens on the Agenda:** Susan Cowen from Baker Tilly attended the meeting remotely to present the proposed 2024 budget. Susan described the budget summary and corrected a claim she made previously. The tax rate will decrease, even with the excess levy appeal. The primary changes in the budget is to add half the cost of a full time employee to the MVH fund, increase wages by 4%, health by 8%, increase the fuel budget in parks. She mentioned we'll need to readjust the PERF budget to reflect raises. Tony also mentioned potentially paying for a lease out of PS LIT funds for the fire department. Susan said we can always increase the budget and move it to a different line item later. Tonya suggested using the excess levy appeal to increase the park budget by \$15,000. Brian said we'd have to increase it by \$20,000 to get back to the original budget of \$55,000 and Ron suggested doubling that. Tonya said she's happy with our budget and all of our funds being above the minimum recommended cash reserves and thanked everyone for their efforts.

**Town Attorney:** Josh presented a draft of the employee handbook. Josh said most redlines are editing to improve reading. Tonya suggested tabling it again since Misty hasn't had time to review changes to comp and overtime. Misty said the salary ordinance states which employees are entitle to overtime and Josh said he'll review it. Josh will provide annexation updates next meeting. Josh suggested advertising our reduced tax rates after they have been approved to help motivate people to support the annexations.

**Police Chief:** Tonya announced our police department received a grant for A FLOC camera, but we're still looking for a place to install it. She said it the county's FLOC camera already helped to find a kidnapped child. Misty added that the cost is very high either.

**Fire Chief:** Tonya informed the council the fire department is busy securing new equipment.

Tonya forgot to mention, the police department will be hosting a few events in the upcoming month. We will have National Night Out soon, the Sheriff's office will join, Life Flight also plans to be there, and

they will have a drone demonstration. They are also planning to host a blood drive and trunk-or-treat at the town hall.

**Director of Public Services:** Report emailed.

**Utility Administrator:** Report emailed. Misty informed the council that the budget will be increased for the Windsor Sewer project. She wanted to ensure they had a chance to approve it so satisfy bond requirements. She updated the council on park trails grant. They asked for some maps to be redone and answer a few questions. She informed the council that the lamp posts in Boonville were bought from Centerpoint. She is working with Centerpoint to get cost estimates and to get new lines run in the park. Misty will send an email when she learns more about hanging decorations on the post, we may need a contract to be allowed to. The food truck will be here all-day Thursday.

Tonya mentioned that she asked Misty to find a diversity training program. Misty said she found a program online for \$28.49 per person for all access or \$21 per course. She will provide examples, but she believes it's a good program and they regularly update their training so it's current.

**Environmental Manager:** Report emailed. Michael informed the council that Emmie June Cove will receive an award from the Governor for low income housing on September 26 and invited the council to attend. Michael notified the council that Terry paid for cleanup at 202 N Kentucky in full and she requested to be on the agenda next meeting. She also hired Elliott's and repaired the sewer line.

Michael presented the nature park plan with a map. He explained that Derrick Potts, Morgan Oberley, and Joe from Friedman Park helped create the master plan. There will be asphalt trails, gardens, mowed walking paths, parking, bridges, shaded areas, and it's structured to be low maintenance. The project will take more than 1 or 2 years, but he would like to start with opening Idaho St and prepare the wildflower garden area. We will have to spray the area with Roundup, but the Warrick County Soil Conservation District will provide wildflower seeds for up to 1 acre. Tonya asked if the decorative lamp posts can be added to the plan and Michael suggested installing them on the asphalt path. Tonya also suggested installing water fountains and believes Kaiser is providing grants. Misty added that the tall grass is placed to help hide the retention area too. Michael said we need to have the master plan confirmed before we can apply for grants. Motion was made by Ron Whitledge to approve master plan for the nature park, open Idaho, and prep the wildflower garden area, second by Kim Burnett. **Roll call:** Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

Michael presented a budget for the new street/storm employee. He would like the new hire to start in November. Motion was made by Ron Whitledge to approve the budget and pay it from ARPA funds, second by Sandy Elder. **Roll call:** Kim Burnett abstains, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

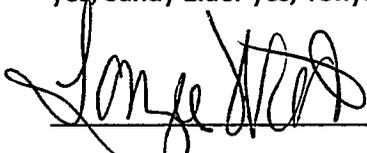
**Clerk Treasurer:** Report emailed. Brian presented the petition for our excess levy appeal. Motion was made by Kim Burnett to approve the petition, second by Ron Whitledge. **Roll call:** Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

Brian presented opioid supplemental amendment. He briefly explained that it reduces our fees for the new opioid settlements. Motion was made by Kim Burnett to approve amendment, second by Ron Whitledge. **Roll call:** Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

Brian presented the lake maintenance agreement. Motion was made by Ron Whitledge to approve the agreement, second by Sandy Elder. **Roll call:** Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

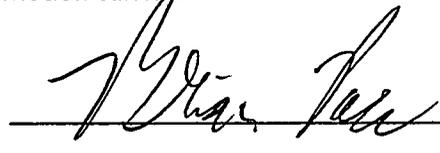
**Claims:** Ron Whitledge made a motion to approve claims as presented in the amount of \$400,923.91, second by Sandy Elder. **Roll call:** Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kim Burnett to recess the meeting, second by Sandy Elder. **Roll call:** Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.



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Tonya Wester, Council President



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Brian Pace, Clerk Treasurer