

**TOWN OF PAYSON  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
February 15, 2007**

**PRESENT:** Council Member Ed Blair, Council Member Su Connell, Council Member Andy Romance, Council Member Mike Vogel, and Council Member John Wilson.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Fred Carpenter, Town Manager, Sam Streichman, Town Attorney, and Rick Manchester, Parks & Recreation Director.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Marcia Huffman, Deputy Town Clerk, opened the Special Meeting in absence of the Mayor and Vice Mayor. Clmn. Wilson was designated to be chair until Mayor Edwards could join the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Designated Chair, Clmn. Wilson, opened the meeting asking Clmn. Romance to explain his upcoming trip to Washington D.C.

Mayor Edwards arrived and took over chair.

**PURPOSE OF MEETING**

1. Discussion/possible action to select projects/programs/current interests of the Town for Council Member Andy Romance to discuss with the Arizona congressional delegation during a visit to Washington, D.C. in March 2007.

Clmn. Romance explained his upcoming trip to Washington D.C. He is one of three engineers from Arizona traveling with this delegation. He opened the meeting for public comments and comments from the Council on improving relationships with the Federal government. He asked the Town Manager to submit ideas from his staff.

Mayor Edwards emphasized the need for help from Washington with the Healthy Forest Initiative and to determine where they are on this issue. Mayor Edwards also suggested focusing on water issues; i.e. Blue Ridge.

Manager Carpenter noted that authorizing legislature had been passed but the funding had not yet been addressed. He said he would check on the need for support to finish bore holes before Clmn. Romance's trip.

Clmn. Romance felt there should be a "why Payson" in the presentation to point out what is special. He believed our water conservation efforts and water resource development would be important to emphasize to help

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funding to go forward.

Clmn. Connell suggested identifying positive things done with water conservation and firewise fire prevention. She believed nailing down 2 or 3 larger issues and driving them home would be most beneficial.

Clmn. Romance noted the use of our airport during fire season. He suggested with all the fire fighting activity, slurry bombers landing and taking off, a manufacturing plant for the slurry agent might be a possibility.

Shirley McGeary suggested keeping the message simple. She was excited about Clmn. Romance's trip. She discussed a trip to Washing D.C. she made in the past. She suggested Clmn. Romance visit with Representative Renzi before the trip and possibly attend the Lincoln Day celebration in Payson to speak to Mr. Renzi there.

Mayor Edwards suggested other state's congressional delegations be approached with Arizona needs. Mayor Edwards suggested any brochure should be concise. Concerning fire issues, he pointed out that we were doing something - the fire break around town, we are in danger - there had been fires within 2 miles of Payson and that we were helping others - the firewise communities.

Manager Carpenter thought Ned Pastora might be a good contact person in Congress. He said the Town would assist in putting together brochure.

The Council discussed the possibility of Federal jobs in the Payson area. Clmn. Vogel had been talking with Representative Renzi about having an office in Payson. He also suggested a Social Security office in Payson. Clmn. Romance also suggested a Tonto National Forest headquarters in Payson.

Clmn. Romance also suggested Homeland Security offices in Payson to help with the problems of marijuana groves in the surrounding National forest.

Mayor Edwards suggested listing the kinds of Federal jobs that would fit in Payson. He said a sealed letter to Representative Renzi requesting his reaction to the possibility of getting those things here would be appropriate.

Clmn. Blair suggested that a similar letter be presented to Senators McCain and Kyle. Clmn. Voges suggested letters to Michigan congressmen concerning our needs for security with marijuana fields because of their experience with drug tragedies.

Clmn. Romance listed the needs suggested so far: a glossy handout, personal letters, and blanks for other congressmen.

Clmn. Vogel suggested sending letters about 5 days later as a followup.

Mayor Edwards suggested to finding the staff person who would make decisions concerning each issue and make a connection with them. He also suggested a previsit letter to give an outline of issues.

Clmn. Connell suggested taking Payson pins, wearing his Council badge, etc. She congratulated Clmn. Romance on being chosen for this delegation.

**ADJOURNMENT4: 42 p.m.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bob Edwards, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_

Silvia Smith, Town Clerk

**Certification**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Payson held on this day the 15 of February, 2007. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.

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Gaye Stidham, City Clerk