



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL OF YOUNGTOWN, AZ  
12033 N. CLUBHOUSE SQUARE, TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor LeVault called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **Roll Call: Roll Call:** Council present: Mayor Michael LeVault, Vice Mayor Chuck Vickers, Councilmembers Karen Haney Duncan, Mike Francis, and Jim Starke. Councilmember Chittenden and Councilmember Hout called in telephonically.

Mayor LeVault noted that a quorum is established for transacting business.

Staff present: Town Manager Jeanne Blackman, Community Development Manager Gregory Arrington, Town Clerk Nicole Smart, Administrative Assistant Ashley Redman and Town Attorney Trish Stuhan

3. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:** Councilmember Francis led the Pledge and Town Manager Blackman gave the Invocation.
4. **Summary of Current Events:**

Mayor LeVault mentioned he attended the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Council meeting and in January all the communities did the point in time to take a headcount to know how many homeless who are living on the streets. We do not have a number at the moment; however, the homeless population is up sharply, and has been increasing every year. The good news in that regard is there are more beds now for homeless most of them are in Phoenix. There are more shelters and up 80% of the people on the street are substance addicted and probably half of them are mentally ill.

Mayor LeVault mentioned the renewal or extension of proposition 400, now known as proposition 479, will be on the November ballot. However, if this proposition does not pass, that will close the grid on our transportation system that is continuing to build out. We are literally talking about years, sometimes decades, for certain kinds of freeways and transportation improvements to be done.

**Summary of Current Events from Town Manager**

Town Manager Blackman attended a virtual meeting with members from the Corporate Office of LifeStream out of Denver, along with Mayor LeVault and Community Development Manager, Gregory Arrington for introductions and to discuss future collaboration.

Town Manager Blackman presented our application for Phase III of the sidewalk installation to the Community Development Block Grant board.

Town Manager Blackman attended a meeting with Kathryn French and Jodi Kaczynski to review information to be distributed at the Youngtown/AFR/Neighborhood Watch meeting in February.

Town Manager Blackman attended the West Valley Managers' meeting hosted by the City of Avondale.

Town Manager Blackman attended a virtual meeting with Maricopa County Housing Department regarding the point-in-time count held in January.

5. **Staff Reports:** Staff may provide reports to Council on the following subjects which may include discussion with Council. Council will not take legal action.
  - A. **Library:** The Library Manager may report to Council on library operations, monthly activities, book club events, and upcoming author visits.
  - B. **Public Works:** The Public Works Manager may report to Council regarding maintenance of Town facilities, recreational facilities, streets, parks, and schedules for work in the Town.
  - C. **Community Development:** The Community Development Manager and/or Community Development Coordinator may report to Council regarding business outreach, economic development projects, and code enforcement operations and activity reports.
  - D. **Finance:** The Finance Manager may report to Council regarding the Town's budget and monthly expenditures.
  - E. **Town Clerk:** The Town Clerk may report to Council regarding Town events, activities, meetings, and promotion of the Town on its website and social media sites.
  - F. **Municipal Court:** The Court Administrator may report to Council regarding activities of the Municipal Court, citations, hearings, and schedules.

6. **Response to Call to the Community:** No response from the Community.

7. **Citizens Comments/Appearances from the Floor:**

Resident Ann Nelson mentioned there is a lot of activity in regards to work trucks parking on Wisconsin Avenue.

Mayor LeVault directed staff to look into the matter.

8. **Consent**

- A. **Approval of the Regular Council Meeting minutes of January 18, 2024.**

**Approval of the Regular Council Meeting minutes of January 18, 2024 with correction, Councilmember Hout's telephonic voice vote was noted as a yes for the October 30, 2023 and a no for December 21, 2023 meeting minutes;**

*Councilmember Francis*

*Second Vice Mayor Vickers*

**Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote with all Councilmembers in attendance voting. Councilmember Hout's and Chittenden's telephonic voice votes were noted as a yes.**

## 9. Business

### A. **Presentation, Discussion and/or Action Re:** Presentation of the PSPRS actuarial report.

Mayor LeVault mentioned he attended the PSPRS meeting and the actuarial one-time payment of \$91,379 the Town has to pay by July. The unfunded liability is at \$882,411, and we carry this on our balance sheet.

### B. **Presentation, Discussion and/or Action:** Approval of recommended allocation of improvement funds for the Façade Improvement Program.

Mayor LeVault mentioned this program is part of our economic development program, and because we do not have a traditional commercial area, our commercial enterprises consist of several shopping centers scattered around town. Many of them were built in the 1960's. We have worked with our Town Attorney to ensure the program is in compliance with the gift clause.

Community Development Manager Arrington presented the Allocation of Façade Improvement Funds in the amount of \$4,600.00, to install ninety-five (95) linear feet of wrought iron fencing and one (1) rolling gate four (4) feet in height. The Façade Improvement Program provides grants to businesses or property owners to facilitate economic development in the Town by enhancing and restoring business storefronts. This is the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) consecutive year that the Town has offered this program to our local businesses. Permitting upward development of our business centers will create greater capacity for redevelopment, higher state-shared revenues due to an increase in our population, and increased sales and rental taxes.

*Approval of recommended allocation of improvement funds for the Façade Improvement Program of \$4,600.00 for Edgar Casasola for Sion Church.*

*Councilmember Francis*

*Second Councilmember Starke*

***Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote with all Councilmembers in attendance voting. Councilmember Hout's and Chittenden's telephonic voice votes were noted as a yes.***

### C. **Presentation, Discussion and / or Action Re:** Ongoing efforts to address criminal activity, nuisances, and homelessness in the Town

Mayor LeVault mentioned the Town will continue doing what we are doing in regards to keeping the town safe.

## 10. Call to Executive Session: No Call to Executive Session.

## 11. Future Agenda & Meetings

### A. Future Agenda Items – none

**Adjournment**

*Motion to Adjourn*

*Councilmember Haney Duncan*

*Second – Councilmember Starke*

**Meeting Adjourned 5:59 p.m.**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael LeVault", written over a horizontal line.

Michael LeVault, Mayor

Attest:.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicole Smart", written over a horizontal line.

Nicole Smart, Town Clerk

Minutes approved at the March 7, 2024 Council meeting.