



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL OF YOUNGTOWN, AZ  
12033 N. CLUBHOUSE SQUARE, TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023 at 5:30 P.M.**

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor LeVault called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m., immediately following the Board of Adjustment Hearing.
2. **Roll Call:** Council present: Mayor Michael LeVault, Vice Mayor Chuck Vickers, Council Members Margaret Chittenden, Mike Francis, Karen Haney Duncan, and Jim Starke. Councilmember Susan Hout called in telephonically.

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

Staff present: Town Manager Jeanne Blackman, Town Clerk Nicole Smart, Attorney Michelle Stinson and Community Development Manager Gregory Arrington.

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 meeting (MAG), and discussed the extension of Prop 400. As you recall, there was a piece of legislation that actually passed through both chambers of our legislature. However, when it got to the governor's desk, he vetoed it, which was a shock as we thought that wasn't going to happen.

Maricopa County is the only county in the State of Arizona where you have to go to the legislature to give the Board of Supervisor permission to put the extension of this proposition on the ballot. Remember Prop 400 will sunset on December 25, 2024. That means if we don't get this passed next year, we will not have money available to keep our infrastructure in good shape and to fund projects needed for the growth in the near future. Planning for these projects can take between 15 to 20 years of planning before you can actually begin the work. So, at MAG we will start planning and see what happens, as without the ability to build out, it will get ugly, because we do need to continue to build out our transportation network.

Mayor LeVault mentioned the Raven Audio technology which is the triangulation technology, is going live now, and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has been through training. This is another commitment on the part of Youngtown to do what virtually no other municipality in the valley or the state has not done in terms of making a commitment

in keeping businesses and residents and their property safe. The Raven triangulation audio technology will essentially allow us to locate the source of gunfire to within two meters.

This technology works in conjunction with our Flock cameras, the license plate reader cameras that have been up for about two years now.

Councilmember Chittenden mentioned she took the AED Defibrillator machine training. She feels more confident about using it now that she had the training. Also, the AARP meeting will be held tomorrow night at 5:30 p.m. in the Clubhouse.

### **Summary of Current Events from Town Manager**

Town Manager Blackman conducted an interview for a Code Enforcement Officer.

Town Manager Blackman met with Maricopa County, City of Surprise and City of El Mirage to discuss a sub-regional partnership on homelessness.

Town Manager Blackman met with Town Attorney Stuhan, her assistant Michelle Stinson, and Town Clerk Nicole Smart to work on outstanding issues/projects throughout the town.

Town Manager Blackman worked with Financial Consultant Penny Malia and Town staff on finalizing all documentation to wrap up the audit.

Town Manager Blackman attended the West Valley Managers' meeting hosted by Glendale

Town Clerk Smart mentioned we will be holding a Citizens' Academy class for four (4) weeks in April, and we would appreciate any assistance Council can provide in helping us promote the class.

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 to Call to the Community.

7. **Citizens Comments/Appearances from the Floor:** No comments from the floor.

8. **Consent**

**A. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2023.**

*Motion to approve the consent minutes with correction.*

*Councilmember Hout*

*Second Councilmember Haney Duncan*

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

9. **Business**

**A. Presentation, Discussion and/or Action Re:** Presentation from Executive Director Les Meyers from White Tank Mountains Conservancy including an update on Conservancy activities, goals, and projects for the year.

Executive Director Les Meyers was present to give the Council an update on the White Tank Mountains Conservancy.

Their missions are to inspire all to conserve and enjoy the natural and cultural resources of the White Tank Mountains and to function as a convener to enable developers, planners, and builders to work directly with scientists, engineers, and sustainability designers to support informed decision-making.

The White Tank Mountains Conservancy acknowledged that the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust financial support has made it possible for collaborative work on the wildlife corridor initiative. Many stakeholders, landowners, and city partners have been brought together to share our common ground on a regional approach for the future of development and conservation in the West Valley.

The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust was established upon the death of Nina Mason Pulliam in 1997 to support the causes she loved in her home states of Arizona and Indiana. The Trust seeks to help people in need, protect animals and nature, and enrich community life in metropolitan Indianapolis and Phoenix.

Since its inception, the Trust has distributed nearly \$341 million to 1,004 organizations. For more information you can visit the website at [www.ninapulliamtrust.org](http://www.ninapulliamtrust.org).

Les Meyers stated we have an incredible opportunity to build this city responsibly with a keen eye towards what we want to be when we grow up. Wildlife corridors and habitats, open space, and recreation areas are very important and we can't just bulldoze everything to get this right and we don't want to end up 50 to 100 years from now just a sea of tile roofs. If we have done that, then we have failed at the city level.

Les Meyers mentioned Mayor Eric Osborne, City of Buckeye will proudly continue the conservation foresight and leadership that Mayor Meck has passed on to him. AS we move into the future, Buckeye will continue planning and protecting in ways that will ensure we don't lose wildlife and open space that celebrates Buckeye's cultural and historical legacy. The White Tank Mountains are the crown jewel of the west valley and we will ensure they remain that way a century from now.

The White Tank Mountains Connectivity Initiative is a landscape scale effort to promote sustainable development around a designated valley linkage system that would retain ecological connectivity. The Conservancy functions as a convener and works closely with their partner/stakeholder network to align planning agendas and timelines. The focus of their structure and strategy is on protecting this thriving, urban-adjacent mountain habitat.

Discussion followed, including discussion on programs, education, and animal preservation.

Our goal is to ask our Cities and Town for annual support to reach our goal. We are asking if the Town of Youngtown would be willing to sponsor \$15,000.

Mayor LeVault stated we will bring the request for sponsorship of \$15,000, to our next council meeting.

**B. Presentation, Discussion and/or Action Re: Approval of the Opioid Settlement Agreement with additional Defendants Teva, Allergan, Walmart, Walgreens, and CVS.**

Attorney Michelle Stinson mentioned we are adding additional defendants to the agreement tonight only.

Town Manager Blackman mentioned in regards to the funding there is not a lot. But now with these new folks coming out, she will reach out to the people who are managing it, and to find out the significant programming and reporting we'd have to do if we take the funding. Once she finds out we will let council know. However, we still have some research to do on this before we come back with a final amount.

*Approval of the Opioid Settlement Agreement with additional Defendants Teva, Allergan, Walmart, Walgreens, and CVS.  
Councilmember Francis  
Second Councilmember Vice Mayor Vickers*

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

**C. Presentation, Discussion and/or Action Re:** Approval of agreement with Standard Construction Company related to construction of sidewalk improvements.

Community Development Arrington is requesting an approval of the agreement with Standard Construction Company. This is going to consist of 10,000 linear feet of new sidewalk. As you recall from our last council meeting, we were challenged in regards to the approval of Standard Construction. Staff responded back to the individual company who challenged our recommendation and we did not receive anything back from them in a timely matter. So, we are allowed to move forward with this agreement.

Mayor LeVault asked when do we do the transfer from the HURF account to approved the difference of funds for the sidewalks?

Town Manager Blackman mentioned the Town will be putting in close to \$600,000 to pay for the difference for the sidewalk project. Once the project has been completed, we will come back to council to approve the appropriation to transfer the funds.

Approval of agreement with Standard Construction Company related to construction of sidewalk improvements

*Councilmember Chittenden*

*Second Councilmember Starke*

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

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

Mayor LeVault mentioned he gave a brief overview about the Raven Technology earlier in today's meeting. Mayor LeVault wishes he could tell you that homelessness, drug addiction and crime are going to get better, unfortunately, Arizona now has the 10<sup>th</sup> largest homeless population in the country. It's growing by leaps and bounds, every year we do a count and we send people into every community statewide, and the last time he checked it was 11,000 people that were homeless.

So, unfortunately, that problem is not going to get better anytime soon. Also 80% of the homeless are substance addicted, and for the most part, they are addicted to fentanyl, meth, and amphetamine. Heroin has died down because the fentanyl is a lot cheaper, however it is 50 to 100 times more powerful than heroin. Along with the State of Arizona, along with our new governor, insists it is a housing issue. This is not a housing issue, this is a human issue, and until they deal with the fact that 80% of these people are substance addicted, and 50% of them are psychotically mentally ill, this issue is not going to get better.

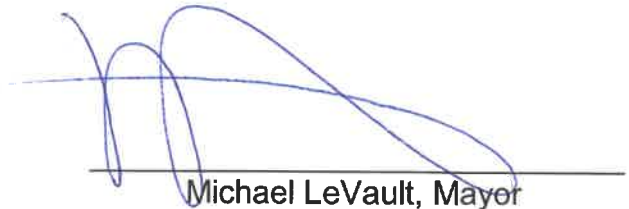
However, we are going to have to stay vigilant, on this thing for the foreseeable future. This is not going to improve at the federal and state level, which is where the problem must be dealt with. So, we are going to continue to do what we are doing. We are always looking for additional ways to be proactive, and to be innovative in terms of the additional tools that we can offer our law enforcement people.

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

**11. Future Agenda & Meetings**


Future Agenda Items – None

*Motion to Adjourn Vice Mayor Vickers*  
*Second – Councilmember Haney Duncan*  
**Meeting Adjourned 7:02 p.m.**



Michael LeVault, Mayor

Attest:



Nicole Smart, Town Clerk

Minutes approved at the March 16, 2023 Council meeting.