

**Superior Town Council
Special Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 6, 2013, 6:30 P.M.
Superior Senior Center
360 W. Main Street, Superior, AZ 85173
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Jayme Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Stephen Estatico, John Tameron, Kiki "Soyla" Peralta and Mayor Jayme Valenzuela; **Absent:** Michael Alonzo, Gilbert Aguilar and Vice Mayor Olga Lopez

INVOCATION:

Former Council Member Chris Tomerlin gave the Invocation.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Valenzuela led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. ACTION ITEMS:

- A. ORDINANCE NO. 116 An Ordinance Levying Upon the Assessed Valuation of the Property Within the Town of Superior, Arizona, Subject to Taxation a Certain Sum Upon Each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of Assessed Valuation Sufficient to Raise the Amount Estimated to be Required in the Annual Budget, Less the Amount Estimated to be Received From Other Sources of Revenue; Providing Funds for General Municipal Expenses, All for the Fiscal Year Ending the 30th Day of June, 2014

Town Manager/Attorney Kane Graves said there had been a public hearing on the budget and tax levy July 18. This was more of an administrative adoption of the property tax as recommended. It is designed to keep the taxes of the homeowners the same as they were last year. The assessed valuation of the town went down by 26 percent. In order to keep the taxes and the revenue to the town the same, they needed to raise the primary tax rate. It is basically value x rate = tax. He provided an example.

He said this is not a tax increase to the homeowner. It is mathematical. As value goes down the rate must go up to equal the same amount of tax from the homeowner and value to the town as last year and as predicated on the adoption of the budget.

Council Member Estatico asked where they got the information regarding the assessed value. Mr. Graves responded that it was the County Assessor's Office.

Mayor Valenzuela asked if there were any other questions or comments from the council. There being none, he asked Ms. Margaret Gaston, Acting Town Clerk and Finance Director, if she had anything to add.

Ms. Gaston said that she is sure the people in the town have already received their property taxes. The County Assessor's Office will show their value has gone down this year. That is the reason the taxes have to be raised. It is not something that will have to be done every year. Council will readdress the issue next year.

Mayor Valenzuela asked for any questions or comments from the public. He knew they had had a public hearing on this.

Mr. Sonnie Sanso indicated that in his estimation, if the property value goes down and taxes go up, it looks to him like he had an increase in taxes.

Ms. Pamela Rabago said that when she had looked at the values, from 2007 to 2010, their values went up a lot. Their taxes went up a lot between 2007 and 2010, their values went up a lot. They are just now starting to come down and they haven't come down by 26 percent that she can see.

Ms. Nancy Vogler commented that the majority of people with homes here are retired and have a debt income. She discussed when a council member had said to keep swimming fees low so they could still enjoy swimming. The average tax on the \$75,000 or \$55,000 home is still going to be an increase because they haven't seen the taxes go down from the 26 percent. It is going to be an increase of \$77 per home. It is just like the swimming, it is going to hurt. She is not going to be hurt by it. She discussed what had happened in Detroit. Please do not let it be another Detroit. She thought there must be another way. She did not like this way.

Mr. Chris Tomerlin indicated that going back to all the budget meetings they had with Pat Walker. They were given three options: raise revenue, cut services or a combination. He didn't hear anyone screaming for option 3 because it meant cuts or for option 2 because it meant cuts, which leaves option 1, raise revenue. He discussed the impact on his own family as well.

Mr. Bill Vogler said all he could see they were doing was making the town less attractive to anybody who would consider bringing a business or buying a home. It would scare anybody away talking about raising sales tax, raising property taxes. It is not good for business. It is not good for anything outside of paying a debt that shouldn't have been here to start with, digging holes when you shouldn't have a hole to start with. They need to worry more about doing something to bring businesses in to the town to pay taxes. Get Main Street filled up with businesses. They should not be raising any kind of taxes.

Council Member Tameron said he could not respond to Mr. Vogler directly. Where were they when they were going in the hole? No one here was complaining about the hole being dug deeper and deeper and deeper. Now that they are in the hole and there is only one solution to take them out of it, unless there are other solutions that the town has, speak up. That's all he can see. No one was here at the time the hole was being dug (he named an exception).

Ms. Leslie Martin said sales tax was another issue. But she was confused about the property tax until she pulled out her tax things for 2012, 2013, 2014 and it did make sense. It seems

like it is a fairly painless way to get some more revenue for the town with just a few dollars difference in their taxes this year. Hopefully as things increase and their values go up, the town can reduce it.

B. Adoption of Ordinance No. 116

MOTION:Council Member Peralta moved for approval of ORDINANCE NO. 116 An Ordinance Levying Upon the Assessed Valuation of the Property Within the Town of Superior, Arizona, Subject to Taxation a Certain Sum Upon Each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of Assessed Valuation Sufficient to Raise the Amount Estimated to be Required in the Annual Budget, Less the Amount Estimated to be Received From Other Sources of Revenue; Providing Funds for General Municipal Expenses, All for the Fiscal Year Ending the 30th Day of June, 2014 and they would waive the reading of the ordinance. Council Member Tameron seconded.
VOTE:The motion carried unanimously.

2. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION:Council Member Peralta moved to adjourn. Council Member Estatico seconded. **VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Valenzuela adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Council Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Superior held on the 6th day of August, 2013. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

/s/ _____
Jayme Valenzuela, Mayor