

**Town of Superior
Public Hearing
Thursday, August 2, 2012, 6:00 P.M.
Superior Senior Center
360 W. Main Street, Superior, AZ 85173
MINUTES**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jayme Valenzuela called the hearing to order at 6:11 p.m.

B. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Valenzuela led the Salute to the Flag.

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Chris Tomerlin, John Tameron, Mayor Jayme Valenzuela and Vice Mayor Olga Lopez; **Absent:** Council Members Hank Gutierrez, Gilbert Aguilar and Soyla "Kiki" Peralta

D. PUBLIC HEARING: POSSIBLE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. FY 2012-2013 Tax Levy and Annual Budget

Interim Town Manager/Clerk Rita Wentzel presented and discussed the Tax Levy and Annual Budget. She referred them to Schedule B in their packet. To reiterate she said that the maximum 2012 allowable property tax levy was \$605,411. In 2013 it is \$648,173. Primary property taxes collected in 2012, because they were in a penalty year on their Truth in Taxation, was \$576,004. Their 2013 anticipated property tax collection for 2013 is \$575,511. The tax rate for last year was 5.0902 per \$100 of assessed value. This year they anticipate it will be 5.5260 per \$100 of assessed value.

Mayor Valenzuela asked for questions or comments as this was a public hearing. There being none, Ms. Wentzel said she would move on to the budget.

She said the budget for the FY 2013 is a total of \$4,039,624. That is an increase over 2012. The reason for the increase is that last year Schedule D was not completed, which was their debt servicing. So debt serving did not show in the final budget. She gave further details of the budget. (*Documents on file with the Town of Superior.*)

Mayor Valenzuela asked if there were questions or comments for the council. There being none, he said his only comment is that they put a lot of time and effort into the budget. They wish it could be better but they are dealing with what they have right now. They are going to try to make the best of it and move forward. They have cut back some of their spending. They have had some people leave the town and seek employment elsewhere.

That has helped in some ways. But to actually be where they want to be, they are not there yet and they still have to tighten their belts more. They are working diligently to do that. Staff is working on it every day. He knew that each member of the council heard it because they get phone calls about something they can't go buy, or that they can't do this or can't do that. But that is just the way it is right now. They have to hold back right now. As far as cutting services, hopefully they won't have to do that. He knew nobody up there on the council wanted to do that and no one on their staff wanted to do that. As far as layoffs, they did not want to lay off anyone. They wanted to try and let everybody keep their job. They are working on it. Hang in there and the town is going to hang in there and it'll get better. At some point they'll see a light. Just right now, the light is not shining too brightly at the end of the tunnel, yet.

He asked if there were any other comments from the council. There being none he asked if there were comments from the public.

Ms. Wentzel said she wanted to remind everyone that in front of them was the press release the Town of Superior had issued regarding their budget and the circumstances they are in. Unfortunately, the paper did not print it the way it was provided so she will be putting this in the sewer bills and there were some copies available that evening should anyone want to take one home.

Mayor Valenzuela asked her to send it to the copper shopper and maybe they won't edit it as the Superior Sun did.

Mr. Roy Chavez asked that the money projected to be spent be shared for the average public and for his ears, and the amount of money they hope might come in. Ms. Wentzel said total anticipated revenue for 2013 is \$3,127,650. Projected expenses are \$4,039,624. Mr. Chavez asked regarding there being no need for a Truth in Taxation hearing this year. Ms. Wentzel said that was correct. Mr. Chavez said he recalled from the article there have been problems with that for the past years. Ms. Wentzel said the past four years. Mr. Chavez said for the past four years there had not been a Truth in Taxation hearing when the property taxes were above the allocated amount.

Mr. Chavez shared that he did read the article in the previous day's Superior Sun. He also wanted to reference the article in regards to cutbacks on social services and organizations. He was disappointed regarding the Rotary Club that he had been involved with since the 80s. At no time that he knew had they come to the town and asking for contributions. If anything, the town had assisted the Rotary Club by providing a member of the council and management to attend meetings. The club appreciated that. But he did not think they had received any money directly from the town.

He said he also wanted to share regarding another article. The mayor said that they were there to talk about the budget in the public hearing. He understood Mr. Chavez' comments. He thought those would be better served in the council meeting in the comment section, not in the budget hearing. Mr. Chavez said the only thing he had to say regarding the Little League, it was made to appear only seasonal. It was year-round.

In regard to the letter, Mr. Chavez said he was surprised. In the past months, the town had been dinged by a number of editorials that wanted specific answers and specific reasons for not addressing the current conditions and financial issues of the town and how the town has been operating since the beginning of this year. He found it very ironic, especially after the fact that he realized it was an actual press release that was re-edited that appeared in the previous day's paper. He found it very ironic that here the town did provide answers to the paper and to the public and they were not published. He wanted to share with them that needed to be said.

Mayor Valenzuela said he appreciated it. He asked for any other comments or whether staff had anything to add. There being none, he said they would move for adjournment.

E. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Tomerlin moved to adjourn the hearing. Vice Mayor Lopez seconded. Mayor Valenzuela adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Public Hearing of the Town Council of the Town of Superior held on the 2nd day of August, 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

/s/

Rita M. Wentzel, Interim Town Manager/Clerk

These minutes were compiled and transcribed by Cindy Tracy, an independent contractor. Final editing of these minutes and their content is completed and verified by Town of Superior staff members.