

TOWN OF SUPERIOR

MINUTES

WORK SESSION TOWN OF SUPERIOR TOWN COUNCIL

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the Superior Town Council and to the general public, that a Work Session of the Superior Town Council was held on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Superior Town Hall Auditorium, 199 N. Lobb Ave., Superior, Pinal County, Arizona.

We will also be live-streamed on the Town's youtube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd2f5D2dfTkaazjwNyhAXRA> .

This meeting will be held remotely through technological means, as permitted under Arizona law.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Besich called the Meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Mayor Mila Besich
Council Member Vanessa Navarrette
Council Member Stephen Estatico
Vice- Mayor Michael Alonzo
Council Member Olga Lopez
Council Member Bruce Armitage
Council Member Gilbert Aguilar

STAFF PRESENT:

Todd Pryor, Town Manager
Ruby Cervantes, Town Clerk
Stephen Cooper, Town Attorney
Karla Luedke, AP Clerk
Lana Clark, Engineer Tech
Manuel Ramirez, Public Work Director

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Besich led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. WORK SESSION

A. Discussion on Cemetery Pricing and Improvement. A PPT presentation was presented with the information.

Mr. Pryor – This all came up when Pinal County approached us with the possibility of burying the indigent remains they have in our cemetery. About a year ago they wanted to bury 88 indigents immediately and then another 3 to 4 a month in the future. That came before a rush at the cemetery. We've been seeing extremely high sales and burials. Originally we thought it could have been COVID related but more its having to do with financial conditions. Each of staff member is going to present their aspect of it. The cemetery has become a huge issue taking up a lot of staff time. Problem with current rate of sales, is the amount of plots we have and available space and undeveloped space, we will sell out in about 10 years..

Council Member Navarrette – We will sell out developed space in 10 years?

Mr. Pryor – Yes. We have to develop new space. We have some proposals that include 10 year rate structure, adjusting some of our rules and developing new space in the cemetery so that we can get another 50-60 years out of the cemetery. The core issue here is that unless we act, you may be able to be buried in the cemetery, but not your children or grandchildren would not. So we need to take action to make sure it remains available for our residents. There are a lot of people using it from out of town. There are reasons for that which Ruby will go into detail on.

What we are trying to do is address the finances so that there is more money coming in to make more improvements to the cemetery, additional staffing. Our Cemetery is mostly caliche so hand digging a grave could take 5-6 days. Manny will go over this in more detail. We are also breaking our equipment on this hard rock.

Ms. Cervantes- If you walk around the cemetery, it looks like there a a lot of available plots. I started studying the maps and saw that we have a lot of reserved graves. We are no longer selling in the bottom half of the Central Section due to unmarked graves. We are now developing the South area west of the VFW monument and as you enter the cemetery to the south side. After noticing the high market demand for graves in Superior from other neighboring towns and cities, calls were made to inquire about pricing of graves and opening and closing. Was discovered that Kearny, Hayden and Winkleman had no graves available for sale. Mammoth only sell to residents. Globe does not presell graves. Only at time of need. Also no choice of grave location. Non-Residents coming in to purchase graves comment that Superior grave prices are cheap. They purchase 4 or 5 at a time for \$1,000 each. They have no problem with the price. They also like that all family members can be buried in same location. We have different prices for Residents (\$500) and Non Residents (\$1000) Many residents buying for Family and Friends outside Superior at resident rate. No regulations on this. The 2021-2022 FY Budget set the cemetery revenue at \$25,000. Actual revenue as of now it is \$36,500. The 2021-2022 FY Budget was set at \$18,991. As of now it is \$31,457. Due to high demand of Burials, the Public Works crew have been busier in the last year than all other years. The high volume of equipment and machinery usage requires often maintenance, repair or rental. The expenses on labor and equipment for the FY 2021-2022 have already exceeded the set budget.

Vice-Mayor Alonzo would like for a price study with smaller towns. Also would like to know what the prices for the Plots in the cemeteries which no longer have graves available were. Ms Cervantes will look into this.

Mr. Ramirez – gave a run down on the equipment he has. The equipment is also used and needed for other places. It has to be transported to those places. It is wearing out. New equipment is needed.

Ms. Navarrette stated equipment should be on the priority list. We will be planning the new budget cycle and this could be factored in.

Mr..Pryor stated you can't find equipment. And vendors won't give you a quote. Availability is not there. The Bobcat will soon be coming off lease.

Council Member Aguilar – Obvious. 4-5 days the man hours.

Council Member Navarrette – Raising prices won't solve the shorthanded of Public Works. Contract out.

Mr. Pryor stated Public Works is over budget.

Vice Mayor Alonzo- Factor in the cost. Have a maintenance plan for equipment; preventative maintenance.

Mr. Pryor – the budget is \$25,000. Part of a larger capital expenditure. It is a neglected Department. Equipment is very expensive.

Some comments were:

It s not as simple.
Proof of residency
We have to do something.
Sooner.
Monitor size of graves.
Direction on current code.

Vice Mayor Alonzo and Council Member Aguilar will work with staff.

Ms. Clark had maps to view of the cemetery showing the new development planned.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Work Session made by Council Member Estatico, second by Council Member Navarrette, motion Carries. Meeting adjourns at 5:52 PM.

AYES- 7 Mayor Besich, Vice-Mayor Alonzo, Council Members Navarrette, Estatico, Lopez, Armitage, Aguilar
NOES – 0
ABSTINATIONS – 0
ABSENT – 0

ATTEST:

Mila Besich, Mayor

Ruby Cervantes, Town Clerk