

**Regular Meeting Minutes
Duncan Common Council
Wednesday, March 13, 2024; 4:00 p.m.
Duncan Town Hall, 506 SE Old West Highway
Duncan, Arizona 85534**

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Mayor Blake present, Vice-Mayor Smith present, Council Member Wearne present, Council Member Show present. Quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer: Led by Mayor Blake.

1. **Call to Public:** No public comment.

2. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a. **Approval of February 8, 2024, Public Hearing Meeting Minutes.**
 - b. **Approval of February 8, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.**
 - c. **Approval of February 2024 Financial Reports.**

General Fund 137-138 k for the good. Revenue 68% for the year. Expenses at 53%. Highway Users 23-24 k to the good. Sewer almost 18 k. Water 247 over – Itron automatic meter reading yearly fee is under 6k – several water charges. General grants are a little over.

Mayor Blake moved to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Show seconded. Unanimous.

3. Summary of Current Events:

- a. **Mayor's Report:** Former Town and Country Store will be having their Grand Opening and Ribbon cutting this Saturday. They are changing the store name to Gila Valley.

I was able to attend the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which is actually under the state of Arizona, but they are kind of independent, separate from the County Chamber of Commerce's and their specific role is to promote Hispanic businesses and then promote tourism and travel and commerce between Sonora Mexico and Arizona. Mr. Eddy Lopez invited us, and I was able to attend, acquired great contacts and some good information. Greenlee Chamber of Commerce is having their black and white ball on the 23rd of this month at the Social Club.

Heather Seegmiller FMI: We do the Earth Day event every year, and last year we brought it to Duncan for the first time. This year we will be joining the small businesses of the community at the Strolling the Old West Hwy event on Saturday, April 13th. We also do a Safe Life program with the 5th graders we've always done it in Morenci, so this year we started bringing it to Duncan. Each month we do a program on a safety topic. We've done hiking, candy safety, we did bike and road safety, and donated two bikes to two kids in Duncan and two from Morenci. We are wanting to do one on water safety . We were hoping that it would be ok to teach the kids about water safety at their own pool. I need to wait for Mr. Merrell to come back from spring break to meet with him to set a date and then as soon as I have a date, I'll let you guys know. Mr. Merrell said they would bus the kids up there and then it'd be like a mini field trip.

Mr. Hinton: Chris, from SEAGO, and I are putting together a grant this year for the paving of High Street and Main Street, we think we can get one in there within the three million limit. We're just

now getting the funds from the last one for the Hunter Estates drainage, but since it's an election year, everyone expects this to go a whole lot faster this year than last. Consor is already working on the engineering.

b. Council Members Report:

Vice Mayor Smith: had nothing to report.

Council Member Wearne: I reached out to Victoria O from the Duncan Community Facilities Working Group to see where we stand on that. She said that they have someone that can do the grant writing, so we should hear something about that soon.

Council Member Show: had nothing to report.

Town Manager's Report: Insurance is giving us almost \$16,000 to fix the roof. Possibly complete by April. We agreed to administer a grant for the senior center for CPR, First Aid and a Defibrillator. CDBG. Consure.. tomorrow from 9-4 Corp of Engineers will be here for the emergency operations plan revamp. Tierra water gave notice that they are quitting as of the end of February. Veolia is a option. Don't think we will see anything extra from the state, because they are 400 million in the red, they have to cut out of their own budget. That may affect the road projects, because they were trying to cut off anything that had not been started yet, even though it has been appropriated to save that money. City Sales tax might go down, next year the rentals tax will go away. Revenues 80% of the year and the expenditures are under 60%. Duncan Library, 8k for the 4th of July, 3k for donations, 2,500 for misc. attorney's fees have been cut back, the next month it may go up quite a bit, for a quiet title search to get the property that was in the property corporation in our name. about 7 properties in the corporation's name that will get turned over to us. Colonias grant money has not been released yet, still dealing on the design work for the lift station. ADEQ engineer to give me some direction before letting bowman loose on that. Another grant opportunity coming up later this year is for 10 million, going to try to tie all the roads this side of the river into that grant. They want them as a continuous grant, so we cannot include hunter in this one.

4. Post Office Committee Report:

Mr. Lehman was not present. – the committee is looking to get a new post office built.

MR. SHAY MENTIONED THAT THE DAY FAMILY HAS INJECTED LOTS OF MONEY INTO THIS COMMUNITY.

5. 2024-2025 Proposed Budget: the budget itself has remained the same. First page, the actual budget is about \$1,400,000 it says 16,900,000 the majority of that is in the grants. The expenditure limitation that was imposed upon cities and towns in the state back in the '80s, dictates what our limitation can be, and grants don't count against it, but if it is not budgeted then you are unable to spend the money. The budget went up 2.7% the actual went 1,362,000 -1,404,000. Urban rev sharing dropped it to 375, and it may be less than that. Not sure how far down it will go. Don't think we will see anything extra from the state, because they are 400 million in the red they have to cut out of their own budget. That may affect the road projects, because they were trying to cut off anything that had not been started yet, even though it has been appropriated to save that money. City Sales tax might go down, next year the rentals tax will go away. Revenues 80% of the year and the expenditures are under 60%. Duncan Library, 8k for the 4th of July, 3k for donations, 2,500 for misc. attorney's fees have been cut back, the next month it may go up quite a bit, for a quiet title search to get the property that was in the property corporation in our name. about 7 properties in the corporation's name that will get turned over to us. Colonias grant money has not been released yet, still dealing on the design work for the lift station. Another grant opportunity

coming up later this year is for 10 million, going to try to tie all the roads this side of the river into that grant. They want them as a continuous grant, so we cannot include hunter in this one.

- 6. Resolution 24-04 Proposing a Permanent Adjustment to the 1979-80 Base Expenditure Limitation of the Town of Duncan:** Every 4 years you have an election to adjust the base. It does not affect anything with the town. The tax rate is going down this year, it has dropped by 10 cents, and it will continue to drop. This resolution will make it so that after this election, we will not have to do it again. Mr. Hinton provided each of the council members with a detailed analysis, survey analysis, and a short letter, explaining the reason for the permanent adjustment.

Mayor Blake moved to pass the resolution. Show Seconded. Resolution 24-04 Passes. Unanimous.

- 7. Discussion of Date and Time of Next Meeting:** April 11th at 4:00 p.m.
- 8. Discussion of Items for Next Meeting:** Tentative Budget
- 9. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.