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TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

JANUARY 13, 2022

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MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



Council recently received presentations on food for home consumption tax. The Town of Payson has a 2.88% transaction privilege tax (sales tax). The tax applies to several classifications, including, Amusements, Construction Contracting, Hotels, Restaurants and Bars, Retail Sales, Food for Home Consumption, Telecommunication Services and Utilities. There are 91 incorporated cities and towns in the State of Arizona. 70 of the 91 (77%) communities have a tax on Food for Home Consumption. A tax on Food for Home Consumption is one revenue source that some communities utilize to fund municipal services. A broad tax base, including a tax on Food for Home Consumption, can have certain advantages in a community like Payson, including non-residents and visitors funding a portion of municipal services; as opposed to a property tax or rental tax that only residents of Payson would pay. Currently Payson collects approximately \$2.2M in tax on Food for Home Consumption. If the tax were to be eliminated or phased out, increases in other taxes or decreases in service levels or amenities would need to occur to balance the budget. This would potentially result in a shift of the tax burden to Payson residents.

-Troy Smith, Town Manager

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

August 2, 2022 is the date set for the Town of Payson Primary Election for the following purposes:

- 1.To elect a Mayor and three Council Members. Any candidate receiving a majority of the number of votes cast for the office of Mayor at the Primary Election will be declared elected without running at the General Election.
2. A proposal to adopt a local alternative expenditure limitation – Home Rule option will be considered.
3. To vote on any other legally qualified ballot measures.

CANDIDATE PACKET DISTRIBUTION:

January 5, 2022

Packets containing information describing requirements to become a candidate for this election are available for pickup at the Office of the Town Clerk beginning on January 5, 2022.

CANDIDATE PACKET FILING DEADLINE:

5:00 p.m., APRIL 4, 2022

Candidate packets (nominations petitions, etc) must be filed with the Town Clerk, 303 N. Beeline Highway, Payson, Arizona 85541.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

If you are not already registered to vote, you may do so prior to 5:00 p.m. on July 5, 2022

DEADLINE FOR FILING ARGUMENTS

5:00 PM, May 4, 2022

A publicity pamphlet pertaining to this election will be available by the date that early voting begins. Arguments supporting or opposing the proposition to be printed in the publicity pamphlet must be filed by 5:00 p.m., May 4, 2022 at the Office of the Town Clerk.

Arguments may not exceed 300 words in length and must contain the original signature of each person sponsoring it. If sponsored by an organization, it shall be signed by two executive officers thereof. If sponsored by a political committee, the argument shall be signed by the committee's chairman or treasurer. The address and phone number for each signer must be on the argument, but will not be printed in the publicity pamphlet. A payment of \$150 per argument is required to offset a portion of the cost of printing the publicity pamphlet.

The Town of Payson Primary Election will be conducted by Gila County Election Department per the Consolidated Elections law passed in 2012 by the Arizona State Legislature requiring all National, State, County, school, special district and local elections to be placed on one ballot. You will receive your ballot in the mail approximately July 11, 2022 if you are on the permanent early ballot list and are registered with a recognized political party. If you are an Independent you will only receive a ballot if you request one. Letters will be sent out by the Gila County Recorder's Office 90 days before the election.

If you will not be in Payson during the time the ballots are mailed, contact the Gila County Recorder's Office at 1-800-291-4452 or 928-474-7139 to have your ballot mailed to a different location.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In December, the Town was notified that it was not awarded the Build Back Better Regional Challenge Grant. This was extremely competitive, as there were 529 proposals submitted and 60 finalists awarded. The Town's application included a large number of projects, such as the Green Valley parkway extension, Airport Road realignment, wayfinding and commercial landscape/beautification, trailhead improvements, visitor center improvements and workforce development facility/training, and event center improvements, along with others. In Arizona, the recipients were City of Tucson, Greater Phoenix Economic Council and Hopi Utilities Corporation.

We are now looking at the Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant and the Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Grant that is also part of the Economic Development Administration's programs that are currently accepting proposals. Many of the projects proposed in the Regional Challenge qualify for these grants.

During our "Shop Local" campaign from Thanksgiving to New Years, The Town of Payson Economic Development made visits to 52 of our local businesses to deliver the thank you for shopping local postcards and learn more about their businesses.

In December, Economic Development launched the first video on the Adventure Payson social media page. It featured drone footage from Green Valley Park and highlighted Delicious Café. Each month a new video will be released.

Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8-dDHc3cbU>

PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

A big thank you to the parks operations staff for installing the Holiday Decorations in Green Valley Park and Town Hall campus which brought a lot of cheer during this holiday season! Also, a big thanks to streets division for installing the holiday lights along the 87/260 highways.



PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

Youth Basketball – Starting in February for 4-6th grade boys and girls. This is the revival of a program last hosted 2 years ago, in January of 2020. We are looking forward to an exciting start to the year for youth sports.

Co-Ed Volleyball – Our Adult Recreational Co-Ed Volleyball just ended in December with the Payson Tire team taking first place. We had six teams from the community participate in this 8 week league.



YOUTH BASKETBALL

register now

3-4TH, 5-6TH GRADES

REGISTER TO PLAY OR COACH, VISIT [PAYSONRIMCOUNTRY.COM/YOUTH-PROGRAMS](https://paysonrimcountry.com/youth-programs)

WATER DEPARTMENT

Starting out the new year, the Water Department takes a moment to look at our water resources and try to prognosticate what the upcoming summer may look like. As many people know, the C.C. Cragin Project only ran for 6 weeks last summer and was shut down because the reservoir reached the minimum pool aka; storage elevation. So, thankfully the 2021 year produced 21.41 inches of precipitation which has re-filled the C.C. Cragin Reservoir and increased the elevation by approximately 24 feet.

The reservoir is currently at nearly 40% full and there is a significant amount of snowpack on top of the Rim. We have our fingers crossed that we will have a nearly full reservoir when the C.C. Cragin project starts up in May. The Water Department is currently beginning the process to prepare the pipelines, valves, treatment plant, meters, and Aquifer Storage and Recovery wells for the upcoming season.

On News Year Day, the Water Department was informed that there was a watermain leak at the main entrance to the casino on the Tonto Apache Reservation. Our team coordinated and assisted the Tonto Apache Tribal maintenance crew to isolate the leak to make repairs.

During the incident, the Town of Payson was able to utilize the new connection to our Rimview Booster station to supply temporary flows to the residents while repairs were made.

This secondary connection was made possible by the cooperative agreement ratified by the 2019 Town Council in Resolution 3173. Prior to that agreement, the Town of Payson and the Tonto Apache Tribe only had one service connection available to fill the tribal water system and service to the residents during the break would not be possible.

WATER DEPARTMENT

The water department recently installed 3 variable frequency drives (VFD's) on 3 large booster pumps at the CC Cragin Treatment Plant to reduce electricity demand spikes.

In an effort to recover some of our costs we applied for a \$22,500 rebate with APS. Thankfully they have accepted our application as shown below and we will be receiving a check soon.



APS Solutions for Business program Project ID#: APS-21-24115
Project Name: Payson WTP VFDs Phase 2

APS's Solutions for Business Program Reviewed Your Rebate Application

Dear Gordon Dimbat,

The APS Solutions for Business program team has reviewed the Final Application for your project and determined it meets program eligibility requirements. Your rebate check will be issued in the next 4-6 weeks. Reminder, you can check the status of your application anytime by logging into the application portal at aps.com/applynow.

We appreciate your interest in the APS Solutions for Business program and look forward to working with you to create a sustainable energy future for Arizona. If you have questions on your application, please call the APS Solutions for Business team at [\(866\) 277-5605](tel:8662775605) or send an email to aps.solutionsforbusiness@dnv.com.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

12/2/2021 Chief Tischer and Lieutenant Hazelo traveled to the capital for the Governor's Office of Highway Safety Kickoff event.



New 800Mhz radios are being installed in patrol vehicles

Background investigations on three new Police Officer Recruits are now completed. They are eager to start the Northern Arizona Regional Training Academy (NARTA) on January 9th, 2022.

1/2/2022 A sprinkler line in the Police Department's Training Room broke, flooding the front rooms and area of the building.

Recent Notable Cases:

- 11/24/2021 Aggravated assault with severe injuries, suspect was held by the judge on a \$75,000 cash only bond.
- 11/26/2021 Fatal accident on Airport Road
- 12/1/2021 Death of a 6 week old infant
- Detectives have been conducting follow up on the arson at Payson Tire. A suspect has been located and charged with arson and criminal damage.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Davies and Officer Anderson traveled to South Carolina to pick up our new Police K9 Rico which was funded by the Arizona Law Enforcement Canine Association (ALECA). Huge thank you to the Water Department for their assistance in getting the new dog kennel set up at the Police Department.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Payson Police Department just finished up our Beards on Patrol fundraiser.

We appreciate all the support from our local businesses and residents to make this another successful year! We were able to raise over \$7,800.00 for this year's recipient.



Danzeisen's allowed our officers to do fundraising (picture above). Starbucks allowed our officers to be Baristas for a day to raise money for Shop with a Hero and they raised over \$800 in tips.



HUMAN RESOURCES

- **Gary Vroegh started 10/27/2021** as Seasonal Public Works employee
- **Candice Cook started 11/1/2021** as Public Safety Telecommunicator - I was born and raised in Southern California. I have a certification as a medical secretary. I worked 6 years for Blue Cross Blue Shield in Utah. My most recent position was as a fire dispatcher with San Diego Fire Department.



Janet Lytle started 11/8/2021 as Law Enforcement Administrative Assistant I worked as an Administrative Specialist III for 10 years back in WA for one of the hospitals. Prior to that I was an Inventory Manager for a cell phone company for 5 years and within both of those positions I did all kinds of IT work within it (from cell phones to lap tops).



Chris Stewart started 11/30/2021 as Youth and Adult Sports Coordinator I moved to Payson in 2018 and was the Director of Food and Beverage at the Rim Golf Club prior to my employment with the town. Before that I lived in Northern California and moved around everywhere from San Jose to Sacramento. While there I worked for a company called Buckhorn who ran a Steakhouse and BBQ restaurants, I held many different positions there ranging from Regional Bar Manager to General Manager of different locations between 2011 and 2018. Prior to that I lived in Southern California and was the Director of Referees (2006-2011) for a Youth Soccer League in Simi Valley, CA. I attended school at California State University of Sacramento and graduated with a B.A. in Organization Communications.



Bradley Johnson started 11/30/2021 as Firefighter/EMT

My previous work experience includes 6 months as a reserve Firefighter with the Town of Payson, I was also previously a salesman and an automotive technician. My education includes Fire science, Fire 1 & 2 Academy and EMT all completed through Glendale Community College



Mandy Breese started 12/29/2021 as Public Safety Telecommunications Manager

I worked for Pinetop/Lakeside Police Department from 2001 -2003, as a dispatcher/records clerk. I worked for the City of Gilbert starting in 2003 and worked there for 18 years. I've been a dispatcher, SWAT dispatcher, trainer, lead etc.

- **Christie Gerard started 12/2/2021** as Parks and Rec Recreation Clerk
- **Chantelle Tani started 1/4/2021** as Police Officer Recruit

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Employee Engagement Committee invited employees to participate in a holiday decorating contest.

Departments decorated a door or lobby and a vote was taken. Streets was the winning department and will be celebrating with a pizza party. Thank you to all those that participated and to the Employee Engagement Committee for putting together this contest!



PUBLIC WORKS & AIRPORT

In August, 2021 the Town Council was introduced to APS's Take Charge Arizona initiative to make more electric vehicle charging stations available within the community. Three Town-owned facilities were considered, the Payson Event Center, Payson Public Library, and Payson Town Hall. APS has announced that the company has plans to install DC Fast Chargers at Rim Country Mall, 400 E. Highway 260 in Payson. The chargers are currently in the preliminary stages of design. Construction is anticipated to be completed later this year. This installation doesn't preclude future charging stations at any of the proposed Town owned sites.



On Monday, January 3, 2022 at approximately 12:30pm a ground loop, a rapid rotation of a fixed-wing aircraft in the horizontal plane (yawing) while on the ground occurred after a Cessna 150-D landed, collapsing the plane's front left landing gear. Pilot and passenger were not injured. A NOTAM was issued for a runway closure. The closure lasted for just over an hour.



End of Report

Next Report: January 27, 2022

