

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE HONORABLE TOWN
COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PINETOP-LAKESIDE, ARIZONA, HELD
ON THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023, IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
LOCATED AT 325 W. WHITE MOUNTAIN BOULEVARD, LAKESIDE,
AZ 85929**

➤ **Call to Order**

Mayor Irwin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

➤ **Roll Call**

The following Council Members were present:

Name	Position
Stephanie Irwin	Mayor
Sterling Beus	Vice Mayor
Jim Snitzer	Council Member
Jerry Smith	Council Member
Lynn Krigbaum	Council Member
Taber Heisler	Council Member
James Brimhall	Council Member

Also Present:

Name	Position
Keith Johnson	Town Manager
Kevin Rodolph	Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director
Kristi Salskov	Town Clerk
Mackenzie Valichnac	Deputy Clerk
Jeremiah Loyd	Community Development Director
Daniel Wilkey	Police Commander
Matt Patterson	Public Works Director
Rob Hephner	Creative Services
Tony Alba	Community Services Manager
Annie DeRosier	Marketing Coordinator
Betsy Peck	Library Manager
Stacy MacArthur	Accountant

➤ **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Mayor Irwin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Vice Mayor Beus offered the Invocation.

B. Call to the Public

Mayor Irwin called for public comments.

No comments were offered.

C. Consent Agenda

Mayor Irwin announced consideration of the Consent Agenda and explained that all items listed would be acted upon by a single vote of the Council, unless a member of the Council asked that specific items be removed from the Consent Agenda, discussed, and voted upon separately.

Vice Mayor Beus moved for passage of the Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Smith seconded the motion and by show of hands the following vote was recorded:

	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN
Mayor Irwin	X		
Vice Mayor Beus	X		
Council Member Snitzer	X		
Council Member Smith	X		
Lynn Krigbaum	X		
Taber Heisler	X		
James Brimhall	X		

Mayor Irwin then declared that all Consent Agenda items in these minutes were approved, passed, and adopted with a 7-0 vote.

**C.1 Consider approval of the Minutes of the Town Council
Special Meeting held on March 28, 2023.**

By a vote of 7-0 under the Consent Agenda, Town Council approved the minutes of the Town Council Special Meeting held on March 28, 2023.

**C.2 Consider approval of the Minutes of the Town Council
Regular Meeting held on April 6, 2023.**

By a 7-0 vote under the Consent Agenda, Town Council approved the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting held on April 6, 2023.

**C.3 Consider approval of the Minutes of the Town Council Executive
Sessions for the following dates; January 5, 2023, Session 1,
January 5, 2023, Session 2, February 2, 2023, February 22,
2023, and March 28, 2023.**

By a 7-0 vote under the Consent Agenda, Town Council approved the minutes of the Town Council Executive Sessions for the following dates: January 5, 2023, Session 1, January 5, 2023, Session 2, February 2, 2023, February 22, 2023, and March 28, 2023.

**C.4 Consider approval of Liquor License #236069 for Ruby’s Café
located at 647 E. White Mountain Blvd., Suite #7, Pinetop, AZ 85935.**

By a 7-0 vote under the Consent Agenda, Town Council approved Liquor License #236069 for Ruby’s Café located at 647 E. White Mountain Blvd., Suite #7, Pinetop, AZ 85935.

D. Business Before the Council

Mayor Irwin announced that Public Comment will be taken at the beginning of each agenda item, after the subject has been announced by the Mayor and explained by Staff. Any citizen, who wishes, may speak one time for five minutes on each agenda item before or after Council discussion. Questions from Council Members, however, may be directed to staff or a member of the public through the Mayor at any time.

D.1 Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Proclamation “National Arbor Day 2023”

Council Member Krigbaum read the Proclamation.

Mayor Irwin Proclaimed Friday, April 28, 2023 as “Arbor Day 2023” in the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside.

D.2 Recognition of Pinetop-Lakeside Police Officers Mike Abucejo and Randall Keith for the exceptional service to their Department, the town, and the citizens of Pinetop-Lakeside.

Commander Wilkey shared the following comments, *“Good evening, Madam Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council. I appreciate the time this evening to recognize a few of our employees. Like you said, it was an exceptional service to the citizens in the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside. A lot of times, Officers are humble and feel like the things they do are just a part of their job and do not bring it to our attention. In this particular incident, it was called to our attention by Pinetop Fire Chief, Richie Holcomb. Fire Chief Holcomb notified dispatch supervisor Maria Garvin of an incident that occurred on the morning of March 13th. A medical call came in at 5:00 a.m. and although it is not our primary mission to respond to medical calls, we do go because a lot of times the officers are out in the field and they can be the first on scene. That is what happened with this incident. Officer Abucejo was the first on scene. This call was for a 66 year old male that had collapsed at his home. He was unconscious and not breathing. Officer Abucejo immediately started CPR. Officer Keith was the second on scene. When Officer Keith arrived on scene, he took over CPR for Officer Abucejo to offer some relief. Doing CPR for a minute or two can seem like a long time. The Officers were commended by the fire captain for performing CPR until medical arrived and took over and transferred the patient to the hospital. Officer Abucejo and Officer Keith are being recognized for their life saving efforts.*

The second part of this recognition is also for Officer Abucejo. A few days later on March 16th, Officer Abucejo was leaving work. Not all things happen while we are on duty, but Officer Abucejo got a phone call from one of his neighbors and they had been victims of being held hostage by one of their family members in their home. It was an ongoing and rapidly evolving situation where; it is in Navajo County. So, Navajo County was responding but Officer Abucejo got the call on the phone and was compelled, as it is his life profession to respond. Officer Abucejo got on the phone with the suspect and the two victims were safely out of the residence. Officer Abucejo stayed on the phone for approximately two hours talking to the subject who was suicidal and threatening everything from suicide by cop to hurting anybody that came to his residence. Officer Abucejo was commended by the deputies that were on scene. The Special Response Team was being call out for a barricaded subject and in these situations, bad things can happen. Officer Abucejo was successful in getting the suspect to give up his gun. Later that night the suspect was apprehended and nobody was hurt.”

Commander Wilkey invited Officer Abucejo and Officer Keith to the podium and presented them with plaques in recognition of their exceptional service to the Department and the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside.

Mayor Irwin shared that the Town is very proud to have Officer Abucejo and Officer Keith as a part of our team in Pinetop-Lakeside adding that it is an honor to serve with them. Mayor Irwin also thanked all officers for their continued efforts.

D.3 Public Hearing, Discussion, Legal Action and Consider Resolution No. 23-1668 rescinding Resolution No. 22-1634 that approved a Major Amendment to the Land Use Element of the 2015 General Plan.

Community Development Director Loyd stated that staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission will start working on a more cohesive General Plan in 2025. Director Loyd stated that all elements of the General Plan will be looked at. Director Loyd shared that rescinding Resolution no. 22-1634 will allow more time for public involvement. Director Loyd shared that this will also save the Town and taxpayers nearly \$20,000 which would be the cost of a Referendum Election.

Mayor Irwin declared a Public Hearing; No comments were offered. Mayor Irwin closed the Public Hearing.

Vice Mayor Beus moved to approve Resolution No. 23-1668 rescinding Resolution No. 22-1634, which approved a Major plan Amendment to the 2015 General Plan Land Use Element, to allow the Town to formulate a complete General Plan that will go before the voters in 2025. Council Member Smith seconded the motion and by show of hands the following vote was recorded:

	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN
Mayor Irwin	X		
Vice Mayor Beus	X		
Council Member Snitzer	X		
Council Member Smith	X		
Lynn Krigbaum	X		
Taber Heisler	X		
James Brimhall	X		

Mayor Irwin declared the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

D.4 Public Hearing to hear public comments regarding the Annexation of Moonridge Estates Subdivision.

Community Development Director Loyd stated that he was approached by the HOA of Moonridge Estates in January. The HOA and residents of Moonridge Estates asked what it would take to annex Moonridge Estates. Director Loyd stated that after review of the map he found that it meets all statutory requirements for length and widths adding that it is adjacent on two sides of the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside boundaries. Director Loyd stated that they use Town streets to access their subdivision. Director Loyd added that Moonridge Estates is a private neighborhood and they have requested for the Town to look into annexing their subdivision. Director Loyd explained briefly the process which is a Public Hearing to hear the public comments, which is happening tonight. There will be no action taken tonight. There is a time frame for the annexation process that we must follow which is guided by State statute.

Mayor Irwin declared a Public Hearing.

Bruce Taylor offered the following comments, *“I have talked to Mr. Loyd about this a couple of weeks ago. I have been on the board of the Property Owners Association since it was turned over to us from the developer quite a few years ago. My concern is, if the Town annexes, they own the streets in our subdivision making the Town responsible for repairs and maintenance. This is what I am most concerned about. The developer said when the streets were put in that they would last 100 years. Well, that has not turned out to be the case. What happened was, the streets were put in with the gravel base before they were paved. A sewer operation came in and dug up parts of the streets and did a poor job. They did not replace the gravel that was there. As a result, five and a half years ago, the Association is a property owners association not homeowners. Same thing, I guess. Five and a half years ago, the Property Owners Association spent over \$50,000 repairing the areas where the gravel was not placed on top of where it was dug up for the sewer lines. As of today those areas are in great shape and other parts of the streets are not. There are some small areas that have come loose and appear to be sinking a little bit. About a year or two ago, we got asphalt repair material from Lowe’s and put that there. That is starting to come out. There may be a problem with the base underneath the asphalt in several small areas. It is two streets, Little Bear Loop and Big Bear Circle. The problem with not putting a good gravel base on top of where they dug out for the sewer line is that it is expansive clay in the area. That gets wet, expands, contracts, and the asphalt eventually breaks up and falls apart. It has to do with drainage also. The lower parts of the streets are ones that had the problems. The upper portion of Little Bear Loop is in great shape from when it was originally put in. A lower portion of Little Bear Loop has a strip to where the \$50,000 plus that we did repair. It is in great shape. As you go down Big Bear Circle to the lower parts, there are several strips where we put the money in to have it replaced. They are in good shape. But a few spots here*

and there on that section started to develop some sinking and the asphalt is coming apart. I could say we did some temporary repairs which really only held about a year or so. The roads probably need some work underneath.

Mayor Irwin asked Mr. Taylor are you asking us what would happen if you were annexed into the Town with those streets?

Bruce Taylor responded, “I am just concerned about the Town repairing, and maintaining the roads.”

Mayor Irwin invited Public Works Director Patterson to address the issue of roads.

Public Works Director Patterson stated that he had gone to the Moonridge Estates subdivision to assess the roads and shared that he believes that there are some maintenance issues that the Town would have to deal with. Director Patterson stated that he could see that the citizens had made an effort to try and hold the issues together. Director Patterson shared that the proposed annexation area is small and would not bring any State funding or HURF funding needed to be able to repair the roads. Director Patterson added that as a community we are better as a bigger group and shared that he does believe that the Town could make a difference here in trying to correct some of the past issues. Director Patterson explained that if annexed, Moonridge Estates would be added to the Town’s five-year plan adding that there are citizens that have been waiting some time to get their roads fixed as well. Director Patterson stated that if annexed, they would be added to the Town’s snow plowing routes and that drainage would need to be looked at.

Marcie Chambers stated, “My name is Marcie Chambers. I am one of the homeowners and I actually have a question for my neighbor who is in the middle of building a home. Their permit is from the County. Should the annexation proceed, they will then be within the Town limits. What is going to happen to their building permit? And who would be doing the inspections?”

Community Development Director stated that the Town would honor the building permit issued by Navajo County and shared that he believes Navajo County is on the same Building Code as us. Director Loyd stated that if the annexation were to happen and the neighbor was still in the process of building, the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside would take over the inspections.

Bruce Taylor stated, “We have been paying for our own snow removal. The last big snow we had, I noticed that Bluegrass Ranch got plowed because the school bus route is there. But the side streets, which would have included us if we had been there, did not get plowed for probably a half a day or more.”

Mayor Irwin stated that there are certain routes that are priority.

Bruce Taylor asked if they would get plowed sooner because someone in his subdivision is a school bus driver.

Public Works Director Patterson shared that the snow plow route is decided between the Public Works Department, the Police Department and the Fire Department and explained that this is how they decide priority routes. Director Patterson stated that the snow plows run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, anytime a snow storm is happening. Director Patterson explained that secondary routes are typically a half a day out and shared that is where he felt their subdivision would be.

Vice Mayor Beus asked Director Patterson if the roads in Moonridge Estates met the Town's specifications.

Director Patterson responded, *"Yes, the roads were built approximately 20 years ago and they were built to Town standards."*

Council Member Brimhall asked why Moonridge Estates is wanting to be annexed.

Community Development Director Loyd shared that he was approached by the Property Owners Association and stated that they want to have a say in issues that affect them locally. Director Loyd added that they live in the Town, not in the incorporated area, but they would like to vote in the Town's elections as well as have the services that the Town provides to other citizens.

Council Member Krigbaum stated that she feels this is an excellent situation because the Town has talked about annexing parts of the County. Councilor Krigbaum also stated that it will cost the Town money to work on their roads and asked if there would be any funding coming to the Town if it were to annex Moonridge Estates.

Finance Director/Assistant Town Manager Rodolph stated that there are benefits to the Town adding that this is a fairly small area and being unsure of the number of full-time residents, he stated that he is unsure of how much State Shared Revenue this one area would bring. Director Rodolph added that it is part of an area that in the future, the Town has talked about annexing, which is a step in the right direction if the Town were looking to annex in the future.

Council Member Snitzer explained that the tax system is set up so there is no property tax for the Town and stated that annexing this property will cost the Town money. Council Member Snitzer said that two things the Town provides are police services, and roads. Council Member Snitzer said people are always under the impression that they pay their taxes and the Town receives that money which is not how it work. Council Member Snitzer added that he sees the positive side of adding Moonridge Estates as part of the Town and to allow them to have a voice in the Town they live

in. Council Member Snitzer asked citizens of Moonridge Estates to understand that it takes a little contemplation on the Town’s part to figure out how we would pay for annexing due to cost of maintenance for roads and services.

With no further comments, Mayor Irwin closed the Public Hearing.

E. Adjournment

Mayor Irwin

There being no further business at this time, the regular meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kristi Salskov
Kristi Salskov, Town Clerk



Stephanie Irwin
Stephanie Irwin, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular meeting of the Town Council of Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona, held on the 20th day of April 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 20th day of April 2023.

Kristi Salskov
Kristi Salskov, Town Clerk

