

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE HONORABLE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PINETOP-LAKESIDE, ARIZONA, HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023, IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 325 W. WHITE MOUNTAIN BOULEVARD, LAKESIDE, AZ 85929**

*Meeting items C.1 and D.1 – D.7 Conducted by the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Committee.*

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➤ **Call to Order**

MYAC Chairwoman Grace Smithson for Mayor Irwin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

➤ **Roll Call**

The following Council Members were present:

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

The following Mayor’s Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC) Members were present:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Grace Smithson	Chairwoman
Jesse Stroup	Vice Chairwoman
Rain Dimaliwat	Committee Member-Historian
Brooke Horne	Committee Member-Secretary
Morgan Eddy	Committee Member
Sienna Grzelak	Committee Member
River Rigg	Committee Member
Jackson Woods	Committee Member-Treasurer

The following Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC) Members were absent:

Name	Position
Josiah Grzelak	Committee Member

Staff Present:

Name	Position
Keith Johnson	Town Manager
Kevin Rodolph	Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director
Kristi Salskov	Town Clerk
Mackenzie Valichnac	Deputy Town Clerk
Dan Barnes	Police Chief
Dan Wilkey	Police Commander
Jeremiah Loyd	Community Development Director
Matt Patterson	Public Works Director
Malaina Spillman	Assistant to the Public Works Director
Betsy Peck	Library Manager
Tony Alba	Community Services Manager
Rob Hephner	Creative Services
Annie De Rosier	Marketing Specialist
Chelsea Haas	Animal Control Officer/Code Enforcement
Ricky Bunch	Police Detective PLPD
Justin McNeil	Police Sergeant PLPD
Jonathan Crow	Police Officer PLPD
Matthew Johnson	Police Officer PLPD
Michaela Raimo	Police Sergeant PLPD
Collin Daley	Police Officer PLPD
Mike Abucejo	Police Officer PLPD

➤ **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

MYAC Chairwoman Grace Smithson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Town Manager Keith Johnson offered the Invocation.

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Introduction of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee:

Grace Smithson introduced herself and shared that she is Chairwoman for the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee adding that she is a Junior in high school, this is her 3<sup>rd</sup> year serving on MYAC, and that she loves to dance.

Jesse Stroup shared that she is a sophomore in high school, this is her 2<sup>nd</sup> year serving on MYAC and she loves to do art.

Rain Dimaliwat shared that she is the Historian for the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee, she is a sophomore in high school and this is her 2<sup>nd</sup> year serving on MYAC.

Morgan Eddy shared that she is a junior in high school, this is her 3<sup>rd</sup> year serving on MYAC, and she loves playing soccer.

River Rigg shared that he is a junior in high school, this is his 3<sup>rd</sup> year serving on MYAC and he loves sports.

Brooke Horne shared that she is a senior at Blue Ridge High School, she is the Secretary for the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee, this is her 2<sup>nd</sup> year serving on MYAC and she loves music.

Jackson Woods shared that he is a junior at Blue Ridge High School, this is his first year serving on MYAC and he runs cross country for Blue Ridge.

Sienna Grzelak shared that she is a senior at Blue Ridge High School, this is her 2<sup>nd</sup> year serving on MYAC, and she likes to play soccer.

Chairwoman Grace Smithson shared that Member Josiah Grzelak is out sick. Chairwoman Smithson shared that Member Josiah Grzelak is a senior at Blue Ridge High School, this is his second year serving on MYAC, and he enjoys playing soccer.

## **B. Call to the Public**

MYAC Chairwoman Grace Smithson for Mayor Irwin called for public comments.

John Beeler offered the following comments, *“Thank you, I wanted to honor the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department. Namely, Police Chief Dan Barnes and Detective Ricky Bunch. In November of 1996, my wife and I ran Mountain Edge Tapes and CDs in both, Show Low and Lakeside. I was running the Show Low location and Jody Hemphill was running the Lakeside location. I got a call around 5:00 o'clock and was told that Jody Hemphill had been killed at the Lakeside store. I know that Bud Miltenberger was a Detective for Pinetop and did quite a bit of work on the case. It was a cold case. Then Detective Bunch took over and through his*

*efforts and the perseverance of the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department, there was an arrest made and a Grand Jury indicted the suspect. It will go to trial and eventually will all be closed out for the sake of Dick, Dianne, Lyle, and Terry Hemphill. I just wanted to publicly recognize Chief Barnes and Detective Bunch. I have already thanked them when they called and told me but I wanted to do it publicly. My daughter owned the stores, she worked in Nevada so my wife and I ran them. On behalf of myself, my daughter, and my granddaughter, I thank Chief Barnes and Detective Bunch for all the work they have done on the case to bring a conclusion after 27 years of being a cold case, they solved it. I really appreciate it and I think everyone needs to know. A lot of you probably were not around in 1996 but it needs to be recognized. The Police Department did one heck of a job.”*

*Steve Dobbs offered the following comments, “I am Steve Dobbs. I am the new President of TRACKS. Nick Lund left an amazing legacy and I know I have big shoes to fill. I am originally from Kentucky and spent most of my working days in agriculture. We moved to Surprise in late 2016 and we found the White Mountains in 2019. We built a house in Show Low and moved here full-time in June of 2020. I have always liked to hike, and after settling into our new digs I discovered mountain biking. Now I could spend every day in the forest doing something. I was asked to join the TRACKS Board in 2021 and became very active. This summer I failed to say, no, when Nick resigned. A quick update on projects that TRACKS is working on. We have installed roll-over gates on most of the trails on the eastern half of the system and will finish these by the end of August. The gates have enabled bikers and hikers to travel over the roll-over gates instead of opening a cattle gate. When the Tour of the White Mountains happens in October, they will be able to utilize these gates instead of having someone manually open the gates. We are also in the midst of making a short-cut loop on the Blue Ridge Trail. We mapped this a year ago and the Forest Service is finishing up the NEPA part of the approval process now. We have a full grant to pay for this and have been in contact with a professional trail builder to get this job done. I think the Blue Ridge Trail is underutilized, it has some beautiful vista views and we are excited to bring this to fruition. Our goal is to continuously maintain our current trails and look into building more trails. We appreciate the working relationship that we have had with Pinetop-Lakeside in the past and we hope to continue that. Thank you.”*

*Elaine Smithson offered the following comments, “Hello. My name is Elaine Smithson and I run the Backpack Snacks Program with Jill Stoddard who lives in Show Low. We started this program 5 years ago. Our goal is to feed children on the weekends when they do not have access to school breakfast and lunch. What we do is, throughout the community we collect donations of non-perishable items such as; granola bars, ramen noodles, soup, pop tarts, and other similar items. We put them into bags and on Friday we put them into the children's backpack's so when they are home over the weekend, they have food to eat. A lot of kids in our community,*

*unfortunately, come from homes where they do not always have food in their refrigerator. We have received really positive feedback on the program. We have had kids tell us they are grateful and that they are glad they get the food. One boy told us that his dad works a lot on weekends and forgets to buy him food. So, for kids like that and so many other situations. It is hard to believe that there are kids that do not have food in their houses right now. We are feeding approximately 170 kids between Blue Ridge and Show Low School Districts. We estimate that last year we handed out nearly \$30,000.00 worth of food items that went directly home to these kids that needed it. We are so grateful that so many people in our community are so generous. There are food drives by clubs or churches and businesses that donate money. This is funded all by donation and ran by volunteers. I have pamphlets and fliers for donations. Grace is going to talk about what the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee is doing to help."*

Grace Smithson offered the following comments, *"MYAC is doing a food drive for donations for Backpack snacks. We would be so grateful if anyone wants to drop off items such as; canned ravioli, soup, mac and cheese, etc. Our donations drop locations are Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall, Pinetop-Lakeside Public Library, Helmut the Jeweler, and Legend Fitness. We are grateful for those who have donated and would appreciate anyone that would like to donate for kids of the White Mountains. Thank you."*

**C. Consent Agenda**

MYAC Chairwoman Grace Smithson for 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.

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

	<b>AYES</b>	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
Grace Smithson for Mayor Irwin	X		
Jesse Stroup for Vice Mayor Beus	X		
River Rigg for Council Member Snitzer	X		

Morgan Eddy and Rain Dimaliwat for Council Member Smith	X		
Brooke Horne for Council Member Brimhall	X		
Josiah Grzelak and Sienna Grzelak for Council Member Krigbaum	X		
Jackson Woods for Council Member Heisler	X		

MYAC Chairwoman Grace Smithson for Mayor Irwin then declared that Consent Agenda item C.1 was approved, passed, and adopted unanimously.

**C.1 Consider approval of the Minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting held on August 3, 2023.**

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By a vote of 7-0 under the Consent Agenda, the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Committee for the Town Council approved the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting held on August 3, 2023.

**D. Business Before the Council**

MYAC Chairwoman Smithson for 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 Proclamation “Back to School Month” August 2023**

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MYAC Member’s Brooke Horne, Rain Dimaliwat, and Morgan Eddy read the Mayoral Proclamation and proclaimed for Mayor Irwin, August 2023 as “Back to School Month”, in the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona.

**D.2 Proclamation “Navajo Code Talkers Day” August 14, 2023**

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MYAC Member’s Jackson Woods and Jesse Stroup read the Mayoral Proclamation and proclaimed for Mayor Irwin, August 14, 2023 as “Navajo Code Talkers Day” in the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona.

**D.3 Recognition and appreciation of the Friends of the Library.**

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Library Manager Betsy Peck recognized the Friends of the Library and thanked them for all they do for the Library and the community.

**D.4 Presentation of Public Servant Awards signed by the Commander of State presented by the VFW Post 2364.**

**Law Enforcement**

- **Detective Ricky Bunch, Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department**
- **Deputy Sheriff Jordan Smith, Navajo County Sheriff's Office**
- **Detention Deputy Sheriff Shaun Hayes, Navajo County Sheriff's Office.**

**Fire Fighter / Emergency Medical Technician**

- **Grayson Hiremath, Pinetop Fire District**
- **Keith Plympton, Pinetop Fire District**

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VFW Post 2364 Commander George Baum and Chairman John Beeler presented the Public Servant Awards and thanked them for the work they do for the community.

MYAC Chairwoman Grace Smithson congratulated all recipients and thanked Mr. Baum and Mr. Beeler for presenting and for their service.

**D.5 Introduction of new Pinetop-Lakeside Police Officer, Matthew Johnson.**

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Police Chief Barnes and Police Commander Wilkey introduced Officer Matthew Johnson and shared that the Department is grateful for his interest in law enforcement and for his perseverance in completing the Police Academy. Chief Barnes believes that Officer Johnson has a love for this line of work adding that the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department is grateful to have him on board.

Officer Matthew Johnson shared that he appreciates the opportunity to serve the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside and he is excited to be here.

MYAC Member River Rigg welcomed Officer Johnson to the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department.

**D.6 Recognition of Officer Justin McNeil for his promotion to Sergeant for the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department.**

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Police Chief Barnes and Police Commander Wilkey introduced Sergeant Justin McNeil and shared that Sergeant McNeil has been with the Department for 13 years. Chief Barnes stated that Sergeant McNeil has brought leadership to the Department and the Department is grateful to have him on board and looks forward to many years of continued service for the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside.

Sergeant McNeil thanked the Council and stated that he is grateful for this honor. Sergeant McNeil thanked Chief Barnes and Commander Wilkey for trusting him and shared that he hopes to take care of those that serve the Department of Pinetop-Lakeside and this great community.

MYAC Member Sienna Grzelak Congratulated Officer McNeil on his promotion to Sergeant and thanked him for his dedication to the Town.

**D.7 Consider Adopting the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Annual Pension Funding Policy for the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System for FY 2024.**

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Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Rodolph stated that in 2018 the legislature passed HB2097 which requires each governmental agency that has a Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Membership to post our Funding Policy on the website and file it with the state. Director Rodolph explained that this is an update to the policy from last year. Director Rodolph added that it is the goal of the Town to always be 100 % funded and shared that the Town is close. Director Rodolph pointed out a change on page 2 which is the Total Assets from the Actuarial Valuation as well as the liability and funded ratio. Director Rodolph stated the Town is 95.2% funded which is up from last year, which was 30.4% funded. Director Rodolph stated that the Town Assets are at 8.9 million.

There were no questions or comments from the Council.

MYAC Member Jackson Woods for Council Member Heisler moved to adopt the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Annual Pension Funding Policy for the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System. MYAC Member River Rigg seconded the motion for Council Member Snitzer and by show of hands the following vote was recorded:



	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN
Grace Smithson for Mayor Irwin	X		
Jesse Stroup for Vice Mayor Beus	X		
River Rigg for Council Member Snitzer	X		
Morgan Eddy and Rain Dimaliwat for Council Member Smith	X		
Brooke Horne for Council Member Brimhall	X		
Josiah Grzelak and Sienna Grzelak for Council Member Krigbaum	X		
Jackson Woods for Council Member Heisler	X		

MYAC Chairwoman Smithson for Mayor Irwin then declared the motion passed unanimously.

MYAC Chairwoman Grace Smithson said, *“It has been our pleasure to be here tonight on behalf of the Town Council. We will now turn the meeting over to Mayor Irwin and Council.”*

Mayor Irwin excused and thanked the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Committee and commended them for a doing a wonderful job. Mayor Irwin added that our Town, our State, and our Country are in good hands with these bright young students.

Mayor Irwin resumed the Regular Meeting of the Town Council.

**D.8 Consider approving the purchase of a LS2414 24x14-foot mobile concert stage from Liberty Stage LLC that can be expanded to 24x18 feet to be used at Town Events.**

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Community Services Manager Alba stated that the threshold to bring a purchase to Council is \$50,000.00 adding that this purchase does not meet that threshold, however, it was not a budgeted item so the Town is seeking Council approval of allocating funds that have been identified to be able to purchase a mobile stage for use at Town events. Manager Alba shared that for past events the Town has rented a stage from the City of Show Low. Manager Alba stated that the City of Show Low

is considering to no longer rent out their stage. Manager Alba said it has been a wish of the Town to purchase a mobile stage for Town events for the last 6 years. Rob Hephner and the Community Services Department did some research and found a stage which is included in the Town Council Packet for this meeting, with a base cost of \$33,000.00. Manager Alba stated that additional accessories which would allow the stage to be expanded from the original size of 24' X 14' to 24' X 18'. With tax and delivery the total cost would be \$47,703.10. Manager Alba explained the photos of the stage and pointed out the following highlights; sponsor banners that can be attached to the sides of the stage, the trailer can be branded with the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, and the stage is a crank rather than hydraulic which could be costly in the event of a breakdown or failure of the hydraulic system. Rob Hephner researched what the cost of renting a comparable stage for a weekend, and that cost was approximately \$5,000.00. Additionally, Town staff reached out to a town that has the same stage to ask their opinion of the stage and that came back with positive feedback. Manager Alba stated that the stage is certified, which means that it meets all of the national engineering requirements and specifications. Manager Alba shared three additional quotes which were obtained by the Community Services Department. Manager Alba stated that the funds to purchase the stage would be split between the Tourism Promotion Fund and the General Fund. Each fund would contribute \$23,851.55.

Vice Mayor Beus asked if the Town anticipates renting the stage out to other municipalities.

Manager Alba responded that the Town could look into renting out to other municipalities or groups.

Council Member Snitzer stated that he feels this is a great idea and asked if it includes a light and sound system?

Manager Alba stated that it does not include lights or a sound system but will accommodate speakers, adding that performers typically bring their own sound system. Manager Alba also shared that lights will be purchased to add to the stage to meet the weight bearing guidelines of the truss.

Mayor Irwin asked what kind of warranty is on the stage.

Rob Hephner, Creative Services, stated that it has a 1 year warranty and possibly a 2 year warranty but was not positive. (After the meeting it was looked into and confirmed that the stage has a 1 year warranty on parts and labor)

Mayor Irwin asked Manager Alba if he anticipates that this stage will meet the Town needs for years to come.

Manager Alba responded, “yes”, and said with this being a manual stage rather than a hydraulic stage, it would be low maintenance as there are not a lot of parts that will break.

Council Member Krigbaum asked where the stage would be stored and if it closes up to be compact.

Manager Alba said the stage will be stored at the Public Works yard and explained that the stage closes completely into a trailer and is self-contained, sealed, water proof, and weather proof.

Council Member Brimhall asked if the Town would be able to do maintenance if anything were to break down on the stage.

Public Works Director Patterson responded and said the mechanics at the Town are capable of fixing any issues that may arise on this stage.

Vice Mayor Beus moved to approve the purchase of an LS2414 mobile stage from Liberty Stage LLC. with the accessories described in the purchase quote, including delivery to the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside in an amount not to exceed \$47,703.10; and authorize the Town Manager to execute all documents necessary to complete the transaction. Council Member Heisler seconded the motion and by show of hands the following vote was recorded:

	<b>AYES</b>	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
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.9 Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3) and (A)(4)the Council may vote to enter into Executive Session:**

**A. Upon a public majority vote of the members constituting a quorum, a public body may hold an executive session for the following purpose:**

**3. Discussion or consultation for legal advice with and to give direction to the attorney or attorneys of the public body.**

**4. Discussion or consultation with the attorneys of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its attorneys regarding the public body’s position regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in pending or contemplated litigation or in settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid or resolve litigation.**

- *Discussion and Legal Advice regarding lawsuit; Chappell V. Town of Pinetop-Lakeside.*
- *Update regarding lawsuit; Patrick V. Town of Pinetop-Lakeside.*

Vice Mayor Beus moved to enter into Executive Session for discussion and legal advice regarding lawsuit; Chappell V. Town of Pinetop-Lakeside and update of lawsuit; Patrick V. Town of Pinetop-Lakeside. Council Member Heisler seconded the motion and by show of hands the following vote was recorded:

	<b>AYES</b>	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
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.

Mayor Irwin and Town Council entered into Executive Session 6:50 at p.m.

Town Council reconvened into Open Meeting at 8:07 p.m. to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Town Council.

**Adjournment**

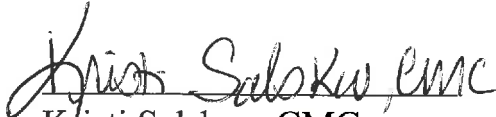
*Mayor Irwin*

There being no further business at this time, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Stephanie Irwin, Mayor

ATTEST:



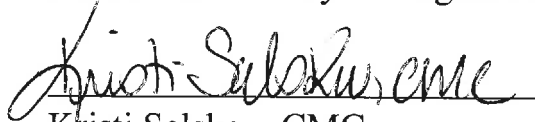
Kristi Salskov, CMC  
Town Clerk



**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 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 2023.



Kristi Salskov, CMC  
Town Clerk

