



# TOWN OF EAGAR

## REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 5, 2025 at 6:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 22 WEST 2ND STREET

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### MINUTES

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Mayor Guy Phelps called the regular session to order and welcomed those present. Mayor Phelps requested that the record show all Councilmembers are present. Mayor Guy Phelps led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilmember William Greenwood offered the invocation.

#### 5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Mayor Guy Phelps stated Couple of weeks ago, me and Vice-mayor Tucker met with representatives from Senator Gallegos and Senator Mark Kelly's office. We discussed some exciting things for our community. The Greer fire I think raised some awareness down at the state level and we spent most of our time discussing the Spring line and some help that we need there on getting our Spring line going and functioning. We also talked about better equipping our fire and medical departments with a new fire engine and brush truck. I also worked closely with John this week in the last couple of weeks on an issue not really related to my position here, but as an outsider, as a citizen for a different organization. I was very impressed with John, our Public Works Director, and he was very professional, and I appreciated his enthusiasm, and his crew was very helpful and I appreciated working with John.

Councilman William Greenwood stated on the 4th we did have a Zoom NACOG Executive Committee meeting and we discussed further the proposed changes to the NACOG realignment and trying to come up with a new formula on distributing funds and passed information on to Brittany.

Town Manager Brannon Eagar stated it's not going good at the North Rim and it won't be the same in our lifetime. I wanted to let you all know that Jessica Vaughan, as of June 24th of this year, she received her Master Municipal Clerk Certification from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks that took two years to complete. Also, on July 10th of this year, she received her Certified Public Manager from the Arizona State University and that was a nine-month program. Since being in the clerk's office, it's taken a total of 5 1/2 years to obtain all the necessary certifications, along with the fact that she has to hold an election certification through the state and get that recertified every two years. She stays very busy and I want to make sure that everybody knows how busy she is, along with keeping up with all the day-to-day stuff. She's done all these things and she's very greatly appreciated.

Manager Eagar continued stating we're working on still completing the sprinklers in the new part of the cemetery that kind of keeps getting put on the back burner with our other issues that come up and trying to get ready for chip seal, but we will get that sprinkler system finished and will hydro-seed in the spring.

Town Clerk Jessica Vaughan stated going through all the new laws that the governor has signed into effect. We will be updating a couple areas in code regarding election laws so we'll be ready to go for the 2026 election. I am in the process of prepping for Halloween, Veteran's Day parade, Christmas parade, and this year we host Santa. I'm working with Toys for Tots on getting toys for kids, updating our cemetery map, and I am continuing to scan the town's permanent documents. Also, a quick update on the Firehouse I did talk to Black Pearl this morning to get an updated schedule. Last week they worked on plumbing, gas lines, electrical and framing. This week they are continuing working on electrical throughout the next couple of weeks then they'll be working on drywall, spray foam, repair one of the garage doors, and then they'll get them hooked to electricity, measurements for the countertops. They're hoping to do a final inspection the week of September 16. Then fire department can start moving in around mid-October.

Finance Director David Lamm stated June 30th, 2025, our cash position, we have \$431,000 in our operating account, LGIP has 7.5 million and our X-press bill pay has \$26,000 in it for total cash. Our cash position of \$8,036,000, we have continued to do the \$75,000 transfer at the beginning of each month from our operating account into LGIP. June 30th was the end of our fiscal year all of the revenues came in slightly above budgetary levels. We are currently doing the year-end accruals and adjustments for the audit and so we'll have the final numbers for the year end once we get all those done.

Community Development Director Britney Reynolds stated Will Gleeson just completed his six-month probationary period and has been a great asset to the department and the community as a whole. Here is an update on grants and projects.

- 2026 Funding: Funds will be available in 2026, so projects need to be prepared early to avoid losing them like some nearby cities.
- EDA Grant: The grant for the industrial park on the west side of town has reopened; application updates are being worked on in hopes of approval for the planning phase.
- Potential State Projects: Two projects are being considered for state funding—an EV charging station and improvements to South Main.
- Fire Assistance Grants: Applications are being pursued for generators to keep town wells running during power loss from fires or other disasters.
- Hawk Systems: Construction at 6th & Main is scheduled to begin in December; funding is still pending review for another Hawk system in town.
- Mural Grant: Awaiting award notification for a community mural project.
- Stormwater Plan: Town-wide stormwater planning is underway to prevent flooding issues and support future development.
- Energy Efficiency: Applications are in progress to improve town hall and public buildings with better heating/cooling and energy-saving upgrades.

Public Works Director John Pedroncelli stated playground equipment which should be installed next week for Ramsey Park. Working on all the patching and some of the dirt roads that are going to be chip sealed.

Fire Captain Robert Pena stated the department has made significant progress with grants and equipment. Recently, received a forcible entry training door and tools through the TEP grant, a new ambulance after a two-year build, and a new rescue boat with full equipment. Training with Timber Mesa Fire Medical is underway for personnel. Appreciate the Mayor and Council for support on congressional spending requests, with hopes for funding a type one engine. A SAFER grant was also submitted to add six staff positions. The July 4th fireworks show was the largest yet and went smoothly. The brush truck assisted with the Draw Fire and was quickly back in service before being reassigned to the Dragon Bravo Fire.

## **6. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Christine Howard stated that I want to thank the council for putting the citizen safety first, especially in your efforts to address dispatch issues on tonight's agenda. Decisions like this are not easy and I appreciate the time and the care and the priority you've given to protect our community, thank you.

Terry Shove stated school starts tomorrow. Teachers are excited to see students as a reminder to everyone; the buses will be on the road in the morning. We have some new school bus drivers, so be a little patient with them. Kids forget they're not supposed to run out in front of cars, so just watch for these kids. Sad piece of news, if you have not heard, today was the last day for the Boys and Girls Club they closed for good.

## **7. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY AND JUNE 2025
- B. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2025 NATIONAL BANK OF ARIZONA TRANSMITTALS, CHECKS WRITTEN, PAYROLL DIRECT DEPOSIT VOUCHERS, AND CREDIT CARD PURCHASES
- C. ACCEPTANCE OF JUNE 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT AND SALES TAX REPORT

Councilman Bryce Burnham made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman William Greenwood seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham
		Ray Hamblin
		Brandon Slade

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. DISCUSSION OF A HOT WORK PERMIT DURING STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Shane Penrod stated On May 13th of this year, both towns enacted a proclamation moving us into Stage Two fire restrictions. These restrictions were very strict, and after reviewing them I submitted a proposal suggesting some changes. I'd like to briefly cover two specific issues: welding and charcoal use. The proclamation, following U.S. Forest Service rules, prohibited all welding. My concern is that the rule does not allow for reasonable exceptions, even when safety precautions are taken. For example, my son-in-law, who is a professional welder, was welding a fence in his corral. He had a hose nearby and a fire watch present, with no grass or fuel around. Despite this, the city shut him down and refused to issue a permit—because it was considered “personal” rather than a commercial job. In my view, permits should be based on whether the work can be done safely, not on whether it's personal or professional. A welder should be able to obtain a permit if they can meet safety requirements such as having water on site and a fire watch. The proclamation also banned all use of charcoal, including in safe, designated cooking areas. For instance, every year on the 4th of July I cook breakfast for about 150 people at the state pavilion behind the LDS church. That pavilion is rocked in, with fire pits designed for charcoal, yet I was told absolutely no charcoal would be allowed. Even restaurants, like Avery's BBQ, rely on charcoal—but they were not shut down, while private citizens were prohibited entirely. At my own home, I have a gazebo designed for safe BBQ cooking, but under the restriction I couldn't use it. Again, this feels like an overly broad ban. At the power plant where I work, we use a “hot work permit.” This permit doesn't depend on who you are—it depends on whether you can do the work safely. To qualify, you must meet requirements such as removing flammable materials, having water available, and maintaining a fire watch. I propose that if we enter Stage Two fire restrictions again, the towns adopt a similar hot work permit system. This would allow citizens to carry out necessary tasks—like welding farm equipment or cooking for community events—while still maintaining strong safety standards. The goal isn't to ignore fire danger, but to replace blanket bans with a process that applies common sense and ensures safe practices.

Mayor Guy Phelps stated I worry a little bit about for one thing in today's world, I just worry that if the town of Eagar gives the OK to something like this and it goes bad. Then they will come out to the town of Eagar.

Shane replied I went down and got a burn permit today because I had a pile of branches from trimming a tree. I understand the restrictions, and I know there's no open burning without a permit, so I went through the process. The permit asked where the pile was located and how it was set up, and I met the standards so tomorrow I plan to burn that pile. The thing is, nothing has really changed since these restrictions went into effect on May 15th. It's still just as dry out there as it was then. Yet, because I followed the process and met the requirements, I was granted a permit to burn. Here's where my concern comes in: I've learned that welders can also get permits if they're working a job. But I don't know if those permits are job-specific or just blanket permits. At the power plant where I work, permits are always job-specific. If they weren't, people would start bending the rules, and sooner or later, someone would get hurt. Each job requires a permit, and someone goes out to verify the conditions before it's approved. That's the approach I think we need here. I've been to the fire department three times recently, and there are always several staff in the office. If I came in and explained the job I wanted to do—whether it's burning a pile or welding something—they could either approve it based on the information, or, if they had concerns, go out and check the site themselves. My question is: if I light my permitted burn tomorrow and it spreads, is the Town of Eagar liable?

Vice-mayor Marsha Tucker stated but you're asking them to make an exception when they're in restrictions that have been placed. That's the difference and you might be really responsible and

do this and then other people could come up and say I'm just as responsible and in reality they're not then we're in trouble. I do believe we had some fires in Alpine and Nutrioso were set off by people.

Vice- mayor Marsha Tucker asked Robert Pena Fire Captain, who's got the time to go if we got all these permits to go check and make sure people have all these qualifications?

Robert Pena stated It really depends on the day. In the past two weeks since the restrictions were lifted, we've issued about 48 permits. Trying to personally verify every single property, measuring distances and checking each site would be very difficult. Some days we're able to get out there, but on other days, like today, we were already running four different calls while also handling equipment maintenance. It just isn't always possible to do both.

Shane Penrod stated just so I understand because restrictions have been lifted, we're in a different stage now. But when we're in Stage Two fire restrictions, how many people actually come in and ask for permits? It changes, doesn't it? That's my point. When we're in Stage Two and these extreme rules are in place, permits should still be available. Right now, permits seem to be based on who you are rather than whether the job can be done safely. What I'm asking for is a "hot work permit" approach where anyone can apply, but approval depends on meeting safety standards, not on whether the work is personal or professional. Of course, the job has to be safe. But if I light a burn pile today and it spreads into the dry fields nearby, whose fault is that? Is it mine because I started the fire or the town's because you issued the permit? That's why I think clarity and consistent standards are important. We're not currently under restrictions, and I get that things are different right now.

Vice-mayor Marsha Tucker stated I'm not going to argue about it, but I have concerns about that. I'm always a safety-first person and that permit would make you safe because you have to meet the requirements. I'm just saying there's people out there who can sit there and say they're safe.

Shane Penrod thanked the council for their time and to think about what he provided.

## **No motion**

### **B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-02 STORAGE CONTAINERS**

Community Development Director Britney Reynolds stated there have been no changes, and overall it's a good way forward. This approach also helps us keep track of what's happening and ensure everything stays clean and consistent.

Councilman Bryce Burnham made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman William Greenwood seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham
		Ray Hamblin

Brandon Slade

C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-10  
DECLARING AS A PUBLIC RECORD THAT CERTAIN DOCUMENT IS MAINTAINED  
AND FILED WITH THE EAGAR TOWN CLERK AND ENTITLED "ORDINANCE 2025-02  
STORAGE CONTAINERS"

Councilman William Greenwood made a motion to approve the Resolution 2025-10 declaring as a public record that certain document is maintained and filed with the Eagar Town Clerk and entitled "Ordinance 2025-02 "Storage Containers". Councilman Ray Hamblin seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham
		Ray Hamblin
		Brandon Slade

D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A PROPANE BID FOR TOWN  
FACILITIES TO SIERRA PROPANE

Town Manager Brannon Eagar stated we do this every year; we get it out in June and received two respondents to our request for proposals. They both came back with the same price. Sierra obviously is local; the other was out of the valley. We chose the local company, and we recommend giving that contract to Sierra Propane.

Vice-mayor Marsha Tucker made a motion to approve a propane bid to Sierra Propane for Town of Eagar Facilities. Councilman Bryce Burnham seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham
		Ray Hamblin
		Brandon Slade

E. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF EAGAR AND THE CITY OF SHOWLOW FOR  
DISPATCH CENTER SERVICES

Town Manager Brannon Eagar stated as we've discussed on several occasions the issues that the dispatch is currently having, and we've been moving forward on this. We did get the intergovernmental agreement (IGA). Brett has reviewed it and is in agreement that it is a good agreement and I would recommend approval of the agreement between the town and Show Low.

Mayor Guy Phelps asked, "do you know kind of what time frame we're looking at on this?"

Town Manager Brannon Eagar stated It's still going to take us a little bit of time to get everything switched over and Springerville is going through the same thing for the PD. I'm not sure when they're going to have it on their agenda, but we will have to wait for Springville as the PSAP license that dictates both fire and police, so when we get to that point, I'll let council know. We will be working in the background to try to make those things happen so that we can make that change and provide safer dispatch for our first responders and our public.

Councilman Ray Hamblin made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Town of Eagar and the City of Show low for dispatch center services. Councilman William Greenwood seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham
		Ray Hamblin
		Brandon Slade

F. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A QUOTE FROM HATCH INDUSTRIES FOR A PAVING PROJECT IN THE AREA OF BUTLER STREET AND 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET DUE TO RECENT WATER BREAK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,144.87

Public Works Director John Pedroncelli stated this is to replace 4 inches of asphalt for 8-inch water lines broken earlier this year near the intersection right there by the industrial arts building. We got quotes for one other company they're about \$8000 more and the third they don't want to do that size job; I would recommend Hatch Industries.

Councilman William Greenwood made a motion to approve a quote from Hatch Industries for a paving project in the area of Butler Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street due to recent water break in the amount of \$23,144.87. Councilman Ray Hamblin seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham
		Ray Hamblin
		Brandon Slade

G. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE APPOINTING A NEW PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSIONER

Community Development Director Britney Reynolds stated we received an application for Debra Seeley we did have another applicant she was unfortunately not an Eagar resident. Debra Seeley has had years of experience serving our community Both in P & Z and on council, and I know she'll be a good addition to our P& Z.

Councilman Bryce Burnham made a motion to appoint Debra Seeley as a new Planning and Zoning Commissioner. Councilman Ray Hamblin seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham
		Ray Hamblin
		Brandon Slade

H. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF AGENDA AND MEETING SOFTWARE WITH OPEN MEETING TECHNOLOGIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,500

Town Clerk Jessica Vaughan stated About a year ago, we switched website providers. The main reason was that the new company also offered an app, which allows us to better alert our citizens and stay connected with them. Since that switch, however, the agenda software I was using has no longer integrated with the website. I've been searching for a solution for over a year. I first spoke with Open Meeting at the Arizona Municipal Clerks Association two years ago, and I've also discussed options with other clerks who use the same website company. Open Meeting is still a smaller provider, but much of their software is built by clerks, which makes it very user-friendly. I believe adopting it would be a great addition for us. It would simplify uploading agendas and backup documents, improve the workflow for both me and Planning & Zoning, and provide a much cleaner, more professional look on our website.

Councilman Titan Merrill made a motion to approve a the purchase of Agenda and Meeting software with Open Meeting Technologies in the amount of \$10,500. Councilman Ray Hamblin seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham
		Ray Hamblin
		Brandon Slade

I. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE TRAFFICADE TO DO TRAFFIC CONTROL ON MAIN STREET WHILE PUBLIC WORKS IS CHIP SEALING AND NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000

Public Works Director John Pedroncelli stated we don't have enough personnel to be safe while also chip sealing Trafficade will be traffic control for Main St. so it can be safe, and make things go better.



Councilman Ray Hamblin made a motion to approve Trafficade to do traffic control on Main Street while Public Works is chip sealing and not to exceed \$10,000. Councilman Titan Merrill seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:       Ayes:     Guy Phelps  
                      Marsha Tucker  
                      Titan Merrill  
                      William Greenwood  
                      Bryce Burnham  
                      Ray Hamblin  
                      Brandon Slade

**ADDED** J. DISCUSSION OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE ROUND VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT. COUNCIL MAY ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO ARS § 38-431.03 A3 FOR DISCUSSION OR CONSULTATION WITH THE ATTORNEY REGARDING THIS ITEM- ROUND VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Town Attorney Brett Rigg stated I guess this is the item that everyone's been waiting for. I appreciate the opening prayer and would hope that we can find common ground on these issues and I think we all have the same goal that is we want a safe community and we want a Police Department that we can trust and something as a town prosecutor that I certainly know that is something we have to have. I know there's a lot of community members that want to address the council and that's why we try to emphasize that this should be done at this time, so I think it's a good time for the community to address the council about the complaints in the Round Valley Police Department, whatever they might be. The council also has an opportunity to discuss among yourselves your positions on this and what concerns you have about the Round Valley Police Department. The provision in here that says we may enter into executive session that is a big may if there is an issue that specifically needs to be discussed to receive legal guidance then we can go to executive session, but I think that this agenda item is really the whole reason why we have public meetings. It's meant to be done in public to hear the public. There should only be a very limited reason we go into executive session for a very specific attorney-client privilege type of legal counsel. I'll just inform the board or the council that these complaints have been going on for about a month, a little bit longer. The Round Valley Police Department accepted the termination of Officer Aragon and Lieutenant Bevington and Chief Merrill are currently on administrative leave pending an investigation that is being done of the entire department by Department of Public Safety (DPS). So that's kind of where we stand right now. I guess I would start by opening it up to the public to voice any thoughts that they have.

Mayor Phelps asked if it's ok to limit discussion to 3 minutes. Attorney Brett Rigg stated that would be appropriate.

Christine Howard stated guys keeping our community safe with the dispatch is part of the reason why I'm here to make sure that is extended on through the Police Department. The Police Department affects all of us in our safety and our trust, our basic expectation that those in power follow the law. Bad cops don't just break the law, they break the system, and good officers are left to clean up the damage. Let's start with what is no longer in dispute Officer Tannen Moreno was fired in retaliation for doing the right thing. She followed policy, she documented misconduct, harassment, leadership failures, not once, but repeatedly she then brought that information directly to the town manager. That meeting was recorded she was told her job was safe yet just before her probation and she was fired over a last minute write up

about a six-month old call. It was the chief himself who admitted he had wanted to fire her in March, but the town manager stopped him saying he didn't want an EEOC case. So that reason was made-up six months later to fire her that's not just speculation that's a quote. When Officer Moreno spoke publicly, some leaders retaliated again, digging for dirt the information provided to the paper was an intentional hit piece. To smear her, I don't think any of the council was aware of these things, and it doesn't stop there. An officer off duty, intoxicated, attacked a citizen, knocking him unconscious, hours later, he attacked the same victim again, choking him while his wife used the officer's department issued taser. The victim sustained a serious concussion a fabricated report was then written up much later after the incident by the perpetrator and the Lieutenant again, no timely report to inform council. The officer made graphic threats to murder a citizen in front of his child at a parade with his hand shaking over his weapon, the chief's response let's keep this between us. Can you imagine how long it would have been before he found a reason to act on it? He's already assaulted a citizen twice. The same officer failed AZ post certification due to past drug abuse the chief petitioned him through a waiver and enabled him, we got our own criminal cop. Reports have surfaced of officers trading favors with women to avoid DUI arrests, child exploitation, and missing person cases have been mishandled, and one that he allowed his non-certified civilian wife to conduct a phone extraction of info involving a minor child. That's outrageous this is not a department with a few bad apples, this is systematic mismanagement. Council, it shouldn't take citizen-led investigations to get the truth and to see accountability. I'm asking publicly for support for Officer Moreno's reinstatement with back pay, call for full independent investigation into the allegations presented and several members of the council mandate trained and retrained town and department leadership on whistleblower protections, reporting laws and proper procedures. Thank you.

Brett Rigg stated, I guess I would just advise. You know when it comes to discussing the strengths or weaknesses of potential lawsuits and things like that, I don't think this is appropriate forum for that but it's certainly appropriate to hear and discuss the general concerns. Whether we have a shared services agreement and this same agenda item has been previously discussed in Springerville. Where pursuant to that shared services agreement that's really who is over the police department. Obviously, we want to be on the same page here.

Vice-mayor Marsha Tucker stated can I interrupt you because you're saying we can't, or don't want us to have our executive session so we can communicate with each other and explain how we feel. Brannon, this is bull, I'm sorry you're going to get mad at me, but I sit on the shared services board. This is not fair to me when there were so many god dang things that happened, I was never told about. This is not making me happy so if you don't want to go back there and discuss it, I'll discuss it here and you guys, I know I'm a thorn in your side. Whatever, guys Brannon, I cannot believe this you called me earlier I was not going to back down and you knew it, this is bull. There were so many things we were not told; I serve on that committee and then you're not even told things. This here has been lied to that upsets me and if you would have wanted to go back there, I could have said it and everybody in town wouldn't have had to hear it but that's what you get. Sorry, because I've told you before, I'm a verbal person and I'm going to tell you exactly how I feel okay.

Brett Rigg stated I'm glad you voiced this in a public meeting because that type of thing is not something that is even appropriate to go into executive session to voice. I'm trying to also make sure that we are not violating open meeting law and ensure that we're not going to executive session to just voice things that really should be done in public. I'm a strong believer that unless

we're going to be discussing a specific legal counsel type of issue, these types of things are appropriate here.

Councilman William Greenwood asked is the list that this lady was sharing with us, has that been shared with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) officer that's doing the investigation?

Town Manager Brannon Eagar replied yes and there are several things that she listed there, that are not factual also and that will, that will all come out. That's why we're waiting for the whole investigation to be done.

Councilman William Greenwood stated that's kind of my point is that let's get those facts before the person, the people, the entity that's responsible for this investigation and until that comes back, our hands are kind of tied.

Councilman Brandon Slade asked Councilman Greenwood if he had seen any of the evidence? Councilman Greenwood stated he had not, Councilman Slade stated he should.

Councilman William Greenwood stated I'm not doubting that. That's why I was asking if all that was shared with the investigator.

Councilman Brandon Slade stated were asked yesterday about possibly breaking open meeting laws. Were you aware of any of this, Brett were you asked about yesterday?

Town Attorney Brett Rigg stated I think I know what you're talking about, breaking open meeting laws by going to Bryce Hamblin's office and reviewing the deposition transcript or the deposition recording. Is that what you're talking about? Councilman Slade said yes. Mr. Rigg stated I did see that it was sent out. Councilman Slade asked but you didn't advise him. Mr. Rigg stated it did not come from me; I was told after the fact of that. I guess I would make it clear that certainly open meeting laws are violated if you have a quorum present and items are being discussed meeting one on one with a private citizen does not violate open meeting laws

Councilman Brandon Slade stated we want to encourage the citizens to get up and speak. Don't be intimidated to get up here and speak, please we want to hear it.

Leiha Castillio stated good evening council. I've lived in this community my entire life and I have never seen such a disturbing situation as the one that is following the Round Valley Police Department. After learning and following the misconduct of officers who are or have been employed with Round Valley PD, the citizens want action. We don't want this brushed away, we don't want it explained away, and we don't want you to sit on it until we forget about it because we're not going to. We want transparency and we appreciate that you're letting this happen this way openly. We did not give us that transparency. It's our right to know what is happening in our community. It's our right to feel safe in our community, it's time to make the changes that need to be made and I'm asking this council to stand up for the citizens and to do the right thing. I have, like I said, viewed and listened to public records and there is more that we have not been able to get and there is no denying all the things that Mrs. Howard has stated here in her statement as council, now it's your turn to be as concerned as we are.

Tannen Moreno stated the reason I'm here today is to address some of the issues that were already addressed at the Springville town meeting. However, it's really one-sided. I'm just what I'm going to do is I'm just going to play something for you guys to be listened to and I'm not

sure if you can be able to hear very well without a microphone. (Mrs. Moreno played an audio recording off her phone)

Mrs. Moreno then stated I play this not because I'm against any of the towns and I feel like that's what I'm being portrayed as because it's being told to everyone that I didn't file a complaint, and I did and want to thank the community.

My name is Rhonda Slade. My daughter was the victim of ex Officer Amaya. I discovered a lot of the stuff I've been researching that there had been a report of what Officer Amaya, ex Officer Amaya, excuse me, was doing back in 2022. It had been reported to the Round Valley Police Department and nothing was done. The people that were here to protect and serve us did nothing. Thankfully, another report came in in 2023, but it came into the Apache County Sheriff's Department. At that time, he was arrested and relieved of his duties. I discovered just a few nights ago that a third report had been made directly to Dayson Merrill and I want the public to know, the town should know that after 2022, the very first report had been given to Round Valley Police Department. They then in turn made ex Officer Amaya the high school resource officer and I think that it's important for the townspeople to know the danger that their children could have been in because I don't believe that it has been known. I just wanted to put it out there, thank you for letting me speak.

Councilman Bryce Burnham asked When was Chief Merrill hired as police chief by Springerville? Do you know the date? Town Clerk Jessica Vaughan stated he was Springerville's chief before the merger.

Dalynn Bevington stated I wasn't originally going to get up and speak, but because I feel like here what's being reported is very one-sided and the evidence that they're all aiming to have there, it's one-sided, they're not sharing everything. So, I'm going to get up and say I know through evidence and stuff that I've requested and seen that this officer may have filed complaints, and she claims that Lieutenant Bevington and Chief Merrill knew about this before she went to the town manager is very false. There's documentation proving that, so I just again want everyone to know that I just think all of the evidence needs to be presented and not just one sided. I just wanted to share that there is other documentation showing that they both as a matter of fact, she chose and again documents and recordings of her being totally fine with these two individuals that she had a problem with until she was let go. It's very false what she's saying throwing the chief and Lieutenant under the bus for that.

Dave Stephens stated I'm a supporter of BACA, which is Bikers Against Child Abuse. I'm also the president of Bikers Against Bullies. Bullies come in all sizes, bullies come with badges. You've got some dirty crap going on with the Police Department and the upper echelon in this town. It's disgusting, it should never happen when a police officer takes the trust of the community that he's paid for in a school when he's a resource officer and this happens that's on your watch. That's when you hire the chief or the chief got in here and there's something dirty kicking it out, clean house. I'm based from here and I will be going to the schools to help the kids out about bullies. To give them a strong backbone so they can stand up, be heard. No more closing your eyes, hiding in the shadows. I will make these kids strong in this town.

Mayor Guy Phelps stated I look at this council and I'm confident that we can tackle tough challenges. We're in a place right now where we're actively listening and gathering information. We've received conflicting opinions, and it's difficult to sort through them all. So, what do we do? We bring in an independent agency to investigate and determine exactly what happened. They'll

present us with their findings, and then we'll make an informed decision. I'm not afraid of doing the hard work, and while some may accuse us of not doing anything or playing favorites, I'm committed to doing what's right. I want all the facts before we make any decisions. The same goes for the shared services issue. We, as a council, make decisions together. Right now, we are still in the information-gathering stage. Yes, it's taking longer than anyone would like, and I would love for this to be over, but we are waiting for others to provide us with the necessary information. I can't speed that up. Once we have everything we need, we'll move forward with what's right. But rushing won't help, and it wouldn't be fair. I understand it's frustrating, but remember, we want to make sure everyone's voice is heard and that we are fully informed. I'm confident that, in the end, we'll make the right decision. I'm also very open to meeting with anyone who wants to discuss things further. I'm not active on social media, but if you'd like to talk, just reach out, and we can set up a time to meet. It's an honor to serve this community, and I take that responsibility seriously. We're committed to hearing from the people and making decisions based on all the information presented to us.

Christine Howard stated My concern is that Tannen Moreno now only has one income and, making things right with her, it may be too late. So that's my concern, I would prefer that she was rehired. This investigation continued and if I'm proven to be a liar, Brannon, which I'm not. Then you can fire her, but this woman deserves her job back she did nothing wrong, she was promised she would not be fired. She was fired because she was making the observations and reporting it. I told you how that went, I told you how chief wanted to fire her after that and she was not by Tim. That's all the same recording or the other recording that I believe that other people have seen on the council but yeah, that's my concern that we're going to run out of the opportunity to make it right with her. Thank you.

Bryce Hamblin stated I just want to start by saying that nobody here is claiming that all police officers are bad. We have some very fine officers in this Police Department and in the county. The issue I'm having with this 'sit back and wait' approach is that many of these concerns won't be addressed in a criminal investigation. The real issue here is the liability that the Town of Eagar is subjected to because of the wrongful termination that's occurred. You've been told by your manager, who's up there shaking his head, that this recording didn't exist. Yet, just now, you heard it. You've been told that she never made any complaints but for those of you who've actually bothered to look, you've seen the emails sent to the Chief of Police. Everyone who has seen them says you've been lied to by that man right there. So, the real question is: What are you going to do about it? Saying we should just wait for a criminal investigation isn't going to address the wrongful termination or the liability the town is facing. The criminal investigation will focus on Officer Aragon and probably Officer Holmes, but it won't get into the liability the town is being subjected to right now. Did anybody read the hit piece that Springerville took out in the newspaper? That information was provided by the Town of Springerville to the newspaper and then they confirmed that she had never made a complaint. You just heard the recording. Those of you that have cared to look, you've seen the emails. You know it's a lie, so what are you going to do about it? I think it very odd, I'm a defense attorney and some cops don't like that, right but I was doing my job. I saw some concerns, I voiced those concerns to Brannon Eagar to mayor Reidhead and to Dayson Merrill. They weren't addressed in fact; it was clear to me that Brannon Eagar and Dayson Merrill were collaborating. Now, the mayor, she claimed that she wanted something done, in fact, she's the one that provided the information to me about the Josh Irigoyen assault, I heard that first from her. So, we look into these matters, I do some depositions because of a death threat against me, it was told to me by an officer, I look into it turns out it happened, right? Does anybody fault me for taking steps to protect myself and my family anybody here fault me for that? OK, is it my fault that the that the cops that are

questioned lie, Is that my fault. Any doubt in anybody's mind that's seen the deposition that they lied, no doubt. Ok and then what we have is a concerted effort by your manager to defame me over the last six weeks and to tell you all that the evidence doesn't exist, that she didn't complain until after everything had happened, and that I'm a liar, that I represent Officer Moreno I don't represent Officer Moreno six weeks ago, I couldn't have picked her out of the lineup. I don't hardly know her, and many of you know me and you know I'm not a liar. He's a documented liar in closing, if his wife can't trust him, what the hell makes you think you can?

Jenn Moreira from White Mountain Independent turned to the crowd and stated I'd like to say something in regards to the article. First of all, I pulled every public record on every situation and looked at it thoroughly. I even received communications from a Ron Wood encouraging me to speak to Bryce Hamblin about it with a bunch of false accusations regarding rape, sexual assault, etcetera. Read the documentation, I pulled every single public record. There is a process in which an officer is to go to through to file a complaint that official process was not done at the time I pulled the records, nor was there anything with the EEOC. There is, however, an investigation with AZ Post against the public document against Officer Moreno or the dispatch issue with the 911 calling your husband DPS to come out, read the public records.

*Mayor Guy Phelps used his gavel at this time calm the crowd*

Mayor Guy Phelps stated ok, the shared services may want to hear it, but this isn't a court of law. We're not going to cross-examine that's not our job here. We've heard public comments, and we appreciate it. We know that it's available. The investigator may want to see it so that's where it goes. What I would like to ask is if anyone else would like to speak, please speak to the council, that's why you're here, to speak to the council. Alright there's no further discussion, if the council would like to receive legal advice on any of the issues raised in this specific agenda item, which is the Round Valley Police Department, we can go into an executive session.

Councilman Brandon Slade made a motion to enter Executive Session at [at 7:20 p.m.]. Vice-mayor Marsha Tucker seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham
		Ray Hamblin
		Brandon Slade

Councilman William Greenwood made a motion to enter back into Regular Session at [at 7:46 p.m.]. Councilman Bryce Burnham seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham
		Ray Hamblin
		Brandon Slade

10.ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Ray Hamblin made a motion to adjourn at [at 7:47 p.m.]. Councilman William Greenwood seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:       Ayes:   Guy Phelps  
                          Marsha Tucker  
                          Titan Merrill  
                          William Greenwood  
                          Bryce Burnham  
                          Ray Hamblin  
                          Brandon Slade

Vote:       Ayes:   Guy Phelps  
                          William Greenwood  
                          Bryce Burnham  
                          Ray Hamblin

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Council: \_\_\_\_\_  
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CERTIFICATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town of Eagar, Arizona held on August 5, 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Vaughan, Town Clerk