

**CITY OF KUNA
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

JANUARY 31, 2007

KUNA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER, 763 W. AVALON

NOTE: These minutes are an unofficial record of this City Council meeting until reviewed; corrected if deemed appropriate, and formally approved by the Kuna City Council at a subsequent Council meeting.

Mayor Dean Obray called the City Council Special Meeting for discussion of staffing for the Kuna Police Department to order at 1:35 p.m.

Present: Mayor Dean Obray; Council Members Jeff Lang; Scott Dowdy; Richard Cardoza; City Attorney Randy Grove; Planning Director Diana Sanders; City Clerk Lynda Burgess and Sergeant Kody Aldrich, Kuna Police Department. Councilwoman Trina Stroebel was absent.

Sgt. Aldrich explained that he wished to address Council regarding time-sensitive issues regarding the police substation as well as recent staffing changes taking place. The main concerns relate to drug problems especially at the middle school and the high school, school zone traffic problems and Highway 69 traffic issues. Substation staff has expressed concern over the night shift and their current effectiveness on patrol especially relating to DUI enforcement at night. He stated that, in discussions with substation staff, he learned that some of the deputies no longer wanted to work in Kuna and it was agreed that they would apply for transfer to other locations. Sgt. Aldrich explained that he supported the decisions of his deputies since he believed that employees are more effective when they are satisfied with their working environment. He further stated that recruitment for replacement deputies resulted in the receipt of seven applications from deputies working outside of Kuna. Four of the applicants are among the top ten deputies in Ada County.

Sgt. Aldrich continued by stating that one of the applicants interested in working in Kuna is Steve Russell, a 20-year member of the Ada County Sheriff, who has been working as an Acting Field Commander (AFC) and is in charge of the K-9 training program. As Kuna does not have on-scene supervisory personnel, Sgt. Aldrich felt that managing incidents and personnel responding to them have not been handled effectively. He stated that he would like to create two AFC positions to manage the team assigned to the incidents. They would be responsible for finalizing reports and getting them to the appropriate authorities. These two positions would fill current vacancies in substation personnel and would not result in increased costs to the City.

Sgt. Aldrich reported that Deputy Wayne Anderson also expressed an interest in serving Kuna as an AFC. He has been with the Sheriff's office for ten years and has served as an AFC for four years. He was ranked within the top five deputies in the Ada County Sheriff's office.

Regarding the K-9 officer, Steve Russell, Councilman Cardoza asked if he would be called away from Kuna from time to time for other calls in the County.

Sgt. Aldrich stated that that potential does exist since there are only a total of four K-9 units in Ada County.

Councilman Cardoza asked why some of the deputies want to leave Kuna.

Sgt. Aldrich responded that some of them did not agree with the previous supervisor's philosophies. He likened Kuna to an island with no sense of a "City team of police officers."

Council President Lang stated that he was encouraged by the fact that a number of officers serving outside of Kuna are interested in working in Kuna.

Councilman Dowdy stated that he supported the ideas presented by Sgt. Aldrich and asked that the Council be kept informed concerning the proposed changes.

Planning and Zoning Director Sanders stated that, in response to the recent letter sent by the City of Meridian to the County regarding Kuna's Comprehensive Plan, the City of Kuna should write to Meridian asking to negotiate to show our good faith, that we are trying to negotiate an area with Meridian. She stated that Kuna should indicate to Meridian that we are trying to create our area of impact to coincide with school district boundaries (1/2 mile south of Lake Hazel).

Council agreed to permit staff to send a letter to the City Council of the City of Meridian to include Kuna's preferred boundary.

Ms. Sanders stated that the Kuna Community Auction requested waiver of the fees to place signs advertising the Auction.

Mayor Obray asked that the Auction committee declare the amount of funds raised and what they are intended to be used for.

Council agreed to permit staff to waive the sign fees for the Kuna Community Auction.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Council President Lang, seconded by Councilman Dowdy to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m. Motion carried 3-0-1 (Councilwoman Stroebel absent).

O. Dean Obray, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lynda Burgess, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: FEBRUARY 20, 2007