

Mayor's Report on Council Invocations 2/10/2016

The television and newspapers have been filled lately with stories about invocations at Council meetings, with Phoenix and Scottsdale making the news all over the state. Even quiet little Chino Valley has made the headlines of late, but in our case it was because the Council chose to stand its ground against the growing onslaught of "political correctness" which seems to be flooding our nation.

Instead of taking the easy road and observing a moment of silence or simply banning the invocation outright, the Chino Valley Town Council voted unanimously to continue the practice of having a member of the Council pray at the beginning of the meeting. This decision came after receiving input from several members of the community (who apparently had differing religious backgrounds), and some thoughtful discussion among the members of the Council itself. Although composed of individuals of various faiths, the Council was united in their desire to continue the invocation as a part of the meeting.

The video of the discussion among the Council members is available online at the Town's website, (chinoaz.net). At the top of the page, select Government, then Agendas and Minutes, then scroll down to the Feb 9th meeting video. The discussion and input from the public is about ten minutes into the video, but it is well worth viewing to see where your Councilmembers stand on the subject of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. It is also helpful to see what actually took place, rather than hearing it secondhand.

I would also like to thank our public for all their expressions of support; your letters and calls have been greatly appreciated.

Chris Marley, Mayor of Chino Valley