

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2024-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY, ARIZONA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR CITIZEN EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THE HISTORIC SPIRE OF THE ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING ACCEPTANCE BY THE TOWN OF OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF THE SPIRE.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council (the “Town Council”) of the Town of Paradise Valley (the “Town”) recognizes the importance of preserving historic architectural features within Paradise Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Ascension Lutheran Church, designed in 1963 by William Wesley Peters of Taliesin West Architects (the “Church”), has significant influences of the organic architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, including a prominent, architecturally-significant spire (the “Spire”); and

WHEREAS, the Church property has been sold for private development, which will cause demolition of the Church and the Spire; and

WHEREAS, the Paradise Valley Historical Advisory Committee has expressed an interest in facilitating preservation of the Spire, and a group of citizens has expressed interest in raising funds to move the Spire and create a new location for its display; and

WHEREAS, the Church is anticipated to be demolished prior to the time when the citizen’s group will be able to plan for, design and fund the new display location; and

WHEREAS, the Church property owner has expressed a willingness to work with the Town and the citizen’s group to remove the Spire prior to demolition and to facilitate moving the Spire to a storage location on Town-owned property; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to assist the efforts of the Paradise Valley Historical Advisory Committee and the citizen’s group by accepting ownership of the Spire and providing storage for a period of time to allow for options to be evaluated, plans to be created, and fundraising to occur to allow for relocation and display of the Spire.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Paradise Valley, Arizona, as follows:

Section 1. The Town Council hereby: (i) authorizes (a) acceptance of ownership of the Spire, and (b) storage of the Spire on Town property for a period of time to allow for options to be evaluated, plans to be created, and fundraising to occur to allow for relocation and display of the Spire; and (ii) directs the Town Manager and the Town Attorney to (a) prepare and execute such documents as are necessary to transfer ownership of the Spire to the Town, and (b) facilitate temporary storage on Town-owned property.

Section 2. The Town Council authorizes and directs the Town Manager to provide assistance to the Paradise Valley Historical Advisory Committee and the citizen's group to locate a suitable display location for the Spire, which location may include Town-owned property.

Section 3. The Town Manager, the Town Clerk and the Town Attorney are further authorized and directed to take the actions necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Paradise Valley this 13th day of June, 2024.

Jerry Bien-Willner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Duncan Miller, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Andrew McGuire, Town Attorney