

Town of Gila Bend

Minutes of the September 22, 2009 Work Session

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Mayor Henry called the Work Session to order at 5:00pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Ron Henry

Vice-Mayor Fred Hull

Council Member Armida Gonzalez

Council Member Fernando Fernandez

Council Member Chuck Turner

Council Member James "Bud" Turner-absent

Council Member Donny Young

Staff present: Public Works Director Parsi, Finance Director Young, Fire Chief Birchfield, Airport Manager Drury, Records Management Clerk Eisenberger, Counter Service Operations Smith

III. WORK SESSION (the Town Council cannot take action on any of these subjects because they are on the agenda for discussion only)

A. Government Facilities Planning. The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss the state of current municipal facilities of Gila Bend, as well as the renovation and/or construction of future municipal facilities. **(Discussion Only)** *Town Manager Buss gave a PowerPoint presentation on three different government facility types in successful communities resembling a location situation like Gila Bend; ie, a desert island community located some distance from a larger city. Town Manager Buss presented information on the benefits of utilizing far-range planning and designing of the community; choosing the image you want to project, able to choose your options instead of them choosing you, and targeting industries that build the community. He presented three examples of clustering buildings to centralize or de-centralize facilities. Indio, CA centralizes facilities at or near county government buildings and de-centralizes fire, police, and parks and has renovated an old gas station as the Tourist Information Center and Chamber of Commerce facility. Palm Desert, CA centralizes their administrative offices and de-centralizes fire, parks and police. They use solar power in many areas, an idea that Gila Bend should consider. Memorials are located at city hall. The third community, Palm Springs, CA, centralizes administrative offices, parks, community development and sheriff and de-centralizes fire, parks, and social services. The fire department, museum, and an industrial park are located at or near the airport. Following the presentation there was discussion on: 1) the need to update the General Plan, 2) planning to maximize parking day and night, 3) SR238 as a recreation corridor, 4) airport area as transportation corridor, 5) SR85 area as a commercial corridor, 6) industrial corridor north of SR85, and 7) council and residents, including the youth, should provide input on how they would like to see Gila Bend in the future. Discussion on relocating the fire department to the airport would serve the needs of the town and airport, what shape are the old substation and border patrol building in and are they usable or need to be demolished. Discussion on getting appraisals of the buildings, inspections and comparing costs of using or demolishing. Vice Mayor Hull mentioned that there are many unfinished projects like erecting the plaques that people have paid for to be put up at the different parks, name plates for the parks not erected, and the community pool that should be done before starting*

new projects. Vice Mayor Hull will provide a list of unfinished projects to the Town Manager. Comments from the public: Gracie Pinette asked what happened to previous plans of a complex at the community center, before the park was put there and where did the plans for the complex go and why didn't Vice Mayor Hull finish the projects he mentioned when he was Mayor?

- IV. *ADJOURNMENT Council Member C. Turner moved to adjourn the Work Session. Seconded by Council Member Fernandez. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously; 6-0. Time of adjournment: 5:47pm.*

Ron Henry, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beverly Turner, CMC
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the regular meeting held September 22, 2009, and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

Beverly Turner, CMC
Town Clerk