

TOWN OF GILA BEND

Minutes of the December 15, 2009 Special Council meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Henry at 6:00pm.
- B. Mayor Henry led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Invocation was given by Town Attorney McClure.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Ron Henry
Vice-Mayor Fred Hull
Council Member Fernando Fernandez
Council Member Armida Gonzalez

Council Member Chuck Turner
Council Member James "Bud" Turner
Council Member Donny Young

Staff present: Town Attorney McClure, Town Manager Buss, Town Clerk Turner, Fire Chief Birchfield, Finance Director Young, Public Works Director/Engineer Parsi, Records Clerk Eisenberger, Counter Operations Smith

- ### III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC (*The procedures to follow if you address the Council are: Council requests that you express your ideas in three minutes or less and refrain from any personal attacks or derogatory statements about any individual. The Mayor will limit discussion whenever he deems such an action appropriate to the proper conduct of the meeting. At the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the Council may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the Council, may ask Staff to review a matter, or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the Council shall not discuss or take legal action on any matters during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.*)
- Mr. Terry Basu apologized for missing the last Council meeting at which he was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Board, he then thanked Council for the opportunity to serve the Community.**

IV. BUSINESS - Discussion and possible action on the following items:

- A. Resolution 09-13. A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Gila Bend, Arizona, declaring the need for multiple access points and roadways along State Route 85 and Old US Highway 80, between Watermelon Road and Woods Road. **Council Member J. Turner moved to approve Resolution 09-13. Motion seconded by Vice Mayor Hull. Discussion on this resolution shows the support of both residents of Gila Bend and the municipal governments for the need of more access points as there are only two (2) currently planned, leaving a long stretch of road in between. Discussion on some of the problems of having only two access points are: developers not interested in hard-to-access areas, Pierpoint Rd. and Fornes Rd. area are planned residential properties, Gary Smith's 2400 acres is planned for 8100 units needing access, current residents and potential residents not happy with limited access and extra travel to reach homes, and planned access areas not feasible for future growth of area. Discussion on other supporters of more access points include the Farm Bureau, Jokake and other developers, this is Step 1 in planning for the future as it is easier to add more access points now while in planning stages, shows what town wants and needs from the start, and this push for more access points has been going on for approximately 4 ½ years with ADOT and Maricopa doing studies. Discussion on adding access points should not pull traffic or business away from commercial interests in Gila Bend as the access points are for residential areas. Discussion on two canal crossings have already been approved by water district and that crossovers are planned initially with overpasses possible in the future. Discussion on where the funding is coming from; ADOT and/or developers. Motion to approve Resolution 09-13 passed unanimously; 7-0.**

- B. Resolution 09-14. A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Gila Bend, Maricopa County, State of Arizona, (I) approving the form and authorizing the execution and delivery of a ground lease and Town lease, approving the execution and delivery by the Town of Gila Bend Municipal Property Corporation of such ground lease and Town lease and the government documents (as such term is defined therein) the negotiation of a note to the United States Government, acting through Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture; (II) Authorizing the taking of all other actions necessary to the consummation of the transaction contemplated by such ground lease; and (III) declaring an emergency. ***Vice Mayor Hull moved to approve Resolution 09-14. Seconded by Council Member Fernandez. Discussion on the nature of this resolution is that Rural Development requires that all facilities are held by the Municipal Property Corporation (MPC), the town will turn over the property to the MPC, and the MPC will lease back to the Town of Gila Bend. There will be no cost to the Town as it will be paying itself. Motion passed unanimously; 7-0.***
- C. Pima Street Pedestrian and Landscape Improvement. The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action to approve an Agreement by and between the Town of Gila Bend and the State of Arizona relative to the proposed Pima Street Pedestrian and Landscape Improvements. The Pima Street improvements are being funded via American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. ***Council Member C. Turner moved to approve and Council Member Young seconded. Town Manager Buss noted that Items C (this item) and D (following item) go together. Motion passed unanimously; 7-0.***
- D. Gila Bend Airport Park and Ride. The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action to approve an Agreement by and between the Town of Gila Bend and the State of Arizona relative to the Gila Bend Airport Park and Ride project. This project is being funded via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. ***Council Member C. Turner moved to approve and Vice Mayor Hull seconded. Town Manager Buss noted that this item goes with Item C (previous item). Discussion on this Agreement is the same Agreement as the one in Item C (above), project is on track and included in the adopted FY09-10 Budget. Discussion on communications with EGroup are positive; everything in-line, estimates for the Pima St. project are below the projected numbers and there are no matching funds required as it is Stimulus money, Discussion on whether to allow ADOT to manage project but recommend the Town does it as it will be cheaper and make the funds go further. Motion passed unanimously; 7-0.***
- E. Staffing for Adequate Firefighter and Emergency Responders (SAFER) Grant. The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action on approving a grant application for the Staffing for Adequate Firefighter and Emergency Responders (SAFER). ***Council Member C. Turner moved to approve and Vice Mayor Hull seconded the motion. Fire Chief Birchfield provided information using a PowerPoint presentation. Discussion on the proposal, training, responsibilities, personnel equipment, housing, and methodology. Fire Chief Birchfield noted that this is a very competitive grant with an expected 4,000+ applications submitted and funding for approximately 200 applicants. Discussion on the deadline for submitting application is December 18th, application can be modified in some areas after submitting, no modifications to exceed the amount on submitted application, the number of people to be employed cannot be modified, and if chosen to receive funds the grant can be turned down and it will pass on to the next applicant in line. Discussion on different options and whether another Work Session should be held before December 18th. Town Manager Buss recommended approval of item and noted it would benefit economic development as people looking to Gila Bend will want service and safety measures in place; an investment in the future. Discussion on Option 1 can be used with four people instead of six people, flexibility within grant, and the shortfall of available people during the daylight hours when they are at work or out of town. Discussion on number of people needed should at least be three people, OSHA recommends four people, whether hours can be modified from full-time to part-time, and should there be some full-time and some part-time people. Finance Director***

Young noted that it would be more cost effective to hire three full-time rather than 6 part-time due to the cost of employee benefits and that when considering whether to add full or part-time staff, the cost of benefits should always be a factor. Discussion on keeping grant submission simple as the more unusual the submission, the less chance there is to be chosen. Council Member C. Turner moved to approve that the application be submitted for six people with numbers being modified to be economically feasible. Motion seconded by Vice Mayor Hull. Discussion on council supporting this grant, the impossibility of forecasting revenues three years from now, the Town can always add more people at own expense as needed, and the Town match in funds for Year 3 is based on what is expended in Year's 1 and 2. Council Member C. Turner moved to amend his motion to submit grant application for two new personnel with a work week of 60 hrs/person. Vice Mayor Hull seconded. Motion passed unanimously; 7-0.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Town Council may go into executive session for purpose of obtaining legal advice from Bill Simms, Attorney regarding Sabre Aircraft/Richard Helms Airport Lease Agreements as well as the Town Attorney on any of the above agenda items pursuant to A.R.S.38-431.03(A)(3) **Vice Mayor Hull moved to go into Executive Session. Motion seconded by Council Member Fernandez. Motion passed unanimously; 7-0. Time: 7:07pm.**

IX. ADJOURNMENT
Vice-Mayor Hull moved to adjourn at 7:31 pm. Seconded by Mayor Henry. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously. (7-0)

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 special meeting held December 15, 2009, and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

Beverly Turner, CMC
Town Clerk