

TOWN OF GILA BEND

Minutes of the April 9, 2012 Council Retreat

1. CALL TO ORDER *Mayor Henry called the retreat to order at 5:00pm. Councilmember Young arrived at 5:17pm.*

Staff present: Town Manager Buss, Town Clerk Turner, Planning & Economic Development Director Fitzer, Social Services Director Dempsey, Parks & Recreation Director Turner, Resource Center Coordinator Olivas, Deputy Town Clerk Eisenberger

2. COUNCIL RETREAT

All discussion topics will be facilitated by Town Manager Rick Buss. The Council cannot take action on any of these subjects because they are on the agenda for **discussion only**.

- A. Discussion of visions, goals, objectives and priorities (process management) for the Town of Gila Bend. *Town Manager Buss gave a PowerPoint presentation noting that the purpose of the retreat is to go over the accomplishments and goals of each department, begin the budget process, and to get both Council and citizen input for prioritizing the goals for the next fiscal year. Reviewed the budget process and purpose of the process management. The town manager reviewed each departments accomplishments. Discussion on Matt Nesbitt shooting range lease is paid up, Mr. Nesbitt calls, issues with financing and noted that the range is open to the public. Town Manager Buss reviewed the new Boeing Project with discussion on the project will be experimental six month lease to start with possible future jobs, research and development on the virtual fence technology, benefits to town and small amount of land involved. Discussion on the Gila Bend Transmission Initiative, status of APS meeting their timeline for alternative energy needs, and natural gas and solar power is a benefit to Gila Bend. Mr. Buss reviewed the success of the Solar Summit with Gila Bend a major focus of the summit. Discussion on larger mega watt solar plants experiencing funding issues and why other cities and towns not more involved in the transmission line. Vice Mayor Turner asked when will we reach the end of the amount of time spent on the solar and transmission line and have undivided attention on town. Mr. Buss noted that within a year as there are many entities, including the Department of Energy, that is involved and pushing the transmission line forward. Mayor Henry commented on the amount of time and effort spent takes away from focus on the town. The town manager noted that there is not that much actual time taken away from the focus on the town, just talk. Town Manager Buss reviewed code compliance and code violations issues noting there were over 100 violations issued. Discussion on the code violation process and that each time Vice Mayor Turner noted that he spoke with a group of young men who commented that a lot of talk the past two years about doing code enforcement and cleaning up the town but have not seen a single improvement. He noted that he could not argue the point except for the two properties that were demolished. Town Manager Buss invited the concerned citizens to come to the town office so that he can explain the process involved. He reviewed the legal process that the town is required to follow, private property rights of owners and the cost to town and taxpayers for code compliance. Mayor Henry noted that he realized that this is an old issue that should have been addressed many years ago but the longer we wait the worse it will be and that we need to attack the issue with a stronger approach. Town Manager Buss noted that this is being addressed much more than it has been*

before with citations being issued on a regular basis and reiterated that the town has to follow the legal process and work with the town attorney to ensure legal process is followed. Town Manager Buss reviewed the Public Works department. Discussion on percentage of plant capacity. Discussion on the need to address the bad condition and issues with Cemetery Road. Mr. Buss reviewed Public Safety noting the improved communication. Councilmember Young asked about the possibility of bringing on a qualified building official part-time. Discussion on staff to do an analysis on the cost effectiveness of hiring part-time official versus continuing to use Brown & Associates. Town Manager Buss reviewed the Clerks department. Vice Mayor Turner had a question about the status of the application he provided for five separate companies that could give a grant on gurneys. He noted that there was a striker sent out listing the five companies. Town Manager Buss reviewed the Finance department. Director Dempsey complimented Director Young on the excellent job with First Things First. Manager Buss requested that Council look at the process management sheets and provide input on what they believe are priorities. Manager Buss reviewed the town's investment policy. Manager Buss reviewed the Fire Department/EMS and noted the improvements and more professionalism now thanks to Chief Baldrige. Discussion on the billing fire/EMS billings. Mayor Henry noted the need to replace some of the equipment at the fire station. Manager Buss reviewed the Town Attorney and Courts departments. Town Manager Buss reviewed the Town Manager Department. Mayor Henry asked how to get on the system to get a financial snapshot that shows line item details on budget. Manager Buss asked how much detail with both the Mayor and Vice Mayor responding as much as possible and should be able to access at the push of a button on new iPads. The Mayor noted he would like access to as much detail shown on the budget versus actual per department on a monthly basis. Manager Buss asked if a pdf showing each departments budget versus actual on a monthly basis would suffice with both the Mayor and Vice Mayor responding, yes. Manager Buss continued reviewing the Town Manager Department and requested that Council review all of the information provided to them as there is a lot going on . Discussion on Cable America and public access channel. Mayor Henry noted that he has contact with a new representative in Yuma and that he can provide their contact information if staff would like to contact to state concern for legislative issues. Mayor Henry and Vice Mayor Turner thanked the Town Manager and staff and Mayor Henry noted that things are looking good. Discussion on the Border Patrol station and traffic counts.

3. ADJOURNMENT *Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.*

Ron Henry, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beverly Turner, MMC
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the work session held April 9, 2012, and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

Beverly Turner, MMC
Town Clerk