

TOWN OF GILA BEND

Minutes of the September 13, 2011 Work Session

I. CALL TO ORDER *Mayor Henry called the meeting to order at 5:02pm*

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Ron Henry
Vice-Mayor Chuck Turner-*arrived*
5:41pm
Council Member Fernando Fernandez-
absent
Council Member Armida Gonzalez

Council Member Steve Holt
Council Member Tommy Sikes
Council Member Donny Young-*arrived*
5:31pm

Staff present: Town Manager Buss, Town Clerk Turner, Planning and Economic Development Director Fitzner, Public Works Director Menard, Parks and Recreation Director Turner, Deputy Town Clerk Eisenberger

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

Fire Department: The Town Council and staff shall discuss and opportunities relative to the Fire Department, ISO Ratings, draft operational budgets, and potential funding portfolios. **DISCUSSION ONLY**

Town Manager Buss gave a presentation on the Fire Department migrating to a career based service. He spoke on the ISO rating and how it is determined, benefits of an Enhanced Service MID and introduced Greg Schwartz of Piper Jaffray. Mr. Schwartz spoke about the different options available, most efficient way to assess costs is through a base fee and valuation fee. He gave an overview of how the process works, rates can be set annually and the valuation used is through the Maricopa County Assessor's Office. Discussion on fee is based on property value, process used by other cities and towns, equitability of cost assessment, and that when value of property increases the cost/resident should lower as operational costs remain the same. Discussion of base fee plus valuation fee method is most efficient way to start up; rates reassessed each year after County assessments done in February; taxation of solar developers at 20% and agriculture at 10%; setting it so the General Fund always remains at 25%; keeping the sales tax portion at the same percentage which is set annually and monitored; and current cost to run is approximately \$80,000/year.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Holt moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilmember Gonzalez. Motion passed unanimously; 6-0. Time of adjournment: 5:57pm

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 Work Session held September 13, 2011, and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

Beverly Turner, CMC
Town Clerk