

# TOWN OF GILA BEND

Minutes of the April 12, 2016 regular Council meeting

## I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Call to order **Mayor C. Turner called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance **led by Mayor C. Turner.**
- C. Invocation **given by Steven McClure.**

## II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Chuck Turner	Council Member Jesus Rubalcava
Vice-Mayor Ron Henry	<b>absent</b>
Council Member Fernando Fernandez	Council Member Tommy Lee Sikes
Council Member Clyde Kreeger	Council Member James Turner

**Staff present: Town Manager M Celaya; Town Attorney S McClure; Town Clerk B Turner; Finance Director S Young; Planner T Smith; PWD T Weter; Parks & Recreation Director C Turner**

## III. **PUBLIC HEARING:** The Mayor and Town Council may receive public comment regarding the proposed half cent (1/2) sales tax increase. **Public Comment Only** **Mayor C Turner opened the Public Hearing at 5:07 pm and with no public comment** **Mayor C Turner closed the Public Hearing at 5:09 pm.**

## IV. **Presentation:** Kris Mayes will give an update on the Gila Bend Transmission Initiative (GBTI) **Discussion Only** **Kris Mayes with the GBTI Committee gave an update on the Gila Bend Transmission Initiative Project and introduced Laurie Dunham and Tom Dagenais of Duke American Transmission Company who noted their commitment to the project. Ms. Dunham spoke about the Partners of the GBTI and what has been accomplished; the partners have regularly attended meetings; executed an MOU for a feasibility study; study completed by Power Engineers under the direction of the GBTI partners. There was a brief discussion on the status of the Gila River Power Station and its bankruptcy filing. Ms. Mayes spoke about the transmission corridor and the proposed National Monument and Town Manager M Celaya noted that he will work with Congressman Grijalva's Office relative to the proposed National Monument and the need to provide a transmission corridor within the proposed monument.** **The presentation documents are attached and incorporated as part of the official minutes.**

## V. CONSENT AGENDA (all items subject to approval by a single motion; any Council Member may require any of these items to be voted on separately)

- A. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action on the approval of the following meeting minutes:
  - March 22, 2016 regular meeting
  - March 29, 2016 special meeting
  - March 31, 2016 special meeting**Discussion and Action**

- B. **Payment of Claims:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to ratify claims in the amount of \$4,250.40 for the period of March 16, 2016 through March 31, 2016.  
**Discussion and Action**  
**Council Member J Turner moved to approve the consent agenda; Seconded by Council Member F Fernandez. Council Member J Turner inquired as to the \$2,000**

**expenditure and it was noted the expenditure was for the Little D-Backs Youth Program. Motion to approve consent agenda passed 6-0**

VI. NEW BUSINESS - Discussion and possibly action on the following items:

- A. **Ordinance 16-01:** The Mayor shall read Ordinance 16-01 by Title. The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to adopt Ordinance 16-01 increasing the rate of taxation from three percent (3%) to three and one half percent (3.5%).

**Discussion and Action**

**Mayor C Turner spoke about the necessity for the increase advising that it will be earmarked to offset the cost of public services. Council Member J Turner moved to adopt Ordinance 16-01 increasing the rate of taxation from 3% to 3 ½%; Seconded by Vice-Mayor R Henry. Motion to adopt passed 6-0**

- B. **Ordinance 16-02:** The Mayor shall read Ordinance 16-02 by Title. The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to adopt Ordinance 16-02 enacting and adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the Town of Gila Bend and declaring an emergency.

**Discussion and Action**

**Town Clerk B Turner advised that Ordinance 16-02 is the annual update of the Town Code based on the Ordinances and Resolutions passed by Council in 2015. Vice-Mayor R Henry moved to adopt Ordinance 16-02; Seconded by Council Member C Kreeger. Motion to adopt Ordinance 16-02 enacting and adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the Town of Gila Bend and declaring an emergency passed 6-0.**

- C. **Resolution 16-05:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to approve Resolution 16-05 authorizing the transfer of funds in the amount of \$465,163.46 from the Town Special Fund, allocated for Community Enhancement from the Panda Power Project, to the Town of Gila Bend General Fund Account.

**Discussion and Action**

**Vice-Mayor R Henry moved to remove Resolution 16-05 from the Agenda; Seconded by Council Member F Fernandez. Council Member J Turner asked if there would be any consequences if the bills are not paid now and it was noted by Town Manager M Celaya that he believed the Town would remain solvent. Motion to remove Resolution 16-02 from the agenda passed 6-0**

- D. **Independent Audit:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to authorize the Town Manager to seek and hire and Independent Auditing Firm to conduct an independent audit of the Towns Finance Operations and to waive bidding requirements authorized by Gila Bend Town Code Title III, Chapter 38, Section 38.06.

**Discussion and Action**

**Town Manager Celaya noted that this item is follow through of his goal as he stated in his interview, he spoke about the single audit and internal review process. There was discussion about whether the current auditors could dig a little deeper and cost of hiring another firm. It was noted by Finance Director S Young that the current auditors are following standard accounting procedures and that she will speak to the current auditors about digging deeper. Town Manager Celaya spoke about the need for a new set of eyes on the Town Finances and with that Vice Mayor R Henry moved to authorize the Town Manager to obtain quotes from Independent Auditing Firms in an amount no to exceed \$16,000.00. Motion seconded by Council Member C Kreeger. Motion passed 6-0**

VII. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT ON CURRENT EVENTS

(This is the time Council Member's may present a brief summary on current events. The Council may not propose, discuss, deliberate or take any legal action on the information

presented)

**Mayor C Turner reported that an Economic Development group is scheduled to come into Town on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup>, for a sack lunch. They are going to arrive at the 911 Memorial Park at 12:00 pm for lunch, from there the Mayor will give them the 30 minute tour of Gila Bend.**

**He also reported that he and staff met with representatives of San Lucy Village, believes it was the best meeting ever, San Lucy wants to participate in Town events and possibly share some of the costs for such events.**

**No other Council reports were given.**

VIII. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

(This is the time the Town Manager may present a brief summary on current events. The Council may not propose, discuss, deliberate or take any legal action on the information presented)

**Town Manager M Celaya reported that he is still listening and working with staff; getting ready for the upcoming budget; meeting with stakeholders from the community; met with Dr. Perkins, the Superintendent of the school, as he presented his idea on the bond for the school and his desire to see the relationship with the school and the Town become stronger; excited about establishing additional sources of revenue for Gila Bend; will be creating an overlay of Pima Street, which serves as a mechanism for obtaining grants for the Town and he is working on updating the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).**

IX. STAFF REPORTS

(This is the time Staff Member's may present a brief summary on current events. The Council may not propose, discuss, deliberate or take any legal action on the information presented)

**Town Clerk B Turner reported that an US vs Them Volleyball game has been scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> at the school gym and invited Council and staff to participate. Finance Director S Young reported that the March reimbursement to Maricopa County CAP Program have been submitted in the amount of \$8,798.85; reviewing the ARCR report the Town received from Buckeye Valley which includes the General Fund Detail, trial balance and payroll allocation; submitted pay request to USDA-RD for the engineering of the waterline from Ritoch Powell, she advised Ritoch Powell that the Town will not release the next reimbursement until the Town receives the current reimbursement from USDA-RD in the amount of \$29,753.05.**

**Social Services Director K Valenzuela reported working on the quarterly reports for the CAP, AAA and 1<sup>st</sup> Things 1<sup>st</sup> programs and that last Saturday the Resource Center hosted a Health Fair, where 48 people participated in obtaining information pertaining to the physical, mental and developmental aspects of children 0-5, as well as the parents of children.**

**Town Planner T Smith reported working on a summary of some of the code compliance issues still open through the Town, one of which has filed for an extension, the contractor on the project is waiting for the electrical contractor to submit their information; received a request from a potential client requesting information on the grocery store, forwarded the client the contact information for San Lucy.**

**Public Works Director T Weter reported that through negotiations for the right of way work has begun on Cemetery Road and will continue through Thursday and thanks to the State for donating some asphalt; meeting with ADOT on the 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the possibility of them taking over the Town's portion of 238, if this does not work the next plan would be to contact Maricopa County and see if they would take it over such ownership.**

**Parks & Recreation Director C Turner reported that he is working with the Librarian to provide summer programs for the kids this year. The goal is to have something for them to participate in every week through the whole summer; beginning work on Phase 1 of this year's AZSTA grant, the lighting for the soccer field, which is the least expensive of the three projects; received confirmation that Gila Bend will be receiving 4 trees from APS on April 22<sup>nd</sup> that will be planted at Bender's Pond.**

**Librarian Esperanza Stewart reported she is celebrating her three month anniversary at the Gila Bend Library and she will be introducing 13 different summer programs for the kids this summer.**

**Diane Henry representing the Chamber of Commerce reported that last week's Chamber meeting had 32 people in attendance. Hosts for the meeting included AireBeam and Gila Bend School Superintendent Dr. Perkins who spoke about the upcoming bond issue for the school; the next CofC meeting will be held at the Elks Lodge; there will be a blood drive on April 21<sup>st</sup> and invited everyone to come out and donate.**

**Town Attorney S McClure reported that he received the deed for the Church property and that he is still working on obtaining the deed for the rectory advising that there could be an issue trying to find if the owner has any heirs to the property.**

- X. **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.)

**Scott Swanson of the Gila Bend KOA spoke about snake season and dogs, the KOA is hosting a dog trainer to train dogs to stay away from snakes.**

- XI. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**  
(This is the time Council Member's may request items be placed on future agenda's)  
**NONE**

- XII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to enter into executive session Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) for purpose of obtaining legal advice relative for any of the above agenda items and/or A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) personnel matters regarding Town Manager Position.

**Mayor C Turner called for a 10 minute recess and advised that after the recess the Council would enter into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1) personnel matters regarding the Town Manager Position.**

**Mayor C Turner reconvened the regular meeting at 6:42 pm**

- XIII. **Town Manager Contract:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to approve the Town Manager Contract. **Discussion and Action**

**Vice-Mayor R Henry moved to approve the Town Manager contract as amended to include waiving the residency requirement and adding item f to Section II Employment stating "in addition, the Town Manager shall perform any and all duties and responsibilities as set forth in the Town Code, Section 31.043. Motion to approve was seconded by Council Member F Fernandez. Motion to approve passed 6-0**

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

***Vice-Mayor R Henry moved to adjourn; Seconded by Council Member F Fernandez.  
Motion to adjourn passed 6-0 at 6:44 pm***

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Chuck Turner, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Beverly Turner, MMC  
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the regular Council Meeting held April 12, 2016 and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

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Beverly Turner, MMC  
Town Clerk