

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING

Minutes of the November 22, 2016 Regular Council Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Call to order **Mayor C. Turner called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance **led by Mayor C Turner**
- C. Invocation **was given by Fred Hull**

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Chuck Turner	Council Member Clyde Kreeger
Vice-Mayor Ron Henry	Council Member Tommy Lee Sikes
Council Member Fernando Fernandez	Council Member James Turner

Staff present: Town Manager M Celaya; Town Clerk B Turner; Finance Director S Young; Community Services Director K Valenzuela; PWM D Morris; Parks & Recreation Director C Drury; K VanderMolen, Community Development Project Coordinator; Fire Chief F Baldrige; G Faupel

III. 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 October 25, 2016 regular meeting minutes. **Discussion and Action.**
- B. **Payment of Claims:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to approve claims in the amount of \$181,874.61 for the period of October 16, 2016 through November 15, 2016. **Discussion and Action.**
- C. **2006 Town of Gila Bend General Plan:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to re-affirm the existing 2006 General Plan as the Town's General Plan until such a time the updated General Plan is complete. **Discussion and Action**

Council Member J Turner moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Seconded by Council Member C Kreeger. Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented passed unanimously. (6-0)

IV. NEW BUSINESS – Discussion and possibly action on the following items:

- A. **Installment of Newly Elected Council:** The newly elected council members will assume office. The Town Magistrate will administer the oaths of office to the newly elected council members.

Town Clerk administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Council: Chris Riggs, James Turner and Fernando Fernandez.

- B. **Council Appointment:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to appoint a member to the vacant seat on the Town Council. (Council may move to enter into executive session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) personnel matters regarding Council vacancy appointment) **(Item continued from October 25, 2016) Discussion and Action.**

Mayor C Turner moved to enter into executive session; Seconded by Council Member F Fernandez. Motion to enter into executive session passed unanimously. (6-0)

Council Member J Turner moved to reconvene at 5:25 pm; Seconded by

**Council Member F Fernandez. Motion to reconvene passed unanimously. (6-0)
Council Member J Turner moved to appoint Bill Hollowell to the vacant seat on the Town Council; Seconded by T Sikes. Motion to appoint B Hollowell to the vacant seat passed unanimously. (6-0)**

Town Clerk administered the Oath of Office to appointee Bill Hollowell

- C. **Mayoral Selection:** Pursuant to Section 31.025 of the Gila Bend Municipal Code, the Town Council shall select a Mayor from among the members of the Council.

Discussion and Action

Council Member J Turner moved to appoint Council Member T Sikes as Mayor; Seconded by Council Member C Riggs. Motion to appoint T Sikes as Mayor passed unanimously. (6-0)

- D. **Vice-Mayor:** Pursuant to Section 31.025 of the Gila Bend Municipal Code, the Town Council shall select a Vice-Mayor from among the members of the Council.
Discussion and Action.

Council Member J Turner moved to appoint Chris Riggs as Vice-Mayor; Seconded by Council Member C Kreeger. Motion to appoint C Riggs as Vice-Mayor passed unanimously. (6-0)

- E. **PUBLIC HEARING Liquor License:** The Mayor and Town Council may take Public Comment on an application submitted to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control for a Series 10 Liquor License for the Gila Bend Smoke Shop located at 219 W Pima. **Public Comment Only**

Mayor Sikes opened the Public Hearing at 5:29 pm.

Gila Bend resident Fred Hull asked about the Gila Bend Smoke Shop's hours of operation, if any new employees could read the application, and about a permit to remodel. Hull then remarked that there are eight (8) liquor licenses in existence in the Town. Adding that in the past two (2) weeks, two (2) "beer runs" have been committed. According to Hull, Town decisions hold a lot of weight in regards to liquor licensing, him having experience in attending Liquor License and Control board meetings. In addition, Hull added that with a new County Sheriff [Paul Penzone] in office and a new liquor license in town, that it will drive up the cost to the community, adding that there will be security guards present. Hull ultimately and respectfully asked that Council deny this license, citing "beer runs" and that "someone is going to get hurt" as his reasons. Gila Bend resident Scott Smith asked if the liquor license was for beer and wine, and the Gila Bend Smoke Shop's owner replied to in the affirmative. Hull then asked for a show of hands in favor or against.

Gila Bend resident Patricia Riggs spoke in favor of approval of the Series 10 Liquor License for the Gila Bend Smoke Shop.

Council Member C Turner moved to close the Public Hearing at 5:35 pm; Seconded by Vice-Mayor C Riggs. Motion to close the Public Hearing passed unanimously. (6-0)

- F. **Presentation:** Chas Buchanan, Director of the 56th RMO will present the importance of the Town's relationship with Luke Air Force Base Auxiliary Field.
Presentation Only

Mayor Sikes introduced Mr. Chaz Buchanan of Luke Air Force Base who spoke

about the importance of the Town of Gila Bend's excellent relationship with the Air Force Base. Apart from celebrating this year's 75th anniversary of Luke, it was noted that this is the largest fighter base. As s BMGWR National Training Treasure, Buchanan stated they would continue to care for the Gila Bend Auxiliary Air Force Base even if there were no Luke, DM, or Yuma bases in existence. He iterated that the Town of Gila Bend is important to Luke, further adding that the Airfield is "not going anywhere." Specialized training is accomplished in Gila Bend that cannot be done anywhere else; especially since the austere environment is similar to the desert in Iraq. Buchanan complimented Gila Bend saying that because of their relationship with Gila Bend and its training field, service men are better prepared. The Gila Bend contract operation was also discussed along with facts about the foreign military utilizing the facilities. Ultimately, Buchanan, on behalf of Luke Air Force Base, thanked the Town for its support.

Ron Henry asked if the Gila Bend Auxiliary Air Field will ever go military again and Buchanan replied that it does not appear so, but will still be under governmental control. Vice-Mayor C Riggs spoke about Luke Air Force Base's importance and that Gila Bend is proud to support and be a part of Luke Air Force Base.

- G. **Liquor License:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action on a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control for a Series 10 Liquor License for Gila Bend Smoke located at 219 W. Pima Street. **Discussion and Action**

Vice-Mayor C Riggs moved to approve the recommendation for a Series 10 Liquor License for Gila Bend Smoke; Seconded by Council Member C Kreeger. Motion to approve the recommendation passed 4-3 with Council Members J Turner, T Sikes, and C Turner voting nay.

- H. **Grant Application in the amount of \$153,900 to the Department of Homeland Security:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to approve the submittal of a grant application in the amount of \$153,900 to the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. **Discussion and Action**

Council Member C Turner moved to approve the submittal of a grant application for \$153,900 to the Department of Homeland Security for communication equipment for the Gila Bend Volunteer Fire Department; Seconded by Council Member F Fernandez. Motion to approve the submittal passed unanimously.

- I. **Bid Award Portable Bleachers:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to award the Portable Bleacher Contract to Norcon Industries in an amount not to exceed \$16,733.40. **Discussion and Action**

Council Member J Turner moved to award the Portable Bleacher Contract to Norcon Industries in an amount not to exceed \$16,733.40; seconded by Vice-Mayor C Riggs. Council Member Kreeger asked if the total amount will include shipping and Mayor Sikes asked why the cost appears different. Finance and Grants Administrator S Villegas clarified that the assembly costs are included and the cost difference is a clerical error. Motion to award the contract to Norcon Industries with corrected error passed unanimously.

- J. **Proposal for Civil Engineering and Surveying for the Gila Bend Wastewater Treatment Facility and Booster Pump Station:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to approve the proposal submitted by Ritoch-Powell & Associates for Civil Engineering and Surveying for the Gila Bend Wastewater Facility

and Booster Pump Station. **Discussion and Action**

Town Manager M Celaya noted that Ritoch-Powell & Associates have thorough knowledge of Gila Bend, have visited our plants, and know our needs.

Mr. Mike Rungard of Ritoch-Powell & Associates stated that he has reviewed the Town's deficiencies within its water and wastewater systems and are working with the Town and Town staff to look into replacements for the current systems. Regarding a redundant line, it was advised no. Rungard spoke about sewer lagoons and relocating the bar screen in cell two (2). A question arose about cost: Rungard recommended performing a survey first. Councilman Riggs asked what caused the buildup in the pond. Rungard replied that the level of maintenance of the pond involves a number of contributing factors, for example, the age of the booster pumps is not known. Gila Bend resident Fred Hull brought up the previous discussion about booster stations and the installation of a large generator powered by natural gas.

Council Member J Turner moved to approve the proposal submitted by Ritoch-Powell & Associates for Civil Engineering and Surveying; Seconded by V-Mayor C Riggs. Motion to approve the submitted proposal for the Gila Bend Wastewater Facility and Booster Pump Station passed unanimously.

- K. **Year to Date Financial Report:** Finance Director Stacey Young will present the year to date financial report. **Discussion Only**

Finance Director S Young presented the year-to-date financial report. A question arose regarding the half-cent tax being transferred to the Public Safety Department to which the accounting procedure was explained. A twenty-two percent (22%) decrease in Area Agency on Aging funding was noted.

V. **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)

Vice-Mayor C Riggs dispensed that it is an honor and a pleasure to serve on the Town Council. Council Member C Turner thanked everyone for their support and said it was an honor to serve his community. Council Member F Fernandez articulated that he is happy to be re-elected and wished everyone present a "Happy Thanksgiving." Council Member J Turner presented his thanks for his votes, happy to serve, and thanked all for support of their Council.

VI. **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)

Thanked the Council.

VII. **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 reminded the Council Members about the upcoming Elected

Official Training.

Parks & Recreation Director C Drury summarized the Town of Gila Bend Holiday decorating plans: There will be a tree lighting ceremony on Monday, November 28 for the Holidays after the Town Holiday Parade. He finished with the airport status.

- A. **Community Development:** Community Development Project Coordinator, Krista Vandermolen will update Council on the current events within the Community Development Department. **Report Only**

Community Development Project Coordinator K Vandermolen updated everyone that she is now a certified Permit Technician. The Pima Street Grant Program is in full swing with Sofia's Mexican Restaurant intending to continue with the rehab of their building. The wall at the Yucca Motel is next along with upgrades to the 9/11 Park. Afterwards, a slideshow for the 2016 Pitch-In for Gila Bend was shown.

- B. **Town of Gila Bend Discharge Exceedance Violations Remediation:** Public Works Manager, David Morris will update Council on the current Wastewater NOV/Consent Order. **Report Only**

Public Works Manager D Morris reported on the current Wastewater NOV/Consent Order.

- C. **Speed Bump Project:** Public Works Manager, David Morris will update Council on the Speed Bump Project. **Report Only**

Public Works Manager D Morris reported on the Speed Bump Project is still in the testing phase and staff will continue to monitor the effectiveness and impact on safety. More have been ordered.

VIII. **MCSO REPORT**

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

IX. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT**

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

Chris Hubbard thanked Council Member C Turner and Mr. Ron Henry for their service to the Town. The Chamber is focusing their meetings on working toward the future and the rebranding of Gila Bend. Chamber plans to donate \$3,000 for the holiday lights program in Gila Bend. Hubbard reported about the status of the school bond and plan on forming a committee to work on program that will benefit all. The Chamber is also working on improving the Visitor Center and putting it back in order.

- 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.)

Mrs. Kristen Turner spoke about Mr. Colby Turner's employment. She posed the question about why was there no response to pay for lifeguards over this past summer. In addition, she said Paloma School offered to donate to the community and never received a response.

Mr. John Utz voiced his concern about the firing of "good men and women" at the Town of Gila Bend. He stated he is a native of Gila Bend and long-time resident. He questioned why there have been terminations without any reprimands until the last six (6) months. He also expressed concern about hiring people out of Town instead of in Town. He added that hiring is performed "without advertising" and that the person responsible should be fired because of "stupidity" and "hiding." He continued to admonish to "do some soul-searching," and that what he has done is against the law, to let him go now.

Ms. Loretta Mendez, Gila Bend resident and native, spoke about layoffs, "cherry-picking" Town crews, and [Town Manager M Celaya] hiring his own son. She asked why is this happening and asked why Town employees are not allowed to talk to the Council.

Mr. Ron Henry spoke about the east end redundant waterline and the need to re-apply for it. It is his understanding that there are funds available.

Mr. Fred Hull thanked Council Member J Turner and Mr. Ron Henry for their dedication to the Town and extended a congratulations to the current elected Council.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(This is the time Council Member's may request items be placed on future agenda's)

Council Member B Turner recommended a Work Session on Well Four (4) be placed under Future Agenda Items. Council Member C Turner made a motion to set an Executive Session regarding Hiring practices. Seconded by Council Member F Fernandez. Motion to place items on future agenda passed unanimously.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1) personnel matters regarding Council vacancy appointment and/or A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) for purpose of obtaining legal advice relative for any of the above agenda items. **Discussion and Action**

XIII. WORK SESSION Well 4 Dump Station **Item was moved to a future work session**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member J Turner moved to adjourn; Seconded by F Fernandez. Motion to adjourn passed 6-0 at 6:45 pm.

ATTEST:

Chuck Turner, Mayor

Beverly Turner, MMC
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Council Meeting held October 25, 2016 and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

Beverly Turner, MMC
Town Clerk