

# TOWN OF GILA BEND

Minutes of the August 9, 2011 regular Council meeting

## I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Call to order – **Mayor Henry called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance – **Led by Mayor Henry**
- C. Invocation – **given by Steve McClure**

## II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Ron Henry  
Vice-Mayor Chuck Turner - **absent**  
Council Member Fernando Fernandez  
Council Member Armida Gonzalez

Council Member Steve Holt - **absent**  
Council Member Tommy Lee Sikes  
Council Member Donny Young – **absent**

## 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. Payment of Claims: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action to ratify claims in the amount of \$64,837.49 for the period of July 16, 2011 to July 31, 2011.  
**Discussion and Action**  
**Council Member T Sikes moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Council Member A Gonzalez. Motion to approve passed unanimously (4-0)**

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

- A. Fire Chief Resignation: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action on the resignation of David Birchfield as the Town of Gila Bend Fire Chief. **Discussion and Action Town Manager R Buss commented that Chief Birchfield desires to step down from the position of Fire Chief; he then read resignation letter submitted by Chief Birchfield and afforded his thanks to Chief Birchfield. Mayor Henry commented that Chief Birchfield has done a fantastic job and he was glad that he has decided to stay with the department. Council Member T Sikes moved to accept resignation of David Birchfield as Fire Chief. Seconded by Council Member F Fernandez. Motion passed unanimously (4-0)**
- B. Volunteer Firefighter Reassignment: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action on reassigning David Birchfield as a Volunteer Firefighter for the Town of Gila Bend, and further recognizing Mr. Birchfield's eligibility as a Battalion Chief under the current Battalion Chief system. **Discussion and Action Council Member A Gonzalez moved to reassign David Birchfield as a Volunteer Firefighter and recognizing his eligibility as a Battalion Chief. Seconded by Council Member F Fernandez. Motion passed unanimously (4-0)**
- C. Interim Fire Chief Appointment: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action on appointing Fred Baldrige as the Fire Chief for the Town of Gila Bend on an interim basis. **Discussion and Action Town Manager Buss commented that Mr. Baldrige is already filling that position and he has appreciated his support. Council Member T Sikes moved to appoint Fred Baldrige as Interim Fire Chief. Seconded by Council Member F Fernandez. Motion passed unanimously (4-0)**
- D. Ordinance 11-09: An Ordinance of the Town of Gila Bend, Maricopa County, Arizona, relating to powers and duties of the Mayor, administrative reporting, chain of command, to be in compliance with applicable statutes, particularly Title 9 and Title 38 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, and the Council-Manager form of Government, amending the Town Code by clarifying and directing that all department heads report directly to the Town Manager. **Discussion and Action Mayor Henry read Ordinance 11-09 by title only. Town Manager Buss commented that Town Code has recently been updated and after review is not in compliance with State Statutes and that this Ordinance relates to reporting requirements for department heads. Council Member T Sikes moved to adopt Ordinance 11-09. Seconded by Council**

**Member F Fernandez. Motion passed unanimously (4-0)**

- E. Contract Public Works Director: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action on the renewal of the Public Works Director contract. **Discussion and Action Town Manager Buss advised that the contract extends for 2 years and that Mr. Menard is working hard to get things done. Council Member A Gonzalez moved to approve contract for Public Works Director with Bill Menard. Seconded by Council Member T Sikes. Motion passed unanimously (4-0)**

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)

**Council Member A Gonzalez congratulated Fred Baldrige on his appointment as Fire Chief.**

**Town Clerk B Turner commented that August is Drowning Impact Awareness Month and invited everyone to show their support by wearing a purple ribbon.**

**Parks & Recreation Director C Turner commented that he is working with SHPO on the Gatlin Site; the pool will be open after school and on weekends; conducting a job walk for the project at McMahan Field; submitted request for bids for the lighting project at Rotary Centennial Park; An all-night softball tournament is scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>; advertising for temporary park worker job to last 6 to 10 weeks.**

**Public Works Director B Menard commented that the sewer jetting project began on Monday; a walk through is scheduled for the Airport Runway; waterline and backflow device installation at the Care1st Building has been completed; 6 water leaks have been fixed and a half dozen potholes have been filled; grading 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets and Cemetery Road; cleaning up at recycling center tires have been dumped.**

**Mayor Henry asked that PWD Menard explain the jetting process.**

**Fire Chief F Baldrige commented that the Fire Department will participate in the Health Center Fair to be held at the Gila Bend Primary Care Center; the department has several smoke detectors available free of charge; FF LD Young is attending Fire Fighter 1 & 2 classes and FF's Jonathan Baldrige and Larry McClure are enrolled in EMT Training.**

**Counter Services T Smith commented on the Double Tree Papermill sewer main project.**

VI. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

**Town Manager R Buss commented that the Well's 4 & 6 bids have been posted to the website; Resource Center is taking shape and the opening is scheduled for September 1, 2011; within the next two weeks make announcement regarding a locate that will bring 62 jobs; Solar Summit he and Planning and Economic Development Director Fitzer attended the Solar Summit, it was one of the best; more jobs are being created with solar than any other; APS has put out an RFP for another solar plant; he is working on Fire Department items including the ISO rating.**

- VII. 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.)

**Donna Hubbard, 515 W Papago, commented on a water bill she received in May for April usage. She showed representation of how much water she normally uses for 1 month; 12 months and in 1 month where she was charged 3 times her normal amount. She commented that this amount would have paid for four homes. She asked the following questions:**

**1) Have you ever known anyone who had their water bill increase 20 fold in one month and then return to normal the next month?**

**2) If you got a bill such as this, what would you do?**

**3) Do you believe charging for something that never existed is the same as stealing?**

**4) Do you believe all water meters are infallible and can never be damaged or tampered with to cause a mistake in their reading?**

**5) other than large underground reservoirs do you believe 80,000 of water can accumulate near the surface without any evidence of its existence?**

**6) Finally, do you have any idea how much stress this water bill has caused me?**

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Town Council may go into executive session for purpose of obtaining legal advice for any of the above agenda items pursuant to A.R.S.38-431.03(A)(3)

**No executive session called.**

IX. ADJOURNMENT

**Council Member T Sikes moved to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member A Gonzalez.**

**Motion passed; Time 6:28 pm.**

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Ron Henry, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Beverly Turner, CMC  
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the regular meeting held August 9, 2011, and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

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Beverly Turner, CMC  
Town Clerk