

TOWN OF GILA BEND

Minutes of the July 12, 2011 regular Council meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Call to order **Mayor Henry called the meeting to order at 6:04pm**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance **was lead by Mayor Henry**
- C. Invocation **given by resident Fred Hull**

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Ron Henry	
Vice-Mayor Chuck Turner	Council Member Steve Holt
Council Member Fernando Fernandez	Council Member Tommy Lee Sikes
Council Member Armida Gonzalez	Council Member Donny Young- absent

Staff Present: Town Manager Buss, Town Clerk Turner, Social Services Director Dempsey, Public Works Director Menard, Parks and Recreation Director Turner, Records Management Clerk Eisenberger

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. Route 685 Gila Bend/Ajo Connector: The Mayor and Town Council shall receive public comment relative to Route 685 Gila Bend/Ajo Connector. **(Public Comment Only) (WHITE)**
Mayor Henry called the Public Hearing to order at 6:04 pm. Ann McCracken of Valley Rural Metro gave a brief power point presentation on the proposed changes to the transit service particularly Route 685. (Power Point attached as part of official record). Diane Dempsey, Director of Community Services- read a letter submitted by Sheila Patton- Community Resource and Outreach Manager of Care 1st. (Attached as part of record) Echoed same sentiment as Social Services Director. We have as you can see a lot of people here that have a great need in this community, people that go shopping people that need to go to medical trips, dialysis patients, the list goes on & on and so we need as Social Services ask that you help push to keep this route, thank you. Cathy Mutton- Appreciates the Town Council giving time & opportunity to bring several community members here tonight and hear comments. Kathy Hutton, Valley Metro Contractor for Route 188- comment cards that I have brought for recording tonight. The last five years I have transported over 65,000 passengers on this route from Ajo, Gila Bend, Buckeye, Avondale, Goodyear, and Phoenix. Many of the residents from Ajo, Buckeye & Gila Bend use this service, it is not a luxury it is a necessity. With all the budget cuts this will be the final blow to communities like Ajo & Gila Bend. There will be no recovery, this service will take away not only our passenger transportation, but it will also impact their independence. This past January I did a survey of passengers who ride the bus, 104 passenger survey, the outcome- 43% riding more than a year, people ride an average of 10 times per month, 42% transfer to other busses in Phoenix 30% of our riders take this bus route to work, 27% go for job training, 12% to school. How will they get to vocational schools, Estrella Community College if this goes away? When asked on this survey how they would get to where they needed to go 36% said they wouldn't go, 32% would ask a friend or relative, 11% would drive self, 10% would have to walk, and other means were ask for a ride, I don't know or hitchhike. 18% of passengers are disabled, what is going to happen to them? The latest Census data available was a median Ajo income was \$25,000 so half of the resident made less than that. Only 1/2 of the working age adults age 18 to 65 were on a labor force. Of those that have jobs only half work full time. If this route goes away Ajo transportation could potentially have to lay off nearly 30 people which would take the unemployment rate to approx. 35% this is a lifeline, how will the young mother get her disabled child to the West Valley 5 day a week so he can learn to sign and communicate? How will dialysis patients get where they need to go? How will the elderly & non drivers get to the West Valley to specialists doctors? This is

almost criminal, there has to be a way to continue this service, Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Terry Henley, Ajo resident last 10 years retired Federal employee- and he stated the Federal retirement system sucks. Eligible for food stamps, so it won't be long before he is 7- and he will be one of those people that have to ride the bus because he can't afford the fuel back & forth. He spoke about the 30 people they might get laid off in Ajo puts the unemployment at an unacceptable rate, if the state wants to find more money, quit paying \$800 for taxi service from Ajo to Phoenix. This would be catastrophic to Ajo Arizona.

Tina West of Ajo- asked that her comments be entered in the record continuation of Valley Metro bus service to Ajo is not merely a question of convenience but survival. This bus service is a lifeline to many individuals and for the community of Ajo itself. We need this for medical transportation, personally I had to take the bus to Phoenix to obtain a prescription that the local pharmacy was not licensed to dispense without this medicine I might have died. Valley Metro needs to obtain official review and input for any pending decision affecting Ajo bus service from AHCCS will now only provide medical transportation to Phoenix via the bus system, "The Valley Metro Bus". Any decision to eliminate this bus transportation would have a significant adverse impact on Ajo residents as well as on the limited services of the Ajo clinic & ambulance services. This will affect Medicare only patients as well many of them do not have any other means of transportation to Phoenix other than the bus. Valley Metro Phoenix bus system is a vital component of the Ajo economy & social structure. Valley Metro & Ajo transportation provides many of the few jobs in Ajo several people who work there are third and fourth generation Ajo residents. Their employment presence significantly affects the commercial and service economy in Ajo. The bus also gets people to jobs along the 685 route. Many people who need to ride the bus to Phoenix cannot comment here tonight or in writing because of disability, education, language barriers or age whether they are too old or too young. I am aware of these people because I ride the bus with them. I ask that my comments also be entered in their behalf, if a question here tonight is that Pima County should pay for people to travel between Ajo & Gila Bend then a compromise between Valley Metro & Pima County must be made before the bus service is disrupted. Otherwise the results could be disastrous. Again Valley Metro bus service to Ajo is not a matter of convenience it's a matter of survival. If Valley Metro out of Ajo it will leave them stranded, Thanked council for their time & help with this matter.

Sherman Parks spoke in favor of keeping service.

Sharon Montijo- Thanked council for letting them speak and listening to view and how this would affect Ajo & Gila Bend affects more people than they will ever see in room. Depend on their lively hood, health & family. I work for a few people who ride the bus on a regular basis. If they do not have this service they won't have a way to get to Phoenix for Doctor Appointments dialysis, visit families is to ride the bus to Phoenix or family to ride to Ajo.

Paul Crawford- Ajo resident 12 year's former driver Ajo transportation. Both in town Ajo service as well as service to Tucson & Phoenix testified to the tremendous need for all of those services. It has been noted that Ajo is effectively in the remote Arizona out back and it's quite true these bus lines are a lifeline for Ajo. He is also a former teacher and student film production sponsor as Ajo transportation has been a key sponsor in ___ tour guide training and other film production where Ajo Transportations has been a school on wheels for many of our young people. It would be a tragedy to see it cut back. At long last it has become acknowledged by a critical mass of Americans that our current system so called is ___ with corruption in governments, military, and corporation ___ that trillions of dollars are being squandered in bogus wars on drugs, a great long list of things. He fully suspects that if we and when we get our act together, clean up government and have those squandered monies reallocated that Valley Metro will benefit nicely from a healthier American economy. Thank you

Scott Boyd- Comes from a different perspective of route 685 in a conservation saw hard & many hours seen grow from first year. It has become a life line here a multitude of reasons to keep route, what he is wondering about is the businesses people and the business people are the one making the decisions and how sometimes they only see on

side of the business. He's seen 15,000 people a year riding this bus to Phoenix to work & school who are all paying some type of tax when they get there, Taxes on things bought and service received. These are not people just riding, these are people spending. Maybe when it comes to cut back they should look at a line to see is this line benefitting Phoenix? There is no infrastructure tied up in these people, this is pure profit there people are bringing out, just another way to look at it. I know all are business people so thought would bring that up.

? - Is a rider- Cannot drive and feels sorry for students who depend on route, the people who work she cries for if they use it for their transportation to work.

Elena Harper- concerned about decision to cut, people depend on to go to West Valley to hospital because clinic in Ajo does not provide a lot of services and for example Helen Mendoza who lives in Gila Bend, goes twice a week for dialysis. Who is going to take her? She has two disabled sons, she has no other way. Know economy is hard on everybody, and there is not enough money but funny how they can bail out rich people, banks and the people who need it they say no more money, not right. She was trying to collect papers in Ajo and went to clinic saw people who speak Spanish and use the bus to explain, especially the elderly, they have family when kids grow up the leave don't take of parents, live far away leave without transportation.. Some medicines are available in Ajo other you have to get from Wal-Mart or Walgreens. Thank you.

Wesley Mullen- of Ajo stand with Paul Crawford and say we provide a very good service for the people who cannot drive anymore or are handicapped and the low income in Ajo. It is the only transportation they have. We paid our taxes for years for this public transit, that been drilled down throats, knows this doesn't affect Valley Metro but the State has plenty of money to build the Solar Panels out here he wants to know who is doing without electricity, why can't have basic services that is needed to survive , That's my point.

Melissa Mullen- Husband that just spoke he is a driver of the transportation, very proud of that and of the service that is provided to Ajo and Gila Bend. It is necessary service to get to medical appointments, school, person family visits; it's a necessary service for Ajo, Gila Bend, and Buckeye on in. Ajo would be an isolated community without this. The trickle down so many people in Ajo itself use service to go to grocery store & hardware store, Granted does not directly affect route 685 but it does; the survival of the people in Ajo, handicapped, elderly and Ajo has a large snowbird population, whenever snowbirds come to town-ridership goes up. They are coming to Phoenix to buy product, to shop, to eat, like Scottie said its all free money, its revenue, its taxes and its business for Gila Bend business, Thank you

Allan Dunstan- Year round Ajo resident four years, also serve on board of Ajo District Chamber of Commerce and chair the Chambers Marketing Committee. Had a lot more to say but the people who have spoken already have done such an excellent job of portraying the immediate negative effects. I like to look at another side of it. The only affect to me would make it much harder to operate my business. The bus service was instrumental in me being able to start my business and avoid serious financial problems and now I have another employee, so there are two less people on the social roles. More importantly looking at long term and I am speaking from the perspective of Ajo but I think similar stories would apply to Gila Bend and rural areas of Buckeye. Since the closing of the Copper Mines in 1984 Ajo has been struggling to recover economically now more than 25 years later there is a glimpse of hope, an influx of Border Patrol and Park Rangers have given some temporary relief but in the long run the real future is tourism. He was involved with a hospitality business for a short time and amazed at how many European visitors come here that fly under the radar as well as people from other states in the days of Google and MapQuest people plan their vacations and travel by computer and if you look at the map there is no way you can go through southern Arizona without going through Ajo. You can get around Tucson but not Ajo and for that matter you can't get around Gila Bend. Just looking at a positive side transportation and tourism must go hand in hand and taking away our link to Phoenix would put a tangible and intangible damper on the momentum that just started. The physical link provides a way for travelers to come to Ajo and people from Ajo to get to Phoenix or Tucson for training and other activities that will enhance their ability to serve these tourists. On an intangible level, exposure to a wider variety of people and

influences gives service providers a better perspective in handling both the Mexican International travelers and of course the overall stature of an area is enhanced by the quality of its transportation system. I firmly believe the road to economic recovery of our state and country is rooted to a return of inventive thinking and the entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses some of which will go on to become big businesses and pay millions of dollars in taxes. Some of these businesses may come from Ajo so I asked that you consider the future of this area and its contribution to Arizona. Do not take away route 685. Thank you

Karen Hudson- Thanks for the opportunity to speak, subject better speakers.

Russell Hudson- Resident of Ajo for 11 years, I remember well the previous bus service we used to have and this service has been so much better, one of the better things that have happened to Ajo is recent years. I would like to address the issue, the hot button that Terry spoke about and that's the taxi cabs that come to Ajo and Gila Bend everyday picking up AHCCS patients taking the round trip to Phoenix and I don't think that was the intent of the legislation, the rule making that provided taxi service for these people. I know that the Federal mandate and there is consideration that's going to be eliminated. I think those funds would be better spent subsidizing Ajo transportation for those patients. Many people do take the bus into town into Phoenix for their medical needs; they might have to take a taxi if the bus route is closed to their health care provider but there is no reason these AHCCS patient cannot do the same thing you start looking at cab fare daily and that would run this bus line for quite a while. All of my other concerns have been addressed, thank you

? Greer- Speaking for the senior citizens for person like her who cannot drive anymore depends on this service. My concerns have already been spoken this service, it is a vital service to make sure they get to doctors and family where ever they are going to in Phoenix. I am concerned that it should be taken away from us. Thank you

Deanna Kupcik- President and CEO of the Buckeye Chamber of Commerce representing business community of Buckeye and the citizens of Buckeye that use Route 685. I have had the opportunity for the last 6 1/2 to 7 years to sit on the advisory council for Route 685 and I know how many of our citizens use it. We are fortunate in Buckeye to be a little bit closer to Phoenix than Gila Bend and Ajo are and we have a few more amenities, but we have a lot of citizens that still use the route 685 that come from Buckeye, some of them even come back to Gila Bend and work now at the solar plants. A lot of our citizens in downtown Buckeye use the 685 because of where the outer areas are they can't get to the community center to catch the bus and Estrella Mountain Community College will begin holding classes this August in the A wing of the Buckeye Union High School building. So that allows students from Ajo and Gila Bend easy access to the college education; and then we also have West Valley Hospital that will begin seeing patients August 2nd, they will have the urgent care facility that will offer lab work so those amenities will be a little bit closer. Thank you- We really need to save this bus route.

Vice Mayor Chuck Turner- Gila Bend, Would like to make a brief comment about figures of 65,000 riders in 5 years that breaks down to about 12,100 per year. This is very significant. We've heard the terms, necessity, it's a lifeline, it means loss of employment not to mention effects on economy and it would be a tragedy to lose but it's one of the few things you see provided by the government to you that not only pay for but it works and I agree 100% with those who have spoken and I thank you, this would be a tragedy and speaking for myself and I think the council we will do whatever we can to help save this program.

Bill Rathman- 4 1/2 years ago got into Buckeye area was trying to figure a way to get back and forth to work. He is legally blind so driving is not an option. He found Ajo transportation and has used it for the last 4 1/2 years, he now lives in Goodyear. It gives me my independence to get back and forth to work so I have something I hear what all of these people are saying because I see the people besides myself that are handicap coming for Ajo and Gila Bend that need the help with wheel chairs and dialysis and I don't understand how this could be taken away, its needed it so important for everybody's independence and well-being just everyday life. It just needs to get taken care of, Thank you.

Jose Garcia- Would like to speak for people who actually need, here is my perspective

that I think would be absolutely wrong if this service is taken away, its actually vital to every single person who takes it. I know I can speak for every senior citizen to go to dialysis which I can see Helen in the crowd and others who go to the West Valley Hospital for appointments if this is taken away how are they going to get there, they are either going to have to get a ride from a taxi, which is pricier than the bus. The second reason I would like to point out is college, without it well I personally cannot drive. I have epileptic seizures; I have seizures and have to take medication for life. I have taken the bus for three years to Estrella and as a result I graduated from EMC. (He showed his graduation pictures). Besides this honor I actually earned three degree two associates and a certificate of general education and without this but it wouldn't have been possible to achieve the dream. That's two points down, the third point is for people who have to go to work else where. I know I can speak for a librarian who is not here in attendance but I know she has to take the bus, she is actually pregnant, she actually can't drive due to other necessities, well there is some people in the crowd can't remember her name. The fourth thing I want to point out is this bus is actually great to helping make the environment a better place and in case you guys didn't hear Phoenix is the top city in the whole country that has the most pollution in terms of the ozone layer. If this bus helps make it possible takes ten people off the street and out of cars. Imagine how much pollution it would eliminate. Practically the rest of my concerns have been addressed by better speakers. Thank you very much for your time. Tamer Azar- Buckeye student at EMCC. This bus is really important to me, it's really important to my future; if this bus goes away I can kiss my future goodbye. So please, please, I am begging you on my knees keep this bus alive. You just won't be destroying my future; you will be destroying my future, you will be destroying other people futures. I bet for the people who work for this company they need this bus, to make their futures come true, for their kids so please keep this bus alive. Thank you very much.

JB Getzwiller- Gila Bend Magistrate, JP & Chamber of Commerce President- Thanked Mayor and Council and everyone for being here tonight. This is a very important project. This bus not only helps everyone here, everyone has already demonstrated how important it is to their needs. This bus helps my court, the people's court because they provide a lot of the litigants/people that use the court are serviced by transportation of the bus. This generates revenue for the county and the state, because as everybody knows, in the Justice court most things are done there people are paying sanctions, so it is a money generator not only for all the communities cause people are visiting the communities, but people get to get their court business done. It's the people's court, so that's my perspective, Thank you.

Steven Jones- (no address) I have been taking the bus for three years now. I graduated in 2008 so I mean after graduating my family was like what are you going to do and I wanted to go to college and I did not know how I was going to get there. I was born with cerebral palsy, (inaudible) I had a hard time struggling so I really wanted to go to school after finishing high school it was a big goal but I really wanted to go to college, and I wanted to be an inspiration to like people around me, I love college, I really do and also getting around to places cause, I mean like everybody else does, I am kind of nervous, please give me a second. My mom works at night and she sleeps all day, I don't have a dad, so its kind of hard to get around, I can't ask my mom to take me to school cause she works at night. She gets home early in the morning and falls asleep, so going to school. I am still taking my classes I was to be a psychology major and I also want to minor in business management, without the bus I wouldn't be as far as I am right now. I am almost done, I'm not there but almost graduating like Jose did, I sure do know a lot of people in here when I look around and a lot of people know me because I'm the nicest person. I do take it as big honor in riding this bus, I mean I really don't have that much money and I struggle financially, I can't afford a car, I really can't, I wish I could, I would take as many people as I can but of course I don't have a car and I really want to focus on my education. I really wish people could get to like dialysis or go to work at home depot or some people going shopping. Some people take it like I'm just going to go have fun or a good time, this is really cheap. I don't care; everybody takes it as a privilege to take the bus and I think everybody else does too. That's what I have to say, I am sweating a little bit so that's all.

(? no name)- I have taken the bus a lot of times, the drivers know me very well this young man that just spoke knows me well. I stated cancer treatments and I don't have anyone to take me to the doctor's or bring me home and I have witnessed the drivers on several occasions helping the elderly into their house and I am going to need that help and I need the bus because otherwise I have to sell my home for fifty bucks to get to somewhere quick and I have lived in Ajo for sixty years so I am old.

Fred Hull- Work with the church, the deacon fund. A lot of time we have sponsor transits it a lot easier putting them on the bus than it is on the one going to Yuma, its \$25 to Yuma. Our fund right now is around \$700 once we help somebody or a couple of people with electricity there is not much left to get people on the road. How important it is to these people, that a lot of these people that jus spoke are not public speakers. They have gathered the enough courage to come and speak. He will speak to the Board to see if hey can contribute monthly, its not going to be much, its not going to save or anything. Thank You.

Jose Castillo- Resident of Ajo for 72 years. I would like to say because sometimes people especially manager of the transit system don't understand where Ajo is. Ajo is out in no where. You know after you go to hell, you have to go two more miles to Ajo. I would like to say Ajo is surrounded by the gunnery range, by the Cabez Prieta, Organ Pipe, by the reservation, nothing there, so what are we going to do. Now my messages to the board, if you would allow me to say, take a reading of history. In 1930 there was a president in Mexico that the first this in his mind were the people in the rural areas. His name was? So go back in history find how he did it and you can do it too. Thank you

Mayor Henry closed the public meeting at 7:05pm

- B. F/Y 11/12 Budget, Property Tax Levy and Truth in Taxation. The Mayor and Town Council shall receive Public Comment relating to the F/Y 11/12 Budget, Property Tax Levy and Truth in Taxation. **(Public Comment Only)** *Mayor Henry called the Public Hearing to order at 7:10pm. No public comment given. Mayor Henry closed the Public Hearing at 7:11pm.*
- IV. PRESENTATION by Friends of the Sonoran Desert National Monument. Mr. Thomas Hulen will present. *Mr. Hulen spoke on the Sonoran Desert National Monument and the Anza Trail restoration. Mr. Hulen noted that he works with Arizona Game & Fish, BLM and other entities involved with the SDNM. Councilmember Holt commented that he should meet with Parks & Recreation Director Turner as he is very involved with the Sonoran Desert National Monument.*
- 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) *Vice Mayor Turner moved to approve. Motion seconded by Councilmember Sikes. Motion passed unanimously; 6-0*
- A. Approval of June 28, 2011 Council meeting minutes: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action on the approval of the June 28, 2011 Council meeting minutes. **Discussion and Action (WHITE)**
- B. Payment of Claims: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action to ratify claims in the amount of \$221,771.65 for the period of June 15, 2011 to June 30, 2011. **Discussion and Action (BLUE)**
- C. Bid Award: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action to award the bid to ANCON Service Company to clean and jet 30,000 lf of sewer line. **Discussion and Action (YELLOW)**
- VI. BUSINESS – Discussion and possibly action on the following items:
- A. Community Development Advisory Committee: The Mayor and Town Council shall discuss and possibly take action to appoint a Representative and Alternate to the Community Development Advisory Committee. **Discussion and Action (GREEN)** *Mayor Henry commented that Councilmember Gonzalez has been very involved for the past four years with this committee and Town Manager Buss noted that it would be good to keep Councilmember*

Gonzalez on this committee if she is willing. Vice Mayor Chuck Turner moved to (re)appoint Councilmember Gonzalez as the Representative. Motion seconded by Councilmember Holt. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously; 6-0. It was noted that an Alternate also needed to be appointed. Vice Mayor Turner motioned to appoint Councilmember Fernandez as the Alternatate. Motion seconded by Councilmember Holt. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously; 6-0

- B. Agreement for Law Enforcement Services. The Mayor and Council shall discuss and possibly take action on a one-year extension of the current agreement for law enforcements services between the Town of Gila Bend and Maricopa County. The contract extension is effective from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. **Discussion and Action. (PINK) Town Manager Buss noted that this was for a one-year extension of the contract already in place and that the cost went down. Councilmember Sikes moved to approve. Councilmember Gonzalez seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously; 6-0**
- C. Chamber of Commerce MOU and Grant Agreement. Staff requests approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and between the Town of Gila Bend and the Gila Bend Chamber of Commerce to establish a Public Service Award of public monies to assist in funding the hiring of a Part-Time Administrative Assistant to conduct Chamber duties as described in Exhibit A of the MOU. **Discussion and Action. (GOLDENROD) Town Manager Buss noted that this is a typical MOU to support the Chamber of Commerce. Chamber of Commerce President, Joe Getzwiller, noted that he had not totally gone over the contract but that it looked good and that he would like to put before the Chamber officers. Vice Mayor Turner asked if Mr. Getzwiller wanted the item tabled. Mr. Getzwiller asked the Council members if it was acceptable to them. Councilmember Holt moved to approve with a second made by Councilmember Fernandez. Discussion on the possibility of bringing the MOU back before the Council to amend it if needed. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously; 6-0.**
- D. Full-Time Fire Chief Position. Authorization to create the position of a Full-Time Fire Chief and for staff to begin the professional recruitment process. **Discussion and Action. Town Manager Buss commented that Fire Chief Birchfield is part-time and that he voiced his wish to step down as Chief put remain with the Fire Department. He noted that Asst. Fire Chief Baldrige has been working diligently, Fire Chief Birchfield will help with the transition and that a Full-Time Chief is needed. The Asst. Chief asked if anyone had questions and noted that the Fire Department really needs full-time employees. Town Manager Buss commented that public safety is the first concern, it is needed for economic development and industry, and that residents are experiencing big problems with their fire insurance. Vice Mayor Turner made a motion to table item D. Full-Time Fire Chief Position to the next Council meeting in order to further study this matter with Staff and Council. Councilmember Holt seconded the motion to table. Discussion on having a Work Session on August 9th, Greg Schwarz will attend and will talk about funding and money issues. No further discussion Motion to table passed unanimously; 6-0**
- E. Fire Department By-Laws. Request by Vice-Mayor Turner to amend the Gila Bend Volunteer Fire Department Bylaws to read as "Policies" instead of "Bylaws," to amend the membership requirements to a minimum age of eighteen (18) years old, and to eliminate the maximum age requirement. **Discussion and Action. Vice Mayor Turner noted that resident Fred Hull has been a long-time member and has now become an EMT. He further noted that the current By-Laws list a minimum of 18 years of age and a maximum of 55 years to be part of the Fire Department and that the maximum age limit should be changed. Discussion on minimum age of 18 years is for insurance purposes, ride-alongs under the age of 18 must sign a waiver, those under 18 years are limited to what they can do or participate in and that currently there are no interested persons under the age of 18. Vice Mayor Turner moved to make the changes, with a second from Councilmember Holt. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously; 6-0**
- F. Volunteer Fire Department Appointment. Request by Vice-Mayor Turner to appoint Fred Hull to the Gila Bend Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Hull is a certified EMT, and has proven himself to be a reliable and conscientious contributor to the Gila Bend Volunteer Fire Department. **Discussion and Action. Councilmember Sikes mentioned that Mr. Hull**

works hard and Mayor Henry commented that he gives Fred a lot of credit for the work he has done. Motion to approve appointment by Councilmember Sikes. Motion seconded by Councilmember Hold. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously; 6-0

- G. Resolution 11-11: A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Gila Bend, Arizona, adopting the budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. **Discussion and Action (LILAC) Councilmember Holt asked if this item can be tabled to the next meeting as he has some questions that need clarified and asked if they can have one more Council get together. Vice Mayor Turner mentioned holding a Special Meeting. Town Manager Buss noted the August 1st statutory deadline. Discussion on putting on the July 26, 2011 Council agenda and republishing it. Councilmember Holt moved to table item G. Resolution 11-11 and put it on the July 26th Council Agenda. Motion seconded by Vice Mayor Turner. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously; 6-0.**
- H. Clinica Adelante Request for Donation for National Health Care Week: The Mayor and Council shall discuss and possibly take action on the request for a donation for National Health Care Week. **Discussion and Action. (SALMON) Town Manager Buss noted that goods and or funds were requested. Discussion on amount not to exceed \$250.⁰⁰ Parks and Recreation Director Turner noted that he could assist with shade and one to two pallets of Gatorade and these cannot be resold. Vice Mayor Turner moved to approve the request for donation of materials and or funds in the amount of \$250.⁰⁰. Councilmember Holt seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously; 6-0.**
- I. Approval of Contract. Approval of Contract with Rounds Construction for Phase 2, Tenant Improvements of the Care1st Gila Bend Resource Center in an amount not to exceed \$136,845.67. The Council approved the bid award for this project to Rounds Construction on June 28, 2011. **Discussion and Action (BLUE) Town Manager Buss noted that this is the same contract from Phase 1 of the project but with a different timeline and spreadsheet. Councilmember Sikes moved to approve. Motion seconded by Vice Mayor Turner. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously; 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)

Councilmember Fernandez thanked the Council for the appointment as the Alternative Representative to CDAC.

Councilmember Gonzalez: No report

Councilmember Holt: No report

Councilmember Sikes: No report

Vice Mayor Turner: Thanked everyone who participated in putting together the great July 4th event. He commented that the Fire Department put on a really great show this year and that there seemed to be more people attending than in the past 16 years.

Town Clerk Turner reported that she and Records Management Clerk Eisenberger will be attending Elections Training for the next two and a half days.

Parks and Recreation Director thanked everyone for their hard work on the 4th of July event, especially the Parks & Rec crew and the San Lucy crew. He thanked L.D. Young and Josh Turner for the three days of hard work and for their idea and implementation of multiple shoots of the fireworks.

Public Works Director Menard reported that there is another plane utilizing our airport, the DOC labor did excellent job of clean-up in numerous areas and stacked 200 tons of tires. Director Menard noted that the DOC labor saved the town approximately \$25,200.⁰⁰, that the town saved \$5,000.⁰⁰ by installing the back-flow preventer at the Care 1st facility, and that 60% of the signs are done.

Social Services Director Dempsey reported that there has been a lot of interest in the Resource Center, that there was a break-in at the SOS Staffing office resulting in their computer equipment being stolen and they are uncertain if they will reopen as it was a big loss.

VIII. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager Buss reported that the Care 1st Resource Center is planning their Opening in October, the T-1 line came in and hopefully the back-up system may be up by tomorrow, and the Profiles with Terry Bradshaw film crew is planning to be here on September 8th, Planning and Economic Director Fitzer is in San Francisco at a Solar Conference, the Annexation has been recorded, and the Butterfield Waterline Project is moving forward. Town Manager Buss also reported that there have been a number of complaints regarding Code Compliance, we are on the short list for Project Carbon and that he has been working with the Fire Department. He gave best wishes for a speedy recovery to Finance Director Young's mother.

IX. 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.)

Joe Getzwiller, resident, was attending on behalf of the Chamber and thanked the Town Staff and Council for their support. He mentioned that some of the Chamber members will be going on a junket to Rocky Point on July 22nd , Councilmember Holt is arranging meeting with their Mayor and that he hopes they will participate in the Shrimp Fest and we will participate in their events. Mr. Getzwiller spoke about the court move talk, that another court needs to be built and that he will keep the Town Manager advised.

Fred Hull, resident, noted that the Ajo/Gila Bend bus line is very important and that he is disappointed that more Gila Bend residents did not attend this meeting

Social Services Director Dempsey gave kudo's to the solar plants and power plant for their Contributions to the Town, that some kids went on a tour of Abengoa that was excellent and that Entegra's Workforce Development program being implemented is excellent.

Terry Basu, resident, commented that the Route 685 bus line has been a real life saver for him through his many surgeries and medical issues.

Gracie Pinette, resident, commented that she and several others are not happy with the new street signs as they liked the 'monster' (Gila Monster) that was on the old signs, that she should have started a petition and that she can never talk to Council members. She asked why there is a stop sign on a dead end street in Zuni Estates and that it took three guys (two watching one working) to put up the useless sign. She commented that we (the residents) voted you (Council) in and you are not helping us.

X. 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**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Turner moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilmember Sikes. Motion passed unanimously; 6-0. Time of adjournment: 8:14pm.

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 regular meeting held July 12, 2011, and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

Beverly Turner, CMC
Town Clerk