

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING  
GILA BEND TOWN COUNCIL  
March 31, 2020; 4:00 p.m.  
Gila Bend Community Center  
202 N Euclid Avenue, Gila Bend, AZ 85337  
*MINUTES*

CALL TO ORDER – *Mayor Tommy Sikes called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm*

ROLL CALL – **ALL PRESENT**

Mayor Tommy Sikes	Council Member Chris Riggs
Vice-Mayor Clyde Kreeger	Council Member Will Sipes
Council Member Fernando Fernandez	Council Member James "Bud" Turner
Council Member Jennifer Franks	

- A. **Director of Emergency Preparedness Appointment:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action on the appointment of a Director of Emergency Preparedness pursuant to Gila Bend Town Code Title 3 Chapter 35 Section 35.03. **Discussion and Action**  
*Mayor Tommy Sikes appointed Council Member Chris Riggs as the Director of Emergency Preparedness*
- B. **COVID-19 Update:** The Mayor and Town Council may receive, discuss and possibly take action deemed to be necessary regarding the Covid-19 update. **Discussion and Action**  
*Mayor Tommy Sikes reported on the latest Governor's Executive Order to Stay at Home that goes into effect at 5:00 pm. Council Member Chris Riggs asked that the Mayor appoint Commission at the next Council meeting. Mayor Tommy Sikes advised that he does not feel that Commission appointments are necessary at this time but will appoint if it should become necessary. Town Attorney Steve McClure spoke about the Council/Manager form of Government and the purpose of Commissioners. Council Member Chris Riggs suggested that Council give the Commissions consideration should the need arise. Mayor Tommy Sikes advised that other Cities and Towns are closing playgrounds. There was discussion about Gila Bend playgrounds and Council Member Jennifer Franks concurred with closing playgrounds due to playground equipment not being sanitized. Mayor Tommy Sikes noted that another Executive Order is possible on Thursday. Council Member Chris Riggs suggested that a member of the recreation staff monitor the playgrounds for activity. Council Member James Turner advised that 35 cities and towns across the state are closed to the public. Town Manager Katherine Valenzuela noted that Town operations are an essential function and the Governor's directives must be followed or the Town stands to lose state funding. Town Manager Katherine Valenzuela also advised that on March 16<sup>th</sup> the Governor issued an order that included no more than 10 persons gathering and that the Mayor and she went door to door to all local gathering spots such as the hotels that serve continental breakfast and restaurants that have outdoor seating and asked them to close off the eating/gathering areas. She noted that the local businesses are being pro active. There was discussion on the impact to small businesses and the future impact to the Town with a 30% or more loss in revenue. Town Manager Kathy Valenzuela advised that field expenses increased and that staff is tracking expenses due to COVID 19, GL line items have been created to track expenses and MCSO is present during the food distribution held every Thursday. There was discussion about the meetings with the Governor and it was noted the meetings will now be held Monday's and Thursday's and the main discussions surround essentials and disbursement of funds. It was suggested that the Mayor report back to Council with an update by the end of the day of the meeting. Council Member Jennifer Franks suggested that the Town move forward with closing the playgrounds, including the basketball courts and enforce the Town curfew. Town Attorney Steve McClure advised that the Mayor has the authority to implement what*

*he deems necessary during a time of crisis and the Director of Emergency preparedness has the power to execute anything that needs to be done.*

ADJOURNMENT

*Council Member Chris Riggs moved to adjourn*

*Second by Council Member Fernando Fernandez*


*Motion to adjourn passed unanimously (7-0) Time 4:33 pm*

*For: Mayor Tommy Sikes, Vice-Mayor Clyde Kreeger, Council Members Fernando Fernandez, Jennifer Franks, Chris Riggs, Will Sipes and James Turner*

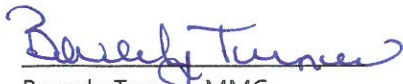
*Against: 0*

*Abstain: 0*

*Absent: 0*

  
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Tommy L. Sikes, Mayor

ATTEST:



Beverly Turner, MMC  
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Council Meeting held on March 31, 2020 and that the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Beverly Turner, MMC  
Town Clerk

**APPROVED APRIL 14, 2020**