



MINUTES

**WICKENBURG COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 - 5:30 P.M.
155 N. TEGNER - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WICKENBURG, ARIZONA 85390**

A. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Bratcher called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM

B. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Led by Councilmember Margaret Nyberg

C. **INVOCATION** - Led by Barbara Willis, Wickenburg Christian Academy

D. ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor BG Bratcher
Vice Mayor Brian Jones
Councilmember Kristy Bedoian
Councilmember Shawn Clark (Arrived at 5:35 PM)
Councilmember Margaret Nyberg
Councilmember Rebecca Rovey
Councilmember Art Rubash

Staff Present:

Troy Smith, Interim Town Manager
Trish Stuhan, Town Attorney (Via Zoom)
Tim Suan, Deputy Town Manager/Economic Development
Steve Boyle, Community Development Director
Amy Brown, Town Clerk
Les Brown, Police Chief
Robert Martinez, Finance Director
Tarah Mayerhofer, Human Resources Director
Ed Temerowski, Fire Chief
Herschel Workman, Public Works Director

E. MAYOR & COUNCILMEMBERS REPORT ON CURRENT EVENTS

- Vice Mayor Brian Jones congratulated the Chamber of Commerce on an awesome Gold Rush Days as there were lots of people at the rodeo grounds. He thanked the town staff for all their work in making it successful.
- Councilmembers Art Rubash, Margaret Nyberg and Rebecca Rovey agreed with the sentiments regarding Gold Rush Days and thanked everyone for all the work.
- Councilmember Margaret Nyberg thanked staff for working on the change to the insurance requirements.

- Councilmember Rebecca Rovey attended Westmarc's annual meeting. She also volunteered with Kristi Henson at Gold Rush Days and at the Phoenix Convention Center to represent Wickenburg and the Chamber of Commerce.
- Councilmember Shawn Clark thanked the town staff and Chamber for the best Gold Rush Days that his company has had. The museum has now raised 51% of the budget for the new building.
- Mayor BG Bratcher attended a Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) orientation, housing affordability meeting, grand openings, League legislative update, town council retreat, West Valley Mayors & Managers meeting, League meeting to oppose HCR2021, GPEC Meeting and Governor's briefing regarding Federal Funding.

F. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Interim Town Manager Troy Smith congratulated Joshua Boone on five years and Matt Egan on ten years' service with the town. He said Gold Rush Days went well and thanked all the town employees who worked over the weekend. For Lewis Addition roads, the town attorney is working on the parcel list to confirm who has the legal title to the properties. The Zoning Code update was expected in January based on conversations with the consultants on December 16, 2024. Unfortunately, the code has not been received yet, so the attorney sent a letter on February 10, 2025, requiring them to respond within 30 days, hopefully with the full draft of the Zoning Code. On February 3, the Council left the authority to the Town Manager to make modifications to the insurance requirements. Thanks to the efforts of Town Attorney Trish Stuhan and HR and Risk Management Director Tarah Mayerhofer, there was a permanent solution to not require sub vendors to provide the primary and non-contributory endorsements on their insurance. They are only required to provide proof of insurance and list the town as additionally insured. There will be a job fair on February 25, an access to capital for businesses training on February 26, All Vulture's Eve on March 13, Town Talk on March 18, Beer Fest on March 22, West Fest on April 4 and Moonshot Rural Pitch competition on April 17.

G. FINAL CALL for Request to Speak Cards to be turned into the Town Clerk.

H. CALL TO THE PUBLIC - None

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Action on the Consent Agenda -

MOVED BY Vice Mayor Brian Jones to approve items a, b, and c of the consent agenda

SECONDED BY Councilmember Rebecca Rovey

VOTE: 7 – 0 (Yes – Mayor Bratcher, Vice Mayor Jones, Councilmembers Bedoian, Clark, Nyberg, Rovey, and Rubash)

- a. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 3, 2025

By a 7-0 vote under the Consent Agenda, Council moved to approve the minutes of February 3, 2025.

- b. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution No. 2367 Designating the Chief Fiscal Officer for Submitting the Annual Expenditure Limitation Report for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Robert Martinez, Finance Director, reported in his Council routing form that Arizona Revised Statutes 41-1279.07(E) annually requires a letter to be submitted to the Auditor General stating the name of the Chief Fiscal Officer that will be submitting the Annual Expenditure Limitation Report (AELR) certifying the accuracy of the report. Effective fiscal year ending 6/30/19 the Auditor General's office has decided this needs to be done by submitting either a resolution or meeting minutes annually. This report is prepared by our contracted auditors, then reviewed and approved by the Town's Finance Director. With the change in personnel in the Finance Director position, these documents need to be updated to reflect the new Finance Director.

By a 7-0 vote under the Consent Agenda, Council moved to approve Resolution No. 2367 designating the Chief Fiscal Officer for submitting the Annual Expenditure Limitation Report for FY 2023-24.

- c. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution No. 2368 Designating the Chief Fiscal Officer for Submitting the Annual Expenditure Limitation Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25

Robert Martinez, Finance Director, reported in his Council routing form that Arizona Revised Statutes 41-1279.07(E) annually requires a letter to be submitted to the Auditor General stating the name of the Chief Fiscal Officer that will be submitting the Annual Expenditure Limitation Report (AELR) certifying the accuracy of the report. Effective fiscal year ending 6/30/19 the Auditor General's office has decided this needs to be done by submitting either a resolution or meeting minutes annually. This report is prepared by our contracted auditors, then reviewed and approved by the Town's Finance Director. With the change in personnel in the Finance Director position, these documents need to be updated to reflect the new Finance Director.

By a 7-0 vote under the Consent Agenda, Council moved to approve Resolution No. 2368 designating the Chief Fiscal Officer for submitting the Annual Expenditure Limitation Report for FY 2024-25.

2. Consideration and Action Approving the Adopt-a-Park Program

Herschel Workman, Public Works Director, reported that the proposed Adopt-a-Park program is designed to encourage community involvement in the care and maintenance of our town parks. Under this program, local organizations, businesses, and residents can "adopt" a park or specific areas within a park, volunteering their time and resources to help keep the space clean, safe, and well-maintained.

Some Examples of possible volunteer activities include

- Rake leaves
- Paint benches and tables
- Spread mulch
- Remove weeds and invasive plants
- Remove graffiti
- Clean playgrounds
- Pick up litter
- Paint backboards and fences
- Special Projects such as planting drought tolerant native plants or tree

This initiative aims to enhance the quality of our public parks while fostering a sense of ownership and pride within the community. The Parks & Trails Advisory Committee voted on December 11, 2024, and approved a recommendation that the Town Council should approve the program. Any future changes or updates to the program will be reviewed and approved by the Parks & Trails Advisory Committee to ensure that it aligns with the town's needs and objectives.

If approved by the Town Council, Staff will develop an administrative policy that provides program guidance, such as, a minimum commitment requirements, an application form, an FAQ form, marketing materials and other program details necessary to implement this community-based program.

MOVED BY Councilmember Kristy Bedoian to approve the adoption of the Adopt-a-Park program as presented, with any future changes being reviewed and approved by the Parks & Trails Advisory Committee

SECONDED BY Councilmember Rebecca Rovey

VOTE: 7 – 0 (Yes – Mayor Bratcher, Vice Mayor Jones, Councilmembers Bedoian, Clark, Nyberg, Rovey, and Rubash)

3. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution No. 2369 Adopting the 2025 Legislative Program

Troy Smith, Interim Town Manager, reported that the state is now in their legislative process. Council and staff need direction from the Council in order to react to legislative action that will affect the town. The resolution that is included for this item is from the League of Arizona Cities and Towns annual policy

statement. The legislature moves very rapidly and if there is a bill that the League would like cities and towns to testify regarding, it needs to happen quickly without time to come to the Council at their meetings. If there was an area that is not covered in the resolution categories, it would have to come to the Council for direction on the stance the Council wants to take. The categories are:

- Revenue Preservation
- Housing & Community Stability
- Good Governance
- Public Safety and Community Protection

Councilmember Clark stated that it looks like the League is in opposition to much of the legislature but supportive of the governor's position. Interim Town Manager Smith stated that the League is dedicated to principals and not politics. They try to protect the revenues for cities and towns that are needed for keeping service to the communities at their current level. The idea is that the Town Council has a better idea of what is best for Wickenburg, not the legislature. The categories and areas of concern come from the Policy Committee that is made up of Mayors and Councilmembers from cities and towns across Arizona. Currently the Council and Town Manager are the only lobbyists for the town. The League is our legislative lobbyist. Larger cities have their own lobbyists. They have staff and can afford to hire lobbyists. The town will only be authorized to lobby regarding bills in these four categories.

Councilmember Bedoian didn't like the sentence in the housing regarding preventing eviction, funding shelters and transitional housing. She also didn't understand the bullet of restoring authority to cities and towns to regulate and limit investor-owned short-term rentals. She wondered if that was taken away. Interim Town Manager Smith stated that the Council can change this to fit Wickenburg's priorities. Regarding the short-term rentals, the ability to regulate them was taken away from the cities and towns. Now all that they have to do is register and if there are a number of violations, then maybe the city/town can do something to cause a change. This has resulted in a loss of housing as a corporation can come in to buy a house above the market value and turn it into a short-term rental. Sedona and Scottsdale have been hit with this issue. The League will argue that those cities are in the best position to regulate housing in their jurisdiction.

Councilmember Bedoian stated that she is for local control.

Mayor Bratcher stated that the League does a lot of work. They have a legislative update call each week to explain why they oppose or support different bills and send out an email with an update on upcoming legislation. They work with the legislature to make amendments to bill to reduce the amount of local control that is taken away. For example, the food tax bill has a proposed amendment. The League is there to protect the cities and towns.

Councilmember Nyberg stated that it is always good to read the actual bill to see how it will affect the town. Lake Havasu City is dealing with Airbnb's coming into there and destroying neighborhoods. The council can also contact their legislators to ask them about bills.

Councilmember Bedoian wanted to take out the wording "prevent eviction, fund shelters and transitional housing."

MOVED BY Councilmember Kristy Bedoian to approve Resolution 2369 adopting the 2025 Legislative Program and take out "prevent eviction, fund shelters and transitional housing"

SECONDED BY Councilmember Rebecca Rovey

VOTE: 7 – 0 (Yes – Mayor Bratcher, Vice Mayor Jones, Councilmembers Bedoian, Clark, Nyberg, Rovey, and Rubash)

J. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - (Council May Vote to Go Into Executive Session Pursuant to A.R.S §38-431.03(A)(3) to Receive Legal Advice from the Town Attorney on Any of the Above Agenda Items.)

K. **SCHEDULING OF FUTURE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS** - None

L. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY Councilmember Rebecca Rovey to adjourn at approximately 6:11 PM

SECONDED BY Councilmember Margaret Nyberg

VOTE: 7 – 0 (Yes – Mayor Bratcher, Vice Mayor Jones, Councilmembers Bedoian, Clark, Nyberg, Rovey, and Rubash)

BG Bratcher, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amy Brown, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Amy Brown, the duly appointed and qualified Town Clerk of the Town of Wickenburg, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Council of Wickenburg, Arizona held on February 18, 2025. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Amy Brown, MMC
Town Clerk