



TOWN OF JEROME

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DRAFT MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF JEROME

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JEROME TOWN HALL

600 CLARK STREET, JEROME, ARIZONA

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026, AT 6:30 PM

6:30PM (0:27) 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor/Chairperson to call meeting to order
Town Clerk to call and record the roll.

Present were Mayor Alex Barber, Vice Mayor Jane Moore and Councilmembers Dr. Jack Dillenberg, Issam "Izzy" Sharif and Sonia Sheffield.

Staff present were Town Manager Brett Klein, Zoning Administrator Will Blodgett and Finance Director/Deputy Clerk Kristen Muenz. Other staff present included Assistant Fire Chief Carl Whiting and Town Counsel John Gaylord.

6:30PM (0:38) 2. PRESENTATIONS

6:30PM (0:58) A. Presentation Regarding Expression of Appreciation by Greg Worth on Behalf of Haven Food Bank to the Town of Jerome for its Contributions

Mr. Worth will provide a 2–3-minute presentation.

Mr. Worth presented his report to the Council, framing community support as an investment with clear outcomes. He shared it's been operating for 25 years out of Haven, it is entirely volunteer-run and open weekly to anyone without qualification. They use a grocery store model, and food is sourced primarily from St. Mary's, local farms and community donations. They have a no-waste approach and redirect unusable food to local farms with animals. He shared operations are supported through local donation, federal grants for equipment, consistent community contribution, and that Haven pays for the utilities. He shared key volunteers who manage food procurement, volunteer coordination, data tracking, meal preparation and boutique operations. As for numbers Mr. Worth shared approximately 100 people visit weekly, supporting 250 individuals, with about 70% of those who live or work in Jerome. In addition to the savings on food costs, he said they also provide about 60 prepared meals per week and deliver food to homebound residents.

6:39PM (9:59) B. APS Fire Mitigation Presentation on Public Safety Power Shutoff

Representatives from APS will be on hand and provide a presentation for mitigating fire risk.

Greg Wilson, representative for APS, provided a brief update on the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) and fire-mitigation program, noting that overall operations remain unchanged but continue to expand. He shared that APS maintains routine vegetation management, defensible space around power poles, annual line patrol, grid-hardening investments, and asset inspection. A dedicated fire-mitigation crew, added last year, now supports pole replacement and infrastructure upgrades, and fire-detection cameras on select poles share data with the Forest Service. Mr. Wilson reviewed PSPS protocols, which apply to Jerome as a high fire-risk area affecting 492 customers. PSPS events may be triggered by a combination of low humidity, high winds, and high temperatures, potentially resulting in outages of up to 20 hours to allow for safety inspections, which occur in daylight hours. No changes to Jerome's PSPS status were anticipated and recent upgrades have reduces impact by keeping critical facilities, like the water treatment plan, energized. He also highlighted new public tools, including an online PSPS map that allows customers to check impacts by address.

6:49PM (19:42) 3. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Work Session

Council will continue their discussions regarding the 2026-2027 budget, including a review of an initial draft budget. All aspects of the budget may be discussed, and Council may provide staff direction regarding the 2026-2027 budget.

Mayor Barber introduced the item for discussion and staff direction. Discussion on funding for the food bank noted that no direct budget allocation currently exists, though support is provided indirectly through use of a town van, staff time, and associated costs (wages, maintenance, insurance). Mayor Barber shared that historically she believed \$500 had been set aside, and there was interest in reinstating that contribution. They also discussed other community support options, like the long-standing donation bucket in Town Hall, and encouraged public donations.

Council reviewed budget details and questions were raised regarding a significant increase in projected police department revenue, which staff explained is primarily due to a recent \$2 parking fee increase. It was explained that it is generating additional revenue to support public safety and infrastructure while reducing reliance on fund balance reserves.

Parking fund revenues were discussed as a key funding source, with allocations including approximately \$35,000 to sanitation and \$100,000 to water. Sewer funding continues to be supported indirectly through the general fund. Overall, parking revenue is helping offset costs and limit the need for rate increases.

Mr. Klein informed the Council that the budget presented is a first draft and will return next month for further review and tentative approval, with council encouraged to provide additional questions or requested adjustments in the interim.

After brief discussion and clarification it was determined that this was a staff direction item and required no vote.

6:57PM (27:28) 4. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Dillenberg entered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57p.m. receiving a second from Mayor Barber. After calling the question, the meeting adjourned at 6:57p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 6:57p.m.

| COUNCILMEMBER | MOTION | SECOND | AYE | NAY | ABSENT | ABSTAIN |
|---------------|--------|--------|-----|-----|--------|---------|
| BARBER | | X | X | | | |
| DILLENBERG | X | | X | | | |
| MOORE | | | X | | | |
| SHARIF | | | X | | | |
| SHEFFIELD | | | X | | | |

APPROVE:

Alex Barber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brett Klein, Town Manager