



TOWN OF JEROME

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DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF JEROME

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JEROME TOWN HALL

600 CLARK STREET, JEROME, ARIZONA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2026, AT 7:00 PM

7:00 (0:01) 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, Councilmember Dr. Jack Dillenberg, and Councilmember Sonia Sheffield. Councilmember Issam "Izzy" Sharif was absent.
Staff present included Town Manager Brett Klein, Zoning Administrator Will Blodgett, Deputy Clerk Kristen Muenz, Police Chief Russell San Felice, Deputy Chief Michael Odle, and new Police Officer Samantha Brogdon.*

Police Chief San Felice introduced new part-time Police Officer Samantha Brogdon, who he explained comes with a plethora of experience, included her current position with the Veteran Affairs Department, and encouraged members of the public to introduce themselves to her. There was a round of applause.

8:21 (1:21:30) 2. PROCLAMATIONS

A. Proclamation: Proclaiming September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Barber will read or summarize / paraphrase the proclamation.

Mayor Barber summarized the proclamation and proclaimed September 2026 as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

8:23 (1:23:38) 3. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Financial Report and Detail Invoice Register Report for August, 2026

Council will consider and may approve the financial reports for month ending August 2026.

Mayor Barber introduced the financial reports and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, she moved to approve the financial reports for August 2026, which was seconded by Councilmember Dillenberg. They were approved unanimously.

Motion to approve the Financial Report and Detail Invoice Register for August 2026

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

8:24 (1:24:07) 4. STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Reports by the Town Manager / Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Utilities Clerk, Accounting Clerk, Public Works Director, Building Inspector, Library Director, Municipal Magistrate, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Council Members, Which in the Case of Council Member's Reports will be Limited to a Summary of Current Events and will Involve no Action

Council will consider and may approve the staff reports.

Mayor Barber introduced item 4 and asked Mr. Klein to speak.

Town Manager Klein said he would yield his time because we have police officers here who would like to report.

Mayor Barber read a list of employees with work anniversaries for the month, Carl Whiting, Janice Pontious, Kristen Muenz, and Kelly Randazzo; there was a round of applause.

Chief San Felice explained that one of the officers had received a message, although the person who had written it has since apologized. Also, there was a Facebook post and a poster he wanted to share, indicating negative feelings towards the Police Department. He said that when he started, the Police Department did not have mission statement and he and Deputy Chief Odle felt it should, so they created one. The mission of the Jerome Police Department is now 'Protect Lives and Property, Prevent Crime, and Provide Professional Police Services to the Citizens of Jerome,' and to do so impartially, without prejudice, and while supporting the constitutions of the United States and the State of Arizona. Chief San Felice explained that they intend to operate under that ethos. He explained that on social media, there have been a lot of complaints that the Police Department has changed and become more aggressive. So, they have pulled statistics and created reports. Previously, there was an 18% chance you would receive a warning. During the two years of his and Deputy Odle's leadership, there is a 46% chance of a warning. There were 2,000 less tickets and 32% less arrests, so he feels they are less aggressive. Also, he wanted to specifically state a lot of venom was focused on Officer Carlos Godina. He has had 356 traffic stops, and of those, 155 ended in warnings; that means close to half his stops are warnings rather than citations, making him more lenient than most officers. A few vocal residents are posting things and creating issues around town. In all of the cases we looked at, we looked at body-cam footage and reports; these people received multiple warnings before action was taken. He then mentioned a few of the types of violations, including driving while suspended, and said it is a liability issue to the town if we ignore the issues. However, the notes and posts can be demeaning and demoralizing to the officers and impact their mental health. Chief San reminded the public that the officers are human and have feelings and emotions too. He said his officers are making an effort to be more visible and engage with the public. Chief San Felice explained the reason he was speaking on this is because they wanted to bring it to the attention of council, and also, they want to have a community meeting to hold a discussion as the officers have been affected by the things that have been said.

Mayor Barber agreed that some of the comments were pretty rude and suggested holding a meet-and-greet to address everything he talked about. She also spoke on the problem of people being internet trolls and being rude to each other. Mayor Barber said if you want to say something to me, say it face-to-face. We are all people, and we're all trying to do a job here and this doesn't help us at all. Our small-town cops are not like corrupt cops in big cities; we all know each other, and we all need to get along. She then invited Deputy Chief Odle to speak.

Deputy Chief Odle expressed appreciation to the council and public for allowing him to address them. He said the other thing he and the Chief decided while looking over policy and procedure was to establish a motto, which he read aloud. He said he has been a public servant for over 45 years, and his first Chief said there is no greater calling; he has always embraced that. One of our core values is service to the community. He then relayed an example of a DUI stop by one of the officers, and the person stopped then sent a letter thanking the officer for their kindness and expressing that they were now sober. Another example involved a young woman who was taken into custody, and her parents wrote a letter to the town thanking the officers for treating the woman with dignity and compassion. Deputy Chief Odle said there has been some discussion from residents about officers targeting locals but explained that less than half of 1 percent of citations were to Jerome locals and only one resulted in a use of force out of all the calls of service. He then said according to Arizona crime stats from Jerome, 2024-2025 saw a 42% reduction in crime from the previous year, and 2025-2026 saw a 45% reduction in crime. He repeated that they encourage the officers to be on the road, be visible, and be present. He thanked the council, and there was a round of applause from the audience.

Mayor Barber moved to approve the staff and council reports, which was seconded by Councilmember Dillenberg. The reports were approved unanimously.

Motion to approve the Staff and Council Reports

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

**8:40 (1:39:55) 5. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT/PLANNING & ZONING AND DESIGN REVIEW
BOARD MINUTES**

Information/Council Review

A. Report Provided by the Zoning Administrator. Minutes are Provided for Information Only and do Not Require any Action

Zoning Administrator Will Blodgett reported we are still busy but not under as much pressure as the rest of the summer. We have had a number of high-profile projects, like the Zoning Ordinance Updates that we are well into, and we have a public meeting for next week. On top of that, we are actively working on the Brownfield Grant, which should be funded in October. By end of the month, the EPA Grant Officer will be coming out to meet some of the council members.

Councilmember Sheffield said she would like to ask a question regarding a part of his report on residential lot splits. She said she was hoping to discuss the suggested lot width reduction across board, and she was wondering if the lot splits he was currently working on were using the current width requirements?

Mr. Blodgett replied that yes, this item will be discussed at the Planning & Zoning meeting one week from tonight.

8:41 (1:41:47) 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Consider Approval of the August 6, 2026, Special and August 11, 2026, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Council will consider and may approve the August 6th, Special and August 11th Regular Council Meeting minutes.

Mayor Barber explained that she had a small correction for Tuesday, August 10th meeting minutes on page 5. She explained that she was speaking about a parking space, and the word 'not' was left out of 'should not,' which she has asked Ms. Muenz to correct. With that correction, she moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilmember Dillenberg, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the August 6th Special Meeting and the August 11th Regular Meeting with 1 minor correction

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

7:31 (31:12) 7. PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

On behalf of Verde Valley Cancer Center, Rick Gray gave an update on the progress of the new building and spoke on the need for a cancer center to provide care to the residents of the Verde Valley. There was a round of applause.

For the Verde Independent, Vyto Starinskas apologized that the headline had not clarified that they were security cameras, although the article specified they were security cameras. He felt it was important to point out they were not Flock cameras and explained that sometimes the information doesn't transfer to the headline.

Mayor Barber commented that some people only read the headlines, and thanked Mr. Starinskas and the public for attending the meeting and said they had asked for the cameras to be brought before the public for transparency.

8:43 (1:43:10) 8. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Consider Resolution No. 695; A Resolution in Support of the Yavapai County Intergovernmental Water Resources and Open Space Committee Stormwater Infiltration and Recharge Projects

Council will consider Resolution No. 695 and may approve.

Mayor Barber introduced Resolution No. 695 and said it was something that came through the Water Resource and Open Space Meeting and has been worked on over the last eight months. She said the county will hold their meeting next week and asked if we could approve this before they did.

Vice Mayor Moore said that she had discussed it with Supervisor Check, and she said that it was fine, and confirmed she would move to approve.

Mayor Barber seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 695, in Support of the Yavapai County Intergovernmental Water Resources and Open Space Committee Stormwater Infiltration and Recharge Projects

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

9. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Possible Action

8:44 (1:44:13) A. Consider Approval of Quote from Longfellow Excavating LLC, in the Amount of \$21,000, to Repair / Replace Waterline at Walnut Springs
Council will consider and may approve the quote.

Mayor Barber asked the council if they had any comments or questions, and she commented that the repairs were much needed.

Councilmember Dillenberg moved to approve the quote.

Mayor Barber seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Motion to approve a Quote from Longfellow Excavating LLC, in the Amount of \$21,000, to Repair / Replace Waterline at Walnut Springs

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

8:45 (1:45:03) B. Consideration of the Jerome Historical Society Sponsored Mariachi Band Special Event Permit Application

Council will consider and may approve the special event permit.

Mayor Barber said this is something we do every year, and it has changed a little over the last few years. She asked if it would be the same as last year, and Mr. Klein confirmed it would be.

Councilmember Dillenberg moved to approve.

Mayor Barber added that they have asked for a 3-way split of the cost and she think we should do that as it benefits the town, so she asked Councilmember Dillenberg if he would like to amend to add one-third of the cost and he agreed.

Vice Mayor Moore seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Councilmember Sheffield abstained from the vote due to her working relationship with the historical society.

Motion to approve the Jerome Historical Society Sponsored Mariachi Band Special Event Permit Application and pay one-third of the cost

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

7:37 (36:50) C. Discussion / Possible Staff Direction Regarding Park Closure Times, Dogs and Alcohol in the Parks and on the Steps, and Other Park and Noise Ordinance Policy Considerations

Council will discuss and consider alternatives, and may provide staff direction.

Town Manager Klein introduced the item by explaining that there are some inconsistencies in policies, code, and practices, and it was brought before council to formalize those policies to match code.

Councilmember Sheffield explained there were inconsistencies of ordinances, and code. We have a noise ordinance, one to address alcohol, and we have wording to address camping, but nowhere in code does it state when the park is closed. There is a sign in Upper Park that says the park is closed at a certain time and not in any of the other parks. It seemed to her, if there was nothing in the code, then it was an unenforceable curfew, and she felt the sign should be removed, and our officers should use the tools that are already in town code for noise and camping.

Mayor Barber pointed out town code section 10-1-11 on loitering and camping, which she briefly read. She said it does not mention hours, but it does talk about times of closure, and she thought it was linked to minors and curfews. She then read the ordinance on minors not being allowed to loiter between the hours of 10pm and 5am. There are so many ways to get out of the park, she thought maybe they just closed the park to keep them out, but the code was not super clear. There was also an email that was circulated that explained certain things we have to do to have a park open 24/7, such as lighting.

Councilmember Sheffield replied that she was not sure that was applicable in this situation, as it may depend on if it was a requirement of our insurance. And she would like to point out there has been an increase of enforcement of the sign, and she was not sure if that was the result of more complaints or not. She added it has not only affected locals, it has also affected visitors, and if there was nothing in code to back it, she felt it was irresponsible.

Mayor Barber said that people like to sit on the stairs to hear the music coming from the bar, and she felt like though they led to it, the stairs are not the park, and people should not be getting kicked off the stairs. But we got input from our risk liability provider who said we need to put some things in place, and she felt we have to follow the law.

Councilmember Sheffield replied that she did not see something that says it is required, but if it is, we can put it into town code. But there was nothing in town code about closing hours as it stands.

Town Manger Klein explained that the information had been sent to our insurance / risk provider, and they cannot tell us what we can or can't do, just the level of exposure to liability the Town may incur. They outline what may expose the Town to more or less liability and Council make choice. Klein went on to state that for a variety of safety and liability reasons the risk provider recommends a firm closing time and opening hours.

Mayor Barber repeated that section 10-1-11 says hours of closure but does not name the hours. It was not clear and there needed to be a code adjustment.

Vice Mayor Moore said there are lot of gray areas. It's closed from 10 to 5 for anyone under 18. There is also verbiage about alcohol in the park. Alcohol is allowed, but kids can't be around where alcohol is being served or imbibed after 8 o'clock. There is a lot that needs to be clarified; if there is going to be an established closing time it needs to be stated and some verbiage changed. She agreed with the mayor that if someone was passing through and wanted to rest, she did not see anything wrong with someone sitting quietly in the park late at night, or listening to music, as long as everyone is behaving and no one is complaining, but we need to be more specific in the ordinance.

Councilmember Sheffield repeated that she believed the sign that was not backed by code needed to come down and law enforcement encouraged to uphold the noise ordinance and not loitering.

Vice Mayor Moore said to her, the steps are part of the park. Alcohol was allowed in both, but not after 10pm. It seemed to her the sign should say no minors in the park after 10pm.

Councilmember Sheffield said she heard it had been enforced in other areas and did not feel it should be if the person is not violating other parts of the code.

Chief San Felice Explained that traditionally, the park has been closed at 10pm. It hasn't been specifically spelled out, but is has been posted, and his understanding is it has always been enforced for as long as he has been an employee. The three steps where drinking is allowed traditionally is not codified either. It has been allowed, and the Police Department have made an exception for the top three steps even though there is nothing in code that says that is in the park.

Actually, he said there is a fence there, and if we are going to delineate where the park is, that becomes the steps. Our contention would be posting that sign, under the authority of the town, is why the Police Department believed the park closed at 10pm, at least for the last fourteen years. Chief San Felice said we have always been lenient and usually talk to citizens and don't take action unless we have to. He agreed that Town Code could be shored up by specifying the time, but he thought we should also include the top 3 steps as part of the park if you want to allow the alcohol consumption there because it does specifically say in code that alcohol is not allowed in the other parks without a permit. If you are correcting town code you should look at both those things. Also, we want to be clear that under his leadership, we are not advocating alcohol consumption in Upper Park or other areas considered part of the park, and we encourage reasonable hours be considered for the interest of public safety.

Deputy Chief Odle agreed that in the interest of public safety he would like to relay that the Arizona Department of Public Safety did a study, and alcohol related accidents in the time frame of 9PM to 11PM is when most fatal crashes occur.

When people are forced to leave an establishment where alcohol is served, they tend to gravitate toward public areas.

This is a statewide issue, not just Jerome. We have had to assist people many times down those stairs at night because they are so inebriated, we are concerned about them falling. That is a liability. We have had some arrests in the park at night; some of them were due to fighting but the majority are the result of alcohol consumption. Whatever town decides to do, we certainly will support that, but we are going on tradition as well as what we believe is best for the town. Council Sheffield said it was not a question about how long people should be allowed to drink as that is already in town code, it is cut off at 10pm and most people are responsive to that. If they are not drinking, they should not be run out of a public space.

Vice Mayor Moore stated that it wouldn't bother her if we said no drinking in the park or on the steps period.

Mayor Barber said we need to tighten up this code. She added that she would like our council member who is not present to take part in this, so she would move to table to allow him to join the conversation and also come up with something better. Not only making a decision on closing times. She added that the new Clarkdale Steam Park closes at 9pm, and they shut off the lights. They have more lights than we do, but we don't turn our lights off. She asked Councilmember Sheffield to work on a code revision.

Councilmember Sheffield replied that she would be happy to help, but that would not address the sign.

There was continued discussion on what was already in town code and enforcement.

Police Lieutenant Kerry Lee said there was a new Police Officer who was not yet used to the town, but even he wasn't coming in and kicking everyone out. Also, there was no one in that park after midnight that is not intoxicated, so the 10pm curfew is important because it protects the town. If something happened in the park, because we have the sign, we still have some protection of liability. He said he was not kicking people off the steps even after 10, but some other officers might see it more black and white. He added that most parks across the nation are open only from dusk to dawn. Councilmember Sheffield countered that those parks usually have a lot of equipment, and ours does not.

Mayor Barber said we have an awesome vintage slide. She pointed out that there were members of the public that had some questions, but she would like to table the item.

Jerome resident Tyler Christensen said that if we shore up the code, it will make everything set in stone, and we can all come to terms with what the rules are. It's a privilege for residents to drink in the park and on the steps before 10 o'clock. We don't want to lose that. He said the residents should respect the town for granting that privilege and the town should respect the residents, it should be mutual respect to maintain that privilege. Mayor Barber asked if he felt the closure hours should be kept, and he said he did feel we should have closure hours set in stone and everyone can agree on the rules and maintain this privilege.

Jerome resident Suzy Mound said that being a non-drinker, she loved swinging at the park at weird hours. She would like to see limitations on alcohol but not necessarily on hours. That is public space and we should be able to enjoy it, and she strongly liked making sure minors are the only time restraints.

Jerome resident Andrew Farber commented that the town of Jerome only has 360 people, and New York has 8 and a half million and Central Park is open 24 hours a day. They have crime yes, but they seem to exist.

Jason Voss said our town's Chamber of Commerce says you can consume alcohol on the steps, but not in glass, and you cannot take open containers on the sidewalk. So, our town chamber publishes to the entire world that you can sit on the steps and consume alcohol. There're no hours, code says council can set hours, but it has never been done.

Mayor Barber read town code 10-1-25, wherein it is a misdemeanor to have glass in a park, or alcohol in the Upper Park between 10 and 8, and no alcohol is allowed in the middle or lower parks.

Jason Voss says there is nothing about being in the town park, you never resolved that issue, and if I got a ticket for loitering in the park, how can I be with no codified hours.

Mayor Barber said she was not sure if it was a ticketable offense.

Chief San Felice said it has only been enforced a couple of times based on historical precedence of the sign posted by the town. Past practice has been closed at 10pm, but we don't enforce unless there is an issue.

Mayor Barber agreed there has been a sign.

Town resident Josh Ludwig said some people use the park to get home using the stairs. He was ticketed for loitering and trespassing for stopping to text on a bench. He said he was coming down from Clark Street, by the Haunted Hamburger, and got a ticket.

Mayor Barber said that walking through is not the same as loitering, and she was not there to know how long he had been there, so she would not go into it. We all need to be on the same page. She added that there are other places to hang out at night.

Jerome Resident Lori Leachman said the first issue is liability; closing the park versus adding more lighting. The second issue is what time the park actually closes. The third is there seems to be some ambiguity about the steps, are the steps in the park, or outside of the park? Are the top three steps in the park to drink? If they are outside of the park, then you can't, so for the fundamental issues, what is true with the steps, what is the liability, and what does that mean about the park closing and does it include the steps?

Mayor Barber thanked her for commenting and said, again, we need more information and we need to decide what to put in code. She repeated that we should not make this decision without our fifth councilmember and moved to table for further information.

Councilmember Dillenberg seconded the motion.

Councilmember Sheffield said what she hoped to accomplish tonight, was to resolve the sign that is not enforceable by code, and our officers are allowed to enforce that is not stated in code.

Mayor Barber asked the town's attorney for an opinion.

Town Attorney John Gaylord explained that he had a different perspective on this. As has been pointed out by code, the hours can be established by town council and that assumes that town council can establish hours without violating code as the provision is there. He understood that staff had not been able to find record of whether it happened, but we can operate under a reasonable assumption. There is the possibility that council did do it, and we cannot find the record and that is why the sign is there. It sounds to him that we are taking the chance of taking illegal action to change a previous council's decision. The best way to change it would be a code rewrite. While we cannot prove there was a decision, it would be prudent to assume there was one and to make a change.

Jerome resident Jay Kinsella said that Ordinance 282 was put into effect in 1995. In 1997, when he was on council, there was a discussion on this and there was never a posted, 'open hours of the park.' It had nothing to do with alcohol, just open hours. So, what we did is, we massaged it to where we didn't want overnight camping, we didn't want people setting up outdoor music to affect the noise ordinance, but we never codified as far as the open hours. What was codified in 1995 was the fact there were a lot of noise complaints for upper park because you didn't need a permit for alcohol and people were getting rambunctious. Through that process and the years, there were discussions in terms of the upper park, which is defined as the fence. There are stairs that lead up to it from Paul & Jerry's, from the slide, and also from the burger joint. If you look at the ordinance, somehow in the verbiage he would behoove the town to incorporate the 3-step rule. That has always just been taught; it has always been the upper 3 steps because it's part of

the park, but there are no documents in the town that those steps are part of the park. They have always been the parade steps. It's a historic gathering space.

Chief San Felice asked if he remembered the posting of the sign and Mr. Kinsella said he had been here many years but does not remember when it was posted.

Councilmember Sheffield read the section of the code that was added by Ordinance 282.

Jerome resident Shelly said there is some record that in 2015 it was clarified that the top 3 steps were considered part of the park.

Mr. Christensen asked if it would be appropriate to vote right now for current park hours as all interested parties are present?

Attorney Gaylord replied that it would not be his recommendation to vote on it. Again, he would operate on presumption there was authority to put the sign up, so his recommendation would be to change that under the normal process, which would be the ordinance that you are tabling for the time.

Town Manager Klein encouraged all present to send their suggestions to Councilmember Sheffield.

For clarification on the 10pm closure of the park, Councilmember Sheffield asked if it traditionally has been enforced, if it has to continue until it is changed.

Mayor Barber said she would leave the sign until we can discuss it further; the sign has been up since she was a kid. We will leave the sign there and then come to a decision. She asked if the members of council were ready to take the sign down and there was general agreement to leave it up for the time being. She repeated that she had made a motion to table for more information and a full council. She then said that Councilmember Sheffield had suggested waiting until we had the new councilmembers, so she amended her motion to table the item until November, after the new members had been seated. Mayor Barber said they will be our teammates for the next 2 years so would should make sure they are on board and until then, leave the sign up.

Councilmember Sheffield commented that if the sign is only posted on Upper Park, she did not see any reason why anyone should be run out of Middle Park unless they are breaking one of the ordinances. Middle Park should be entirely excluded for the time being.

Town Manager Klein said that could be resolved tonight as our Police Officers were still present and Mayor Barber agreed. She then called the question to table the discussion to a further meeting, which passed unanimously.

Motion to table the item for further information until November's meeting

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

7:02 (1:45) D. Discussion Regarding the Installation of Security Cameras on Public Safety Facilities

Council will discuss staff's proposal regarding the installation of security cameras.

Mayor Alex Barber chose to move this agenda item to the front of the meeting. She thanked Mr. Vyto Starinskas of the Verde Independent for attending the meeting and said she wanted to add that the headline for his story on the meeting did not say security, and she pointed out that there is a difference between security cameras and surveillance cameras. Mr. Starinskas said he was sure it had said security cameras.

Mayor Barber asked Chief San Felice and Deputy Chief Odle to come to the front and explain.

Police Chief Russell San Felice confirmed that security cameras are not the same as surveillance cameras and explained that the cameras would not be monitored and was not for the purpose of capturing license plates. Instead, they will be similar to the security cameras on Town Hall. He further explained that the police station previously had cameras placed by the former chief, but that feed was linked to his personal contract, and they were no longer functioning. Since that time, the station has had two cars struck, one of which had damage that cost more than five thousand dollars to repair. Chief San Felice then relayed incidences of security cameras located in other places within the town that had provided assistance in solving cases. The Fire Department has cameras in place, so this would be simply upgrading the system that already exists and the cameras would be for the safety of the town lots and buildings. He added that it is not a license plate reader or a Flock camera.

Deputy Chief Odle confirmed that the systems would not capture and store information beyond the SD card. They would not be able to obtain information based on a license plate or vehicle description; it would solely be based on date and time frame.

There was a question from public as to how the Fire Department camera has been used in the past.

Fire Chief Carl Whiting explained that the Fire Department had 4 cameras that were focused on the front, back, near the wall by the public restroom, and the bays. It was a cloud-based system and they were not monitored; they were only

there for security purposes. He added that they had been there for 6 years and he was currently the only person with access to them.

There were more questions from the public, and someone asked if the camera feed would be available on internet. Deputy Chief Odle explained the information would be public domain, and it was also open to audits if there were any concerns about usage. In response to a query about quotes, he confirmed that they had received one so far.

There was continued discussion as to how the information would be linked or accessed, and privacy rights.

Jerome resident Tyler Christensen commented that for our neighbors around the state and country, it is standard practice to have security cameras. He said when people are allowed access to a public facility there is a risk of liability. Chief San Felice explained that we have a camera on the bathroom because of a break-in and agreed it was standard practice for public facilities to be monitored for security.

Jerome resident and prior Fire Department volunteer Jay Kinsella commented that on weekends, people would see the Fire Department doors open, and we were having an issue with equipment being stolen from the bays. This is equipment to be utilized for emergencies. The same was true with the cameras on restroom side, there was vandalism that was done inside the Fire Department's public restrooms.

Someone asked how long it had been since the camera at the Police Station had worked, why that hadn't been updated, and if there would be cameras anywhere else.

Chief San Felice said it had been at least 2 years since the camera had functioned which was why they wanted to update it now, and the cameras were only to be placed on town property at the Police and Fire Stations.

Councilmember Sheffield asked if it was the Fire Department cameras that had helped with the recent cases, and when the last instance of vandalism was.

Chief San Felice said the Fire Station cameras were not able to help, a camera belonging to a private citizen had.

Fire Chief Whiting explained the last instance of vandalism inside the bays happened previous to installing the cameras. There were additional public comments on whether additional cameras were needed, the potential for abuse, and the field of vision of the camera was questioned.

Deputy Chief Odle explained that they had discussed mounting it outside the Police Station, and the field of vision would perhaps extend to the intersection of Main and First Streets. He added that the cameras cannot be moved or manipulated, nor would they be able to zoom in to view, for example, inside a window. If someone were to misuse a camera, it would be serious misconduct and could be a terminating offense.

Mayor Barber said she would like to clarify to the audience that the staff summary report answers a lot of the questions. She explained that normal procedure is for council hold a discussion, then it is taken to the audience for discussion. She added that if anyone else had a question, could they please raise their hand, and we will loop back if we have time.

Mayor Barber said she knew that everyone was here because they are worried about security, and their rights. These are public safety buildings, and these are the people that need to be protected both against us, and us against them.

Cameras show what happens, so in her opinion, this is not violating anyone's rights, and she felt that the Feds would say we have to do this. Her question was, there are going to be 3 estimates that will be proposed, do we have them yet?

Deputy Chief Odle said we do not.

Mayor Barber replied that in her opinion, we should table this to next month to see price estimates. We should see quotes, not just estimates, and actual cameras.

Councilmember Sheffield said she had questions about what is being proposed because we don't have any information. We went through detailed discussion and hundreds of pages of documents for our discussions about water meters and she feels this warrants the same kind of disclosure and transparency. Her biggest concern, in agreement with the mayor, is to table any decision until we have specifics of what you are asking to do because there are issues of security and privacy matters and they need to be crystal clear. Another thing that Councilmember Sheffield wanted to point out was that town code does not have anything about purchase, acquisition, lease, etcetera of any kind of security or monitoring system. Town are being held liable for the rights and security of the public, and she felt we should concentrate on privacy concerns, and address that. She felt that while we are revising the Zoning Ordinances, we have a chance to have something in place and get one step ahead before any purchase, so she proposed pausing for more detailed information and to put something in code to guide and govern the decision.

Councilmember Dillenberg seconded that.

Vice Mayor Moore commented that she wanted to make sure the town is being transparent about these cameras. She was totally opposed to Flock cameras in this town, and she did want to see exactly what was going to be put in place. We have had cameras in the past, and she would like it to be known by the people who live here what exactly is being videoed, so she was in favor of tabling as well. She added that surveillance and security cameras are two different things.

Mayor Barber moved to table the item for next month's meeting to have our three quotes in hand and stated she would like to go on the record that we need to protect ourselves. There's vandalism as well as other things and is not just protecting them, it's protecting everyone. She commented that with Ring cameras, if you are out and about, someone has you on camera.

Councilmember Sheffield made the point that that is not your municipality that has you on camera, and it is not tax-payer dollars paying for it. It's another thing to have it done by the town.

Mayor Barber agreed and said we all deserve to have the same protection.

Town Manager Klein explained that turnaround may not be possible, and recommended it be tabled until we have gathered more information as it may take more than one month to obtain three quotes.

Mayor Barber agreed, and Vice Mayor Moore seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Motion to table the discussion to a future meeting to gather further information

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

8:46 (1:46:16) E. Consider Approval of the Revised Employee Handbook Dated September, 2026

Council will consider and may approve the revised employee handbook.

Mayor Barber asked council if they understood the documents.

Councilmember Sheffield said it was pretty clear; she had gone over the new and old versions side by side, and it looked like we were getting up to date.

Mayor Barber listed some legalities, bold headers that look better in the document, and adding if a few new holidays for employees; how do we feel about this?

Councilmember Dillenberg replied that he was okay with it.

Vice Mayor Moore explained that we've already talked to the town manager about having one document showing the changes as she prefers it that way.

Mayor Barber asked if Mr. Klein had sent it to anyone else.

Town Manager Klein replied that he had sent it to the Mayor and Vice Mayor but would send it to any of the others at their request.

Mayor Barber commented that it was a long document.

Councilmember Dillenberg moved to approve the Employee Handbook.

Councilmember Sheffield seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Revised Employee Handbook Dated September, 2026

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

8:48 (1:48:34) 10. TO AND FROM THE COUNCIL

Council may direct staff regarding items to be placed on a future agenda.

Mayor Barber said that Jerome is not very yard sale friendly. Clarkdale has a market and it would be nice to have a town-wide yard sale that could be done a couple of times a year, maybe in our free parking lot, to benefit the town. She thought we should put it on an agenda to talk about.

Vice Mayor Moore said she was thinking maybe the Fire Station would be better for the meet-and-greet. The acoustics are good, being smaller, and it would be more casual; she would like to build trust.

Mayor Barber agreed and said she has not formally met everyone at the Police Department yet. She introduced herself to Deputy Chief Odle.

Councilmember Dillenberg commented that he had attended a meeting with them and strongly recommended participation.

Councilmember Sheffield said she thought the meet-and-greet was a great idea and she had discussed the National Night Out a few months ago for that reason. She said she knew there has been a lot of venom, and she does not think many people would disagree that Jerome is probably one of the safest places they have ever lived. She feels that way, and she has never lived anywhere and knew the Police Officers by name. She does feel a meet-and-greet and more community involvement and interaction would help a lot. She added the same with the Fire Department; there are a few new staff that you brought to meet us last month and it was nice to see their faces and get to know their names. With the potluck coming up, she would encourage the same type of interaction because it is nice to put a name to a face.

Mayor Barber then gave date and time for the annual Firewise picnic and potluck, Thursday, September 24th, and encouraged everyone to attend and bring a dish to pass.

Fire Chief Whiting confirmed that all members of his staff will be there.

Mayor Barber commented it's a fun time, please come and share.

8:54 (1:53:50) 11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a Public Majority Vote of Council Members Constituting a Quorum, the Town Council May Enter into an Executive Session pursuant to ARS § 38-431.03(A)(3) Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body. Upon such motion, the Council may discuss the following matter(s) in executive session:

Notice of Claim against the Town by Steven W. Cheifetz and Karen D. Cheifetz as trustees of the Steven W. Cheifetz and Karen K. Cheifetz Revocable Living Trust and China Cat Investments LLC

Mayor Barber introduced the item and began to move to enter E-Session, but the councilmembers requested taking a brief break first. The meeting was reconvened at 9:02 p.m.

(1:54:20) Mayor Barber explained that the council took a small break due to the length of the meeting but would now move to go into E-Session at 9:02 p.m.

Councilmember Dillenberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion to enter into Executive Session at 9:02 p.m.

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

9:43 (1:54:45) A. Return to Open Session

Consideration of any action items from E-Session. Council will make a separate motion for any item to be acted upon as a result of the E-Session.

Town Council returned to public meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Mayor Barber explained that they were taking no action at this time, and then moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Vice Mayor Moore seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT**Motion to adjourn at 9:43 P.M.**

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

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

 Alex Barber, Mayor

 Brett Klein, Town Manager