



TOWN OF JEROME

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MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF JEROME COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JEROME TOWN HALL 600 CLARK STREET, JEROME, ARIZONA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024, AT 7:00 PM

Due to the length of this meeting, Council may recess and reconvene at the time and date announced.

7:00PM (0:26) 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 Sharif and Sonia Sheffield.

Staff present included Town Manager Brett Klein, Zoning Administrator William Blodgett and Administrative Specialist/Accounting Clerk Michele Sharif.

2. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Discussion/Possible Action

7:00PM (0:39) A. Financial Report and Detail Invoice Register Report for July 2024

Council will consider and may approve the financial reports for month ending July 2024.

Mayor Barber introduced the financial reports, inquiring if anyone had questions or comments.

Dr. Dillenberg commented the financials look good.

Vice Mayor Moore moves to approve the financial reports.

Dr. Dillenberg seconded the motion.

Ms. Barber called the question, and the July 2024 Financial Reports were approved.

Motion to approve Financial Reports for July 2024

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

3. STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Discussion/Possible Action

7:01PM (1:08) 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.

Ms. Barber introduced the Staff and Council Reports. She remarks that Ms. Moore has a question and defers to Mr. Klein for additional overview.

Mr. Klein shares subsequent to his written report he has been working on the interim loan for the wastewater treatment plant and will have bid documents ready for the bank tomorrow. He shared that he also received a call from AZDEQ and believes those calls will increase with the need to get the wastewater treatment plant construction project underway in terms of construction and the construction bids. He says we are doing all we can and had a roadblock with the easements but will continue to work through that.

Ms. Barber asks if we've made any headway on that.

Mr. Klein answers that it's now with the attorneys and we will get an update to report on Thursday.

Ms. Barber defers to Ms. Moore.

Ms. Moore says she didn't realize there was a steering committee going for a rewrite of the zoning code.

Mr. Klein answers that it's not a steering committee but more of a preparation committee, and is in very early stages with only preliminary work being done. He says the Council will see things coming shortly regarding the applicability of the general plan to

it, adding that right now it's Mr. Blodgett, Candace and himself reviewing some things. He finishes informing Council that eventually there will be a committee that will include 2 council members.

Ms. Moore says she wanted to mention regarding fire mitigation efforts, that she's been hearing about insurance costs going up around town. She says she wanted to mention that she might bring it up as a topic of discussion at another meeting.

Ms. Barber asks if she is referring to where it says they met with the forest service.

Ms. Moore confirmed yes.

Ms. Barber shares that this is something they do every year. They map out the area showing where all the burns are, but sometimes when the fires happen around monsoon season it burns an area that they were already going to burn, so they just watch it and keep it contained. She shares we did lose Todd Willard, who is moving on.

Mr. Klein confirms he will be.

Ms. Barber says if there is nothing else, then she will continue with the congratulations. She congratulates Marty Boland, Public Works Director, for 8 years of service effective August 1st, adding we are really lucky to have him. She continues congratulating John McDonald in Town Hall for 19 years of service effective August 8th, sharing that he also takes care of the new public restrooms as well as Town Hall and the other public restrooms in town.

Mr. Klein interjects that he also takes care of the cats.

Ms. Barber thanks John again for 19 years. She continues congratulations to Wendy Schall in the Library for 17 years of service effective August 14th, to Michele Sharif at Town Hall for 1 year effective August 14th, to Leo Shakespeare in the Library for 7 years of service effective August 16th and to Rusty San Felice, Police Department Lieutenant, for 12 years of service August 27th. She says thank you to everyone and every volunteer that helps this town. She points out that there is more than the manager's report included and asks if everyone has had a chance to review all of the reports.

Councilmembers answered yes, they have.

Ms. Barber says that she's going to say something Ms. Moore said at the last meeting. "It's nice to see that we have interest on the Fire Department again with people that have talents that we need." She asks if anyone has anything else.

Dr. Dillenberg moved to approve the Staff Reports

Ms. Barber seconded the motion asking if there is any additional commentary before calling the question. There was none. With five ayes, the motion carried.

Motion to approve Staff and Council Reports.

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

4. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT/PLANNING & ZONING AND DESIGN REVIEW BOARD MINUTES

Information/Council Review

7:05PM (5:51) A. Report Provided by the Zoning Administrator. Minutes are Provided for Information only and do Not Require any Action

Ms. Barber introduced the item reiterating that the report and minutes require no action and are provided for information only.

Mr. Blodgett further elaborated that both the Design Review Board and Planning and Zoning meetings were cancelled for July. He said with people out of town and applications not ready everyone got a little summer vacation, but they are being put back to work this month. He informed Council that he had a couple of code enforcement letters to send out and that a few other issues resolved without any additional enforcement necessary. He shared that he is trying to be more proactive on enforcement and is keeping an eye on a few high-profile buildings with a lot of activity going on in town. He shared there was an administrative approval for like-for-like repairs and maintenance at 537 School St. He added that he and Barry (Wolstencroft) are keeping an eye on it and that the applicant(s) seem willing to work with the Town. He said in other business he's had limited success in historical base mapping for GIS system, it involves georeferencing and is a small success he will tout as a win. He finished that his big win this month is that he is wrapping up the Design Review Guidelines; incorporating comments, artwork and getting comments back from SHPO in a timely fashion. He said his hope is to submit it to the Design Review Board at their next meeting for recommendation to Council.

Dr. Dillenberg and Ms. Barber both thank Mr. Blodgett.

Ms. Barber asks if there are any other questions for Will.

There were no other questions. Item 9C was moved up in the agenda to follow the Zoning Administrator report before moving on to Item 5.

7:11PM (11:13) 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Consider Approval of the July 9, 2024, Regular Council Meeting; and July 29, 2024, Special Council Meeting Minutes.

Council will consider and may approve the July 9th Regular Council Meeting; and July 29th Special Council Meeting minutes.

Ms. Barber introduced the meeting minutes inquiring if there was any reason that they should be split up for approval.

Ms. Sheffield commented that together is fine.

Ms. Barber asked for other comments questions or corrections. There were none and she moved to approve the minutes from the July 9th Regular Meeting and July 29th Special Council Meeting.

Ms. Sheffield seconded the motion.

Ms. Barber called the question, and the meeting minutes from the July 9th and July 29th meetings were approved with 5 ayes.

Motion to approved minutes from July 9th Regular Meeting and July 29th Special Council Meeting.

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

7:11PM (11:52) 6. PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – 2 Petitions

Mayor Barber introduced item 6 stating we do have 2 petitions from the public. She instructed, how this works is you approach the microphone, state your name and have 3 minutes to speak your truth.

1. Andrew Farber and Lori Leachman - past, present and future road conditions on North Dr.

Mr. Farber introduced himself and informed the Council that he and Ms. Leachman constructed a home at 18 North Drive and have been living there since January of 2023. He shared that personally he’s had knowledge of North Dr. for the past 6 years adding it’s always been a poor road, but it is probably in the worst condition it has ever been in presently. He said he’s worked with Marty (Boland) a couple of times and that he brings in AB, however there is a water issue that is irrigating the road out. He continued that the road is 50% hard packed millings that were done in the 90s and explained that when AB gets applied to North Dr. it sits on top of the millings and creates ball bearings. He stated in the last year he’s fallen walking and hurt himself, sharing that he’s been in demolition for 27 years and has been in dangerous situations, and he doesn’t want to be in a dangerous situation at his house. He further shared that he rides motorcycles and when he brings his home, he must go 1-2 mph down the road, adding this year he fell and hurt a rib that took 6 weeks of recovery. He says the AB being applied twice a year is a Band-Aid that isn’t working, sharing he called Marty two weeks ago and that they know the road is in terrible condition. He said it’s been two weeks, and we have ruts in the road that are impassable for a motorcycle. He then shared a story of a person from out of town who had turned onto the road and was scared trying to turn their bike around because they could not go any further. He stated that someone is going to get seriously injured on North Dr. and we need to do something about it.

Dr. Dillenberg signaled that 3 minutes were up.

Ms. Barber thanks Dr. Dillenberg for the stop, and shares that on petitions from the public Council can answer to criticism, state anything that has been said untrue or bring it up at a meeting for further discussion. She points out she lives on Gulch Rd., and it is hideous from the rain, and that Mr. Farber is not the only one in town living on a dangerous road. She asks if Dr. Dillenberg would like it on a future agenda.

Dr. Dillenberg stated yes, he would like it on a future agenda to talk about. He says he is curious to know what it is that we are looking at for repair. Addressing Mr. Farber he asked, is it \$1,000, \$500, \$10,000; from your experience and speaking to Marty what do we think it will cost to get it safe.

Mr. Farber answered something above the AB application that has been done and isn’t working. He said his rough guesstimate is \$10-20,000, however that is not to pave the road, but to bring milling in with some kind of binder. He added prior to that application the road needs to be brushed to see where the hard packing millings are to find out where they need to fill in.

Dr. Dillenberg said about \$10,000 give or take.

Mr. Farber commented he thought it would be more.

Ms. Barber clarified they can’t really discuss it.

Mr. Farber asks if he can make one other statement. With permission granted he states that the wastewater treatment plant is going to impact North Dr. and is probably going to be a 2-year project so we need to improve the road before, and maintain it during, the two year project.

Ms. Moore mentioned that North Dr is scheduled to be dealt with as part of the wastewater treatment plant project.

2. Charles Romberger - legal compliance.

Ms. Barber introduced the second petition.

Mr. Charles Romberger approached the microphone, introduced himself and informed Council that he is a property owner and the owner of two businesses in Town. He said when they first purchased the House of Joy they applied for a restaurant license. He said Rusty, the Fire Chief gave him a verbal list of items that were needed to comply, one of which was installing a 12” water line down Hull Ave, adding it was about a million-dollar project, but was needed to be legally compliant with the water. He said he was told they had issues with sewer compliance, and that they needed to install fire sprinklers. He stated he contacted people that install fire sprinklers and checked the fire rules, finding that they were under the size legally necessary to require

sprinklers, however having had a fire at his own house he absolutely wanted them installed; even though legally it was not necessary. He said everyone he contacted told him they would not do the work here in Jerome, that they had had issues and simply refused to do the work. He stated he had chatted with Jay, who was doing rehab work at Nellie Bly, and were going to have sprinklers installed because they were over the size requiring sprinklers. He said he was told that they found a private contractor who was going to do the job for \$30,000, the contractor was sent a check for \$15,000 however a week later that check was returned, stating issues with Jerome and that they had had legal problems with the Town. Therefore, sprinklers did not get installed there, even though they are legally needed. He shared that John Knight was present at the meeting and had asked that Rusty put the reasons in writing to which Rusty said he would not do that. Mr. Romberger said in the end he was denied a restaurant license and has been denied each year since. He proclaimed this is not legal, not moral and not correct. He further stated there is one business name in the Town Plan, which is the House of Joy, adding the general idea was to have a restaurant like that; one that is a reservation only, as that it was the ideal for the Town. He stated he finds it utterly inappropriate that it continues to happen restating, it's not legal, not moral and not correct.

Ms. Barber acknowledged that Mr. Romberger's 3 minutes were over. She said she is going to respond, sharing that the House of Joy had a parcel behind it that was for parking when it was a restaurant. She shared that before the building was sold, the parcel for parking was sold, and that the building was not being used as a restaurant anymore. It was being used as a gift shop and therefore took away the parking requirement and the sprinkler requirement, that is why it was not able to just go back to a restaurant because it was a gift shop. She continued that now you must check all the boxes of everything needed for a restaurant, one of which is parking and the other being fire suppression. She thanked Mr. Romberger for speaking. Mr. Romberger then stated that he sent an email to Council earlier in the evening, detailing other issues legally and how it needs to be dealt with.

Ms. Barber answered that Town Hall staff have spent a lot of time, well over 40 hours, trying to facilitate his request and are doing their best.

Dr. Dillenberg asked if there was an exception to be made with the property.

Ms. Barber states to Dr. Dillenberg that this is delicate.

Dr. Dillenberg questioned if it was something worth further discussion

Mr. Blodgett shared that in the time he has been on staff he has not received any formal application to start the process. He shared that he is more than willing to help Mr. Romberger achieve his restaurant goal but there are County health requirements and State requirements that he must do but so far, they haven't gotten that far in the process in the last 2 ½ years.

Dr. Dillenberg pointed out that Mr. Romberger had left the meeting.

7. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/Possible Action

7:23PM (23:15) A. Consider Resolution No. 672; A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jerome, Arizona, Adopting a PSPRS Pension Funding Policy for Fiscal Year 2025

Council will consider and may approve Resolution No. 672.

Ms. Barber introduced Resolution No. 672. She commented that 4 or so years ago it was completely funded and somehow the dynamics changed. She deferred to Mr. Klein for better explanation of what happened.

Mr. Klein stated added staff, further elaborating that the Town is getting on track now. He says the goal was, and always has been, to be fully funded by 2036, adding that there will be many peaks and valleys. He shared that PSPRS doesn't know how many staff we have until the end of the year, and there is a year to two-year lag. He shared we fell a little bit with the hire of Officer MacGregor, and now are catching up. He points out that it fell to 87% funded but the numbers reflected are from the end of December. He informed the Council that we made a \$15,000 catch-up payment and have another \$15,000 in the budget for this fiscal year. He is confident that we are well prepared and considered fully funded and will continue to be with the additional resources added to the budget each year.

Ms. Barber clarified reading "although we have slipped to 87% pensions at 85% funded are considered well-funded and prepared.

Mr. Sharif moved to approve Resolution No. 672

Dr. Dillenberg seconded the motion.

Ms. Barber asked if there was any further discussion before calling the question. Resolution No. 672 was approved with 5 ayes.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 672

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

7:26PM (26:01) B. Consider Resolution No. 673: A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Jerome, Yavapai County, Arizona, Declaring and Adopting the Results of the Primary Election Held on July 30, 2024 (Official Canvass)

Council will consider and may approve Resolution No. 673. This resolution will be provided once the election

results have been certified.

Ms. Barber introduced Resolution No. 673. She congratulated everyone behind the dais on the results. She said it looks like everyone is in the same seats. She asks if anyone wants to hear details.

There were multiple answers no.

Vice Mayor Moore moved to approve resolution number 673.

Ms. Sheffield seconded the motion.

Ms. Barber acknowledged the motion and the second, called the question, and Resolution No. 673 is approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 673

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

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion/Possible Action

7:27PM (27:18) A. Discussion and Update / Possible Direction Regarding the Proposed Community Garden and the Community Garden Shed

Council will be provided an update regarding the proposed community garden and shed and may provide staff direction

Ms. Barber introduced the item and commented that Cole Vasquez was present last time to discuss this. She said that she believes that he and the other people who have been helping in the garden have an idea of where the shed should go, not where it is on the plans. She asks if Mr. Blodgett knew anything about that.

Mr. Blodgett shared with Council that several weeks ago he had reached out to the Community Garden Facebook group seeking someone to spearhead the project so we can finish improvements to build the shed, adding that as of this evening he has yet to have anyone respond to or reach out to him about it. He shared that he is stuck in a loop where he can't do the work and then review his own work, but we are eager to get it done. He further shared that he and Ms. Sharif are ready to get the area staked out, and graded and leveled by hand, so that we can get our Town Crew to help us out with the rest. He shared one concern is that he wants to make sure we have an active garden community rather than make it one more thing that the town crew has to maintain. He said he hesitates to have one more ask of the crew and is desperate for any community garden member who is willing to spearhead this to reach out so we can see this come to fruition.

Ms. Moore commented it looks like someone is working on it, it looks good.

Ms. Barber commented that it looks the best it's ever looked.

Mr. Blodgett shared that is true, however that he is also aware there have been locals that have shown up to volunteer days and people have told help is not needed, so he is unsure of how to read the message.

Ms. Barber asked for the opportunity to reach out to the garden community she knows. She then asked if this could be tabled until the next meeting so at least one person can be present to discuss.

Ms. Moore said she definitely doesn't want to see much crew time put in.

Ms. Barber agreed adding if we need more compost bins or more beds and people are using it now. She further stated the other thing to reiterate is that this is a community garden, if people are showing up to help and people there are kicking them out that's not very community. She shared the upcoming event "Portals in the Park" where everyone will make portals and put them around Town, adding this is the spirit of a town community garden, not this is mine get out. She said she would see if she could help a little bit and do some pushing from her end.

Mr. Sharif said to add that he would love to see someone from the community garden here in front of us to say what they're going to do. Obviously, we are going to support the community, we have people out there that want to do it, but let's see you here presenting it with proper vigor.

Ms. Barber shared she is happy that people spearheaded it because the gate was being opened and the space being used as a dog potty. She said she heard people saying let's get rid of the garden and turn it into a dog toilet, adding if we need a dog park that is another discussion, but the community garden is not it. She further added she has heard of people still opening the gate to let their dog poop in there anyway, so now there is a sign up. She thanked everyone for hearing that, adding they will talk about it in more detail next month.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Possible Action

7:31PM (31:38) A. Consideration of a Special Event Liquor License for Jerome Fire Department's Auxiliary Halloween Dance on October 26, 2024

Council will consider and may approve the Special Event Liquor License.

Mayor Barber said that she doesn't really consider this new business, adding this is an event that has been going on for years. She introduced the item adding it has outgrown its home at the Spook Hall by twice or even three times. She said the Fire Department makes it bigger and bigger and now it's down at the basketball courts. She shared that it is a fun event that she attends every year. She said we don't have Rusty here, but we do approve it every year. She asked if anyone had any

questions to ask of Rusty. There were none. She moved to approve the special event liquor license for the Halloween dance. Mr. Sharif seconded the motion.

Ms. Barber called the question and with 5 ayes the motion carried.

Motion to approve Special Event Liquor License.

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

7:32PM (32:58) B. Discussion and Possible Action / Staff Direction for Downtown Signage, Including Proposed Public Restroom Sign

Council will consider design alternatives and may provide approval and / or staff direction.

Ms. Barber introduced the item and commented, apologizing, that the proposed sign was ugly.

Ms. Moore shared that she liked it and thought it was self-explanatory.

Ms. Barber agreed it is and if everyone else likes it she won't say no. She further elaborated that when COVID shut everything down people were still coming in droves, so the Town rented some Nice Johns, which were expensive. She said when they took them away people were upset, so we did the best we could in putting in some public restrooms, and now both other places with public restrooms are feeling it, but we can't make everyone happy. She stated we have more restrooms but now we need signage on it telling them about restrooms that have always been there. She expressed understanding that the Town is slow right now, and that the New State Motor Company is not getting as much foot traffic because of the new restrooms.

Ms. Sheffield expressed that making folks aware of other restrooms will probably keep them from piling up and standing outside of one, adding if there is a line, people may consider going to another restroom if they're headed in that direction. She shared that she can state with certainty that the Historical Society bathrooms were getting a lot of use, even prior to becoming public bathrooms, and they were paying the bill for all of the supplies so it would be nice if we could help their tenants still get a little foot traffic because there is a restroom there.

Dr. Dillenberg asked what was being approved.

Ms. Sheffield and Ms. Barber answered that right now they are just discussing and giving direction.

Ms. Barber said she agreed that we need more signage, adding a little while back there was directional signage but it didn't work out as proposed. She shared that there were grand ideas of a map with a QR code, but right now the best we can do is we send you to the Chamber's trolley to get a map, and it's a good map.

Ms. Moore asks if this was the map proposed to put on the restrooms across from the Police station.

Mr. Klein confirmed it was based on the proposal from Scott Hudson at the prior meeting, and this is what staff came up with. He added staff have no recommendation whatsoever and will do whatever Council advises.

Ms. Moore asks if the plan was the make it a larger size and putting it on the side of the building where people go in?

Ms. Barber expressed maybe some bigger arrows. She said it's kind of the same layout as the Chamber map, just not so full.

Ms. Moore thought it was self-explanatory and we don't have to go to any great expense to do it.

Mr. Klein shared he thought Kristen (Muenz) did a good job with it.

Ms. Barber agreed, and said she also wanted to point out there is a sign on the park with the hours it is open, and it looks hideous and needs replacing ASAP.

Ms. Moore added that it hasn't been talked about for a while. She asked when the Town approved the truck parked for the Gold King Mine. She asked if it was town property and doesn't remember how and when the Town let them put the truck there.

Mr. Blodgett shared he had never even investigated it and hesitates to speak on it.

Ms. Moore says she would like it looked into because she thinks the jumble of signs there needs some fixing. She added the more parking sign is tacky and would like a nicer looking sign letting people know that there's parking out past the fire station. She said maybe once we know what the deal is with the truck the new can work more on it.

Mr. Blodgett said he would dig into that further.

Ms. Barber said the truck is kind of hiding behind all the signs as you approach. She said she believes it pre-dates our new fire station. She recalls the truck having been there since her childhood.

Ms. Moore said maybe it was the late 80's, and she recalled the town approved putting a truck there when Gold King opened.

Mr. Klein said we can research and see what we come up with. He said as far as the sign we can get a sign 20 x 32 that is not expensive if you choose to utilize it.

Ms. Barber advised Council to look around at the signs. She brought up the new benches in the park, sharing it has become a cigarette butt heaven up there. She said she doesn't know what needs to be done, but there were signs at one point that said something to the effect of "pick up your trash", she also suggested maybe an ashtray there. She clarified the new benches in the park are wonderful.

Ms. Moore said it would be nice if people wouldn't do that.

Ms. Barber said as far as direction she thinks it was all covered.

Ms. Moore then proposed putting up a sign stating littering is a fine and that cigarette butts are littering.

Ms. Barber said maybe they could look at the area and see where a sign could be placed. She then shared that she noticed the bench donated to the Historical Society has a Yavapai-Apache seal on it. She asked if we got more to put on the benches in the

park.

Mr. Klein confirmed we do have them.

Audience member, Mark Krmpotich, shared the Gold King Mine opened in 1981.

7:08PM (8:21) C. Summary of Responses to the RFQ for Professional Engineering Services and Consideration of an Updated Agreement for Engineering Services Between the Town of Jerome and Southwest Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Council will consider and may approve an agreement for on-call engineering services with Southwest Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Mayor Barber introduced the item and asked Mr. Klein for further explanation.

Mr. Klein states it has been a little over 6 years since our last RFQ for engineering services to see what is in the area. He shared that we are pleased with our current contracted on call engineer, but it is a requirement of the CDBG grant that there has been an RFQ in the past 5 years. He continued, we issued the RFQ to get a Statement of Qualifications, it went out to 19 firms in the area, and we received 2 responses. He shared that one in Flagstaff, Civil Design Engineering Inc, and the other is from our current provider SEC. Both companies have similar experience and qualifications, however SEC has been in business longer and has greater institutional knowledge of the Town of Jerome. He shared they are the closest nearby and we've had no issue with them, so staff recommended approval of their Statement of Qualification and entering a 3-year contract with them, adding it has been reviewed by attorney and is all good.

Ms. Barber says we have been pleased with the service and we like consistency and not having to bring new people up to speed. She said she would approve a 3-year agreement.

Dr. Dillenberg seconded.

Ms. Moore clarifies that Ms. Barber is making a motion.

Ms. Barber states absolutely she moves to approve the 3-year agreement. She asks if anyone else on the council has questions or comments.

Ms. Moore shared all of her dealings have been good.

Ms. Barber called the question and with 5 ayes the 3-year agreement with SEC is approved.

Motion to approve the agreement for Engineering Services between the Town of Jerome and SEC, Inc.

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

After the vote Mayor Barber moves back to the regular agenda, picking back up with Item 5.

7:42PM (42:15) D. Discussion and Consideration Regarding Direction for the Town's Representative on the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Resolution Committee

Council will review the resolutions and may provide direction based on Council majority input.

Mayor Barber introduced item 9D. She shared that the mayor usually sits on the committee but unfortunately, she does not have time to go down to the convention, however there is coverage with Mr. Klein, Ms. Sharif and Councilmember Sharif attending. She shared there are normally 4 resolutions, this time it's 6, and is a lot of information. She said she is in support of all the resolutions.

Dr. Dillenberg agreed.

Ms. Barber shared that a couple do not pertain to us, but if the State and the League are pushing for them that she would be in agreement.

Mr. Sharif expressed his agreement.

Ms. Barber said she hopes everyone has fun, and to network and get any and all help we can get.

7:43PM (0:00) 10. TO AND FROM THE COUNCIL

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

Ms. Barber introduced to and from the council. She said Council already hear a petition from the public about the roads, she further elaborated that unfortunately we only have so much money and so much staff. She said the Town of Jerome does the best we can do, with our roads that are sometimes like this. She added it is dangerous and you have to do what you need to, to keep yourself prepared, adding Gulch Road is in horrible shape right now. She said if we have the money to patch but you patch too quickly, and a monsoon rolls through then it washes it the dirt they packed in away. She stated she is bringing up the roads, if we can do as much as we can to fix them, or if we need to put it on a future agenda, we can but she has spoken her piece on that.

Dr. Dillenberg added that we ought to look at other funding that might be available that we haven't explored yet.

Ms. Barber agreed and said she believes Mr. Klein is good about looking for all of that. She said any funding we can retain for the town is helpful. She added monsoons wreak havoc on roads like this, but the other thing we could do is pave everything. She shared most people who live on a dirt road already, do not want it paved because it will turn into the Audubon.

Mr. Blodgett interjected something to consider regarding the roads is that any major work will have extra steps. He said because of our Landmark status and due to the age of some of the roads they are considered archaeologically significant, which means there will be extra steps to consider which will cause everything to take a little more time.

Ms. Barber says thank you and clarified that we are a National Historic Landmark town, we don't have a district, the whole town is a Landmark as a whole town. She said sometimes people think they have all these plans of what they want to do and think we throw all these roadblocks up, but it is what we do to protect our status as a National Historic Landmark. If you want to live here, then you live with the quirks of being here, it's part of being one of the 400 people that live in this beautiful community.

She added we are very tight knit; check on each other and care about each other. She shared that we just lost Mr. De Fonseca of The Bordello. She said it is heartbreaking to continue and continue to lose our residents and our business owners.

Dr. Dillenberg said we accomplish a lot and are going in the right direction.

Mr. Sharif said he's still new but as we talk about funding and roads everything going on, he thought it was mentioned to increase the parking kiosks for money to assist with those things.

Ms. Barber said that is something we usually talk about at budget which is in April.

Mr. Kelin said we'll have a goal setting meeting sooner than that.

Ms. Moore said she is happy to live on a dirt road and doesn't ever want her road paved. She shared that she has been hearing about people's insurance on their homes and commercial buildings going sky high due to flood or fire risks, adding it's probably happening all over the country. She said she would like to investigate if there is anything we can do as a community to have any effect on that. She shared she thinks we have a great Firewise program, but this is killing a lot, it's raising the rents here in particular so that nobody can afford the rent.

Ms. Barber shared we are a national Firewise recognized community and doesn't know if insurance companies realize that.

Mr. Krmpotich asks if it doesn't mean anything to them.

Mr. Sharif shared that his house fell into that.

Ms. Moore said it raises mortgage payment and makes it harder to buy homes.

Mr. Sharif shared that he had a thought for that. He says he doesn't know if it's possible, but for example smaller companies will group together for better rates on services like health insurance. He wasn't sure if we could investigate something like that where businesses or a community could come together as an entity.

Ms. Barber commented that is interesting and asked if Mr. Klein could investigate leveraging the national Firewise status or anything like that.

Mr. Klein said yes, adding the Town needs to stay out of it. He said to Mr. Sharif's point that the Amish community and others like it do that, so there is a way for it to be done but it needs to be driven by the business owners.

7:51PM (51:13) 11. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Dillenberg asks if he can motion to adjourn.

Ms. Barber seconded his motion, inquiring if there was any additional discussion. There was none.

Ms. Barber called the question, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 7:51p.m.

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

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Alex Barber, Mayor

Brett Klein, Town Manager