



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, MARCH 12, 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 (0:22) 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

Present were Vice Mayor Jane Moore, and Council members Dr. Jack Dillenberg and Sonia Sheffield. Mayor Alex Barber joined the meeting via telephone.

Staff present were Town Manager Brett Klein, Zoning Administrator Will Blodgett and Finance Director/Deputy Clerk Kristen Muenz.

7:00PM (0:39) 2. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Financial Report and Detail Invoice Register Report for February, 2024

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

Vice Mayor Moore introduces the financial reports, she then asks if anyone has any questions or comments. There were none.

Ms. Sheffield moves to approve the financial reports.

Dr. Dillenberg seconds the motion.

Ms. Moore calls the question, and the financial reports are approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Financial Reports for February 2024

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

After the vote Ms. Moore moves New Business Item(s) 9-A and 9-B up in the agenda for people present in the audience.

7:04PM (4:11) 3. 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.

Ms. Moore introduces the staff reports.

Mr. Klein shares that the only thing to add this week was the 60% progress meeting, that Ms. Moore also attended on the wastewater treatment plant design. He shared that he has the report, it is very large with a lot of graphics and charts, however if they would like to read it, they can, adding that he would also send it to them. He shares the purpose of the meeting was to make sure the committee is giving a quasi OK until the ultimate final review with the Town Council as a whole.

Dr. Dillenberg shares he thought everything looked ok.

Ms. Moore says that she thought she saw something in the minutes for that meeting, but she was unable to locate it.

Ms. Barber moves to approve the staff and Council reports.

Ms. Sheffield seconds the motion.

Ms. Moore asks if there is still another meeting about it.

Mr. Klein answered yes there is another meeting next month.

Ms. Moore continues, there was something she wanted to bring up and share with the group. She calls the question, and the staff and council reports are approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Staff and Council Reports

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

7:06PM (6:28) 4. 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

Ms. Moore introduces the agenda item.

Mr. Blodgett says that Council has his written report and adds that he has the hardware for GIS, the software is coming, as well as some additional training. He says he has a lot more work ahead of him.

Ms. Moore asks what the first thing is he’s going to do.

Mr. Blodgett says the first thing is to digitize all of the maps both current and historic, including county maps, and sewer to get all of the data in one place. Then he will review everything for accuracy and start working on corrections.

Ms. Moore says that sounds exciting.

Dr. Dillenberg says it’s very cool.

Ms. Moore asks if there are any other comments. There were none.

7:07PM (7:38) 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Consider Approval of the February 13th Regular Council Meeting and February 13th, 2024, Special Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes

Council will consider and may approve the February 13th Regular Council Meeting and February 13th Special Budget Workshop Meeting minutes.

Ms. Moore introduces the agenda item and asks if there are any comments about the minutes.

Dr. Dillenberg says he has nothing and asks Ms. Sheffield and Ms. Barber if they have any comments.

Ms. Barber says she has no comments and moves to approve them.

Dr. Dillenberg seconds the motion.

Ms. Moore calls the question and the minutes from both the Regular Council Meeting and the Special Budget Meeting Workshop are approved unanimously.

Motion to approve minutes of the Regular and Special Budget Workshop meetings of February 13, 2024

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

7:08PM (8:24) 6. PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Moore introduces the petition from Mr. Gary Felix, asking if everyone has had a chance to read it. Council members confirm they have.

Ms. Moore invites Mr. Felix to the microphone for additional statement regarding his petition.

Mr. Felix introduces himself sharing that he is a resident that lives just outside of Jerome and has been here 55 years. He says that he wants the public to know that Dundee, the road he lives on, is 101 years old today. He says it hasn’t been regulated by the city, but all of the other streets in town are paved and everybody pays attention to them, but on Dundee

they get no attention, the drainage goes down the middle of the road and costs a lot of money to regrade it after every storm. He says, in the town newsletter, Rusty said there weren't any grass fires around here, but that couldn't be more wrong. He shares there are 3 metal telephone poles in his neighborhood that have all been struck by lightning. Every time they are struck, they light on fire and stay on fire. He shares that one time they caused a grass fire below his house, and he believes it took almost 8 hours to put that fire out, then they replaced the pole. He shares the hog pens also burnt during another fire, adding that Mr. Lee Christensen used to store furniture in those pens. He shares that he's had 3 heart incidents and had a stint put in last week. He says he doesn't like waiting to get out of Dundee when he's sick and that he's talked to other residents out there and they all feel the same. He says they are all getting old and sooner or later will need a fire truck or other emergency vehicle and his petition is to ask to please survey. He asks if that is something that Mr. Blodgett can do.

Mr. Blodgett answers he is not a licensed surveyor.

Mr. Felix continues, we need a survey of Dundee, and the obstructions need to be removed. Our town code calls for 25' fire lanes but the rest of the country is a 20' fire lane, and that's all he had to say.

Ms. Moore thanks Mr. Felix, she adds that Council can't respond to petitions from the public but will take it into consideration.

Dr. Dillenberg adds good luck with Mr. Felix's heart.

7:12PM 7. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/Possible Action

7:12PM (12:06) A. Consider Resolution No. 665 Approving and Adopting the Yavapai County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Updated December 6, 2023

Council will consider and may approve Resolution No. 665.

Ms. Moore introduces the Resolution and asks if there are comments or questions.

Ms. Sheffield says there was lot of interesting information and found it entertaining to read. She says she doesn't see any reason that we would not want to pass this.

Ms. Moore shares that she did see a few discrepancies when it came to Jerome. She shares that she didn't have a chance to talk to Chief Muma but did have a chance to talk to Chief Blair and they are addressing those. She says the sooner we adopt this then the more likely we are to receive financial help with some of the hazard mitigation.

Dr. Dillenberg makes the motion to approve.

Ms. Sheffield seconds the motion.

Ms. Moore asked if Mr. Klein had anything additional to say.

Mr. Klein says Ms. Moore covered it. He shares that Chief Muma not only participated but also reviewed it with both he and Chief Blair. He says there are some discrepancies, they know about it and will be correcting it, but it shouldn't hold up the process. He adds that passing or approving this makes us eligible for additional funding when necessary.

Ms. Moore calls the question and Resolution 665 is approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 665 Adopting the Yavapai County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

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

7:14PM (14:25) B. Consider Resolution No. 666: A Resolution of Intent to Extend the Maturity Date of a Bridge Loan Made to the Town of Jerome by the Arizona Community Foundation

The Council will consider and may approve Resolution No. 666.

Ms. Moore introduces the resolution and asks Mr. Klein to explain further.

Mr. Klein says this is a bridge loan that provides the Town with funding to pay for the design phase, which is the phase we are in, before getting the interim loan. The bridge loan has exceptional terms and we have not utilized all of the funding yet as there were some delays. He says we are now underway and will probably have a few more months of design work. He says that it was designed to take on the initial construction including bidding and getting that paperwork together, and that this is a common situation that occurs when dealing with federal loans. He says the Arizona Community Foundation rarely has any issues with this, we just need to have Council, should they so choose, pass a resolution extending the maturity date, adding we can't even come close the terms that are contained within that now as times have changed since a few years ago when we were able to get the exceptional rates.

Dr. Dillenberg asks if approving this now will give us a little extra time.

Mr. Klein confirms yes.

Dr. Dillenberg moves to approve the resolution.

Ms. Moore seconds the motion and asks if there is any discussion or questions from the public. There were none.

Ms. Moore calls the question and Resolution 666 is approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 666 Intent to Extend the Maturity Date of a Bridge Loan

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

7:16PM (16:35) C. Consider Resolution No. 667; A Resolution Committing Local Funds as Leverage for a FY24 Community Development Block Grant Application

The Council will consider and may approve Resolution No. 667.

Ms. Moore introduces Resolution 667 and asks for further elaboration.

Mr. Klein says the amount of funds we receive every 4 years for CDBG isn't enough to complete a whole project, we saw that the last time we got partially through a project. He says whenever a local community needs to designate funds for a project, they have to say so in a resolution, if there is a difference between what CDBG provides and the costs the engineers say it might be. He shares the engineers think this will be anywhere from the \$550,000-600,000 range, and most of that is coming from CDBG funds, but the Town would have to commit to \$150,000 and is approximately equivalent to what we designate annually for repair and maintenance. He says we haven't even come close to utilizing it yet this year, but we will and are identifying some projects, adding that it won't stretch the Towns resources thin, and is a good project. He continued, saying on a side note, we did have to pivot from Dundee to Deception because Dundee is covered by multiple jurisdictions and NACOG said it would get too cumbersome, might get lost in the shuffle and might not even get funding awarded ultimately. He says he will apply for HURF exchange funds which is an exceptional funding opportunity to get Dundee done, and now we're doing Deception which was also identified by Council in the Resolution as the other priority project.

Ms. Moore clarifies for hydrants, water lines and road improvements down there.

Ms. Muenz adds that area was Chief Blair's other main concern, because the only hydrant he has down there is on the corner of Lower Gulch, and to get the lines towards any of the houses on the other side of 89A the hose has to cross the highway.

Ms. Moore agrees that is a long stretch and adds that we have a hydrant at the corner of North and Dundee. She then makes a motion to approve resolution 667.

Ms. Sheffield seconds the motion.

Ms. Moore calls the question and resolution number 667 is approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 667 Committing Local funds as Leverage for a Fiscal Year 2024 CDBG Application

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

7:20PM (20:01) 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Discussion and Possible Staff Direction Regarding Town-Owned "Cemetery" Land in Clarkdale

Council will discuss Town property located within the Town of Clarkdale and may provide staff direction including getting the property ready for sale.

Ms. Moore introduces unfinished business and defers to Mr. Klein for introduction.

Mr. Klein shares that he'd like to keep this on the agenda until it's concluded. He says we are working with attorneys now on getting an appraisal but first making absolutely sure we can sell the land. He says there is a little question right now so this will probably be on the agendas for several more months until we get the appraisal or a final answer for Council.

Ms. Moore asks if there is a guestimate on how much an appraisal will cost the town.

Mr. Klein shares that we've received a title opinion that was a little more costly due to complexity. He believes it will be a chunk of change and more importantly will take time to even get an appraiser to come over to the property and complete that, maybe 20-50 which is a huge range.

Ms. Moore says we will keep this on the agenda. She then moves to 9C.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Possible Action

7:01PM (1:27) A. Consideration of a Special Event Permit Application for the 2024 Cocodona

Council will consider and may approve the permit for the 2024 Cocodona Special Event.

Ms. Moore introduces the item; she asks who the representative present is.

Mr. Steve Aderholt, audience member, introduces himself.

Ms. Moore asks if anyone has any questions.

Ms. Barber asks if it is the same as last year.

Mr. Aderholt answers yes.

Dr. Dillenberg motions to approve the special event permit.

Ms. Sheffield seconds the motions.

Ms. Moore comments that it is going really well and has no problems with it. She calls the question, and the special event permit for Cocodona 24 is approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Special Event Permit for 2024 Cocodona

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

7:03PM (3:00) B. Consideration of a Request from the Jerome Humane Society for a Council Approved Exception to the Special Event Permit Application in Accordance with Section 10-3-7(D) of the Jerome Town Code to Hold a Fundraiser (St. PETrick's Day) with Proceeds Going to the Jerome Humane Society

Council will consider the request from the Jerome Humane Society and may approve an exception for a special event permit.

Ms. Moore introduces the item for consideration. She acknowledges 2 members of the audience present and asks if anyone on the Council has any questions or comments.

Dr. Dillenberg moves to approve, adding that he thinks this is a great idea.

Ms. Sheffield seconds the motion.

Ms. Moore calls the question, and the special event exception is approved unanimously.

Motion to approve the Special Event Permit Exception for the Jerome Humane Society's St. PETrick's Day Fundraiser

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

Ms. Moore returns the meeting to the order in which the remaining items appear on the agenda.

7:21PM (21:40) C. Consider Approval of an Agreement for Financial Advisory Services Between the Town of Jerome and PFM Financial Advisors, LLC

The Council will consider and may approve the agreement for financial advisory services.

Ms. Moore introduces the agenda item and says she believes we have done this in the past.

Mr. Klein confirms that yes, they've selected the financial advisor services provider which is PFM. He says we are now, as mentioned in the prior resolution, discussing that it's going to be time to go from the bridge loan to the interim loan which takes a bit of time, and is what they are being hired for. He says because we don't have a tremendous need we don't issue bonds; this will be cheaper to directly negotiate the loan with banks to get a favorable rate. He says it would be most likely in our best interest rather than to take it to the public for bond bids. He shares they (PFM) will be working on an hourly basis with no other payment provided to them to secure the loan, which they estimated in their service agreement.

Ms. Moore asks if there is a motion.

Ms. Sheffield motions to approve the agreement.

Dr. Dillenberg seconds the motion.

Ms. Moore calls the question and the approval of the agreement for financial advisory services from PFM is approved.

Motion to approve the Agreement for Financial Advisory Services from PFM Financial Advisors, LLC

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

7:23PM (23:48) D. Consideration of New Signage at the Jerome Civic Center (Town Hall) Indicating No Parking from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Council will consider and may approve new signage restricting parking at the Jerome Civic Center (Town Hall).

Ms. Moore introduces the item and tells Mayor Barber, who joined via telephone, that she didn't get to see it but there is a huge van parked in the middle of the parking lot, kind of blocking some of the parking.

Mr. Blodgett shares that it was the Cocodona van.

Ms. Moore says it had Utah plates, then asks if there is any discussion on the agenda item.

Ms. Sheffield and Dr. Dillenberg both said this makes sense to them.

Ms. Moore acknowledges a comment from a member of the public in the audience.

Resident, Nancy Robinson, asks if this is complaint driven or is the parking lot going to be added to the patrol by the Town Police Officers.

Mr. Klein confirms it is somewhat complaint driven and with no signage there can be no action by the public safety. He says with signage they will be looking for that, adding it's for safety, for parking for meetings like this and during the day and security for a variety of reasons.

Ms. Robinson says she understands but she knows of a lot of rules in Town that are not enforced.

Mr. Klein shares that public safety mentioned that without signage they can't do anything about it. It will be mostly complaint driven; he isn't sure how often they will be down check it out.

Ms. Robinson asks how often someone is here between 10pm to 6 am for work purposes.

Resident Mark Krmpotich says that John McDonald works in the building.

Ms. Muenz shares that in the winter months in early morning hours an employee arrived and was trying to let themselves into the building, someone else was parked in the lot overnight and while that employee was trying to let themselves in they heard footsteps running down the stairs towards them. So there have been issues with random strangers being parked there.

Ms. Robinson says she understands that but reading the packet she was curious who would be here working late at night.

Ms. Muenz shares the 10 pm is because the Council meetings can sometimes last a couple of hours and we need to make sure that people that are coming to meetings have a place to park.

Ms. Robinson says she would like to say just as a public safety thing in the parking lot, thank you for fixing the light so it didn't fall off the building.

Dr. Dillenberg moves to approve the new signage.

Ms. Moore adds that she has noticed when she has come at different time that there are other cars parked here that are not here for town business, and we don't like them taking up parking for people coming to meetings either.

Dr. Dillenberg restates his motion to approve.

Ms. Sheffield seconds the motion.

Ms. Moore calls the question and the approval for new signage at Jerome Civic Center is approved unanimously.

Motion to approve new parking signage at Jerome Civic Center

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

7:27PM (27:54) E. Consideration of Continuing and Funding the Jerome Transit Pilot Program, Making Modifications to the Program, or Discontinuing

Council will discuss and provide staff direction regarding the 2-year Jerome Transit Pilot Program.

Ms. Moore introduces the item, adding there will be no motion needed for this. She asks if there are any comments.

Dr. Dillenberg says no, it's a good idea.

Ms. Sheffield says the reports show the average weekly users of 10-12 pretty consistently. She shares every time she sees the bus there's no one on it, and rarely sees anyone getting on or of if it here in town. She did ask for clarification at one point, if those riders were for the whole route or specifically boarding to leave or come to town, and Mr. Klein assured her it was serving Jerome specifically. She says it looks like the cost is going up quite a bit.

Mr. Klein confirmed that she is correct it is currently \$4,500 during the pilot program and will increase to \$9,000 a year should the council decide to continue with it.

Ms. Sheffield continues, she says she and Council member Harvey had both expressed if we're really looking to serve residents of the community that there might be a better way to do that, simply because public transportation can be a bit of a chore. She shares the line that picks up and drops people off here in town, only goes to the depot, so if anyone wants to go further, for example Wal-Mart, then they have to change lines and if we're looking to serve our older residents for doctors appointments or errand running she doesn't necessarily think it's the best way however she doesn't want to discontinue something that people are actually utilizing without a back up plan also. She says they've talked loosely about using the old town shuttle or the new one and schedule different days of the week or once a month, adding doctor's appointments have a tendency to be scheduled pretty far out so there would be a need to figure out how to schedule it and make the shuttle and driver available. She thinks the best way to start the discussion is to talk to Scott (Kolu) and see what his Wednesday morning shuttle trips are like, how many people are taking advantage of it, what types of errands are they running, and then of course finding someone who is willing to do it. She says it won't necessarily be a position that pays your bills but imagines there are some people with flexibility in their schedules that would be willing to help. She says she thinks there are a lot of things to talk about it.

Ms. Muenz shares that he parks the shuttle here on Wednesday morning, so she is aware of a handful of residents who rely on it every week for their weekly shopping. Some don't have their own transportation, are elderly, or have mobility issues that prevent them from getting down there. She shares that one person in particular sits in the shuttle while Scott does the shopping for everything on their list, which is not something a CAT bus would be able to do. She says there are some residents that do rely on it very heavily, not a lot, but there are a few.

Ms. Moore defers the conversation to Mr. Klein.

Mr. Klein shares we have some time, and can be considerably flexible, if need be, by adding the times the bus was running to our shuttle, in case there was someone who was using it. What we do need to know tonight because CAT needs to know, is if we are continuing that program or not, and that is the staff direction needed. He says he would assume, based on comments from the past, that we would discontinue not continue on the pilot and make it a regular program, but he wanted to be sure Council didn't want to propose something else.

Ms. Moore says she thinks so. She adds, we were spending \$4,500 we should talk during the budget time about what might be able to do.

Dr. Dillenberg agrees and says we need to do something and it's a matter of coming up with the right solution.

Ms. Moore asks Ms. Barber if she has anything to add, she did not.

Ms. Moore confirms no motion is needed and moves to the next item on the agenda.

7:33PM (33:15) F. Continued Budget Discussions Regarding Personnel Costs and Council Direction for the FY 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget

Council will consider the staff proposal regarding wage and benefit adjustments for FY25 and may provide staff direction in preparation of the FY25 Budget creation.

Ms. Moore introduces the continued budget discussions and defers to Mr. Klein for introduction.

Dr. Dillenberg asks if we will need to vote or take action on this.

Ms. Moore says just direction.

Mr. Klein confirms direction only and says Council will ultimately approve anything on the budget after public hearing. He says this is in line with the staff report at the last budget meeting, is a little lower for wages, but we are looking to bump up other items such as retirement, which will still be a little less than the Arizona State Retirement System, and insurance, which will also still be a little less than some of our neighboring communities. He says it was discussed that he would provide an overall cost of the program. He outlines that the wages, insurance, and retirement amounts cover all employees for the year. He shares that the retirement is at the maximum, assuming that employees will start contributing, adding many do not so that will probably be much less than what is reflected, but that is the overall cost. The overall cost of wages is approximately the same amount as what it was last year as well. He says now that Council has this, he is looking for direction if it is ok to put it into the budget for you all to see if the numbers do work.

Dr. Dillenberg says it makes sense.

Ms. Moore clarifies they are not deciding yes, they want to do it, but that we'll talk about it at budget time.

Dr. Dillenberg acknowledges a hand up in the audience.

Resident, Becca Miller, asks what caused the decrease in COLA so drastically.

Mr. Klein answers if you look at the Social Security Administration's cost of living, historically they go by a formula. He says this is high, historically they are often times at .8%, 1.2%, 1.7%, last year was significant due to many factors.

Mr. Krmpotich asks if COLA accounts for inflation.

Mr. Klein confirms yes, in addition to a lot of other factors used.

Ms. Miller asks if they draw where the COLA is coming from.

Mr. Klein says no, last year was the highest one in decades and this one is still higher than most of the SSA COLA adjustments are, and is something the town uses, in addition to neighboring jurisdictions, to make sure the Town of Jerome is competitive with wages and various other factors.

Ms. Moore shares we probably are the lowest and the smallest community but we try to keep our employees.

Mr. Krmpotich asks if this budget resolves the PSPRS deficit.

Mr. Klein shares that he is talking to Mr. Pecharich tomorrow for a game plan. He says you might recall we were going to wait until about April or May towards the tail end of the budget. He says he would prefer to pay off the unfunded amount month to month, but they would prefer a one time payment so they can see what our projected surplus might be adding you will likely hear about it at our next meeting.

Ms. Moore says we are done with direction for that and moves to the next agenda items.

7:37PM (37:47) G. Consideration and Discussion, Along with Possible Staff Direction Regarding a Town Councilmember Vacancy and Subsequent Appointment

Council will discuss the most recent vacancy on the Town Council and may provide staff direction regarding a potential councilmember appointment.

Ms. Moore introduces this as a very sad item, she reads an email dated Saturday March 9th, sent by Councilmember Sage Harvey which says, "This letter is to inform you that I am officially resigning my position as a Jerome Councilmember as of today." Ms. Moore shares that she spoke with Ms. Harvey and the really sad thing is the situation with housing in this town. She says this is a sad state of affairs that we have people that volunteer for the town and cannot even find housing.

Dr. Dillenberg says he agrees and is sorry to lose her.

Ms. Moore says what we need to do is discuss the vacancy and subsequent appointment. She defers to Mr. Klein and asks him to explain what we are dealing with as far as appointment.

Mr. Klein says when there is a vacancy, especially one that occurs 30 prior to the due date for nomination papers to be completed, which is April 1st, the council shall appoint a replacement. He says there are many ways or methods for appointment adding that State Law does not prescribe which method be utilized. He shares there are about 8 cities and towns in Arizona going through this right now. He says most are doing a notice that there is a vacancy and that it is for the expiring term, so it's good through the remainder of Councilmember Harvey's term, and to submit a letter of interest. From that point if there is one letter you would consider that, if there are multiple letters of interest then there will be some follow up questions that you would ask. He shares that he has a bunch because several communities throughout the state are going through it right now so you can choose at that point which questions or process you want from there. He recommends starting with a notice that there is a vacancy and to submit a letter of interest with the Town Clerk. Those letters would then come to Council. He says April would likely be the special meeting to determine who if anyone the seated Council would like to appoint.

Ms. Moore asks if it is a requirement by law to appoint by a certain time.

Mr. Klein replied not by a certain time, because there are a variety of variables that could impact how long it takes, so no, it could move at the Council's leisure. He shares there are some things that require 2/3 or ¾ majority votes so it's helpful to have a full Council seated.

Dr. Dillenberg asks if Mr. Klein is going to take care of getting a notice out.

Mr. Klein answers if that is what he is hearing from the council.

Mr. Dillenberg says yes let's do that and see if there is any interest.

Ms. Moore and Dr. Dillenberg asks for any input from Ms. Barber.

Ms. Barber says she agrees with putting out a notice and going from there.

Dr. Dillenberg says let's do that and see if there is any interest.

Ms. Moore says Sage really dedicated a lot of time and she was really good at looking at everything.

Dr. Dillenberg agrees and says she was awesome.

Ms. Robinson says she wants to go on record. "I don't have any contact information for Sage but tell her I appreciated everything she did for us."

Dr. Dillenberg expresses his agreement.

Ms. Moore says Ms. Harvey worked really hard, she will be really missed, and was counted on for many things.

Ms. Sheffield shares that Sage was really supportive when she was considering running for council. She shares that she probably would not have had the confidence to try if it hadn't been for her. She was always super prepared for meetings and reviewed her packets very thoroughly.

Dr. Dillenberg says he feels terrible that we were not able to find a place for her to rent.

Ms. Moore says hopefully that if she does eventually find a place here that she will continue because it will be hard to find somebody that works that hard. She finishes by directing Mr. Klein to put out the notice.

7:44PM (44:03) 10. TO AND FROM THE COUNCIL

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

Dr. Dillenberg says he wants to take a moment to commend Marty and our Town crew. He says he saw them working on a water leak on Holly the other day and they were so impressive with the work they were doing on behalf of the community. He says he wants people to realize and continue to appreciate the hard work that they do on our behalf. So he wants to go on record commending Marty and his crew for the outstanding work that they do whether taking the garbage out or doing repairs and maintenance, we're fortunate to have them.

Ms. Sheffield says spring is rolling around again and so she is being asked and is curious how we utilize and improve our community garden. She says she has a lot of ideas and questions but is unsure how to facilitate them. She says she feels like we need someone to be in charge, adding there were shed plans taken before P&Z and DRB that fell to the wayside, and the garden shed is not out there. She is unsure what to do to foster this

Ms. Moore asks if it can be put on the agenda as an item.

Mr. Klein says yes it can be put on the agenda and will definitely need a champion for it.

Mr. Blodgett shares the garden shed in particular went through a redesign where they expanded what they were initially going to do including the need to pour concrete. So he needs someone to write up something for P&Z for the concrete and give him the information because he can't do the work and then review it himself. So if someone can pick that up and finish it up, he has the rest of the information.

Dr. Dillenberg says she just reminded him, what about the bathroom?.

Ms. Muenz shares that Marty is planning on paving the bathroom area at the same time as the Town Hall lot, he is estimating possibly April 10.

Ms. Moore asks if Ms. Barber has anything.

Ms. Moore shares that she overlooked Terri Card's anniversary of 2 years, and says congratulations. She continued that she was sorry to see that Brice Wood and Barry Supalla both passed, and also wanted to mention publicly that she saw the obituary for Kenton Jones. She shares that in the 1990's into at least 2006, Mr. Jones was the Town attorney and was also a Yavapai County judge.

Ms. Moore says one more thing, she also wanted to thank Windy Jones and Scott Kolu publicly for all the hard work they did to pull off the dinner and the parade.

Dr. Dillenberg interjects they were both fabulous events.

Ms. Moore continues, she isn't going to try and name everyone who helped them, but it was their idea to make that happen, everyone seemed to enjoy it. She thanks the Historical Society as well and finishes saying it was a very nice event, and that's coming from someone who isn't big on events.

Dr. Dillenberg thanks Ginger and the Chamber of Commerce.

7:49PM (49:22) 11. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Dillenberg motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:49p.m.

Ms. Sheffield seconds the motion.

Ms. Moore calls the question, and the meeting is adjourned at 7:49p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 7:49p.m.

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

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Alex Barber, Mayor

Brett Klein, Town Manager

Date