



TOWN OF JEROME

POST OFFICE BOX 335, JEROME, ARIZONA 86331
(928) 634-7943
www.jerome.az.gov

MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - PUBLIC HEARING #1 ALTERNATIVE EXPENDITURE LIMITATION (HOME RULE) OF THE TOWN OF JEROME COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JEROME TOWN HALL 600 CLARK STREET, JEROME, ARIZONA

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024, AT 6:30 PM

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

6:30PM (0:22) 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL 6:30 P.M.

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 Kristen Muenz.

6:30PM (0:35) 2. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Public Hearing: Alternative Expenditure Limitation (Home Rule)

Council will conduct the first of two public hearings in accordance with A.R.S. 41-563.01, regarding an Alternative Expenditure Limitation (Home Rule Option) for the Town of Jerome.

Vice Mayor Moore introduces the item and asks Mr. Klein to explain further before opening the public hearing.

Mr. Klein starts by sharing that back in 1979-80 Arizona Legislatures set a base amount, or expenditure limitation, for cities and towns not to exceed. He says there are many factors that go into an annual budget, and they were not able to account for all of those factors. So cities and towns, every four years, can bring forth an initiative, which is called a Home Rule, and Arizona is a Home Rule state. He shares that this is a requirement every four years, to establish the Town Council budget as that expenditure limitation. This means we will not exceed the budget that there are public hearings upon and that the public have had the opportunity to provide input on. He says it's passed unanimously in prior years, listing all the years it has passed, including the one-time override. He says that the Town and about 43 or so other communities will all have this on their ballot this year. He shares that it gives the local control to the Town resident voters, and Council, provided it's passed, and doesn't bind the Town to the State imposed limitation from 1979-80. He says this is the first public hearing and there is a requirement for two public hearings regarding the expenditure limitation.

Ms. Moore asks if she needs to open the public hearing.

Mr. Klein confirms yes, she does.

Ms. Moore opens the public hearing at 6:33 pm, asking if anyone has anything to say about it.

Dr. Dillenberg shares that he is in favor of it, and then asks if there needs to be a motion.

Resident Mark Krmpotich shares he is trying to get up to speed and asks if we are limited to \$550,000 and are asking for an extension above that.

Mr. Klein answers essentially yes. He says that is what we would be bound by, if the alternative limitation is not passed, but it hasn't even been close to being turned down by the voters in years past.

Mr. Krmpotich asks what the Town is asking for above that amount.

Mr. Klein shares that the budget process is currently moving forward but likely would be significantly more. He adds that at the limitation cost most of the Town staff would be terminated.

Mr. Krmpotich asks how that amount is raised.

Mr. Klein answers that this is the only way to raise that amount.

Ms. Moore shares she believes we would not be able to spend any grant money we receive either because we would be restricted to that limitation amount.

Mr. Klein shares that state code does allow for some revenue sources.

Ms. Muenz interjects, sharing they are called allowable limitations; some state and federal grants are allowable in addition to that state imposed limitation.

Mr. Klein shares that you'd have nobody to oversee the grant, fund the grant, or hire contractors.

Mr. Krmpotich asks, just to get a baseline, what was the 2023-24 budget.

Ms. Moore says wasn't it a couple million dollars.

Mr. Klein shares it varies significantly based on contingencies and grants, but if we look at the just the general fund it is about a \$2.9 million budget.

Mr. Krmpotich asks how the amount of \$550,000 was reached.

Mr. Klein shares there was a formula used back in 1979-80. He shares it probably started at about \$420,000.

Mr. Muenz shares that it's based on historic population records as well as current population records, adding that historically we haven't had a large population.

Mr. Klein shares there will be a pamphlet released to the public that explains all of this a little better.

Ms. Moore asks if there are any additional comments.

Dr. Dillenberg asks if there is any action needed.

Mr. Klein says no, none is necessary.

Ms. Moore closes the public hearing at 6:37pm.

6:37PM (7:03) 3. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Moore introduces the late item on the agenda.

Dr. Dillenberg moves to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Moore seconds the motion. She calls the question, and the meeting is adjourned at 6:37p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 6:37PM

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

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Alex Barber, Mayor

Brett Klein, Town Manager

Date