



TOWN OF JEROME

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

DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF JEROME

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JEROME TOWN HALL

600 CLARK STREET, JEROME, ARIZONA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 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, Councilmembers Dr. Jack Dillenberg, Issam "Izzy" Sharif, and Sonia Sheffield.

Staff present included Town Manager Brett Klein, Zoning Administrator Will Blodgett, Fire Chief Carl Whiting, and Deputy Clerk Kristen Muenz.

7:00 (0:41) 2. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Discussion/Possible Action

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

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

Mayor Barber moved to approve the financial reports which were seconded by Councilmember Sharif. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Financial Report and Detail Invoice Register Report for July, 2026

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

7:01 (1:04) 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.

Town Manager Brett Klein gave a reminder of the upcoming Zoning Code Joint Session to be held on Tuesday, the 18th. He and Michele Sharif will soon be attending the annual LACT conference and offered to take any input from Council. Mayor Barber asked about the process of Covid Grant, and if we received funding and Mr. Klein confirmed that we had. Mayor Barber then congratulated employees who had an August employment anniversary: Marty Boland, John McDonald, Wendy Schall, Michele Sharif, Leo Shakespeare, and Russell San Felice. There was a round of applause and Mayor Barber expressed thanks to everyone who worked for Jerome, both staff and volunteers.

Vice Mayor Moore reported that she attended the county-wide water resources and open space committee and will have a document for the next meeting on storm water.

Mayor Barber said Arizona is growing water smart and trying to do something with every drop; we have to figure out how to harness storm water. She moved to approve the reports, which was seconded by Councilmember Dillenberg.

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			

7:05 (5:49) 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**

Zoning Administrator Will Blodgett reported that we are wildly busy with a number of things.

Mayor Barber asked if there were any questions.

Councilmember Sheffield asked for information on a meeting he mentioned about Section 106.

Mr. Blodgett responded that he had met with MPS, State Parks, and historical societies of the Verde Valley. They are trying to bridge gaps and get to know each other because of potential changes coming.

7:07 (7:22) 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**Discussion/Possible Action****A. Consider Approval of the July 14th, 2026, Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

Council will consider and may approve the July 14th, Regular Council Meeting minutes.

Councilmember Dillenberg moved to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Vice Mayor Moore. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2026

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

7:08 (8:11) 6. PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jerome resident Mark Krmpotich spoke as a volunteer on behalf of the Fire Auxiliary, inviting members of council and the public to the annual Firewise Community Picnic, and asking the community to get involved with the potluck.

Bob Francisco spoke on behalf of the Jerome NA meetings that had been had at the Fire Station, respectfully requesting to continue having their meetings in the space.

For clarification, Mayor Barber asked if the meetings were still being held, and Mr. Klein confirmed that they were.

Gary Babcock spoke, who is also a member of the NA group. He expressed appreciation for many years of sponsoring a meeting, and while he understood that some felt it should move to another space due to conflict with operating the Fire House, he feels it hasn't been a problem for the last 26 years.

Mayor Barber clarified that we have a new Fire Chief and for petitions, we can't make action, but we can bring up later.

Councilmember Dillenberg replied that he would like to speak about it at a future meeting.

7:16 (16:32) 7. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**Discussion/Possible Action****A. Consider Resolution No. 691; A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jerome, Arizona, Adopting a PSPRS Pension Funding Policy for Fiscal Year 2027**

Council will consider and may approve Resolution No. 691.

Mayor Barber read the title of Resolution No. 691 and added clarification that it is a pension system and the formula for calculating it had changed, so now we are playing catch-up.

Mr. Klein explained that the state wanted everyone to be fully funded by 2036, which is a moving target goal based on funding formulas affected by number of staff and tenure. The current rates are based on FY ending 2025 so there is a lag. As long as we stay over 80% we are deemed well-funded. Klein added that we are doing well, and we are at 88% this year. Council can choose to set aside more funding if it wishes to do so.

Mayor Barber asked if this fund was just for the Police Department and Mr. Klein confirmed this.

Mayor Barber moved to approve Resolution No. 691, which was seconded by Councilmember Sharif.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 691; Adopting a PSPRS Pension Funding Policy for Fiscal Year 2027

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

7:20 (20:17) B. Consider Resolution No. 693, A Resolution of the Town of Jerome, Arizona, Authorizing and Obligating Terms of a Loan from USDA, for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

Council will consider and may approve Resolution No. 693.

Councilmember Sharif commented that this has been a long time coming and moved to approve the resolution.

Councilmember Dillenberg seconded the motion.

Mayor Barber explained that there were a loan and a grant. We are going to pay back more than 3 million, why did it go up?

Mr. Klein explained that there was the original loan amount that council had pledged, and also the loan, which is called a grant because it's on USDA's terms. The project was originally going to be between 5 and 6 million and has grown exponentially to 14 million dollars over the years following Covid. We do get to amortize this over 40 years at a very low rate. You will be discussing user rates in the future, with a hope to mitigate as much as possible. But again, it is 8 million more than the original price tag. You are pledging that amount in order to get the USDA funding, and we have stated the need, so they are stepping up with the grant loan. Mayor Barber replied that it's a lot. She asked the Vice Mayor how much the upgrade was years ago.

Vice Mayor Moore replied that 20-some years ago it was \$750,000.

Jerome resident Mark Krmpotich commented that you now have a mile of EPA restrictions when the federal government is involved. He then asked about the parts of the loan.

Mayor Barber said it was partially what was funded, and also the part that is Jerome's expense. Yes, USDA gave us a huge chunk of money. If we wait it will cost a couple more million, we need to get this done, every day is more money.

Mr. Krmpotich suggested that council lock in the price.

Vice Mayor Moore clarified that the upgrade is needed due to exceeding ammonia levels.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 693, Authorizing and Obligating Terms of a Loan from USDA, for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

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

7:26 (25:58) C. Consider Resolution No. 694; A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Jerome Authorizing and Providing for the Incurrence of Indebtedness for the Purpose of Providing a Portion of the Cost of Acquiring, Constructing, Enlarging, Improving, And / Or Extending the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant

Council will consider and may approve Resolution No. 694.

Mayor Barber read the title of Resolution No. 694 and moved to approve it, which was seconded by Councilmember Sharif.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 694, Authorizing and Providing for the Incurrence of Indebtedness for the Purpose of Providing a Portion of the Cost of Acquiring, Constructing, Enlarging, Improving, And/or Extending the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant

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

7:26 (26:41) 8.NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Consideration of Expiring Lease and Possible Renewal for Kathleen Jarvis

Council will consider and may approve the renewal of the lease for Studio 2, with or without changes.

Mayor Barber commented that Librarian Kathleen Jarvis is our wonderful, long-standing department head of the library, and she moves to approve the lease.

Councilmember Sharif seconded the motion.

Mayor Barber explained that we used to have a kid's art program in the summer, but it has turned into an art program for all. You can sign up through the library and do all kinds of cool art projects if you are interested. She thanked Kathleen Jarvis.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Renewal of the Lease for Studio 2 for Kathleen Jarvis

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

7:27 (27:50) B. 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 explained the town's representative is Izzy Sharif, and Brett Klein, Michele Sharif, and Izzy will be attending the annual conference.

Councilmember Sharif commented that he enjoyed attending. He said he had already viewed the packet and was ready for voting when he got there. When you see what the resolutions are, it's good for us. As we are perusing the LACT conference, we are going to be filling gaps and seeing what the conversations are and bringing that back with us.

Mayor Barber asked if everyone had viewed the resolutions because we are providing a majority input to Izzy. She said I don't have a problem with any of them, so she would say full support of them from Jerome.

Mr. Klein explained that municipalities have different needs, but they are still our fellow communities, so unless there was something that would be detrimental to Jerome, we should support them all.

Councilmember Sharif then relayed his comments at a panel he joined along with the representative from Sedona, Scott Jablow. He told those present that it takes people to run communities, and to run businesses, and people need houses.

Mayor Barber said there is an outfit called the Neighborhood Alliance with figures about how much Arizona lost due to STRs. She thanked Councilmember Sharif and said she believed council had given majority input.

7:32 (32:04) C. Consider Approval of a Heat Illness Prevention Plan Policy

Council will consider and may approve the Heat Illness Prevention Plan.

Mayor Barber asked if we have had anyone on our Town Crew or Fire Department experience something like this.

Chief Whiting had left the meeting due to an emergency call, so on behalf of the Fire Department, Mark Krmpotich replied that no, we are just trying to protect them.

Mayor Barber stated that it was something we needed for everyone who worked in this heat.

Councilmember Sharif moved to approve the policy, which was seconded by Mayor Barber. It was approved unanimously.

Motion to approve of a Heat Illness Prevention Plan Policy

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

7:33 (33:05) D. Consider Request from Connor Hotel (Anne Conlin) to Designate a Loading and Unloading Zone at Jerome Avenue and Main Street

Council will consider and may approve, approve with conditions, or deny the request.

Mayor Barber asked if the parking spaces in question were the first 2 on the corner.

Anne Conlin of the Connor Hotel confirmed this.

Councilmember Sheffield explained that she will not be voting, but she did have thoughts. Thirty feet might be a bit much. A lot of people will pull up on the end to unload, mostly musicians, and you can get about 4 or 5 feet from the corner. She said she felt if you used the space near the corner, plus one parking space, it would probably be enough. Also, she expressed concern for the enforcement of it, as she can see what happens with the 20-minute areas. Who is responsible for enforcing or reporting; the front desk? Councilmember Sheffield suggested a space beside the recycling bin as a loading zone instead, as people would be less inclined to leave their car there.

Vice Mayor Moore said that it is contingent on ADOT approval; What if we try one space and see what they say?

Councilmember Sharif asked if the loading zone would be a safety feature. Were they having Issues with bands and beer trucks?

The applicant replied, all the above; it will be easier for drop-off and pick-up. The guests are always looking for place to unload their luggage and that way they don't have to park in the street.

Councilmember Sharif said he could appreciate that, and if it's a safety concern, you wouldn't want people trying to cross the street. His thought would be if you paint it red, that will block it out, and he would approve one space. Then the Police Department could assist with enforcement. If safety is the primary goal, putting it on the same side is closer and you are avoiding members losing equipment.

Councilmember Sheffield said she had mentioned a loading zone at the Post Office to the front desk, and they were not certain guests could use that space to drop their luggage. As for enforcement, people do a good job staying out of Post Office spaces. Would it be okay to suggest they use that space?

Councilmember Sharif agreed that the Post Office loading zone was not far from the Connor, and it is safer to keep them on that side. He felt it would be more band members and patrons that would park there.

Mayor Barber commented they want it for loading and unloading rather than the practice of double-parking and blocking the lane. She said she also felt, if they have a lot of luggage, that we should make them go across the street. The Connor Hotel is one of the longest running businesses in Arizona. Mayor Barber added that if she wanted to check her mail, she would like to continue to use the space in front of the Post Office. So, she thought we should entertain letting them have one front space if ADOT approves it. She thanked Connor Hotel and commented that it will make it easier for older people to get out of their vehicles as well.

Councilmember Sharif said he would vote in favor of that and suggested painting it red instead of yellow to prevent people from parking on it.

Mayor Barber explained that if it is red, that means no parking at all instead of a loading zone.

There was some further discussion on the striping color, and it was confirmed that red is for emergency vehicles.

Mayor Barber stated that it will be dependent on the Arizona Department of Transportation, so she moved to allow designation of one space along the front conditional on approval from ADOT.

Councilmember Sharif seconded the motion, and it passed by majority with one abstention.

Motion to approve Designating a Loading and Unloading Zone at Jerome Avenue and Main Street of one space with approval from ADOT

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

7:49 (49:17) E. Consideration of Amendment No. 4 to the Owner - Engineer Agreement for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Council will consider and may approve Amendment No. 4.

Mayor Barber introduced the item and asked if there were any questions.

Councilmember Sharif made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Vice Mayor Moore.

The amendment passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Amendment No. 4 to the Owner-Engineer Agreement for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

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

7:49 (49:53) F. Consideration of a Special Event Liquor License Application for Jerome Fire Department's Auxiliary Halloween Dance on October 31, 2026

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

Mayor Barber introduced the item a Special Event Liquor License for the Halloween Dance and expressed happiness that it would be taking place on Halloween night.

Councilmember Dillenberg moved to approve, which was seconded by Councilmember Sharif.

The application passed unanimously.

Motion to approve a Special Event Liquor License Application for Jerome Fire Department's Auxiliary Halloween Dance on October 31, 2026

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

7:50 (50:48) 9. TO AND FROM THE COUNCIL

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

Councilmember Sheffield said she would like to discuss opening and closing times of parks. There were some discrepancies between the signs versus what is in code, so she would like to verify for our residents. She said the code talks about restrictions on alcohol after 10 pm and noise after 10 pm and she felt that was adequate to regulate shenanigans. She explained that are not many places in town to be after 10 pm and it was brought to her attention that a guest at the hotel was threatened with criminal charges for sitting on a picnic table at midnight. We need to be sure we have clear ordinances.

Councilmember Dillenberg expressed thanks to all folks present and said he will no longer be on council at the end of the term. Councilmember Dillenberg added that it has been an incredible number of years for him, and he appreciated it, and he looked forward to the Council continuing to do its great work. There was a round of applause from all present. Vice Mayor Moore said she had the same suggestion as Councilmember Sheffield.

Councilmember Sharif said he would like, and he has had a conversation with the Police Department about this, to see them patrol the neighborhoods. There are a lot of challenges with people leaving vehicles in certain areas, and he would like them to go through and stop people from parking illegally. Also, he has been talking with NACOG as a representative, along with ADOT on the 89A corridor, and they suggested RPD patrolling on 89A for slow people. We have posted signs with varying miles per hour. We all know where the signs are and 90 percent of the time there is someone in front of us going slower. We have a wonderful PD, and he would love to see them patrolling. Lastly, there have been a couple of challenges that have occurred on the mountain. Odle and San Felice asked if he could help, and one to the cameras he had previously installed was able to capture a hit and run on the mountain. They were able to make an arrest, so he wanted to bring up public safety cameras because they have also been hit and unable to prosecute. Because of the camera, we were able to capture the hit-and-run and also destruction of property when someone's truck bed flew off and smashed another vehicle. So, he would like to have the conversation asking about keeping us protected. He added that this is not Flock, this is just a camera on PD giving them a view of the front.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:57 P.M.

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

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Alex Barber, Mayor

Brett Klein, Town Manager