



TOWN OF JEROME

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DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF JEROME

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JEROME TOWN HALL

600 CLARK STREET, JEROME, ARIZONA

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026, AT 7:00 PM

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

7:00PM (0:34) 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 council members Dr. Jack Dillenberg, Sonia Sheffield and Izzy Sharif.

Staff present included Town Manager Brett Klein, Zoning Administrator Will Blodgett, Administrative Specialist Michele Sharif, and Town Counsel John Gaylord.

After roll call, Mayor Barber rearranged items on the agenda starting with 9 (E).

7:13PM (13:54) 2. PROCLAMATIONS

A. Proclamation: August as Child Support Awareness Month

Mayor Barber will read or summarize / paraphrase the proclamation.

Mayor Barber read the proclamation aloud, proclaiming August as Child Support Awareness Month.

7:15PM (15:10) 3. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Discussion/Possible Action

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

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

Financial reports were introduced, there were no questions from Council.

Mayor Barber pointed out that numbers are down in all 3 categories from last year.

Councilmember Sharif motioned to approve the Financial Reports, receiving a second from Vice Mayor Moore.

Mayor Barber called the question, and the financial reports were approved.

Motion to approve Financial Reports for June 2026.

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

7:15PM (15:47) 4. STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Discussion/Possible Action

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

Council will consider and may approve the staff reports.

Mr. Klein gave a brief updated about the mayor's previous point, sharing that sales tax numbers are delayed, as we've received payments from May, but will continue to receive payments throughout the month. He shared that we're pretty close to the target and hopefully will have some good returns in the next couple of months. Mr. Klein then updated on the wastewater treatment plant bid, noting it is on the agenda as a procedural formality required through USDA, but no construction contract has been executed. He updated Council that financial information indicates the project is

approximately \$7.1 million over the original estimated cost, bringing the total estimated project cost to approximately \$12.7 million. USDA has indicated it is expected to provide funding for the additional costs, although the Town will remain responsible for its required 20% loan share, which will increase as the overall project cost rises. While the increased costs are not ideal, the financing terms are expected to remain favorable. Finally, Mr. Klein announced that APS is scheduled to perform utility work on Thursday, the 23rd, which will require at least a one-lane closure on Highway 89A. He shared that APS will handle all traffic control during the work. APS plans to complete the work using a hot transfer, allowing the power to be moved without the broader power outage that had previously been anticipated. Mayor Barber stated that "350 people live in the Town of Jerome, give or take. We're going to put \$12 million into a wastewater treatment facility upgrade." She shared that Vice Mayor Moore was recounting that 25-30 years ago when they did the last upgrade the cost was \$750,000. She said that is a hard pill to swallow continuing that we need the upgrade due to the tourism in the community. Mayor Barber then moved on to congratulate Scott Kolu, Shuttle Driver for 5 years of service and to Kirt DeMichiel, Parking Enforcement for 2 years of service, both effective 7/7. She then asked if anyone on Council had any updates that they'd like to share.

Councilmember Sharif provided an update on his work representing the Town through NACOG, sharing that they've identified additional rehabilitation funding opportunities for both single-family and multifamily housing. He noted that Town staff are working with NACOG to explore how these programs could benefit the community. He also reported on a recent meeting with ADOT regarding safety improvements along the Highway 89A corridor. Discussions included improving signage, enhancing turnoffs, exploring locations for semi-truck turnarounds and viewpoints, and pursuing federal funding for these improvements. He added that he is continuing to work with NACOG and ADOT to strengthen coordination and advocate for the Town's transportation and infrastructure needs.

Mayor Barber reported that a longtime resident contacted her to discuss renewable energy and that the conversation included wind turbines. The mayor noted that, as a National Historic Landmark community, Jerome must preserve its historic character, making individual residential wind turbines an unlikely fit. She added that while solar panels are already allowed and encouraged, some homes are not well-suited for solar due. She then shared that she met with APS representatives Darla DeVille and Rebecca Rudd to explore additional sustainability opportunities. She asked whether APS might provide another round of funding for community solar installations, noting that APS previously funded the solar array in the town parking lot. She said they retained ownership of the panels while the town receives a small credit, but she was told Jerome was the last Arizona community included in that funding program. The mayor noted that she wasn't sure if anyone in town owned one, but Jerome is one of the few municipalities in the region that does not currently offer an EV charging station. And finally, she shared that she raised concerns about the appearance of the newer streetlight bulbs and asked whether APS could work with GE to provide bulbs more similar to the original, less intrusive versions. She said APS then offered all the information about what would be involved if the town chose to assume ownership of its utility poles. Mayor Barber concluded by thanking APS for its willingness to work with the town and said she expects more information on solar energy, EV charging stations, and streetlight options. She also expressed interest in exploring larger solar installations in locations outside the historic core where they would not impact Jerome's historic appearance while still providing renewable energy benefits.

Councilmember Sheffield reported that she had been in contact with the Mayor of Sedona and was waiting for a response. She shared that she'd been researching more on short term rentals (STRs) and how some communities are finding ways to incentivize STRs to start renting more long term, changing the approach of penalizing them. She said she's still compiling all of her information and is not quite ready to share all of the information, but it's being worked on. Mayor Barber followed up with information about Sedona sharing that they used to have a population of just over 10,000 people and now with their 1,400 vacation rentals population has dropped to a little over 9,000 people, noting that Jerome is similar in that we started with 450 residents, now with 27 – 30 vacation rentals nearly 100 of our residents are also gone. She then made the motion to approve the staff and council reports. Prior to a second Mr. Sharif suggested asking APS to explore programs to help residents install solar panels, noting that expanded rooftop solar would benefit both homeowners and the utility's electric grid. He also recommended revisiting their prior meeting of allowing the Town to manufacture shields for the town's streetlights, reminding them that we have local expertise that may be available to help design and/or manufacture them, while avoiding the expense of the Town taking over ownership of the lighting infrastructure. He then seconded Mayor Barber's motion. Mayor Barber called the question, and the motion to approve staff and council reports passed.

Motion to approve Staff and Council Reports

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

7:29PM (29:56) 5. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT/PLANNING & ZONING AND DESIGN REVIEW BOARD MINUTES

Information/Council Review

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

Mayor Barber introduced the item.

Mr. Blodgett gave an updated to the Council that its been very busy since he wrote his written report. He also shared the good news, that we've been awarded the million-dollar grant from the EPA, and that the last 5 days he's been focused on doing what's needed for that.

Vice Mayor Moore asked he if could explain what will happen with that grant.

Mr. Blodgett shared that assessments on properties will be completed, which will lead to plans for abatement and removal. He said the priorities are Hotel Jerome as number 1, Town Hall as number 2 and then the third priority for assessment will be the New State Motor Company building in partnership with the Jerome Historical Society.

Mayor Barber congratulated Mr. Blodgett and Mr. Sharif for the work they'd done to get the grant. She shared a brief backstory of prior remediation and work that had been done on the Hotel Jerome, such as lead paint coverup and window replacements, in previous years also with Brownfields grants.

Mr. Blodgett shared that this is the intended first step, adding that the Brownfields program wants to see completed projects and believes with this we are now on that track.

7:33PM (33:20) 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Consider Approval of the June 9th, 2026, Special and Regular Council Meeting Minutes, and June 22nd, 2026, Special Council Meeting Minutes

Council will consider and may approve the June 9th, and June 22nd, Special and Regular Council Meeting minutes.

Mayor Barber introduced the minutes and asked if there was any reason they should be voted on separately. Council agreed to vote on all minutes at once. She asked if there were any questions or corrections. There were none. She moved to approve the meeting minutes from the Special and Regular Council Meeting of June 9th and the minutes from the Special Council Meeting of June 22nd.

Councilmember Sharif seconded the motion.

Motion to approve Meeting Minutes for Special and Regular Council Meetings of June 9th and June 22nd, 2026.

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

7:10PM (10:07) 7. PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jessica Drum from Northern Arizona Healthcare (NAH) in Flagstaff, shared that both Verde Valley Medical Center (VVMC) and Flagstaff Medical Center (FMC) recently received national recognition for excellence in patient safety and quality of care. She highlighted that both hospitals earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from the Leapfrog Group, with VVMC receiving its fourth consecutive "A" and FMC its seventh, adding that only 12 of 53 Arizona hospitals evaluated received the top rating. She also reported that in the latest Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Star Ratings, FMC maintained its four-star rating while VVMC improved from three to four stars, placing both hospitals above the national average. Jessica emphasized that VVMC's improvement reflects the staff's commitment to quality and patient safety and noted that these achievements were accomplished despite a 5% year-over-year increase in hospital admissions.

After the presentation the meeting moved back to item 2 and continued in the order of items remaining on the agenda.

7:34PM (34:06) 8. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Consider Resolution No. 690, A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jerome, Arizona, Levying Upon the Assessed Valuation of Property Within the Town a Certain Sum of Money for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 to be Assessed Against the Valuation of Real Property for Primary Tax Purposes

Council will consider and may approve Resolution No. 690.

Mayor Barber introduced the item. She reflected that it sounds like we're raising the levy, but it actually went down a little bit.

Mr. Klein added that the levy didn't go down, it's been steady for years at \$47,500, but with valuation changes as they increase then that \$47,500 makes the levy rate go down. So, this is many years in a row of a small reduction in our levy rate that is now under .6000.

Mayor Barber pointed out on the spreadsheet that it was .6084 and now is .5835. She made the motion to approve ordinance number 690, receiving a second from Councilmember Dillenberg.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 690.

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

9. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Possible Action

7:35PM (35:34) A. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve a Receipt and Release with the Richard J. Martin Revocable Trust

Council will consider and may approve the receipt and release agreement.

Mayor Barber introduced the item, deferring to other council members who had questions.

Councilmember Sharif noted when reading the document that it appears the clock started ticking last year. He asked if we could get an extension to move the start time to the receipt of the check.

Mr. Klein shared that Attorney Gaylor brought up the same point with their legal counsel, but right now they aren't granting an extension.

Vice Mayor Moore commented that she'd been in contact with Brad Lancaster regarding rainwater catchment. She said he'd written a couple of books and will come to communities to talk about things like terracing the hillside above the middle park for rainwater harvesting or watering trees and the park. She said he would charge \$1-2,000 to come up. She said she didn't want to go too far into that conversation but wanted to mention he was willing to come here.

Mayor Barber said she thought this had been a 1-year agreement seeking clarification. It was confirmed that the terms of this agreement had always been 2 years. She then read part of the agreement "If the Town fails to complete the park by November 18th, 2027, the Town shall reimburse the trust for all gift funds received unless the trustee has agreed in writing to extend the deadline. She added that she had spoken to APS about more trees, sharing that they would absolutely donate more trees.

Attorney Gaylord confirmed that they'd had the same concerns about the deadline and that the trust pointed to the exact language the mayor just read, meaning they have the ability to extend it later if they want to. He shared it was a risk they were correct to identify.

Councilmember Sharif said his only other question was about item 1(c.) regarding caring for the park for 10 years, he asked if that was something that would be the responsibility of the Town crew.

Mr. Klein confirmed yes that it will be our responsibility.

Attorney Gaylord said that term originally was forever, but they'd asked for some kind of limit on it, and the trust came back with the 10-year number.

There was continued clarifying discussion from Mayor Barber, noting that this is for the middle park, not the upper park. The Town crew currently manicures and maintains the area, and if the community garden wasn't going to get the use that fruit trees donated by APS could be planted in the area.

Councilmember Sharif moved to approve the receipt and release with the Richard J Martin revocable trust.

Councilmember Dillenberg seconded the motion.
The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion to approve Receipt and Release with the Richard J. Martin Revocable Trust.

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

7:08PM (8:28) B. Consider Appointment of Kenneth "Scott" McCoy to Fill the Vacant Board of Adjustment Position with a Term Expiring February 28, 2028

Council will consider and may make the appointment.

Mayor Barber introduced the item asking if there were questions from Council. There were none.

Vice Mayor Moore made the motion to approve the appointment of Scott McCoy to the Board of Adjustment.

Councilmember Sheffield seconded the motion.

Prior to calling the question Mayor Barber pointed out on the application where Mr. McCoy answered the question If there was one major change you would like to see happen in this town what would it be? He answered he likes things just the way they are. She then called the question and the appointment to Board of Adjustment passed by unanimous vote.

Motion to approve appointment of Scott McCoy to the Board of Adjustment.

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

After the vote the meeting moved on to Item 7 – Petitions from the Public.

7:43PM (43:11) C. Consider Proposal and Agreement from Southwestern Environmental Consultants (SEC) for Post Design Engineering Services for Mescal Syphon and School Street Regulator Water Improvements in the Amount of \$275,040 (WIFA Grant Funded)

Council will consider and may approve the proposal and agreement from SEC.

Mayor Barber introduced the consideration for proposal and agreement from SEC for design engineering for Mescal Siphon and School Street Regulator improvements. She noted and thanks WIFA for the grant funding for this project.

Councilmember Sharif motion to approve the proposal and agreement, receiving a second from Mayor Barber.

Mayor Barber called the question, without further discussion the motion carried.

Motion to approve proposal and agreement from SEC for Mescal Syphon and School Street Regulator improvements.

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

7:43PM (43:51) D. Consider Proposal and Agreement from Southwestern Environmental Consultants (SEC) for Post Design Engineering Services for Verde Central Syphon and Deception Water Improvements in the Amount of \$255,270.92 (WIFA Grant Funded)

Council will consider and may approve the proposal and agreement from SEC.

Mayor Barber introduced the item for consideration noting that this is also an entirely grant funded item from WIFA. She noted between the two proposals the amount of engineering fees are over a half million dollars, reiterating that is engineering, not doing any of the work. She thanked WIFA again and made the motion to approve the proposal and agreement for engineering services for Verde Central Syphon and Deception Waterline Improvements.

Councilmember Sharif seconded the motion.

Mayor Barber again thanked WIFA noting this is much needed infrastructure improvement. She then called the question and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve proposal and agreement from SEC for Verde Central Syphon and Deception Waterline Improvements.

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

7:00PM (0:49) E. Consideration of Council Appointment for the Position of Fire Chief for the Town of Jerome - (Carl Whiting)

Council will consider and may approve the appointment of Carl Whiting as the new Jerome Fire Chief, with a pinning ceremony to be held at a later date.

Mayor Barber introduced the item for consideration, Appointing Carl Whiting to Fire Chief.

Councilmember Dillenberg moved to accept the appointment, receiving a second from Mayor Barber.

Mr. Klein gave a brief update on the national search, concluding that the most qualified candidate was the incumbent Assistance Chief Mr. Whiting. He shared that Mr. Whiting has the support of a fully staffed department as well as support from Town staff and community members.

There was discussion for the pinning at a later date, prior to Mayor Barber calling the question.

Carl Whiting was appointed to Fire Chief by unanimous vote.

Motion to appoint Carl Whiting to position of Fire Chief for the Town of Jerome.

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

After the vote, newly appointed Chief Whiting introduced his current staff; James Brigante who comes with all of his fire and EMS certifications, as well as with experience serving as a firefighter in Antarctica and other volunteer departments, Riley Callan who comes from National Forest Service experience and has certifications in EMS and Wildland Fire, Joseph Lee who is a "green" hire, but has acquired his Wildland Fire certification and is working toward his EMT next, and John Krmpotich who has been with the department for the last several years and has all of his Fire, EMS, TRT, and Wildland Fire certifications.

After this item the meeting moved to Item 9 (H).

7:44PM (44:46) F. Consideration of Bids; Award of Bid, and Approval of Contract and Bonds for the School Street Regulator Project to Longfellow Excavating, LLC, in the amount of \$149,126.25 (WIFA Funded Project)

Council may consider bids and the awarding of and approval of contract and bonds for the School Street Regulator Project.

Mayor Barber introduced the item. She said this is also a much-needed improvement and made the motion to award the bid and approve the contract for Longfellow Excavating, LLC for the School Street Regulator Project.

Councilmember Sharif seconded the motion.

Mayor Barber thanked Mr. Klein and staff for all of the work they've been doing, especially with the grant funding. She then called the question, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to award bid and approve contract for Longfellow Excavating, LLC

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

7:46PM (46:35) G. Consider Awarding the Jerome Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Construction Contract, Contingent Upon USDA-RD Concurrence with the Engineer's Recommendation of the Lowest Responsive, Responsible Bidder

Council will consider and may approve the award.

Mayor Barber introduced the item.

Mr. Klein shared that if they so motion, it would be for FANN Environmental, noting that they weren't the lowed bidder but more importantly due to PACE's due diligence they do not feel that Technology Construction has the necessary skill and expertise to fulfill the requirements of this job and USDA was okay with that.

Mayor Barber clarified that we usually go with the lowest bidder, but if they do not have the credentials to do what we need then we can ask to go with the next lowest bidder. She noted they are not that much higher than the other bid, but they do have the credentials that the other firm did not.

Councilmember Sharif moved to consider and award the final bid to FANN Environmental, receiving a second from Vice Mayor Moore.

Councilmember Sheffield said she was reading the Build America Buy America Act (BABA) information but wasn't sure what SBR stood for.

Mr. Klein answered that it's our type of new wastewater treatment plant, it stands for sequential batch reactor.

Mayor Barber thanked Councilmember Sheffield for pointing that part out. She noted that the other entity will trigger the BABA procurement requirements and asked how that would affect us.

Mr. Klein answered that looking at the four bids, upon initial due diligence Technology Construction said it would raise their bid quite significantly, almost to the point of even with FANN. FANN said they're good with all of this, adding that wherever they need to meet BABA procurement requirements they'll be able to afford at the same rate as which they built into their bid.

Before the vote, Attorney Gaylor asked for clarification on Councilmember Sharif's motion, that he's moving to award contingent upon concurrence by the USDA.

Mr. Sharif confirmed so moved. Vice Mayor Moore confirmed her second.

Mayor Barber called the question and the motion to award contingent on USDA concurrence with the Engineer's Recommendation, carried.

Motion to Award Contract, Contingent upon USDA Concurrence with Engineer's Recommendation.

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

7:04PM (4:37) H. Consideration of a Business License Application for a Tour Company / Operator for Ma & Pa Tours, Inc, dba Great West Tours

Council will consider and may approve the tour company business license application.

Mayor Barber introduced the item for consideration, asking if there were any questions from Council.

Vice Mayor Moore commented that it's a group bringing people up here instead of a bunch of cars, and that is great.

Councilmember Sheffield said what stuck out was one of the drop off points. She suggested the use of a different area next to the curb at the New State Building, adding that there are also public restrooms available both there and across the street at the Fire Station.

Mr. Smith, business owner and applicant, said they try to be as non-intrusive as possible, so wherever the suggested drop off point is, they'll abide by it.

Councilmember Dillenberg made a motion to approve application, seconded by Councilmember Sharif.

Motion to approve Ma & Pa Tours, dba Great West Tours' business license for a tour company.

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

After the vote the meeting moved it item 9 (B)

7:51PM (51:19) 10. TO AND FROM THE COUNCIL

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

Mayor Barber went down the line for any additional updates from Council. There were none.

Before moving on to adjournment, Mr. Klein updated Council that next Tuesday (July 21) is the election date. If anyone wants to follow along and do their own calculations, he explained how the match to determine if someone is

elected works. He shared that it's the total number of votes, divided by the number of seats available for election. That number is then divided by 2 and rounded to the nearest whole number. That final number +1 is the threshold that needs to be met to confirm election. He said that likely there will be a few seats won at this election but believes there may be a few candidates that proceed to a run-off in the November General election. An audience member (Mark Krmpotich) confirmed you can track your vote if you'd like at [Arizona.vote](https://www.arizona.vote). Mr. Sharif attempted to further clarify the ballot and voting for at least 5 people. Attorney Gaylor suggested the conversation regarding voting should end.

7:55PM (55:40) 11. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Sharif motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Dillenberg. Mayor Barber called the question and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 7:55p.m.

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

APPROVE:

Alex Barber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brett Klein, Town Manager