



TOWN OF JEROME

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DRAFT MINUTES

SPECIAL BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF JEROME

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JEROME TOWN HALL
600 CLARK STREET, JEROME, ARIZONA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026, AT 6:30 PM

6:33 (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, Public Works Director Martin Boland, Zoning Administrator Will Blodgett, and Deputy Clerk Kristen Muenz.

6:33 (0:37) 2. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Possible Action

A. Council Will Continue Discussions on the FY 2026-2027 Budget Priorities Focusing on Personnel Related Items During this Budget Meeting

Staff may present and Council may provide direction related to personnel and capital improvements, along with all budget funds and functions possibly being discussed.

Mayor Barber introduced the item, the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget priorities, with a concentration on personnel items.

Town Manager Brett Klein briefly summarized the item, explaining that we started the budget process in November discussing capital improvement items, and are continuing the process with labor costs. The proposed labor wage and benefits increase would be smaller than any from the last four years. The wage increase for all employees, including part-time employees, would have a total budgetary impact of \$58,000 over the course of the year and less than \$5,000 overall for the insurance proposal.

Vice Mayor Moore asked what the proposed staff wage adjustment would be and Mr. Klein replied 3.5%. Mayor Barber brought attention to the Budget Schedule and asked about the department head requests regarding council feedback. She asked if council will be included in these discussions.

Mr. Klein said the process starts with the staff, but everything would come before council for input numerous times and of course for a final decision.

Mayor Barber commented that sales tax is significantly down by approximately \$500,000.

Mr. Klein said there is always a lag in receipts, so he was not concerned, but we have seen a good performance so far this month.

Councilmember Dilenberg made a motion to approve the proposal as long as the budget could support it, which was seconded by Vice-Mayor Moore.

Motion to accept the proposed staff wage increase for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

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

Discussion moved on to the need for a refuse disposal truck. Mr. Klein explained there is typically a 3 to 4 month wait for a new chassis to be built and then the lengthy timeline continues. He briefly explained the pros and cons of purchasing a new or used refuse truck; choosing the used truck could be a savings of \$80,000 and also time. Mr. Klein said that either way, we would need a short-term loan for the purchase. We could look into best options for financing, and our financial advisor may also be able to help us to get a lower interest rate.

Vice Mayor Moore commented that she has had good luck buying used vehicles with low mileage. The council asked Public Works Director Martin Boland for his thoughts, and he responded that he would like the truck as soon as possible.

Councilmember Dillenberg moved to go forward with accepting the proposal for the used refuse disposal vehicle offered by Short Equipment Inc.

Mayor Barber seconded the motion. There was staff direction to move forward with an agreement, and to seek out terms of financing.

Mr. Klein explained that the final agreement would come before council for formal approval.

The vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the proposal for the used vehicle from Short Equipment Inc.

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

3. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:49 P.M.

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

APPROVE:

Alex Barber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brett Klein, Town Manager