

**(Corrected) MINUTES
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
SPECIAL SESSION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
473 S MAIN STREET, SUITE 106
WEDNESDAY, July 20, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.**

Note: Council member(s) may attend Council Sessions either in person or by telephone, video, or internet conferencing.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Dee Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Dee Jenkins, Vice Mayor Joe Butner, Councilor Robin Whatley, Councilor Jackie Baker, Councilor Cris McPhail, Councilor Marie Moore, and Councilor Jesse Murdock are present.

Also Present

Town Manager Russ Martin (via ZOOM), Finance Manager Mike Showers, Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton, and Rec Secretary Rebecca Miller.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Murdock led the Pledge.

4. Public Hearing followed by Discussion, Consideration and Approval of the Town of Camp Verde FY 23 Final Budget.

Elaine Bremner, Executive Director of Verde Valley Senior Center, made an appeal for financial assistance for the Senior Center's Meals on Wheels Program. Ms. Bremner stated that during FY 21-22, VV Senior Center's Meals on Wheels Program delivered approximately 10,912 meals to senior citizens in Camp Verde (excluding Lake Montezuma).

In April it was discovered that NACOG had formed a wait list of individuals without informing VV Senior Center. More than 100 people were on that wait list. NACOG put some of them on an emergency program for 90 days. They did not do this until April, when it came to Ms. Bremner's attention and she "raised the roof."

NACOG stated that it is because it is short-handed, and VV Senior Center is short-handed as well, but no one should go hungry. This evening, Ms. Bremner learned that there are 122 people on the wait list for Meals on Wheels, 24 of them who live in Camp Verde. It is her opinion that no one should be on a wait list.

Ms. Bremner stated that she has notified NACOG this situation is unacceptable and they should be working through this problem immediately. Average cost per meal is \$10.79; currently supplies are only delivered on MWF, with extra food for

the non-delivery days. They are especially short in Camp Verde, where 6 drivers are needed.

Ms. Bremner ended with the following statement: "I appreciate the effort Camp Verde has made over the years to contribute to this program. Every year you get better and bigger. It is a critical needs program. We wanted to thank you for any consideration. But let's be real, with high food costs and increased costs, we need your help. Without the service, people will die. A client was lost last week to suicide. This is a serious matter and becoming far too common an occurrence. Older citizens are giving up. We must take care of them and feed them. Senior lives matter."

Cheri Wischmeyer addressed the Council to address her concerns over "actions taken or not taken" during the budget approval process. She believes the Council tentatively approved the 22-23 Final Camp Verde Budget without adhering to the requirements of ARS §42.17103, 104, and 105. Ms. Wischmeyer believes the Council failed to: make copies available at the local library and town administrative offices; comply with publishing, public hearing, and meeting requirements, or prominently publish copies on the Town's website.

Ms. Wischmeyer read from an extensive document, a copy of which was provided to the Council and is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Wischmeyer's main concerns were that she attempted to view copies of the proposed budget at the Town Hall and library and was advised at both locations that they did not have the documents; when she requested that the Clerk's office provide her with a copy of the budget summary, she was required to complete a request for information; she was not provided with a copy of the newspaper affidavit of publication; and the tentative budget was difficult to locate on the website.

Ms. Wischmeyer requested Council to direct staff to take the required steps to ensure no further action is taken on the 22-23 budget until the proper notice, public hearing, posting and meeting requirements have been met.

Mayor Jenkins asked Finance Manager Showers to address the alleged lack of proper notice and appropriate hearing processes.

Mr. Showers stated that it appeared Ms. Wischmeyer was referring to an old copy of the statute. He read from the current statute and explained how each of the four sections of the statute had been complied with:

Section A – The Tentative Budget must be published within 7 days "after estimates are initially presented before the Council." In other words, after the Tentative Budget is presented to the Council, it must be published on our website within 7 days." It was. And is.

Section B – you must retain those budgets for 5 years on the website. We retain them for 10 years.

Section C – only section that specifically requires publication in a newspaper. The statute says “publish 2 times AFTER the tentative budget was adopted.” It was published two times after the tentative budget was adopted. We are unable to provide a copy of the affidavit until the newspaper provides it to us.

Section D - Truth in Taxation – Does not apply; the Town itself not tax.

Mr. Showers stated that the tentative budget was approved at a regular 6:30 p.m. meeting, and the Final Budget will be approved at a regular meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Showers stated that the budget is available at the library, Town Council, and on the website. Vice Mayor Butner asked Mr. Showers to look into why staff at those locations were not aware.

Public Hearing closed.

Council discussion.

The Council determined it was appropriate to postpone passing of the budget of the 22-23 budgeted year until further discussions could be held. A Work Session to discuss the Budget was scheduled for Wednesday, July 27th at 5:00 p.m.

6. Adjournment

Mayor Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.



Mayor Dee Jenkins



Attest: Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are a true and accurate accounting of the actions of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Camp Verde during the Special Session of the Town Council of Camp Verde, Arizona, held on July 20, 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 8th day of August, 2022.



Cindy Pemberton, Town Clerk