

**(Corrected)DRAFT MINUTES
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
REGULAR SESSION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
473 S. MAIN STREET, SUITE 106
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.**

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

1. **Call to Order** Mayor Dee Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
2. **Roll Call.** Council Members: Jackie Baker, Wendy Escoffier, Robin Godwin, Cris McPhail, Jessie Murdock, Vice Mayor Marie Moore, and Mayor Dee Jenkins.

Also Present: Interim Manager Gayle Mabery, Town Attorney Trish Stuhan, Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton, Recording Secretary Mary Frewin

3. **Pledge of Allegiance** Councilor Murdock led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Consent Agenda** – All those items listed below may be enacted upon by one motion and approved as consent agenda items. Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as a separate item if a member of Council requests.

a) Approval of the Minutes:

- 1) Special Session – April 12, 2023
- 2) Special Session – April 19, 2023
- 3) Regular Session – April 19, 2023
- 4) Special Session – April 25, 2023

b) Set Next Meeting, Date and Time:

- 1) Special Session – Wednesday May 10, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
- 2) Regular Session – Wednesday May 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. -Cancelled
- 3) Special Session – Wednesday May 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
- 4) Regular Session – Wednesday June 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

c) Approval to spend up to \$15K of ARPA funds for a broadband consultant.
Staff Resource: Molly Spangler

Councilor Escoffier had corrections to the April 12th and April 19th minutes. Additionally, Councilor McPhail submitted some minor corrections.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Moore, seconded by Councilor Baker, Council moved to accept the consent agenda with the corrections from Councilor Escoffier and the cancellation of May 17th Regular Session.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Baker: Aye
Councilor Escoffier: Aye
Councilor McPhail: Aye
Councilor Murdock: Aye
Councilor Whatley: Aye
Vice Mayor Moore: Aye
Mayor Jenkins: Aye
Motion Carried 7-0.

5. **Call to the Public or items not on the Agenda. (Please complete Request to Speak Card and turn in to the Clerk.)** Residents are encouraged to comment about any matter NOT included on the agenda. State law prevents the Council from taking any action on items not on the agenda. At the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the public body may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the public body, may ask staff to review a matter or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the public body shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action. (Pursuant to ARS §38-431.01(H))

Jason Jenkins spoke regarding a notice he received for illegal grading. Additionally, he had a Camp Verde Marshal come to his house for a noise complaint due to riding dirt bikes in his backyard. He feels both instances are unfair and would like to be able to continue using the track he has made in his backyard by making it legal. In the process of trying to make it legal, he was notified by Community Development Director John Knight that it's now a violation to ride dirt bikes on his property.

Cole Martinez spoke regarding arenas and riding motorcycles on private properties. He feels those who are trying to make the decisions against this are interpreting the Town codes the wrong way and changing the culture of the Town in a negative way. He would like to stop getting harassed when he and his family ride in their backyard.

Jennifer Martinez also spoke regarding the new code enforcement of no riding motorcycles or dirt bikes in private residences. She feels this goes against the culture of Camp Verde.

Debbie Roulette spoke regarding dirt bike riding. She feels Camp Verde property owners should be able to do whatever they want to do on their property, as long as it's not a nuisance or offensive. She thinks people who are not from here are trying to change the Town to something that it isn't.

6. **Special Announcements and Presentations:**

- **Presentation of APS Wildfire Safety and Fire Mitigation.** Resource: Brandon Echols and Becky Rudd

Brandon Echols, spoke regarding Wildfire safety and Fire Mitigation. At APS they have a comprehensive fire mitigation plan. During the fire season, they adjust their operations and how they respond to safety. Safety is number one for their community and customers, and they have several safety precautions intact to help prevent and reduce fires. Additionally, he recommended several ideas to the community in order to prepare for Fire season.

- **Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Michael Hough for his years of service to the Town of Camp Verde.** Staff Resource: Cindy Pemberton

Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton discussed Michael Hough's history of service in the Town of Camp Verde, which started in 1989. She presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service. Mayor Jenkins and Councilor Baker reflected on Mr. Hough and his character, which have been a huge asset to the Town.

- **Presentation of the Town of Camp Verde's FY22 Audit.** Staff Resource: Mike Showers

Finance Director Mike Showers shared that the Town received a clean audit opinion from Colby and Powell LLC. Additionally, he said the Town has received a certificate of achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. He discussed what an audit is and what it covers. After discussing what "findings" are, Mr. Showers shared that the Town received two findings. He deferred the discussion to the lead auditor Scott Graff of Colby and Powell LLC.

Mr. Graff commended Mr. Showers for his work on the Finance Report, which ultimately led them to receiving the certificate of excellence. Mr. Graff discussed the audit in depth with the Council. He gave details on the two audit findings. He said their net position is good, as they increased by about \$4.8 million.

Mayor Jenkins had a few questions and comments for Mr. Showers and Mr. Graff. She would like to see a commentary on the statistical section. Additionally, she wondered what staff was going to do to address the findings found in the audit. She felt the audit was more comprehensive than in previous years. Her opinion is that they should switch up audit firms from time to time to get a different opinion and take on the Town. She would like to see current numbers from Community Development for construction revenue and the number of permits, as in this audit they seemed to drop drastically. Councilor Godwin mentioned a grammatical error she'd like to see fixed.

Mr. Showers spoke on the finding for the contracts. He feels all department heads should take ownership of this, as this is a group effort. It's not pointed in just one direction. He has appreciated the input from this audit.

Councilor Escoffier asked a question regarding HURF funds. She noticed it wasn't mentioned in the reporting of the Town's major governmental funds.

Mr. Graff said HURF fell in another category, as it didn't meet the requirement for a major fund.

Mr. Graff said there is benefit in familiarity. He said they can send a whole different audit crew in the future if needed. He commended Mr. Showers for being a detailed and organized Finance Director.

- 7. Council Informational Reports.** These reports are relative to the committee meetings that Council members attend. The Committees are: Copper Canyon Fire & Medical District, Yavapai College Governing Board, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Intergovernmental Association, NACOG Regional Council, Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization (VVREO), League Resolutions Committee, Arizona Municipal Risk Retention Pool, Verde Valley Transportation Org, Verde Valley Transit Committee, Verde Valley Water Users, Verde Valley Homeless Coalition, Verde Front, Verde Valley Steering Committee of MAT Force, Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board, Phillip England Center for the Performing Arts Foundation. In addition, individual members may provide brief summaries of current events. The Council will have no discussion or take action on any of these items, except that they may request that the item be placed on a future agenda.

Councilor Godwin was unable to attend Earth Day, as she was bowling at Cliff Castle Casino for Big Brothers and Big Sisters. She attended the Verde Lakes Fair. She thought it was very well done.

Councilor McPhail continues to attend Team Game Night at the library on Thursdays. She also attended the Tree City Awards Ceremony at the State Capitol with Ezra Collins, who will be the Tree City Coordinator. At the Ceremony, in the afternoon, there was a networking opportunity. It was a discussion on the inflation reduction act grant opportunity. It is specifically for tree programs. The Yavapai Apache Nation has an extensive Verde River Rehabilitation program, and they are working with them to put in an application for some of these grants to grow native trees create a lot of opportunities at the Verde River. She attended Earth Day, and thought it was amazing. Well over 300 people were fed lunch. She commended and thanked several students who volunteered- Library Group: Melanie Clapara, Trinity Ellison, Bella Sugata, Anastasia Sugata, Allison Ivey, Aminah Smith, Bella Smith, and Tonalí Jimenez. Yavapai Apache Nation Youth Council: Adam, Avery, Jayden, Holly, and Miley Hines, Aminah and Annabella Smith, Marina Lewis, Fernando Sanchez, and Keikilana Lowry. She was invited to be a guest at the last Verde Youth Action Alliance Committee. She attended Spring Fest, which she felt was a fun time. Saturday 5/6, the Tree Advisory Commission is having a sale at the library. Next Tuesday 5/8 at Yavapai College is the budget hearing. She has a proposal for them regarding the tax increase, and how the Town of Camp Verde can receive services.

Vice Mayor Moore wanted to remind the community that The Haven will be holding a job fair on 5/4/23. She also said there will be a craft fair at Verde River RV Resort on 5/6/23. Additionally, the Verde Natural Resource Conservation District Meeting will be 5/12/23 at the Camp Verde Library. The Veterans Benefit is a corn hole tournament, and it will be held at the Agave Highlands Golf Course at 5/21/23.

Councilor Baker wanted to thank Councilor McPhail for her work with Yavapai College and reiterating their position. She attended the NACOG meeting. She would like to keep

these NACOG agendas in a booklet so that Council members or citizens can look through them.

Councilor Escoffier attended the NACOG meeting. She shared bits of information she received from attending the meeting. She also attended the Copper Canyon Fire and Medical District Meetings. She will be serving on one of their interview committees.

Councilor Murdock had nothing.

Mayor Jenkins attended Earth Day. She also attended her regular meetings with the League. She will be presenting at the Finance Committee Meeting, introducing a new policy regarding the improvement of district fees for infrastructure.

8. **Manager/Staff Report** Individual members of the Staff may provide brief summaries of current events and activities. These summaries are strictly for informing the Council and public of such events and activities. The Council will have no discussion, consideration, or take action on any such item, except that an individual Council member may request that the item be placed on a future agenda.

Interim Town Manager Gayle Mabery presented on the Camp Verde Sports Complex. She said the south field will be ready for play this Saturday, May 6th, and the other field the week after. There are some constraints, as the lights are not up yet.

The Council held a Special Session and approved a contract amendment with Barbara Goodrich. She will be joining the team on May 8th as the new Interim Deputy Town Manager. Most of her professional career was with the City of Flagstaff. She will work with the Town until they get their new Town Manager hired.

She reminded the Council that back in March they approved a resolution for the Town to apply for some congressionally directed spending. That is a program through the United States senate that allows senators to request specific projects in their state. Staff worked tirelessly on the applications, specifically Economic Development Director Molly Spangler and Utilities Director Jeff Lowe.

The two projects were a \$2 million-dollar upgrade to the Camp Verde Water Utility to install arsenic treatments on two of the well sites, and a \$5 million project to help fund a phase of the highway 260 northbound sewer collection system expansion. It's a long process, but they've made the first hurdle. Both projects have been recommended for funding. They have not received formal contact from the Senator's office, but they've both posted that status on their website. They expect they'll be contacted soon for more information on what to expect from the process. As a reminder, should they be approved for the projects, it becomes available in the federal fiscal year which starts October 1st. Even though it starts then, it doesn't always get adopted in time. It can drag out for a while.

Mayor Jenkins recessed the meeting at 7:48 PM.

9. **Discussion, Consideration and Possible Approval of the annual renewal and extension of Resolution No. 2015-939, for High View, LLC's Mining Conditional**

Use Permit, which states, A Resolution of the Common Council of the Town of Camp Verde (“Town”), Arizona, Yavapai County, on Use Permit 20150033, an application submitted by Joe Link – agent for the owner Aultman Land & Cattle III & IV, LLC of a portion of Parcel 403-15-002Y, and a portion of 403-15-003C. Staff Resource: John Knight

Mayor Jenkins resumed the meeting at 7:56 PM.

Town Planner BJ Rattief presented in place of Mr. Knight. Ms. Rattief said they’ve been here every May since 2017 requesting an annual update or extension to the mining use permit. The difference this year is that the mining is done and they’re formally in the reclamation phase. The mining use permit said that the reclamation needed to be completed within a year, however, there’s a lot more going on out there, and they re-did the reclamation plan in October. The bond has been extended for another year as well.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Moore, seconded by Councilor Baker, Council moved to approve the annual renewal and extension of resolution number 2015-939 for High View LLC’s Mining Conditional Use Permit which states a resolution of the common council of the Town of Camp Verde (“Town”) Arizona, Yavapai County, on use permit 20150033, an application submitted by Joe Link- agent for the owner Aultman Land & Cattle III and IV, LLC of portion of Parcel 403-15-002y, and a portion of 403-15-003c.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Baker: Aye
Councilor Escoffier: Aye
Councilor McPhail: Aye
Councilor Murdock: Aye
Councilor Whatley: Aye
Vice Mayor Moore: Aye
Mayor Jenkins: Aye

Motion Carried 7-0.

- 10. Presentation and Possible Direction from Council regarding the current code enforcement procedures and possible changes to the procedures. Staff Resource: John Knight and Cliff Bryson**

Community Development Director John Knight presented the topics they would be discussing: the current approach to code enforcement, current challenges and issues within code enforcement, and recommended solutions they have. He turned it over to Code Enforcement Officer Cliff Bryson.

Mr. Bryson began by talking about the current code enforcement processes and how long they are taking. There are current issues on the docket that were also there when he worked for the Town back in 2019-2020.

The current challenges they are facing right now are:

- Large case load (170 cases/ one person), with a lot of square mileage to cover
- Complexity of cases
- Habitual and chronic violators

- Lack of response
- Specific regulations when it comes to code (some of the codes are very vague)
- Small fines

He recommends several solutions and possible changes to the procedures to help eliminate some of the challenges:

- Reduce the steps that it takes to get to voluntary compliance
- Educate the public on the codes
- Hiring a Hearing Officer, which is in the Town Code. Staff gets to recommend the sanctions and fines to the Hearing Officer.
- Increasing the fines and separating them based on residential and commercial violations
- Adopt certain codes out of the international property maintenance code
- Increasing Code Enforcement Staff to help them be more proactive and allow for more education for the public

Right now, there are about five cases reported per day. The average cases that they're closing is about two. The caseloads they are seeing is more than average in the Verde Valley. Their most common violations are general nuisances.

Vice Mayor Moore said they have a lot to digest with this issue. They hear what they're saying, they hear the community.

There was a great deal of dialogue amongst Council and staff on this issue and the best way to help see it resolved. The Council is discussing the idea of doing more with the code, as it was decided in a recent joint session with Council and P&Z the number one priority is to clean up the code. A comprehensive update of the code will help them tackle some of the issues.

Ms. Mabery brought up the fact that the issues Mr. Bryson has brought forward are typical issues that cities and Towns deal with. They are typically things that need to be addressed in communities. These issues are a product of growth in the community.

Mr. Knight commended Mr. Bryson for the fantastic job he's doing in this position. Additionally, he would really like to see both a Work Session held to discuss this issue further, as well as the process of a hearing officer moving forward. Proactive Code enforcement, in his mind, is when the staff is consistent and right. Code Enforcement isn't just limited to residential. They deal with a lot of commercial as well. He doesn't want to wait to delay what they want to do with code enforcement pending an update of the code.

Public Comment:

Janet Anderson spoke regarding selective enforcement. She does not believe they should have selective enforcement. They need to enforce good restrictions on properties and be consistent about it. She also wants to see the community kept as a rural community.

David Dane spoke regarding code enforcement and farm animals permitted on residential properties. He said the people of Camp Verde want consistent enforcement. He is selling his property, because his neighbor is continuing to run a commercial cattle breeding operation in his backyard.

It was decided by the Council to come back to this issue in a Work Session in more detail so they can sit down and really dive into this and what they can do to change the policies and procedures. They would like to see some details of the hearing officer.

Mr. Bryson agrees that a code revamp would be very effective. He's about educating the public and the good neighbor policy. Sometimes a conversation can lead to some resolution.

11. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Approval of opioid settlement funds to be disbursed to PANT. Staff Resource: Corey Rowley

Mr. Rowley joined the meeting Via Zoom. It is his recommendation for them to disburse this money to PANT to help fight narcotics in the community. He gave information on the background of this money and details of the money disbursement. PANT is a green light funding for this money.

Mayor Jenkins clarified that Mr. Rowley is only asking for a decision for the one-time funding of this money (this year's dollars). Mr. Rowley said that is correct. It won't always be that the money goes to PANT, sometimes they will have other uses for the money to fight narcotics.

Councilor Murdock asked how the state is going to distribute and allocate their money. Mr. Rowley said he assumes it's through their state narcotics divisions. He isn't quite sure how they're doing it. Councilor Murdock wondered if they could ask for more money above and beyond what they'll be receiving, and if so, she would support that.

Councilor Escoffier clarified the wording of the motion before it was made.

Town Attorney Trish Stuhan gave directions on how to modify the motion.

On a motion by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Godwin, Council moved to approve opioid settlement funds in the total amount of \$11,825.19 to be forwarded to PANT by the Town Finance Department.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Baker: Aye

Councilor Escoffier: Aye

Councilor McPhail: Aye

Councilor Murdock: Aye

Councilor Whatley: Aye

Vice Mayor Moore: Aye

Mayor Jenkins: Aye

Motion Carried 7-0.

12. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Approval of donating two 2007 Ford 500 police vehicles to MATForce for their re-entry program. Staff Resource: Corey Rowley

Town Marshal Corey Rowley gave background to this agenda item. These vehicles that they give to MAT Force are vehicles that are over 100,000 miles and are needing repairs. MAT Force, with the help of Firebird Towing, will repair these vehicles and give these cars to people who have been incarcerated and come back into the community and graduate from a re-entry program. It's a very successful and positive program.

On a motion by Councilor Godwin, seconded by Councilor McPhail, Council moved to approve the donation of two 2007 Ford 500 vehicles to MAT Force re-entry program.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Baker: Aye
Councilor Escoffier: Aye
Councilor McPhail: Aye
Councilor Murdock: Aye
Councilor Whatley: Aye
Vice Mayor Moore: Aye
Mayor Jenkins: Aye

Motion Carried 7-0.

Councilor Murdock thanked Firebird Towing for their help in repairing these vehicles.

- 13. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Camp Verde Unified School District and the Town of Camp Verde to share the cost of the 2023 School Traffic Improvement project.**
Staff Resource: Ken Krebs and Heather Vinson

Risk Manager, Heather Vinson said that this approval is for the shared cost for the project of the traffic improvement for the drop-off zone. The cost would be shared 50/50 between the Town and school district. Plans for the project are already designed and agreed upon by the school district.

Director of Public Works Ken Krebs shared that this turn lane project would alleviate traffic.

Councilor Godwin asked whether the school board has seen these plans and approved them, as she's heard from a good source that they have not.

Ms. Vinson said that is not correct. The school board gave an approval on this in their minutes back in February. This design was chosen by the school district and has been approved by both the Superintendent and their Attorney.

Ms. Mabery said that the February action taken by the School Board mirrored the action taken by the Council. A consultant gave some concept designs, and the school and the Town chose which concepts they wanted. From that point, they moved forward and contracted with an engineering company that gave the final design for the project. This final design is consistent with the concepts that have been approved and has been given approval by the school district Superintendent and his staff.

Sharon Petrie, School Governing Board Member, said she has not seen the plans that

were just held up. When this was voted on, she felt under pressure, because they were originally told that the Town wasn't going to do anything about the road. She voted in favor of it; however, she was given the impression that the Town did not want to help in this process. The money that must be put in for this is concerning because they don't even know a total amount. As a school, they don't raise revenue. It's set with the budget. Her concern is that this decision has been made hastily, they haven't been given all the information, and more time needs to be spent to determine if the Town has more of a position. She has spoken with two school districts, and neither one has ever paid for a road in front of the school.

Helen Freeman, President of the School Board, said she has never seen the plans either. Yes, they want this road fixed, yes, they want to work with the Town, and they have up to \$300,000 to put forth. They've agreed and are willing to share the cost.

Mayor Jenkins wondered if they have a firm price on the cost of this project. If it ends up exceeding the amount the school board is willing to pay, she understands that the Town will pick up the difference.

Ms. Mabery said yes, that's correct. They won't have exact amounts for the project until it goes out to bid, however, the engineer estimates that it will be \$350,000 total. Costs are continuing to escalate, but they do feel comfortable that they will all be under budget for this. This intergovernmental agreement must be approved by both parties.

Councilor Godwin asked about the start and end date, stating it would make the most sense to start it in the summertime, as there won't be as heavy traffic in the area with the schools closed. She was told by Mr. Krebs that they are looking at June. They will have updated plans here soon.

Vice Mayor Moore was frustrated as to why Council and School Board members are not on the same page about this. She's confused as to why it's in front of them, but with so much lack of communication. She apologized for the confusion, but she doesn't want to do anything that will jeopardize this item from moving forward, as it's been a long time coming and needs to get done.

Councilor Godwin said she feels comfortable knowing that if they move forward tonight, it doesn't bind the school.

Councilor Baker reiterated what Vice Mayor Moore said. It's disappointing that there's confusion in communication. She hopes there's clear clarification on the amount the Town will be responsible for.

On a motion by Councilor Escoffier, seconded by Councilor Baker, Council moved the approval of the intergovernmental agreement between the Camp Verde Unified School District and the Town of Camp Verde to share the cost of and complete the 2023 school traffic improvement project.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Baker: Aye
Councilor Escoffier: Aye
Councilor McPhail: Aye
Councilor Murdock: Aye
Councilor Whatley: Aye
Vice Mayor Moore: Aye
Mayor Jenkins: Aye
Motion Carried 7-0.

- 14. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Approval to move the \$168,049.44 of total expenditures for the Marshal's office purchases of digital radios and laptops and the \$180,230.63 expenditure for the Streets portion of the 2023 Mack GR64F dump truck purchase to the ARPA fund.** Staff Resource: Mike Showers

Mr. Showers said the item before them is a better way to cover these funds as their CIP funds are pretty much depleted, and they have a lot of ARPA funds to get out the door. He felt it was a good match.

On a motion by Councilor McPhail, seconded by Councilor Godwin, Council moved to approve moving the \$168,049.44 of total expenditures for the Marshal's Office purchases of digital radios and laptops and the \$180,230.63 expenditure for the streets portion of the 2023 Mack GR 64F dump truck purchase to the ARPA fund.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Baker: Aye
Councilor Escoffier: Aye
Councilor McPhail: Aye
Councilor Murdock: Aye
Councilor Whatley: Aye
Vice Mayor Moore: Aye
Mayor Jenkins: Aye
Motion Carried 7-0.

- 15. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Approval of Resolution No. 2023-1109, a resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Camp Verde, Yavapai County, Arizona related to commitments of the Camp Verde Sanitary District to carry out requirements of the loan documents with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona and the United States Department of Agriculture- Rural Development for the financing of the design and construction on the Town's wastewater treatment plant.** Staff Resource: Mike Showers

Mr. Showers said this is a housekeeping item brought up by the auditor. It's rather straight forward. It's a document they must have on file.

Councilor Escoffier asked if this does anything to eliminate the sanitary district debt.

Mr. Showers said that drawing down this money did impact that total debt, making it be what was originally approved, but it's not changing the debt and not doing anything against it. It already has gone into the General Fund.

Councilor Baker wondered if they should have known more as trustees regarding the expenses of the money that was drawn out of the sanitary district loan to make repairs to the wastewater treatment plant. As trustees they're supposed to be making those decisions.

Mr. Showers said yes, but that was agreed to when the Town took over the wastewater services. The Council at the time was presented with that information. They were hoping when this all took place that the legal settlement would cover those costs, but it did not. So, it was determined that they would move forward and finish up with the loan. This was 2013.

Councilor Escoffier asked that since the Town Council sits as the Board of Trustees of the Sanitation District, should both entities be acting.

Town Attorney Trish Stuhan said they talked about how to document this as this discussion is about something that's already happened and has already been resolved. They're trying to make a record so if somebody looks at these 10 years from now, they'll know what happened. They have an accounting issue and an audit issue, and she doesn't think they need dual action.

On a motion by Councilor Godwin, seconded by Vice Mayor Moore, Council moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-1109.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Baker: Aye
Councilor Escoffier: Aye
Councilor McPhail: Aye
Councilor Murdock: Aye
Councilor Whatley: Aye
Vice Mayor Moore: Aye
Mayor Jenkins: Aye

Motion Carried 7-0.

16. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Direction to staff to Pursue Receipt of Donation of Yavapai County APN 404-32-077 in the Verde Lakes Subdivision, Unit 4. Staff Resource: Jeff Low

Utilities Director Jeff Low presented. He said staff were approached by the property owner to acquire the property. Ownership of the property is consistent with the Town's long-term strategy of acquiring property in the area with the intentions of creating conservation easement and open space within the flood way of West Clear Creek. After some conversations with the Treasurer's Office, the staff has learned that the property has already been through the tax lien process. It's unnecessary for the Town to open an escrow on the property, as the Town attorney can prepare a quit claim deed to transfer

the ownership. Using this process will reduce the Town's total cost of transferring ownership from \$1,000 to \$200. In addition, the Town would be required to satisfy the \$197.89 tax lien fee.

Vice Mayor Moore said she doesn't like the fact that they're going to do this, and someone is going to get a tax break on it.

Councilor Escoffier gave background on the property and how the Town was led to acquire it. She thought there ought to be a way to work with the county to acquire these properties before they go into the tax lien process.

Councilor Baker mentioned some sort of deal brought up where they don't have to pay taxes. She wondered if that had been investigated.

Ms. Mabery said there's been discussion with the staff, but they haven't gone all the way up, for a final answer.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Moore, seconded by Councilor McPhail, Council moved to direct staff to work with Yavapai County and the property owner so that the Town of Camp Verde can receive donation of APN 404-32-077 in the Verde Lakes subdivision, Unit 4 with the total acquisition cost not to exceed \$600.

Roll Call Vote:

- Councilor Baker: Aye
- Councilor Escoffier: Aye
- Councilor McPhail: Aye
- Councilor Murdock: Aye
- Councilor Whatley: Aye
- Vice Mayor Moore: Aye
- Mayor Jenkins: Aye

Motion Carried 7-0.

17. **Adjournment** Mayor Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 9:34 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 Regular Session of the Town Council of Camp Verde, Arizona, held on May 3, 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 24th day of July, 2023.

Cindy Pemberton
Cindy Pemberton, Town Clerk