

**MINUTES
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
SPECIAL SESSION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
CAMP VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL, MULTI-USE COMPLEX
280 CAMP VERDE RD, CAMP VERDE, AZ 86322
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023, at 5:30 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 Jenkins called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Dee Jenkins, Vice Mayor Marie Moore, Councilor Wendy Escoffier, Councilor Jesse Murdock, Councilor Jackie Baker, Councilor Robin Godwin and Councilor Cris McPhail are all present.

Also Present

Town Manager Tedmond Soltis, Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton, Town Attorney Trish Stuhan, Administrative Clerk Jadie Edwards, Library Director Kathy Hellman, Library Manager Nicole Metz-Andrews and Recording Secretary Jennifer Reed.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor McPhail led the Pledge.

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

a) Approval of Minutes:

- 1) Special Executive Session – July 12, 2023
- 2) Special Session – July 12, 2023
- 3) Regular Session – July 19, 2023
- 4) Joint Special Session – July 26, 2023
- 5) Special Session – August 2, 2023
- 6) Regular Session – August 2, 2023

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Moore to approve the Consent Agenda. Second was made by Councilor McPhail. Councilor Escoffier noted some corrections.

- Minutes of July 19, 2023, Item 10, second paragraph, remove the words, "~~of the loan.~~"
- Minutes of August 2, 2023, just before Item 10, add "P.M." to break time.
- Minutes of August 2, 2023, Item 10, fourth paragraph, the line should read, "*Councilor Baker wondered about the GDGB CDBG Grant*"

On a Motion by Vice Mayor Moore, seconded by Councilor McPhail, Council moved to amend her motion to approve the consent agenda with the recommended changes.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Baker: aye

Councilor McPhail: aye
Councilor Murdock: aye
Councilor Godwin: aye
Councilor Escoffier: aye
Vice Mayor Moore: aye
Mayor Jenkins: aye
Motion carried 7-0.

5. **Overview of Library Operations, Policies and Procedures.** Staff Resource: Kathy Hellman
Mayor Jenkins reviewed some housekeeping rules: turn off or silence cell phones, restroom locations, and the Public Comment Rules. She said this item will include a Library Presentation followed by Public Comment. No action will be taken by Council during this item.

Library Director Kathy Hellman explained during the COVID shutdown the Library engaged in a community assessment to identify issues that matter most to Camp Verde. They came up with (5) Key Initiatives that answer the question of “*how the Library can contribute to the community*”. These initiatives are:

1. Community Culture,
2. Family Support,
3. Information Access
4. Community Health
5. Social Issues.

Director Kathy Hellman explained that the Camp Verde Community Library Policies and Procedures were adopted in 1993 and revised in 2015. These policies and revisions were made by consulting professional organizations, using best practices and pulling from policies adopted libraries across the nation. The Town Council approved the revisions.

Library Director Kathy Hellman and Library Manager Nicole Metz-Andrews read through a few of the Camp Verde Community Library Policies and Procedures. Those included:

- Collection Development Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Disruptive and/or Inappropriate Behavior Policy
- Library Card Policy (included linked accounts)
- Library Programming Policy
- Posting and Display Policy
- Unattended Children & Individuals with Special Needs Policy

Ms. Hellman reviewed the Fiscal Year 2023 Library Statistics and the Annual Report from the Yavapai Library Network (YLN). She also read through the Library Manager and Library Director Job Descriptions.

Ms. Hellman and Ms. Metz-Andrews went over the additional handouts and flyers. Those included:

- *The Freedom to Read Statement*
- *The Library Bill of Rights*

In closing Ms. Hellman invites anyone who has questions or comments to stop in and have a conversation.

Meeting break 6:33 p.m.

Meeting resume 6:49 p.m.

Public comments from in-person attendees:

- Danielle Church- urged the Council to adopt the Ordinance: Restriction of minors to adult content.
- Sheila Backus- urged Council to move the Ordinance through the channels for approval.
- Matt Jahnke- urged Council to pass an Ordinance to restrict minors.
- George Lee- spoke about the importance of the parent's rights be respected; different parents have different points of view. Other parents don't have the right to impose their personal view on other parents.
- Armaite May- spoke about protecting children from sexual exploitation and consequences and urged Council to adopt the Ordinance to restrict minor's access to adult content.
- Jaye Valles- spoke about the power of youth. Recognize the importance of education.
- Peggy Glenn- spoke about the importance of "public". Don't put ideas on everyone else; it is not for one person to decide for an entire community.
- Candice Hardin- spoke about the exposure of minors to harmful content & displays.
- Charmaine Cecil- spoke about items not appropriate for little kids and the experience of their son. Be more aware of the pain kids go through, mentally and physically.
- Bianca Melendez- spoke about the parent's job is to come together and decide what's right for their own child.
- Bryan Dickison- spoke about keeping adult content out of the Library.
- Peggy Fread- believes in free access to libraries and to all the general public.
- Jonathan Hall- spoke about protecting our children from adult content in books in the Library.
- Mandy Jo Meyers- passing the Ordinance restricting minors to adult content. The Library is in violation of its own policy.
- Chance Hauser- spoke about trusting public officials to do the right thing.
- Gerre Heron- is concerned about the agenda.
- Amber Ford- the Library is in violation of the ARS Code.
- Louise Clara- left early and did not speak.
- Tiffany Lord- spoke in support of the Library. LGBTQ materials are relevant in today's society.
- William Watson- The community should be setting the standards.
- Shana Norris- urged Council to pass the adult content Ordinance to keep books in a protected area.
- Robert Foreman- said this is not about banning books. Parents should raise their children in the way they think is best. This is their right. Simple solution sexually explicit material and put in adult section of the Library. This will solve the controversy.
- Deborah Moody- told of her past and experiences with libraries growing up.
- Llama Habern- spoke about displays; LGBTQ content isn't inappropriate for children.
- Josh Freeman- thanked Library staff for what they do. Faith teaches how to live with those who have different beliefs than you.

Meeting break: 8:00 p.m.

Meeting resume: 8:12 p.m.

- Calli Brooks- loves the Library. Removing books will not protect teens if they have access to tik toc or other children at school.

- Laura Cox- The Library is a great resource for the community. She supports the Library and its staff. The Library has a lot of resources available. Camp Verde is a diverse community. Different ideas are part of the community.
- Johnny Sheeley- said it is against the law to display pornography; it is disgusting this is in the Library. We should be protecting our children.
- Donna Moody left meeting early and did not speak.
- Jaysson Church- supports the Ordinance.
- Dixie Jewell left meeting early and wasn't able to speak.
- Andrew Barber-supports the Librarian. Parents should not dictate what other children are allowed to read.
- Michelle Gohr- supports the Library, every person deserves the right to have access to information.
- Mark Gardner- spoke about his positive experiences with the Cottonwood Library. He supports the Library staff.
- Daria Weir- spoke about past experiences working with students, and felt our duties as parents, is to protect our children. Urges Council to look into what is right for our children. Certain books should be in an area where only adults can see.
- Carlos Remos- spoke about books should be held in different levels.
- Link- considers himself conservative. The Library changed his life. Parents should have the right to speak to their children about sex or children will find out in other ways. This is not about LGBTQ issues its about children.
- Ruthie Bondi- this issue was about moving books from the children's section. This issue got larger than it should be. Should have been nipped in the bud in the beginning.
- Luci Wheat- spoke about wanting some books placed in the adult section. This is nothing against LGBTQ Community.
- Carter Benton- support the Librarians and the Library staff.
- Elizabeth Greer- supports the Library.
- Susan Moning- supports the staff of the Library. It is the parent's responsibility to monitor what children are reading. Staff should not have to police material.
- Lisa Mina- supports the Library. Librarians are supporting the 1st and 14th amendments.
- Kellae Fischer left the meeting early and did not speak.
- Pastor Brian Wattenbarger- said this has nothing to do with religion or sexual preference, the Library does a fantastic job with the programs they have set up.
- Kitty McDowell- Teaching children about their bodies is necessary but should be parents responsibility. She recommended a couple of books to use.
- Tracey McConnell left the meeting and did not speak.
- Michele Evans- is in favor of removing contested materials from the Library; Urges Council to adopt the Ordinance.
- Glen Allen left the meeting and did not speak.
- Steven Backus- spoke about fake news propaganda. He also said the Town Manager has had this Ordinance since August 11th; It has been 10 days. They should have had the chance to review it.
- Michael Nisito- spoke about the Cottonwood City Council. He cares about children. Encouraged people to speak their minds.
- Kat Ginzle left the meeting and did not speak.
- Bob Keebler- spoke about books. Little kids are not meant to read these kinds of books.
- Sarah White- spoke about books that are not appropriate for under 18.
- Scott Murray left the meeting and did not speak.

- John Smoley- said the Library is promoting pornography and it is criminal behavior.
- Sharon Bonney- spoke about books and materials available to children.
- Heather Cook- spoke about the Library's display of inappropriate books. Anything that takes the children's innocence away is wrong.
- Elly VanderPas left the meeting and did not speak.
- Julie Fernatt- said there are separate sections in the Library. Parents are responsible for their children and what they want their children to read.
- Lonnie Shields- said the Attorney has had 10 days to review the Ordinance. He wants to make sure children have a fair chance. The Library should not allow children to have access to anything sexually explicit until they are 18. Children cannot handle this type of information.
- Raquel Dixon left the meeting and did not speak.

Public Comments from ZOOM

- Nell Faust- support Library staff and librarian. There are already sections for different age groups. There are safeguards in place to protect children from checking out inappropriate material.
- Nalia- materials should be available to everyone, it is important to have access. Having this material would have helped her growing up. She opposes censorship.

There are (5) citizens who have asked Deputy Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton to read their statement:

- Sarah Ellison- is concerned about receiving different responses to questions by different Library staff members.
- Patricia Watson in favor of passing restriction of minors from adult content.
- Claudia Hauser no sexual materials of any kind should be in children's sections of the public Library.
- Nancy Myers supports the Library.
- Louise Clara spoke about freedom of expression. Opposes censorship.
- Sue Schnitzer is grateful for the Library for many different reasons.

(40) people submitted a card but chose not to speak in the meeting.

6. Adjournment

Mayor Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Tom Jenkins

Mayor Dee Jenkins

Cindy Pemberton

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 August 23, 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 26th day of September, 2023.

Cindy Pemberton

Cindy Pemberton, Town Clerk