

**MINUTES
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
WORK SESSION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
130 BLACK BRIDGE ROAD, CAMP VERDE, AZ 86322
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M.**

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

1. Call to Order

Mayor German called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call.

Mayor Charles German, Vice Mayor Dee Jenkins and Councilor Robin Whatley are present. Councilor Joe Butner is attending telephonically. Councilors Bill LeBeau, Jessie Murdock and Buck Buchanan are absent.

Also Present: Town Manager Russ Martin, Economic Development Director Steve Ayers, Deputy Town Clerk Virginia Jones, Council Candidate Cris McPhail, and Recording Secretary Susan Ayers.

Present from Copper Canyon Fire & Medical: Fire Chief Terry Keller, Administrative Manager Robin Cook and Board Members Brandi Bateman, Steve Darby, Justin Largent, and Linda Welsch.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor German led the Pledge.

4. Multi-Agency Discussion and Update from the Copper Canyon Fire District Associated with Emergency Fire Services within Jurisdictional Boundaries.

Fire Chief Terry Keller expressed sadness that these are such strange & extraordinary times (regarding COVID-19), and thanked the Camp Verde Library and the Town for hosting the meeting and to the Library for disinfecting the room and providing ample space to have some distancing from one another.

Chief Keller addressed the importance of having continuity between the town boundaries and the district boundaries. He addressed the importance of annexing those areas that are presently not within the town boundaries into the district, and ideas as to how annexations into fire districts can occur.

Chief Keller proposed that there is an opportunity for the Town to put forth a resolution that would claim Copper Canyon Fire and Medical as its designated fire service agency; and therefore everything within the designated town boundaries that is not currently within the district would then, essentially by fiat, become part of the Copper Canyon Fire District. Excluded would be an area out by Coury Drive that is already part of the Verde Valley Fire District.

The history of the district was discussed, along with the growing population and the longer response times for fire and ambulance service to areas such as the Stoneman Lake area, Lower Salt Mine Road, the Middle Verde properties and the Verde Lakes

area. Also discussed was the need for more fire stations, additional trucks, ambulances and staffing.

The issue of fairness in taxation was addressed, an example being if you are not paying taxes and still receiving services. Copper Canyon Fire and Medical goes when they are needed; whether someone is in the district or not. An advantage of annexation as well; if you are not in the district and need an ambulance/fire services, you would be responsible for whatever your insurance did not pay.

Mayor German had questions regarding agricultural land and whether there would be a difference in taxation between empty land and land with structures. He also had questions about Verde Connect and the possibility of future water sources if that were to happen. He agrees that it is advantageous to plan ahead.

CCFD Administration Manager Robin Cook stated that any annexations for the year 2020 would need to be done by November of this year.

Town Manager Russ Martin brought up the need to address the issue of taxation vs. benefit and the need for a level of understanding regarding insurance decrease offsetting tax increase.

Councilor Dee Jenkins asked If council could get information regarding the average cost of fire service and/or ambulance service if they have to respond to homes that are not in the fire district. That information could then be relayed to the citizens.

Economic Development Director Steve Ayers stated that tax increase for agricultural land would be minimal. He stated the vast majority of citizens in the town of Camp Verde are paying for services which are on standby for those that live outside of the district which is not fair, and that they should be divided up among everyone.

CCFD Board Member Linda Welsch stated that continuity between the Fire District and the Town would be very beneficial, because that way everyone pays their fair share.

Mayor German opines that continuity would be beneficial to the whole town of Camp Verde.

It is decided that Town Manager Russ Martin and Fire Chief Terry Keller will work on presentation to the Camp Verde Town Council at a later date.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03



Mayor Charles German



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 Work Session of the Town Council of Camp Verde, Arizona, held on March 20, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 6th day of April, 2020.

Cindy Pemberton

Cindy Pemberton, Town Clerk