

**MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL  
Of the TOWN OF CAMP VERDE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS · 473 S. Main Street, Room #106  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2014 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 called meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**2. Roll Call**

Mayor German, Vice Mayor Baker, Councilors Gordon and Jones present;  
Absent: Councilors Whatley, George and German.

Also Present

Town Manager Russ Martin, Deputy Town Clerk Virginia Jones Community Development Director Mike Jenkins, Economic Director Steve Ayers and Recording Secretary Marie Moore.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge led by the Mayor.

**4. Presentation by Tom O'Halleran and Tony Gioia regarding long-term water planning followed by discussion, consideration, and possible direction to staff relative to bringing back information and recommendations for Council policy considerations. Staff Resource: Russ Martin**

Council took no action.

Tony Gioia, Vice Chairman of the Verde River Basin Partnership and Chairman of Outreach presented a PowerPoint presentation in regards to being stewards of the Verde River Basin and informing the community about the water. Statistics were given about the Verde River and the effects on and from the community. The information presented was based on data from 2012. The PowerPoint presentation is attached and becomes a permanent part of the record.

Baker commented that Prescott Valley plans to develop 3500 new homes, which will affect the water usage. Baker requested the current population and the accuracy with the projected numbers presented. Ayers stated it was at 217,000 in 2012.

Mayor German mentioned the improvements in irrigation practices and questioned what happens when irrigation privileges are not utilized. Gioia informed Council that by law the property has a 5-year dormant term, but that law has never been upheld. Ayers commented that there are abandonment and forfeiture rights in existence but if water rights were established prior to 1920, it cannot be challenged. Both Gioia and Ayers conferred that water rights in Camp Verde were established on or before 1893. Ayers clarified that water rights are allocated in Arizona in the term "pertinent" and in an undefined quantity, and until water rights are adjudicated it is a "free-for-all".

Tom O'Malley spoke of water conservation in Jerome and that until rights are adjudicated people will take advantage and benefit from the current rights.

Baker inquired if water rights could be retired and Ayers confirmed that is possible as well as transfer.

Gioia presented a ground water model and example for the Council and encouraged the Council to take affirmative action in progressing forward.

Mayor German spoke of other towns who own their water companies and because the Town of Camp Verde does not, how could they move forward. The Mayor suggested filtering the subject through news media and

the Town website so the community understands that the Council is discussing this topic and feels it is important enough to follow through with action. The Mayor voiced his concern regarding putting community money toward the matter with the possibility that Legislature could make contradicting decisions.

Ayers spoke of the Water Advisory Committee (WAC), which was created by Yavapai County in 1998. Ayers stated they have done good studies but it has been a political disaster and did not accomplish what it was ultimately supposed to. Therefore, the County has decided to fund WAC with 50% of its original budget and predicted there to be no funding for the following year. Ayers indicated that currently there is a \$200,000 grant request from the Walton Family Foundation to benefit the Camp Verde Area. The funds would be allocated with \$150,000 toward marketing and the remaining \$50,000 for Camp Verde. Ayers spoke of two other possible grants currently sought after and indicated there are organizations out there and willing to fund the community needs and he is currently seeking out those sources. Ayers indicated that he has used \$5000 of his marketing budget to put toward a \$40,000 demographic study needed before the Walton Family Foundation would consider the grant. Ayers requested the Council used the remaining funds in the WAC budget for the next study needed and indicated that the Sedona Chamber of Commerce and Yavapai County have already allocated funds toward the studies necessary.

5. **Presentation of the April 2014 "Water Demand and Conservation Assessment for the Town of Camp Verde" study prepared by Western Resource Advocates, followed by discussion, consideration, and possible direction to staff relative to implementation strategies.** Staff Resource: Russ Martin

**It is the consensus of Council to direct staff in moving forward with the 3-implementation strategies presented.**

Town Manager Russ Martin requests that Council actively give direction to staff to begin the process to move forward with indications toward goals.

Ayers recommended that Council review the three recommendations by Linda Stitzer and move forward with those three goals at this time.

Stitzer referenced the 2014 "Water Demand and Conservation Assessment for the Town of Camp Verde" study and explained the options Council has when deciding how to move forward and the role the Town holds.

Councilor Jones indicated she currently irrigates personal property, mainly consisting of her yard, every 15-20 days. Jones spoke of a neighbor who irrigates every three days and their yard look the same. She referenced restrictions in irrigation rights, but the lack of enforcement to uphold the restrictions. Jones indicated that although this example is on a small scale, every bit of water wasted adds up.

Councilor Gordon spoke about irrigation ditch schedules and lack of enforcement and suggested the ditch companies abide by schedules and recommends that those who irrigate must laser level their land for conservation.

Ayers spoke in regards to scheduled irrigation and cooperative education programs that might be implemented.

Vice Mayor Baker expressed her support toward education so that irrigation users understand the importance and benefit of the whole Town of Camp Verde.

Stitzer recommended collaborating with other corporations and programs to reach and fund the goals of the Town.

Mayor German indicated that most people who are educated on a neutral level rather than dictated to will participate and expressed his support toward the education process.

Councilor Gordon reminded Council that the General Plan also has a water conservation plan and this matter would need to be addressed with that committee and commission as well.

Stitzer indicated her three recommendations for the Town to be moving forward would be to focus on Education, Codes and Ordinances and Marketing.

Baker asked if there were currently incentives in place for using water sense products, for example, lower permit fees. Stitzer indicated that currently the Town of Sierra Vista, Arizona, has a toilet rebate program in effect and a line item in their budget. Gordon asked if a permit is required for the replacement of a toilet. Jenkins indicated there is not, but there is a requirement for hot water heaters. Gordon suggested the "grey water tank" requirement should be modified or have another alternative to help cut the cost for community members to participate. Jenkins indicated that there are requirements from the ADEQ regarding grey water. Gioia stated that the former Mayor of Dewey had devised that incorporate grey water with well water, and indicated that the Town of Dewey is farther ahead than any other surrounding community in regards to water conservation.

Council briefly discussed marketing approaches to inform the community about water conservation.

6. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.



Charles German, Mayor



Marie Moore, Recording Secretary

**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/Work Session of the Town Council of Camp Verde, Arizona, held on July 9, 2014. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2014.



Deborah Barber, Town Clerk *2/1*