

**(Corrected) MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
COMMUNITY CENTER · 51 E. HOLLAMON STREET
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014 at 6:30 P.M.**

Minutes are a summary of the discussion. They are not verbatim.
Public Input is placed after Council discussion to facilitate future research.

1. **Call to Order**

Vice Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Vice Mayor Baker, and Councilors Carol German, Bruce George, Brad Gordon, Jessie Jones, and Robin Whatley were present. Mayor German was absent.

Also Present

Manager Russ Martin, Marshal Nancy Garner, Commander Bruce Girt, Library Director Kathy Hellman, Town Clerk Deborah Barber, Deputy Town Clerk Virginia Jones, and Recording Secretary Saepyo Choe.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Mayor Baker 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 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) Regular Session – January 15, 2014
- 2) Work Session – January 8, 2014

b) **Set Next Meeting, Date and Time:**

- 1) February 12, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. – Work Session
- 2) February 19, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session
- 3) February 26, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. - Council Hears Planning & Zoning – CANCELLED

c) **Possible approval of re-appointment for E. Eugene Nell, Esq. as an Assistant Magistrate for Camp Verde Municipal Court for a two (2) year term, effective March 6, 2014, and setting an hourly pay rate of \$38.00 per hour on an as needed basis with a three hour minimum. Staff Resource: Magistrate Harry E. Cipriano.**

d) **Possible authorization for the Marshal to proceed with a Purchase Order to Motorola in the amount of \$120,331 to purchase equipment and service. This amount will be reimbursed by the Department of Homeland Security grant award in the amount of \$120,331. Staff Resource: Marshal Gardner**

On a motion by George, seconded by Gordon, Council unanimously voted to approve the Consent Agenda.

5. **Special Announcements and presentations:**

a) **Proclamation designating March 30, 2014 as Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day**

Vice Mayor Baker read and approved the Proclamation designating March 30, 2014 as Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day.

6. **Call to the Public for Items not on the Agenda.**

Library Director Kathy Hellman introduced the new Youth Services Librarian Dianne Manasse.

Councilor George requested the following item:

7. **Discussion, consideration, and possible direction to staff to prepare an ordinance recognizing Civil Unions in order to support the right of every person to enter into a lasting and committed relationship with the partner of his or her choice, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.**

The motion by George, seconded by Whatley, for staff to prepare an ordinance recognizing Civil Unions, failed

with Councilors George, Jones, and Whatley voting "Yay" and Councilors German, Baker, and Gordon voting "No."

George quoted the Declaration of Independence and compared the issue of Civil Union to women's rights and the civil rights movement, calling it a matter of equality, liberty, and justice.

Vice Mayor Baker opened the public hearing and explained that a 3-minute time limit would be imposed, as well as Robert's Rules of Order, which does not permit applause. She asked the public to raise their hands to signify agreement with the speaker and asked large groups to appoint one representative speaker.

Public Hearing: Fourteen members of the public shared their viewpoints.

Positions opposed to preparing a Civil Union ordinance:

1. Richard Anderson, a retired AZ Superior Court judge, cited court case examples and argued that Civil Union is detrimental to children; and that, if passed; the ordinance would announce the Town's indifference to the plight of children.

2. Shirley Brinkman agreed that Civil Union is hard on kids and asked Council to put it before the voters.

3. Jim Meredith asked why the Council felt rushed to take this matter when there is no urgent push for same-sex rights in Camp Verde and when the state of AZ voted against sex-sex marriage in 2008. He pointed out that the Constitution also states marriage is between a man and a woman; and that the Town should follow the example of the State.

4. Randy Strickland thanked Council for recognizing Vietnam veterans. He stated that he was a Christian and asked why an ordinance was necessary. He warned against following the precedent set by the rest of the Verde Valley, which could lead to becoming like southern California--where children can determine their own gender and which restroom they want to use. He stated that the phrase "regardless of sexual orientation" is too vague, and that it needs to be more definitive and restrictive. He asked Council to consider where this ordinance could lead and asked them to focus more attention on more important matters such as vacant businesses.

5. Resident Tom stated that the greater threat to society was not divorce, but Civil Union discouraging people from getting married in the first place. He stated that Civil Union makes it so that people can sign a paper and pay a fee for rights, then just as easily dissolve the union. He pointed out that Civil Union would be open to everyone, not just same-sex couples and threaten marriage itself. He asked if that is what Council really wants, and if so, to remember the power that voters have.

6. Resident Fred asked that Council not put into law and give credibility to actions that are against God, and thanked Council for the public forum.

7. Laura Hammond, a resident of 47 years, stated that it was a matter of honoring God and expressed her desire to keep Camp Verde a good place to live for her multi-generational family.

Middle Positions:

1. Tony Gray cited the downfall of great empires and nations in history that crumbled due to religious or other types of intolerance. He stated that it is possible to tolerate others' choices without having to agree or embrace them, noting that America is a nation characterized by tolerance.

2. Cheryl Wischmeyer admitted mixed emotions about the subject and stated the importance of showing respect despite differing viewpoints. She stated that Camp Verde is not like Sedona, Clarkdale, Cottonwood, or Jerome,

and that the Council should not decide for the Town, but that the public should have the opportunity to vote their beliefs.

3. Jim Bullard asked Council to put the vote before the people.

Positions supportive of preparing a Civil Union ordinance:

1. Linda Buchanan, a 35-year resident who works for Yavapai College and who has worked as a court-appointed special advocate for 20 years, stated that the issue is about commitment and our neighbors. She pointed out that divorce is a more devastating issue for children that happens to all types of couples. The more committed adults in a child's life, the better. It is not always a matter of public vote, but at times, the courageous act of one person that is necessary to stand up for what is right.

2. Patricia George, a volunteer for the Senior Center and a once court-appointed special advocate, described divorce, hatred, and bigotry as the problems. She asked Council to be "common-sense leaders" and take a stand, rather than put it before a public vote.

3. John O'Brien, from Sedona's Parents and Friends of the Lesbian and Gay (PFLAG) organization read a letter from their President, recommending that Council support the full civil rights of the Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual Transgender community and join the other four communities in Verde Valley.

4. Cat Davis, a resident and local business owner, stated that Civil Union is based on civil and not ecclesiastical laws. She expressed that the issue is not about trying to alter religious beliefs or marriage, but to promote love and tolerance, rather than segregation. She stated that laws that are harmful to others need to be changed and that this requires stepping outside of one's comfort zone.

Public Hearing closed.

Council discussion:

George distributed copies of the newspaper article about Clarkdale Mayor's Civil Union initiative. Council again quoted the Declaration of Independence and expressed the possibility of being a Christian and also affirming the rights of others who wish to declare their commitment to one another. Council also expressed that Civil Union is more appropriately a state-level issue due to the mobility of people who cross all borders within the state.

8. **Call to the Public for items not on the agenda**

There was no public input.

9. **Council Informational Reports.**

Councilors George and Gordon attended a disaster preparedness meeting. Gordon attended meetings for the Verde Valley Land Preservation and General Plan. Baker highlighted the success of the Martin Luther King Jr. day celebration, and announced that Mayor German was absent due to recovering from surgery.

10. **Manager/Staff Report**

Town Manager Russ Martin thanked Council for attending the emergency management meeting, and announced that they hope to follow-up with other organizations for the Friday, April 25, 2014 All-Hazards county-wide exercise.

11. **Adjournment**

On a motion by Gordon, seconded by German, Council unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Jackie Baker, Vice-Mayor
Charles German, Mayor

Virginia Jones for Saepyoel Choe
Saepyoel Choe, 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 Regular Session of the Town Council of Camp Verde, Arizona, held on February 5, 2014. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 21 day of Feb, 2013. 2014

Debbie Barber
Debbie Barber, Town Clerk