

**MINUTES (Corrected)**  
**COUNCIL HEARS PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2012**  
**6:30 P.M.**

Minutes are a summary of the actions taken. They are not verbatim.  
Public input is placed after Council motions to facilitate future research.  
Public input, where appropriate, is heard prior to the motion

1. **Call to Order**  
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.
  
2. **Roll Call**  
Mayor Burnside, Vice Mayor Kovacovich, Councilors Whatley, George, Buchanan, Baker and German were present.  
  
**Also Present:** Town Manager Russ Martin, Community Development Director Mike Jenkins, and Recording Secretary Margaret Harper.
  
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**  
The Pledge was led by George.
  
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) February 8, 2012 – Work Session
  - b) **Set Next Meeting, Date and Time:**
    - 1) March 5, 2012 at 5:30 – Work Session
    - 2) March 7, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session
    - 3) March 21, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session
    - 4) March 28, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. – Council Hears Planning & Zoning Matters

On a motion by Kovacovich, seconded by Baker, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.
  
5. **Special Announcements & Presentations**  
There were no special announcements or presentations.
  
6. **Council Informational Reports.**

**Whatley** reported on her attendance and volunteering at the Pecan & Wine Festival last weekend, enjoying the Kiwanis Breakfast on Saturday morning, the Flag Ceremony and welcoming the Buffalo Soldiers to Camp Verde.

**George** said he also was at the Pecan & Wine Festival, manning the Verde River Basin Partnership booth; today he attended a luncheon, the Arizona Sustainable Economic Development Initiative monthly Board meeting in Camp Verde.

**Kovacovich** also was at the SEDI meeting today that was also attended by several people from Northern Arizona who participated in a tour of the downtown sites; he thanked the Town staff for setting things up for that activity.

**German** said she also helped out at the Pecan & Wine Festival that seems to get bigger and better every year. She attended the SEDI meeting in the afternoon; in the morning she went to the Copper Canyon Trailhead event that was very well attended. German commended all the volunteers and the Forest Service personnel, the State Parks, and everyone who participated in creating the Trailhead; it is a job well done.

**Buchanan** echoed the sentiments of Whatley and German regarding the Pecan & Wine Festival; he was there all three days putting in 20 volunteer hours helping at the front door checking bracelets; he also attended the dedication of the Copper Canyon Trailhead.

**Baker** regretted that she was unable to attend the Trailhead dedication this morning; she was aware that so many people had worked so hard and so long to make the project a reality, especially Lynn Reddell. Baker acknowledged and thanked all those who had also put their hearts and souls into the Trailhead.

**Burnside** commented on the dedication of the Copper Canyon Trailhead; the project had started in 1991, and is a multi-use Trailhead, and Lynn Reddell was the one who kept pushing the boulder. The rest of those who worked on it the last two or three years only finished the need that was stressed and the bar that was set. Everyone should visit the Trailhead and see the plaque that was placed there.

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

(Commented from the following individual are summarized.)

**Brenda Hauser** wanted to also mention Bea Richmond who was also instrumental in developing the Trailhead, and had walked every trail. Ms. Hauser's spoke on behalf of the senior citizens who participate in scrapbooking and enjoy other activities at the Library; she appealed to the Council to include \$1200 in the Budget to help defray the expenses for scrapbooking. She asked about the Skateboard being closed. *Town Manager Martin explained that the light had been destroyed and it was difficult to replace.*

There was no further public input.

8. **Presentation by Jeff Schalaus from the University of Arizona Cooperation Extension Office and Chip Norton and Jodi Allen from the Verde Natural Resource Conservation District regarding Noxious Weeds abatement and control. Discussion may follow the presentations with possible Council direction to staff relative to the most effective approach for the measures provided. Staff Resource: Mike Jenkins**

On a motion by Baker, seconded by German, the Council unanimously directed staff to collaborate with Chip Norton of the Verde Natural Resource Conservation District and Jeff Schalaus, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Office, and all organizations we can work with, to use all the available measures discussed, including biological control insects, and to develop an educational program for our citizens, regarding this noxious weed issue, in particular the Yellow Star Thistle, as soon as possible.

Community Development Director Mike Jenkins prefaced the presentation with the news that a permit to the Shooting Range this morning; construction has been started, and that news was well received.

Jenkins said that he had been previously requested to meet with the subject local experts and bring them before the Council to share their information regarding the problems and management of noxious weeds, and the different possible measures that could be taken within our communities to address the growing concern.

Jeff Schalaus explained that he had been involved with the UofA Cooperative Extension in Yavapai County for approximately 14 years, and for the last 12 years has been aware of the presence of the Star Thistle in the southern part of Camp Verde. Mr. Schalaus presented a comprehensive overview of the research done on the origin, existence, proliferation and harm to certain livestock, and recommended measures to try to control the spread of that noxious weed, including considering the use of biological control insects.

The Council members discussed with Mr. Schalaus the information he had shared, describing their personal experience trying to manage the plant that had invaded their properties. During the discussion, Mr. Schalaus commented that if the Council were to consider adopting an ordinance on this issue, he is not sure that regulation would have the desired effect; it would take resources to enforce a weed abatement law. He said

that the State does have some noxious weed laws; however, those laws are not strictly enforced, because of various hurdles with being able to impose penalties. Mr. Schalau believes that education and public awareness are some of the more effective ways to manage the weed. Other potential ways are working with private land owners, the Town, ADOT and others regarding the roadsides, and the Forest Service on their boundaries, although it may never be possible to totally eradicate the weed.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

(Comments from the following individuals are summarized.)

**Nancy Pohlman** described her experience with the Star Thistle on her property and asked about what she could expect this coming season, and whether a horse would favor the weed over its regular feed. *Mr. Schalau responded that he could not make a precise prediction regarding the growth, and assumed that a regular diet would be preferable.*

**Howard Parrish** recalled that during the term of President Johnson, Mrs. Johnson had been influential in getting law passed for that state that protected the Yellow Star Thistle during its blooming season.

There was no further public input.

Chip Norton, from the Verde Natural Resource Conservation District, an organization that works with private landowners, traditionally farmers and ranchers on soil and water conservation issues, explained that the organization is also involved in control of invasive plants. Mr. Norton noted that the two things that have been found most effective are education and cooperation. He pointed out that without the cooperation of surrounding communities, such as the County, the City of Cottonwood, and private landowners, Camp Verde would not be entirely successful in its efforts to control the weed. Mr. Norton said the NRCDC would be happy to work with the Town and other partners to hold workshops to provide that education for noxious weeds and invasive plants. In many ways, cooperative efforts seem to work best when dealing with something that is not specific to one jurisdiction.

Commencing further discussion, Councilor George displayed a rough sketch illustrating how the Star Thistle can invade an adjacent property and the need for the owners to cooperate in trying to control the weed. He suggested creating some type of brochure to help educate everyone. Further discussion appeared to indicate general agreement that education would be favored over regulation by ordinance. In response to a question, Mr. Schalau reviewed his previous suggestion regarding the introduction of beetles and flies as a bio-control measure. Jenkins noted that the Town Engineer has been working on controlling the weed, and in addition might want to pursue the use of the beetles and flies, if directed by the Council or Manager. There are also brochures available that staff could use to create something similar for the Town to educate the community.

As for the comments regarding the use of the beetles and flies, Buchanan interjected his assurance for the public that the Town and staff are not importing some bugs, but they are being guided by some very talented organizations and are doing the best for the Town.

9. **Discussion, consideration, and possible direction to staff relative to updates and requested action(s) concerning proposed legislation that affects the Town.** Staff Resource: Russ Martin  
There was no action taken.

Martin reviewed two issues from the comprehensive Legislative update, in particular the Regulatory Tax Credit that he believes could have a detrimental effect on us and should be monitored closely, and the ongoing discussion of consolidating the election dates; the bills discussed will be monitored with updates to follow.

10. **Call to the Public for Items not on the Agenda.**  
There was no public input.
11. **Manager/Staff Report**  
Martin reminded everyone about the Cottonwood Recreation Center Intergovernmental meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m.; the agenda includes a discussion of intergovernmental forums for elected officials about water resources.
12. **Adjournment**  
On a motion by German, seconded by Baker, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Burnside, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret Harper, 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 the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 13 day of March, 2012.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Debbie Barber, Town Clerk