

**MINUTES  
RETREAT  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE  
CVMO TRAINING ROOM  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2008  
2:15 P.M.**

**Minutes are a summary of the discussion. They are not verbatim.**

**Welcome and Opening Comments**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

**Present:**

Mayor Gioia, Vice Mayor Hauser, and Councilors Garrison, German, Kovacovich, and Smith were present. Councilor Elmer was absent.

**Also Present:**

Town Clerk Barber

Mayor Gioia reviewed the retreat objectives as listed on the agenda 1) To discuss current issues affecting Camp Verde and local government; 2) To identify productive ways for policy makers to collaborate with each other and 3) To develop the short-term actions needed to move into the future.

*After a brief discussion, members felt that the retreat would progress much better if they employed a free-flowing discussion format and did not follow the order of the agenda, though they were appreciative of Lance Decker's format.*

The Mayor asked each member to state his or her objectives for the meeting.

Kovacovich said that he wanted to address economic development, in particular, answer the question, "How do we pull ourselves up and move forward?" He said that Council members need to work together to help the manager so that he is not bogged down.

Smith said that economic development was his number one priority, noting that we are the largest Verde Valley municipality, yet we have the smallest budget. His concerns lied with the perception that it was difficult to get anything done in this Town. He noted that we are cash-strapped and that we should look into outsourcing some services, such as weed control.

Hauser explained that her objective was economic development, stating that she did not believe that it was hard to get things done because she believed that Council made it easy by waiving every requirement, such as sidewalks and gutters. She said that she was concerned about citizen complaints. She said the her plan for today is that she would like to see us take care of local things – things with the school, drugs, the Teen Center, noting that there was so much to do for the people who live here today.

Members discussed at length the complaint process and the Council's Correspondence Policy, noting that it is extremely important to each of them that the government is responsive to the citizens. Members were also concerned about the Manager's level of stress and discussed various alternatives that could offer some relief.

Council discussed Rio Verde, tax subsidies, tenancy, and possible uses of the site. Members also discussed customer service and potential cost-cutting measures. At the end of the meeting, members

agreed that that the meeting was productive and that the free flow of the discussion led to a much better understanding of each other and offered valuable insight into "where each of them was coming from".

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Hauser, seconded by German, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

  
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Deborah Barber, Town Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are a true and accurate accounting of the discussion 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 4<sup>th</sup> day of September 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 18 day of Sept, 2008.

  
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Deborah Barber, Town Clerk