

**MINUTES
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
REGULAR SESSION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
473 S. MAIN STREET, SUITE 106
WEDNESDAY, August 19, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.**

ZOOM MEETING LINK <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86275080595>

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 6:41 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present in Council chambers were Council Members Buck Buchanan, Joe Butner, Bill LeBeau, and Vice Mayor Dee Jenkins. Attending via Zoom were Mayor Charles German and Councilors Jessie Murdock and Robin Whatley,

Also Present

Town Manager Russ Martin, Councilor Elect Jackie were present in Council Chambers. Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton, Finance Director Mike Showers, Marshal Corey Rowley, Public Works Budget Analyst Dorie Blair, Councilor Elect Cris McPhail and recording secretary Sue Ayers were in attendance via Zoom.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Mayor Dee Jenkins led the pledge from Council chambers.

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 – August 5, 2020

b) Set Next Meeting, Date and Time:

- 1) Regular Meeting – Wednesday September 2, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Reinstated
- 2) Regular Meeting – Wednesday September 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
- 3) Regular Meeting – Wednesday October 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilor Bill LeBeau to approve the consent agenda as read, and seconded by Councilor Joe Butner. Motion carried, with approval by

Councilors Murdock, Whatley, Buchanan, LeBeau, Butner, Mayor German and Vice Mayor Dee Jenkins.

5. **Call to the Public for items not on the Agenda. (Please complete Request to Speak Card and turn in to the Clerk.)** Residents are encouraged to comment about any matter NOT included on the agenda. State law prevents the Council from taking any action on items not on the agenda. At the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the public body may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the public body, may ask staff to review a matter or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the public body shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action. (Pursuant to ARS §38-431.01(H))

There were no cards turned in for items not on the Agenda.

6. **Special Announcements and Presentations**

- NONE

7. **Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2020-1052, a Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Camp Verde, Yavapai County, Arizona, declaring and adopting the results of the Primary Election on August 4, 2020.** Staff Resource Cindy Pemberton

Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton advised that before consideration or approval, in Section Two of the Resolutions, the rejected ballots were actually ten, and not six. There were six early ballots rejected and four provisional ballots rejected. She also noted that Dee Jenkins had a 50.38 percent, and not a 5038 percentage, which has been corrected in the Draft Resolution.

Councilor Bill LeBeau made a motion for Approval of Resolution 2020-1052, a Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Camp Verde, Yavapai County, Arizona, declaring and adopting the results of the Primary Election on August 4, 2020; with corrections previously put forth by the Clerk. The motion was seconded by Councilor Joe Butner, and carried with approval from Councilors Murdock, Whatley, Buchanan, LeBeau, Butner, Mayor German and Vice Mayor Jenkins.

8. **Presentation of Certificates of Election to Jackie Baker, Cris McPhail, Jessie Murdock (3 Council Seats – Elected in Primary)** Staff Resource – Cindy Pemberton

Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton made a clarification that the attached certificates for both items # 8 and #9 are inaccurate. In the Town Code Section 213, it states that members of the Council shall assume the duties of office at the regular first meeting of the Council in December. This historically would have been the case if there were a runoff into the general election. Since a runoff did not occur, we are

then adhering to ARS 9-821.01, which essentially states that any candidate for office of Mayor or City Council who receives a majority of votes is declared elected effective as of the date of the General Election. The Certificate dates have all changed, and the candidates will be taking office in their respective positions on November 4, 2020 instead of December 2nd, 2020.

Ms. Pemberton stated that candidates Jackie Baker, Cris McPhail and Jessie Murdock received the majority of votes for the Primary Election, and are duly elected to the Office of the Town Council with a four-year term beginning November 4, 2020. She congratulated each of them and their certificates have been placed in their in-box at the Clerk's office.

9. Presentation of Certificate of Election to Dee Jenkins (1 Mayoral Seat – Elected in Primary) Staff Resource – Cindy Pemberton

Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton acknowledged that there was one seat available for Mayor; and that candidate Dee Jenkins received the majority of votes in the Primary Election and is duly elected to the office of Mayor for the term of two years beginning on November 4, 2020. She congratulated Ms. Jenkins and stated that her certificate has been placed in her in-box at the Clerk's office.

Mayor German requested that there be a future agenda item addressing the updating of policies and procedures for the election code in case of runoff or special situation that may occur. Town Clerk Pemberton agreed to do that.

10. Discussion & possible approval of proposed changes to the Town of Camp Verde Operations Guide (FOG). Staff Resource – Michael Showers

Mayor German wanted to stipulate and remind council that it is not essential that this gets passed tonight, and that there will be more time for discussion if the item were tabled.

Councilor Joe Butner found many possible corrections and he would like to move this item to a work session or another meeting when there is more time, so that they can be addressed.

Town Manager Martin addressed the idea of this item being moved to a work session. The next work session on September 9th will be pretty full, as a trip out to the park is scheduled. A suggestion would be to postpone this item until after a few more of the items on tonight's agenda are addressed and see how long it takes.

Councilor Butner made a motion to table agenda item #10 until after agenda item #13 has been dealt with. Councilor LeBeau seconded. The motion carried, with approval from Mayor German, Vice Mayor Jenkins and Councilors Murdock, LeBeau, Whatley, Butner and Buchanan.

11. Discussion & possible approval for the Finance Director to accept the

AZCares Fund Grant for \$1,284,341. Staff Resource - Michael Showers

Town Finance Director Mike Showers gave background information on this item. The original Federal Cares Act funding from the Federal government allocated money to cities and states or counties with over 500,000 in population. The State of Az recently created the AZ CARES Fund out of this original distribution to allocate to the cities and counties that did not receive a direct allocation from the Federal government. Allocations were based on population; our allocation is \$1,284,341.

Mr. Showers explained that this a Federal grant, and that no matching amount from the Town is required, but that per Town Policy Council's agreement is required for him to accept the grant.

Councilor Butner made a motion to approve, with a second by Councilor Lebeau. Motion carries, with approval from Councilors Whatley, Murdock, LeBeau, Buchanan and Butner, and Mayor German and Vice Mayor Jenkins.

12. Discussion, consideration and possible approval of a request from the Camp Verde Rodeo Association for additional monies up to the amount of \$150,000 to continue to make progress towards completion of the Rodeo Arena. Staff Resource – Russ Martin

Town Manager Russ Martin outlined to the council that the Rodeo Association account currently has invoices due totaling \$9,581.30. He is requesting a minimum allocation of \$10,000 for payment of those outstanding invoices so they start flush when allocating further funding tonight.

Rodeo Association representative Bob Weir spoke about the many benefits of the rodeo arena and the advantages it would have to the community of Camp Verde, including revenue via motels, RV parks, restaurants, etc. He believes the Town will end up with an arena that is worth far more than their investment. Another advantage is that the Town would retain ownership and so many other events could be held there as well. Mr. Weir listed several events currently planned at the arena, including a Junior Rodeo, a Bull Bash, an Arizona High School Rodeo Association event and The Queen Creek Junior Rodeo.

He explained that the arena is coming along nicely, however there have been some setbacks and there is help needed with electric poles, lights, electrical equipment, an announcer's stand, concessions, rest rooms, etc. He named several individuals and businesses who have donated resources and labor to the cause as well.

Donny Murdock explained the history of rodeo in Camp Verde and how it will bring people into the town and build revenue. He suggested that in the end the arena will be way more of an asset than it is a debt. He suggested that the events at the arena will help finish the park, fix roads and do good things by generating revenue through the filling of, motels and RV parks, as well as shops and restaurants. He spoke in favor of finishing the park and moving forward.

Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton read a speaker card from Camp Verde resident Deborah Moody, who wanted to thank the Council for the great work it continues to do. She understands that they have to set priorities and even though the arena seems important to many, are there statistics on what percentage of CV residents own horses, and also what percentage will benefit from focusing on the rodeo arena? She asked that they look into allotting more time and money into other areas such as a Fire Department in Verde Lakes.

Ken Krebbs, Camp Verde Fire Marshal, commended the folks working on the arena. He believes they are working really hard to meet the codes, and that it is important that they have the financial backing to get it done right the first time so that it doesn't cost more later on. He spoke in favor of the arena, noting long-term effects such as drawing families into Camp Verde and how it would help support the community. Mr. Krebbs addressed a concern of a former speaker, noting that the arena doesn't have anything to do with a fire department in Verde Lakes because they are separate from the Town. He did say they have acquired land in that area and are working on building a fire station in the future.

Vice Mayor Jenkins asked whether there will be a profit from the arena events to help offset costs in the future.

Mary Phelps, president of the Rodeo Association, explained that there would be fees such as junior rodeos will pay a fee to rent the facility and other fees such as parking and stall rental fees. The Fort Verde days Rodeo has sponsors, and there will also be gate fees and vendor application fees, which they will use profits from later on. Right now, however, there are some loose ends that need finishing before the arena can open up. Construction companies are way busy and they cannot find donors to meet their deadlines. They are also in need of materials such as rebar. Ms. Phelps outlined several upcoming events such as a Rodeo Queen Pageant, the Fort Verde Days Rodeo, The Arizona Junior Rodeo and Arizona High School Rodeo Association events.

Councilor Bill LeBeau believes that there seems to be a bit of a misconception that the town is providing money to a group of horse enthusiasts for their own entertainment value. He wanted to note that it is truly a community facility and can be used for other town events as well, such as demolition derbies and concerts. He spoke regarding hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours and all of the contractors that have donated time and heavy equipment. He is interested in seeing all of this happen and wanted to know exactly how much money is needed to have the facility ready for October.

Bob Weir replied that what is needed now is the completion of the lights, the light poles, the electrical, the announcers stand and the well.

Councilor Robin Whatley asked if they would be willing to get by with 80,000 instead of the original \$150,000, correct?

Mr. Weir did some more figuring and agreed that \$80,000 should be able to get the

arena open for use.

Councilor Whatley pointed out that this is a huge change order. She interjected that they still have Meals on Wheels to deal with. She believes this is vital, would like to see \$12,500 allocated to our meals on wheels as well.

Councilor Joe Butner has done research concerning handicapped parking and hopes they could get that done before Fort Verde Days. He asked Mr. Krebbs how close they are to getting the entry and exit on and off of highway 260 ready, and what is left to be done.

Ken Krebbs outlined some issues and stated there would probably be a culvert and some paving required.

Councilor Joe Butner agrees that we need to give the \$12,000 to meals on wheels as well, and perceives that if The Council were to allocate \$100,000 out of the upcoming grant, it would take care of the Meals on Wheels and the improvements needed to get the rodeo arena up and running in time.

Town Manager Russ Martin stated that would have to be discussed at a later time as per the open meeting law.

Councilor Butner asked Mary Phelps exactly what amount is needed in order to get the rodeo grounds open.

Ms. Phelps indicated that number is \$80,000. She commented that regarding the highway 260 entrance/exit, they have 24-inch culvert and if it can be used the CV Arena association would like to provide it to help with the cost of the rodeo.

Councilor Murdock doesn't want to allocate too little money and have it hang up the completion of the arena. She would support more than the \$80,000; perhaps to the upper end of the \$150,000; believing they would not spend all of the money if it was not necessary.

Councilor Whatley is not for approving \$150,000 but wants to know what projects would not be able to be completed without the whole amount of the CARES grant.

Town Manager Russ Martin there are several other items on the list; probably 20 projects, and stated that those things would be addressed at a future meeting.

Mayor German commented that there is no doubt that the support to the Rodeo Arena Association from Council is predicated on the idea that there will be a return on their investment, and he can personally account from experience with previous rodeos in Camp Verde for the fact that the rodeo is a revenue generator. He would like to see them allocate at least \$100,000, and address Meals on Wheels at a later meeting. He will ask NACOG if they have additional funding for meals on wheels when he has a meeting with them later on.

Vice Mayor Dee Jenkins made a motion to approve a request from Camp Verde

Rodeo Association for funds up to \$100,000 to come from the CIP fund. Councilor Butner seconded the motion, which passed 6-1 with approval by Councilors Murdock, Buchanan, Butner and LeBeau, Mayor German and Vice Mayor Jenkins. Councilor Whatley cast a “nay” vote.

Due to time constraints, Mayor German suggested finishing the rest of the Agenda and address item number ten (**Discussion & possible approval of proposed changes to the Town of Camp Verde Operations Guide (FOG)**). Staff Resource – Michael Showers) at a later Agenda. Council was in agreement.

13. Discussion and possible action regarding the League of Cities and Towns request for two amendments to the League Charter. Resource – Mayor German

Background information; The league has asked for two amendments: 1). Amending the League Charter, Article IV Organization, Section 1 by changing the terms of League Officers from a two-year term to a one-year term beginning in 2024. 2). Amending Article IX:1 to create a Standing Charter Committee to review proposed amendments to the Charter of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns.

Town Manager Martin gave background information on this item.

Mayor German agrees with the first amendment; that way, as more people can serve if it is changed to a one-year term.

Regarding the second amendment, Mayor German agrees, but would ask the Council to state that any proposed amendments that come to the charter committee would be brought to the league. He doesn't think that just a small group of people should be able to make those decisions alone; the whole committee should be able to vote on it.

Council concurs. They are in favor of a committee but it should also go to the whole group for approval after their decision is made.

14. Covid-19 Update. Staff Resource Russ Martin

Town Manager Martin asked Finance Director Mike Showers to give a financial update.

Mr. Showers recounted that they brought in \$492,000 in July, which is just under \$100,000 over budget for the fiscal year. They ended the year by bringing in \$83,000 against the shortage they had. He stated that financially the town is doing exceptionally well. Revenue-wise, unless there is some other major change, they seem to be in a very comfortable position. There are reserves if needed, but he does not expect that there will be any need to access them.

Town Manager Russ Martin relates that the Town has started to accept cash again at the courts, which is a slow process. They are opening up a bit more; the library is opening up a little more, allowing a limited amount in, with plexiglass and a

limited number of chairs. He hopes to be able to get Plexiglas in Council chambers soon.

With the school district opening up, they are at 50% capacity.

Staff is anxiously looking at Fort Verde days; still leaving the details open. Special event liquor licenses are still not available.

Grasshopper basketball is trying to work out a plan for being able to play.

Water company analysis should be available for review in Council's mailbox. This information is confidential for now and should be treated as such. They will go into executive session and discuss it at a later date.

15. **Call to the Public for items not on the Agenda. (Please complete Request to Speak Card and turn in to the Clerk.)** Residents are encouraged to comment about any matter NOT included on the agenda. State law prevents the Council from taking any action on items not on the agenda. At the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the public body may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the public body, may ask staff to review a matter or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the public body shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action. (Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.01(H))

Stacy Barker came in to commend everyone for their hard work. He walks through town and sees a lot of change i.e., a lot of progress. He stated that within the last ten years and the current and future mayor, he perceives that things will continue to grow and improve.

16. **Council Informational Reports.** These reports are relative to the committee meetings that Council members attend. The Committees are: Copper Canyon Fire & Medical District, Yavapai College Governing Board, Yavapai Apache Nation, Intergovernmental Association, NACOG Regional Council, Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization (VVREO), League Resolutions Committee, Arizona Municipal Risk Retention Pool, Verde Valley Transportation Org, Verde Valley Transit Committee, Verde Valley Water Users, Verde Valley Homeless Coalition, Verde Front, Verde Valley Steering Committee of MAT Force, Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board, Phillip England Center for the Performing Arts Foundation. In addition, individual members may provide brief summaries of current events. The Council will have no discussion or take action on any of these items, except that they may request that the item be placed on a future agenda.

Mayor German will be meeting on August 27th with NACOG, and will ask about funding for Meals on Wheels.

Mayor German and Economic Development Director Steve Ayers met with the Yavapai-Apache Tribal Council and requested a letter asking them to let the National Parks Service know that they are willing to do the cultural clearance for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant, reminding them that the deadline is the end of September. They were positive and cooperative, and he anticipates an answer by next week.

Vice Mayor Jenkins attended the open house with the fire district. She stated that attendance was sparse, but it was well done and that the information was available.

Councilor Joe Butner was also at the open house. He learned a lot and believes it was a good meeting.

17. **Manager/Staff Report** Individual members of the Staff may provide brief summaries of current events and activities. These summaries are strictly for informing the Council and public of such events and activities. The Council will have no discussion, consideration, or take action on any such item, except that an individual Council member may request that the item be placed on a future agenda.

Town Manager Russ Martin wanted to let everyone know that the schedule for September is backing up. He would like to be able to start the work session at 5:30 before the work session on September 9th, and then gather at the park for show and tell, and review what has been happening at the wastewater plant and at the arena.

18. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.



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 May 1, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2020.



Cindy Pemberton, Town Clerk