

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
MAYOR and COMMON COUNCIL
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Wednesday SEPTEMBER 9, 2009
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 Garrison, Whatley, Baker and Roulette were present; German was absent.

Also Present: Town Manager Michael Scannell, Town Marshal Dave Smith, Library Director Gerard Laurito, Town Clerk Debbie Barber, and Recording Secretary Margaret Harper.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was led by Roulette.

3.A Discussion, consideration and possible direction to the Manager to take the following actions to avoid the imminent closure of Fort Verde Historic State Park:

- 1. Short term – as a stop-gap measure develop a funding agreement in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 with the State Parks Department for the period September 11, 2009 through December 31, 2009 to ensure that the operational status of Fort Verde Historic State Park continues unabated.**
- 2. Long term – develop an agreement with the Arizona State Parks to maintain or obtain control of the park via a lease agreement to ensure the on-going operation of the park.**
- 3. Attend the September 11, 2009 State Parks Board meeting in Phoenix in order to share with the state the Town's operational plan as outlined above.**

On a motion by Garrison, seconded by Whatley, the Council unanimously directed the Manager to take the following actions to avoid the imminent closure of Fort Verde Historic State Park: (1) Short term - as a stop-gap measure develop a funding agreement in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 with the State Parks Department for the period September 11, 2009 through December 31, 2009 to ensure that the operational status of Fort Verde Historic State Park continues unabated; (2) Long term - develop an agreement with the Arizona State Parks to maintain or obtain control of the park via a lease agreement to ensure the on-going operation of the park; (3) Attend the September 11, 2009 State Parks Board meeting in Phoenix in order to share with the state the Town's operational plan as outlined in Items (1) and (2).

Town Manager Scannell explained that he had been alerted by Steve Ayres, reporter for the Camp Verde Bugle, that the closure of Fort Verde Historic Park was imminent. Scannell, Ayres and Mayor Burnside had then met to discuss a possible plan to try to meet the challenge of keeping the park in operation. Scannell said that he had reviewed the elements of the proposed plan with Mr. Ream, Assistant Director of State Parks who expressed approval for the Town's apparent intent to work closely with the Parks Department. The members discussed the options presented by Scannell, together with the recommendations and information shared by Steve Ayres, Joe Butner of the Camp Verde Cavalry, and Sheila Stubler, a State Parks employee from the Fort speaking only as an individual. During the discussion, there was agreement that if the Council approved the subject planned actions, Scannell would attend the September 11, 2009 State Parks Board meeting in Phoenix to present the plan.

PUBLIC INPUT

(Comments from the following individuals are summarized.)

Steve Ayres said he had been advised by a member of the Board of the Historical Society of the imminent closure of the Fort and had then confirmed the intent of the Parks Department essentially to close the Fort. The members discussed with Ayres his understanding of the history and value of the Fort to the Town, as well as the original agreement and subsequent correspondence between the Historic Society and the Parks Department. Ayres said he believes that the proposed plan represents an opportunity to open an important dialogue between the Town and the

Parks Department, to try to work out a resolution within the next 90 to 100 days. Ayres said he would plan to attend the September 11th meeting with Scannell, if requested.

Sheila Stubler said that she was not speaking as a Parks Department employee, but only as a civilian, and could not answer specific questions about control and financial operation of the Fort; she said she could relay such questions to her supervisor for such information. Ms. Stubler said she is concerned about the Fort as an individual and wants to work with the community because it is an historic treasure. Ms. Stubler commented on planned upcoming events at the Fort, including Tom Sawyer Day, Fort Verde Days, and the Victorian Christmas.

Joe Butner, attorney, spoke as a citizen of Camp Verde and the current Colonel of the Camp Verde Cavalry, and as a former member of the Historical Society. Mr. Butner reviewed the original agreement in 1970 between the Fort Verde Museum, the predecessor name for the Historical Society, and owners of the Fort at that time. Mr. Butner said it appears that certain conditions of the agreement have not been met by the State, and no satisfactory responses have been received to correspondence questioning those violations. The State Parks Board has operated the Fort in a manner that has not benefited the community. Butner said he believes that the mismanagement of the Fort by the Parks Department has created a waste of a jewel of historic preservation. Butner implored the Council to not give the State Parks Board one penny; in fact, to discuss with them a way to convey the Fort back to the Historical Society, with the plan that the Town would take over and run the Fort in a way that benefits not only the surrounding area but the State and the Nation as a whole; now is the time to take the Fort back. Between the Cavalry and the Historical Society, there should be enough volunteers to help run the Fort if the Town takes it over.

There was no further public input.

The Council discussed the suggested actions further, the recommendations from Ayres and Butner, and the proposal to provide funding to continue operation of the Fort for 90 to 120 days during which time the Town would work on negotiating with the State Parks Department an agreement that would settle the differences of all parties. Scannell said that if the plan is approved, he will attend the Board meeting on September 11th, report back to Council on September 16, and continue thereafter to provide periodic updates.

4. Review and discussion of the newly revised Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual. (Staff Resource: Dave Smith)

There was no action taken.

Subsequent to a previous meeting, Marshal Smith continued with Council the review of the subject Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual, including detailed discussions on the retention of employment lists, jury duty leave and compensation, benefits and pay for part-time employees, reconsidering the number of paid holidays per year, minimum pay for show-up time, clarification of retention or transfer of accumulated sick leave hours, time off allowed for voting, and varied work schedules. The following changes or deletions were agreed upon as follows, indicated in underlined bold type:

Page 1-15, Item C), change: ".....do not report this fact to their Department Head, this shall be considered grounds for dismissal."

Page 3-7, 3-4 Performance Evaluation, delete: ".....performance evaluation is to provide new employees with...."

Page 4-11, 4-8-5, Physician's Verification, (D) change: "Medical Practitioner's verification statements are to be....."

Page 4-17, 4-11-1, Jury Duty, A) 2), delete: "Regular part-time employees"

Page 3-13, top of page, 2), delete: "Regular part-time employees"

Page 7-4, Section 7-3-2, Smoking Breaks, delete: "The immediate supervisor may limit smoking breaks, particularly if they interfere with work."

Page 4-3, Section 4-3-3, Verification of Need, next to last sentence, change: "Certification by a licensed health care provider shall be required."

Page 4-19, top of page, B): (Note: Language to be revised to require notification that the employee is leaving for the purpose of voting.)


Page 4-19, Section 4-12-2, Group Insurance Coverage, delete last sentence: "The Town may also contribute to dependent coverage for eligible employees."

In conclusion, Baker discussed with Marshal Smith, with confirmation from Scannell, his basis and reasoning for the administrative selection of the attorney who provided Smith with legal advice on drafting the subject Personnel Policy, instead of consulting the firm that had been used in the past. Baker took exception to such a decision being made, apparently without considering past Council policy. Smith said that he would make available to all the members his notes memorializing the legal advice given.

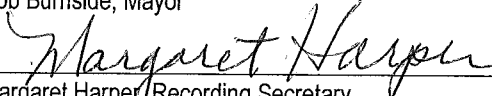
Smith said that he will make the changes discussed, and submit the revised draft to the members for review; the draft will then be placed on a future Council agenda.

5. Adjournment

On a motion by Whatley, seconded by Garrison, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.



Bob Burnside, Mayor

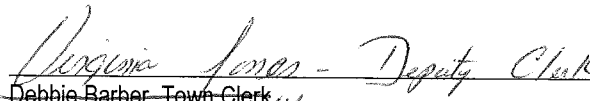


Margaret Harper, Recording Secretary

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 Work Session of the Town Council of Camp Verde, Arizona, held on the 9th day of September 2009. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 18th day of October, 2009.



~~Debbie Barber, Town Clerk~~ *Virginia Jones - Deputy Clerk*