

**MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 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 Gioia, Vice Mayor Hauser, Councilors Smith, Garrison, and Kovacovich; German has submitted his resignation; there are now two seats vacant.

Also Present: Town Manager Mike Scannell, Parks & Recreation Director Lynda Moore, Town Clerk Debbie Barber, and Recording Secretary Margaret Harper.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was led by Hauser

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 21, 2009

b) Set Next Meeting, Date and Time:

1) February 18, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session/Council Hears Planning & Zoning

2) February 25, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. – Council Hears Planning & Zoning – **CANCELLED**

3) March 4, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session

4) March 18, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session/Council Hears Planning & Zoning

5) March 25, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. – Council Hears Planning & Zoning – **CANCELLED**

c) Possible approval to renew the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Camp Verde Unified School District for use of the triangle parking lot and trail adjacent to Butler Park and the District Office and authorization for the Mayor to execute the contract documents. (Staff Resource: Lynda Moore)

On a motion by Hauser, seconded by Kovacovich, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as presented, with the corrections noted.

Kovacovich requested that the Minutes of January 21, 2009 be corrected to reflect in Item 4 that Kovacovich had not been present at the meeting of December 22, 2008, instead of December 22, 2009; Garrison noted that the two references on Page 2, Item 8 to "Youth Commission" should be corrected to "Youth Committee."

Gioia requested that a session be set for a discussion with SRP depending on Council's availability.

5. Call to the Public for Items not on the Agenda.

(Comments from the following individuals are summarized.)

Jackie Baker, following up a reminder to herself, passed out candy treats to the members and staff.

Sharon Roddan, an attorney and business owner, distributed packets containing a written statement and supporting documents to the Town Clerk and members of the Council. Ms. Roddan read the statement that outlined in detail what she asserts was willful discrimination against her company, Diamond Homes, in connection with a recent call for a bid, based on what she claims was an erroneous claim of conflict of interest, resulting in a serious financial detriment to her company and its vendors. Ms. Roddan closed her complaint with a demand for a letter of apology.

Donna Stillwell, owner of D&N Tire located behind Ace Hardware, said she is absolutely against the Town's position on A-Frame signs for only people on Main Street. Her business was granted an A-Frame sign for one year, but now she feels the Town has changed things based on a whim, and how will people know where her business is. Ms. Stillwell said she is very angry and feels the Town does not care.

Bob Burnside said he wanted to refute a report that has been circulating that he has withdrawn from the race for Mayor; to the contrary he is definitely in the running.

Linda Buchanan highly commended the Clerk for creating the web links that make information directly accessible to the public.

Tony Varela began to speak regarding the Housing Commission issue, and was reminded that he would have the opportunity when that item comes up on the Agenda.

There was no further public input.

6. **Council Informational Reports**

Smith announced that Town Clerk Debbie Barber has received her Master Clerk Certificate, the highest that can be achieved; there are not that many who have that certification in the State of Arizona; Mark, the Journal reporter, received an award for fair and balanced and objective reporting.

Hauser reported that a letter was received from Steve Ayres to remind people that all Arizona cities, towns, counties and Indian tribes are being looked at to develop a Legacy Project to commemorate Arizona's Centennial in 2012.

Gioia commented on the award from Sedona Recycling and their report on the dramatic recycling progress shown by Camp Verde. Gioia also reported on the status of the Wild & Scenic designation for Fossil Creek; 250 people are to be hired through the Yavapai College Camp Verde annex to work on the census; phone number 1-866-861-2010.

7. **Presentation by Mike Showers relative to the Performing Arts Studio.**

There was no action taken.

Mike Showers gave a presentation on the creation of the Performing Arts Studio, a non-profit entity, what the group is doing and what they hope to accomplish. Mr. Showers explained that their mission is to enrich lives in the Verde Valley through access to the performing arts and to establish and cultivate a community-based program focusing on music, dance, and dramatic presentations, and outlined the activities and classes through which they are pursuing that mission.

A brief discussion with Mr. Showers followed his presentation.

PUBLIC INPUT

(Comments from the following individual are summarized.)

Robin Whatley, as a member of the ad hoc non-profit funding Committee, said that since this is the first year that the committee has distributed funds, she was grateful to hear Mr. Showers' report and the realization that the money will pay many dividends to all the youth and adults in Camp Verde.

There was no further public input.

*Mayor Gioia requested item #8: **AND 8A***

8. **Discussion, consideration, and possible direction to staff relative to improving signage that will direct tourists to the Townsite/Business District.**

On a motion by Gioia, seconded by Smith, the Council voted unanimously to direct staff to order an appropriate directional sign at the Montezuma Castle Road location delineated in the agenda packet, reading, "This Way to Historic Camp Verde Main Street." Staff is further directed to erect the sign on that designated spot.

Mayor Gioia gave an update on signs that ADOT has agreed to place; the Committee is trying to find different places for signs to bring in tourists. Gioia added that Montezuma Castle is the second biggest draw in this area, with the Casino the first. Gioia found that the Town has a right-of-way at the exit from the Montezuma Castle monument, and that is an opportune place for placing a sign to direct tourists to the Historic Main Street Camp Verde, and suggested that staff be directed to place the sign on that Town right-of-way.

Ginger Mason, speaking for the Committee, commented that the using the location described by Gioia is imperative, and that it might have helped the Fort in the situation it is facing right now. Some folks are actually being misdirected by the tourist information center, and proper signage would have perhaps corrected that. The right-of-way is a key

place. Ms. Mason said that she has spoken to merchants, and they have indicated they would share in the expense of erecting the signage. Councilor Smith suggested that the corner of Homestead and 260, which the Town owns, would also be suitable for signage; he also reminded everyone about the stipulation for Steve Coury to have signage at his place of business indicating the entrance to Camp Verde. Ms. Mason added that ADOT has been very helpful in working with the Committee in the last few months.

PUBLIC INPUT

(Comments from the following individuals are summarized.)

Jackie Baker asked about the cost; *Gioia replied that it would be approximately \$200.* Ms. Baker suggested the corner of the parking lot by Fort Verde as another great location for a sign to direct the visitors to the businesses in Town. High school students might also be available to help with the signs and materials.

Bob Burnside suggested the Council consider moving the dirt on Oasis hill and create a View Point.

John McReynolds said that Camp Verde for 28 years has been a difficult place to do business; he is glad to see the wheels of progress are turning, and believes the Montezuma Castle area is a great place for signage; a billboard used to stand there 28 years ago.

There was no further public input.

Gioia reviewed his background of working on signs, together with the Committee; of the six signs requested, ADOT has granted four of them, free. Work will continue on finding other locations.

Gioia announced that staff is also working on a proposal for utilizing corner banners to notify tourists that there are other businesses off of Main Street; staff will be bringing back a presentation on that to Council.

8A. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MAYOR TO ACT ON ISSUES TO RETAIN FORT VERDE STATE PARK; STATE PARKS IS RECOMMENDING THAT FORT VERDE PARK BE CLOSED.

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Gioia, the Council unanimously authorized the Mayor and Council signatures on a letter to the State Park to commit to keeping Fort Verde open.

Staff was directed to reach out to the other communities, including the Chambers and the people that the Town works with across the Verde Valley and invite them to do the same; Gioia will reach out to the Mayors.

Gioia said he has been in discussions with the Director of State Parks, and understands that the Director is not intending to close the Park and that it was a proposal he had to put before the Board; the intention is to try to move available funding to save the Parks. Hauser proposed that all members of the Council join in signing a letter to the Legislature, and it was further suggested that the Mayor be authorized to collect the signatures and follow through. Town Manager Scannell commented that the entire community should be invited to contact their Legislators and other people in a position of influence in a campaign to keep the Fort open.

PUBLIC INPUT

(Comments from the following individuals are summarized.)

Ginger Mason suggested that the newspapers could also be involved, as well as volunteers; also, State Parks might consider closing the Fort for two months out of the year and temporarily move personnel, to conserve costs.

Linda Buchanan said that the greater Region might be looked at for support on the effort; Camp Verde is not just a "little sandbox by itself"; help from other Chambers might be requested, as we have helped them.

Jackie Baker said that working collaboratively is important, and the Town has approached State Parks in the past to that end; we need a community effort to get as many signatures as possible working with the Chamber and volunteers

There was no further public input.

8B. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE OF COUNCIL MEMBER CHARLEY GERMAN'S RESIGNATION, WITH APPRECIATION FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF CAMP VERDE. Staff was directed to arrange for a Council photograph, to include Greg Elmer and Charley German.

Gioia commented, and the members agreed, that Charley German will be sorely missed, together with his professionalism, his great negotiating abilities and efforts. Councilor Smith reminded everyone that no photograph has been taken of the Council, and suggested that Greg Elmer and Charley German be invited to sit for a formal Council photograph.

There was no public input.

9. **Discussion, consideration, and possible approval of Resolution 2009-760, a Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Camp Verde, Arizona, declaring as a public record that certain document filed with the Town Clerk and entitled "Supplementary Local Audit Procedures for the Town Tax Code of the Town of Camp Verde, Arizona". (Staff Resource: Lisa Elliott)**

On a motion by Hauser, seconded by Garrison, the Council unanimously approved Resolution 2009-760, a Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Camp Verde, Arizona, declaring as a public record that certain document filed with the Town Clerk and entitled "Supplementary Local Audit Procedures for the Town Tax Code of the Town of Camp Verde, Arizona."

Town Manager Scannell reported that in response to the Council request, three community meetings have been held in order to help to educate the community on what was being proposed by the subject document, with Donald Zelechowski serving on a panel together with representatives from the State Department of Revenue. Scannell said that he believes people have recognized what the Town is trying to do. The program envisioned is largely based on public education to increase the level of compliance with already existing tax requirements. Cottonwood has had the procedures in place for a number of years; it runs very smoothly and is not viewed as anything that would harm businesses in the community.

The members discussed their contacts with individuals who have expressed conflicting opinions on whether the proposal is a good idea in light of the economy, with the majority seeming to lean against. There was also discussion regarding wanting to create a level playing field, and the unfairness of those operating outside of the system and not paying their taxes; either eliminate the tax altogether or bring everyone into compliance.

Donald Zelechowski commented that the idea is to try to enforce the law that the Town has had for years. He understands the problems the business people are facing at this time, the concern over the word "audit," and those who just do not understand the tax. Mr. Zelechowski admitted that probably only about 85% will be brought into compliance, the rest will just ignore it, but added that every effort would be made to educate those people and make them aware of the tax that the Town has already had on the books. The Department of Revenue has failed the Town in collecting the tax, and that is the reason for a supplemental procedures. Mr. Zelechowski outlined how the program would work, based on a "desk audit," as opposed to a "field audit."

Gioia said that he had attended one of the sessions, and from the questions asked and comments made, was pleased to find that most people wanted and needed to know what they are supposed to be doing. Gioia pointed out a problem that one contractor mentioned, that he was losing out on bids because he included tax and some competitors did not in order to lower their bids.

PUBLIC INPUT

(Comments from the following individuals are summarized.)

George Young said that as an owner of a business in company, he is basically just a collection agent for the State and the Town; he has never heard any appreciation for the taxes he has turned over and he has to pay someone who handles his books and collects the sales tax for Phoenix and the State. Mr. Young agrees that the playing field should be leveled.

Holly Johnson, an accountant, said she heard mostly about rental properties at the meetings and the people who are not paying the tax; she suggested there should be an amnesty for the older people with maybe one property who do not know what is required and stand to lose everything. *(Mike Scannell said the issue was not solely rental income; furthermore, there never has been any consideration of applying the rule retroactively; education is a critical component of the entire program.)*

Sharon Roddan said that this is a death knell to the businesses in Camp Verde; the last thing a small business owner needs is another invasion into time and labor. Ms. Roddan said that the sales tax impacts the affordable housing her

business provides, and she listed all the departments that combine to over-regulate businesses. Ms. Roddan reiterated her complaint that because she served as a volunteer on the Housing Commission, her company was excluded from participating in a grant and \$400,000 went to out-of-town companies; there is no level playing field.

Debbie Roulette, a tax-paying citizens, questioned how the Town would level the playing field from people who did not want to pay the tax; there is no way to enforce it. The rest of the people have to work harder to make up for those who are not going to pay.

Therese Tobish said she was down in Cave Creek looking for a new business location; revenue is down and she would love to be able to pay more tax to keep the Town going. She suggested that if a contractor does not include taxes in its bid, then disqualify and rule that contractor out from the competition; we can help each other instead of putting stress on the ones that have licenses and are trying to do the right thing.

Bob Burnside questioned whether an answer had been received regarding a discussion with a speaker on an issue that is on the agenda; he also questioned whether the amount of \$10,000 to be paid to the audit consultant was for educating staff, and if he would be doing the field audit is he covered by the Town insurance in the case of an irate business owner.

Greg Blue said he believes the objection from the community is on the timing, budget constraints, across the board cuts; he disagrees that the consultant can bring in three times his salary. The timing is poor, the mechanism is poor, the Council wants an outside source to be the heavy. The staff needs education. Why charge tax on rent when there is no tax on food. The Town would be wasting money by passing these two items on ordinances.

Ginger Mason asked if those people working at home supplementing their income in various ways are being taxed. They need to be educated on what is right and what is wrong; that is their fear.

John McReynolds believes that the Town is negligent on the business license issue; as for rental properties, the website gives information on who owns which property.

Tom Nielson said he bought a newspaper at Circle K and he was charged 4 cents tax.

Linda Buchanan said she works for Yavapai College and was pleased to bring the panel together to educate the community; she also pointed out that using the code "CV" probably causes any tax to go to Chino Valley; the Camp Verde code is 'CE'. Ms. Buchanan also cited examples of the real need for continuing education on tax requirements.

There was no further public input.

The members discussed the issues raised by the speakers. Scannell stressed that his remarks were more focused on the educational aspect of the program, not the audit, and that hiring an outside source on a limited term basis makes sense in light of the workload of the staff; the Town could not fund its services by doing away with any tax. Garrison asked Scannell how much money does the tax that is on the books now bring into the coffers of Camp Verde from the people that are obeying the law and paying their taxes; Scannell said he could get the answer after reviewing all the figures. There was some discussion on whether staff could be properly trained, although it was pointed out that in the beginning it would be best to have an experienced contractor train staff. Also, for every dollar spent for the outside source, the yield is estimated to be 3 or 4, and perhaps more once those not paying taxes are brought into compliance. There was approval expressed for the ideas of sending out flyers to contractors, including information with business licenses, and being proactive. The public was assured that the decisions of Council weigh heavily on the members; no one likes taxes.

Gioia acknowledged that the public concerns appeared to be all about the need to know, the misinformation, and the need for education that has been the focus from the beginning; the Town does not intend to be retroactive. Scannell reiterated that the State has no interest in helping the Town collect rental tax. If the Town is only interested in educating the public, no action is required; if the Town wants to have the tools to bring about compliance, the documents presented will have to be approved.

A recess was called at 9:00 p.m.; the meeting was called back to order at 9:08 p.m.

10. **Discussion, consideration, and possible approval of Ordinance 2009-A356, an Ordinance of Town of Camp**

Verde, Arizona, relating to the Privilege License Tax; adopting "Supplementary Local Audit Procedures for the Town Tax Code of the Town of Camp Verde, Arizona" by reference, amending Article V – Administration of the Town Tax Code and Regulation 8-555.1; providing penalties for the violation thereof; providing severability and establishing an effective date. (Staff Resource: Lisa Elliott)

On a motion by Hauser, seconded by Garrison, the Council unanimously approved Ordinance 2009-A356, an Ordinance of Town of Camp Verde, Arizona, relating to the Privilege License Tax; adopting "Supplementary Local Audit Procedures for the Town Tax Code of the Town of Camp Verde, Arizona" by reference, amending Article V – Administration of the Town Tax Code and Regulation 8-555.1; providing penalties for the violation thereof; providing severability and establishing an effective date; provisions of this Ordinance and the amendments to the Tax Code adopted herein shall become effective on April 5th, 2009.

Town Clerk Barber explained that adoption of the prior Resolution makes this Ordinance a public document and is part of the two-step process required to enact the law.

In response to a question regarding the effective date, Scannell advised that the education phase could begin now; the April 5th effective date is required as lead time for the State to process their paperwork. Scannell will bring the Zelechowski contract to Council and the Town can start the educational part of the program on its own. Gioia has invited volunteers to contact Scannell to offer their help, and requested that Scannell bring back a report to Council as soon as possible. Scannell will report back on his outreach efforts and keep the Council informed.

PUBLIC INPUT

(Comments from the following individuals are summarized.)

Greg Blue questioned what he believes was a statement from Scannell that the State does not participate in the collection of privilege tax; Mr. Blue said the enforcement falls upon the Town. Mr. Blue said the staff needs education first; the Town has gotten ahead of itself. *(Scannell explained that the State does not collect the rental tax; that is a tax imposed by the Town. Also, training of staff will be a part of the education.)*

John McReynolds commented that no matter how it is described, it is a local audit; the part about penalties is what scares him, and education is the main thing.

Jackie Baker said she understands that the Department of Revenue certainly does come in and do audits; they need to collect the revenues that all are going to share, and they had better be doing their job. Ms. Baker believes that the taxes are collected and go into a general fund to be redistributed. They know what the Town's taxes are and they should also be collecting rental sales taxes. *(Scannell said the State is not enforcing rental sales taxes; when the State comes to audit they are only interested in State sales taxes on products.)*

There was no further public input.

11. **Discussion, consideration, and possible approval of the updated 2009-2014 Five-Year Master Plan for Parks and Recreation. (Staff Resource: Lynda Moore)**

On a motion by Kovacovich, seconded by Hauser, the Council unanimously approved the updated 2009-2014 Five-Year Master Plan for Parks and Recreation.

Parks & Recreation Director Moore explained that in preparing documents for the Heritage Grant application it became known that the previous five-year plan had not been updated; the P&R Commission met in Special Session and made changes to the plan, and it is submitted for consideration and possible approval. Garrison commented that the reference to "Youth Commission" should be "Youth Committee." Gioia thanked Moore and the Commission for bringing the Plan up to date.

There was no public input.

12. **Discussion, consideration, and possible direction to staff in consideration of the Camp Verde Housing Commission's recommendation not to decommission the Housing Commission. (Staff Resource: Matt Morris)**

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Hauser, the Council voted 4-1 to **not** decommission the Housing Commission, and to have them meet on a quarterly basis; with a 'no' vote by Garrison.

Matt Morris said the Housing Commission had not had an opportunity to give their input at the November 19th meeting on what they were doing or where it goes from here. Morris said there are some ideas to discuss regarding perhaps

forming an interest group or a committee that would not necessitate the need for formal meetings and the red tape of the Open Meeting Laws. They decided as a Commission to recommend against the decommissioning. Several members are here, and Morris said they wanted to make a statement on the important issue of housing and whether the Town can move forward with the Commission.

Garrison said she had spoken to Matt several times on the issue. She stressed that the Council is doing all it can in this economy to keep all staff members; the Town Manager with regret had said that the Housing Department was not affordable at this time, and Garrison outlined how the financial situation has deteriorated even more throughout the State since November 19th. Garrison said the Council made a policy decision on that date, and she could not understand how the issue now was brought back to the Council. Morris explained that the Commissioners made the choice on their own to do so, and as the staff person Morris believed he had a duty to bring their recommendation to Council. Garrison objected that the standard procedure had not been followed; furthermore, nothing has changed for the better as far as the financial picture. Councilor Smith said he agreed with the comments made by Garrison, and at this time, under these circumstances, he cannot support the Housing Commission coming back in a formal way. Smith suggested considering an ad hoc committee as an alternative. Gioia pointed out that many cuts have been made based on what services are essential, and those decisions are extremely difficult. Gioia said he also is enthused to see the Commissioners give up their time and perhaps form a citizens committee, and is in favor of that. He added that he would like to hear from that committee through the 10% dedication of one department and from that staff member of the department that no longer exists. Gioia said that the Council made a decision that has to be accepted, that the Commission is no longer functioning and the department no longer exists. The request of Manager and staff to put this on the agenda is the same as some other request from staff and therefore was allowed.

PUBLIC INPUT

(Comments from the following individuals are summarized.)

Tony Varela commented that he took exception to what Norma says, and asked what has the Commission cost the Town since the beginning of the year. He said the members are offering their services and have not cost one penny. He said the members "are your volunteers; we are worthy of your concern." He objected that the Commission has not been aware of the awarding of bids; "Matt will vouch for that." "If we continue serving you and the community at no charge," Mr. Varela wants to see that whatever the Commission is empowered to do, anything relative to the activities of the Commission, procedures that call for bids, and so forth, be cleared through the approval of the Housing Commission on the city's behalf. "We would also want to be informed of any new agendas, any input, so that we can act accordingly for serving the city's rights and the individual's rights. We are asking you to remain and recommend that you keep the Housing Commission active." Mr. Varela also said there were other issues, but would not comment on the conflict of interest issue; he said that in the short time he has been on the Commission they have done the best job they could. He urged the Council to reconsider keeping the Commission active and properly empowered to continue its activities.

Linda Buchanan spoke in protest, saying that she is not sure if she is a member of the Housing Commission or not anymore, but that she "used to be" the Vice Chair. She objected that she did not get a letter of appreciation or termination notice; she is not sure if there will be another meeting, and that "you really left us hanging," Ms. Buchanan said she appreciates, despite the issue of protocol, how they got on the agenda; she is sorry that "our devoted staff member has been chastised tonight." She read from the Housing Element of the General Plan referring to housing as one of the most basic human needs. Ms. Buchanan said that using the data from the Clerk's Office she determined that the Housing Commission used a total of 17 hours in 2008, and she estimated that cost approximately \$3900. She suggested that if the Town billed the volunteers at what they consider themselves as professionals, that would total a benefit of about \$12,000 to the Town. "Even if you value us at minimum wage, and I am suggesting tonight that possibly you do, we still met the cost of having your Recorder." Ms. Buchanan said that the newspapers have shown that Camp Verde is the only community in the Verde Valley that has not seen double digit decreases in housing, to the detriment of working people and mortgage financing. Ms. Buchanan asked how the community could afford not to spend \$3900 to cultivate an asset to help those in our community with the greatest need. Ms. Buchanan asserted that she speaks for a number of citizens who believe that the Town is on the wrong track to try to protect every single job, every single dime; she salutes Clarkdale who is shutting Town Hall down for one day a week to reduce the workload.

John McReynolds said that it is totally obvious that he serves at the pleasure of the Council on the Housing Commission, "but I don't have to agree with you." The members of the Housing Commission know what the Commission is all about; it has to do with families, with welfare, with housing help, keeping children and seniors warm. The Commission is now in the process of awarding five new houses. A special meeting was held in connection with the conflict of interest involving a local business; that was resolved, and the next minute the Commission was

decommissioned. Everyone has worked hard, all of a sudden "you are going along 100 per hour, and then all of a sudden you get stopped." Mr. McReynolds said his request is to not decommission the Housing Commission.

Jeremy Bach said he had the privilege to serve on the Commission with all "these great professionals." He said he does take offense at the fact that "the great respect that I have for Mr. Scannell's budget curbing abilities – as the fellow speakers before me have said, housing is a basic necessity." Mr. Bach commented that the land in Arizona is 14% privately held, and is getting smaller every year. The housing crisis has hit everyone, but the cost of housing has not changed. Mr. Bach asked, "Why in the world would we cut the Housing Commission, and no disrespect to any other Commission, before Trails & Pathways? Why not combine that with Parks & Rec? Why not combine P&Z with Design Review?" Also, "Matt has been either privileged or cursed with 10% of his time to go to our housing, or 208 hours roughly." Bach suggested quarterly meetings, or six meetings a year in coalition with meeting with the Housing Authority, all the other Mayors, different people, to be able to proceed forward, being able to ramrod and take it through. As far as breaking protocol, "we really felt it was important; there are so many things that come up that are far less important that get brought up to this Council every other month that don't have the ability to make a difference, as we have."

Robin Whatley, as Chairman of the Parks & Rec Commission, said she thought Mr. Bach had brought up some interesting ideas. She said she could understand closing the Housing Department, referring to the listing of savings. Ms. Whatley said the saving claimed by eliminating the Commission is not on the list. She found it unfortunate that the Town will not be using the expertise of the Commission members to help people who need affordable housing.

Greg Blue said that the Council had an opportunity to chastise the Commissioners "because they wanted to vent; the reason they wanted to vent is because they are very passionate about this subject." Mr. Blue spoke about his municipal experience and how budget are cut without singling out one department, adding that there is no "magic" in the budget cut, Morris will just be in another department. Mr. Blue said he deals in affordable housing, and the Town has "put me in retirement through all the regulations, impact fees." Mr. Blue said, "I chastise you all for that." Mr. Blue said that Mr. Morris has told him that "he is now going to be in charge 90% of the time to rewrite our Town Building Code and Ordinances." Mr. Blue said he asked Morris how that would work, and "he says we are probably going to need, it hasn't been formalized, but we are probably going to need outside people to help us, guide us, because there is a lot of problems with the Ordinance as it stands now." Mr. Blue feels that existing staff in the Building Department has sufficient capability to do their own writing of their Ordinance. He added, "Again I chastise you for not taking each department at 10%, 15%."

In response to Mr. Blue, Garrison reminded him that the Council also cut down their meetings by more than half; all Commission were not happy at the meeting cuts, each feeling they were more important than the other Commissions. The Council has stressed how it values everyone; but the budget is in trouble. Mr. Blue said he understands budgets, but cuts across the board are equitable. Garrison asked why the Commissioners could not be a committee; if they have the passion it should make no difference what they are called. Mr. Blue said that they have been asking if they could still be a body; the Council is not listening. Garrison reminded Morris that she had suggested forming a committee to work with him; Morris agreed that they could do that on their own, but commented on the importance of housing and that the Town is just shifting how to approach that. A brief discussion regarding the Regional Housing effort followed.

PUBLIC INPUT (Continued)

Dave Freeman said he had served on the Housing Commission as well as on Planning & Zoning. During the last 3 or 4 years, some things were on the meetings that should not have been, together with a certain amount of inefficiency as with any government body. Until there is something timely, specific and necessary, the P&Z Commission will not be having meetings; "when we do have a meeting we will focus on getting things done efficiently and quickly." Perhaps all the Commissions could become committees, but the input, the caliber of people and the recognition would not be there. Mr. Freeman recommends running tighter agendas, meeting when important, and reestablish the Housing Commission, with all Commissions working as needed.

There was no further public input.

There was further Council discussion, with Garrison confirming that instruction had been given to staff setting the last date for the Housing Department and Housing Commission as February 28, 2009. There was further assurance from the Council that all the Commissioners are highly valued for their help. Gioia reminded everyone that the Council has made a policy decision and he stands by Council's majority decision. Barber explained the difference between functioning as a citizen's committee and a formal advisory committee. Smith suggested having quarterly meetings of

the Housing Commission, and after further discussion offered a motion to that effect; action was taken accordingly.

Because of the late hour, the meeting was next formally adjourned, with no other actions taken.

- 13. Discussion, consideration, and possible approval of Ordinance 2009-A360, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Camp Verde, Yavapai County, Arizona amending the Town Code Article 2-3-1, 'Regular Meetings' and Article 4-2-A.3 "Set the Regular Meeting Schedule". (Staff Resource: Debbie Barber)
- 14. Discussion, consideration, and possible approval of Resolution 2009-759, a Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Camp Verde, Yavapai County, Arizona, setting Meeting Dates and Times for Council and all Commissions/Committees for 2009. (Staff Resource: Debbie Barber)
- 15. Discussion, consideration, and possible authorization for the Mayor as the Town's Chief Elected Official to support or oppose certain Bills introduced during the legislative sessions when they adversely affect the Town's interests and need an immediate response. (Staff Resource: Debbie Barber)

Councilor German requested item 16:

- 16. Discussion, consideration, and possible direction to staff relative to 1) POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF A COUNCIL MEMBER TO SERVE AS THE SANITARY DISTRICT LIAISON; 2)proceeding with the development and/or modification of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Camp Verde Sanitary District; 3) possible appointment of a new committee to address the IGA; 4) setting a tentative date to bring the IGA back to the respective Council and Sanitary District Board members for a vote; and/or 5) wait to address these items in June after the new Council members are seated.

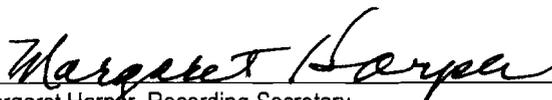
Councilor Garrison requested item 17:

- 17. Discussion, consideration, and possible setting of a Work Session to discuss the structure and conduct of meetings to include, but not be limited to stating of motions, roll call votes, protocol, etc.

Mayor Gioia requested item 18:

- 18. Mayor's report of meetings with Congressional Representative Ann Kirkpatrick regarding an economic stimulus package as it relates to the Town of Camp Verde.
- 19. Call to the Public for Items not on the Agenda.
- 20. Advanced Approvals of Town Expenditures
 - a) There are no advanced approvals.
- 21. Manager/Staff Report
- 22. Adjournment

On a motion by Hauser, seconded by Smith, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 p.m.


 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 4th day of February 2009. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 24 day of February, 2009.


 Deborah Barber, Town Clerk