

**MINUTES
SPECIAL SESSION
MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2006
6:30 p.m.**

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

1. Call to Order

Mayor Gioia called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Gioia, Vice Mayor Hauser, Councilors Baker, Kovacovich, Parrish, and Parry were present. Councilor Smith was absent.

Also Present:

Manager Bill Lee, Finance Director Dane Bullard, Parks & Rec Director Lynda Moore, Judge Mike Bluff, Library Director Gerry Laurito, Marshal Dave Smith, Deputy Clerk Virginia Jones, Assistant to the Manager Carol Brown, Sr. Planner Nancy Buckel, and Town Clerk Deborah Barber

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Kovacovich led the pledge.

4. Presentation by Yavapai County Public Health Protection Coordinator Brian Supalla regarding Pandemic Influenza.

Carol Brown introduced Brian Supalla, who discussed Yavapai County's emergency plan with regard to a possible Bird Flu Pandemic. He explained that a pandemic is an epidemic that spreads worldwide. He advised that our generation is the first generation in history to see the potential pandemic building and to plan for its arrival. He noted that there were three pandemics in the 20th century: the Hong Kong Flu, which spread worldwide resulting in 34, 000 deaths in the U.S.; the Asian Flu in 1918, which resulted in 70,000 deaths; and the Spanish Flu in 1918 that killed 500,000 Americans and 40 million people worldwide.

He explained that the Bird Flu or H5n-1 has the potential to become a pandemic since the human population has no immunity. He said the death rate is at 50%, but has not been an easy virus to spread since the people infected have been those in close contact with infected birds, but that it could mutate and change.

He said that if and when the virus does spread, it will be rapidly, noting that in 1918, the Spanish Flu spread around the world in just a few weeks. He explained that people often have the flu virus before they feel sick. He noted that it is prudent to begin planning now. He advised that 1,200 deaths are expected in Yavapai County most of them being young children, the elderly, and the infirm. He also noted that 10% of those who become infected will need hospitalization, putting a substantial drain on our limited resources.

He advised that Yavapai County's goal is to provide info to the public and to help coordinate vaccinations when they become available and to track the disease. He said it was important for employers to understand the need for personal hygiene, encouraging frequent hand washing, and encouraging employees to stay at home when ill to avoid infecting others. He noted a website with helpful planning tools and checklists at pandemicflu.gov.

Mayor Gioia thanked Mr. Supalla for his presentation.

5. **Discussion of the Town of Camp Verde Tentative FY 2006/2007 Budget.**

Council reviewed each page of the proposed budget. Gioia noted that the proposed raises for staff were contingent upon adding no new personnel. Judge Bluff spoke to Council regarding his request for additional personnel. He explained that if this person did not collect his/her salary in outstanding fines, he would pay the salary from court funds. Council members agreed.

Council discussed the special events item at length from 7:30 p.m. until 9:57 p.m. Staff was directed to bring this item back at Friday's meeting for further discussion, cutting the Haunted House and the Highland Games. Staff was also directed to continue with the Corn Fest, if it is still possible.

Gioia called a recess at 8:49 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Public Input

Lynn Reddell chastised Council for remarks made at the last meeting, referring to a run-away train and a party-town. She said that these events are what makes Camp Verde and that none of them should be cancelled. She said the government is not supposed to be in the business of making money, but rather, providing services and bringing in people to our businesses. She encouraged Council to carefully consider their remarks before they speak them. She also asked Council if they would have changed their minds about cutting events if there had not been so many people there to speak against them.

Charlotte Salsman spoke of the significant impact of the mule show on the Town's economy and explained how the event had grown the past few years. She explained that the Mule Show is indicative of the rural, western atmosphere that this Council says they support. She encouraged Council not to cancel any events. She recommended that receipts should indicate the event on them. She also chastised some Council members for not volunteering at any of the events. Mayor Gioia responded later that Council members volunteer a great amount of their time for the Town, more time than anyone could imagine.

Jerry Tobish said that Council could not put a dollar amount that these events actually bring into the Town. He explained that event nights greatly increase his business. He said that the block party alone brings in 50-60 people into his store. He said he would like to see the Chamber step up their efforts to bring traffic into the businesses. He praised Parks & Rec staff and told Council that he was basing his votes in the next election on how Council members voted on this issue. He urged Council not to cut any events.

Tim Sykes said that he moved to Camp Verde four years ago after he and his family stopped at one of our events. He said that he's been to every event that we've had since, meeting people from other communities, states, and countries. He said that he was proud to be a part of Camp Verde and he encouraged Council not to cut any events.

Nadia Calliou, owner of Golden Bone, encouraged Council not to cancel events as they are vital to the Main Street merchants. She said that rural America is vanishing and these events are what keep Camp Verde 'rural'.

Bob Womack said that with regard to Council's consistent requests for profit & loss statements, that the bottom line may be very clear on Election Day.

Jim Simons said that if the concern is about employee overtime, alternatives should be considered. He suggested hiring temporary help just for the event. He suggested places like Redi-Help in Cottonwood that would supply the workers and the work comp.

Ginger Mason explained that she has been a business owner on Main Street the past three years and that she is very concerned with talk of cutting the events. She said that merchants are working on programs to coincide with the Town's events to attract more visitors to their stores during the events. She said the events are very important to the Town, its citizens, and its businesses and they provide great opportunities for networking.

Mitch Dickinson said that it was obvious that the majority of the Camp Verde citizens support the special events, and that no one was complaining other than a few Council members. He noted that the Council had still failed to give staff clear direction. He said that it was ridiculous to try to apply staff hours to the event budget cap. He encouraged Council to stop their knee-jerk reactions, to slow down, and to think clearly about what they are doing. He said the Fort isn't doing it, Montezuma Castle isn't doing it, and only the Town can do it. He said to give Parks the money and to keep the events.

Kevin Hauser said that he did not fault Council at all for trying to put a stop to the run-away-train and to require accountability. He said this matter needed to be looked at. He said that he was angry about canceling the Corn Fest and that if Bill Lee wants to put it on now, he can stand in line and pay for the corn like everyone else.

Jim Ellington read from the Parks 5-year Plan, noting that what has gone on the past five years is directly in line with the plan. He commended staff, Parks & Rec Commission members, and volunteers for their tireless work on behalf of our Town. He made numerous comments about the erroneous articles that were in the clear, unbiased newspapers recently, stating that he derived his own opinions based on facts.

Claudia Hauser said that the meeting has gotten out of hand, that this was not about getting rid of events; it was about having the Town run as a business. She said that the canceling of the Corn Fest was handled badly, hearing about it from her young daughter who heard it on the radio. She explained that the Hauser family works hard and donates every ear of corn to the event, planting it three months in advance. She said that originally the money made from the event was to go to support youth programs. She asked why this was still not the case. She said the Hauser family was good to the Town and that their business was good for the Town. In response to Gioia's questions about the Corn Fest moving forward, she answer that she could not answer for her husband, but that it was not okay with her, though she did hope that the other events could move forward.

Danny Parker – a letter was read into the record as requested by Mr. Parker. A copy of this letter is attached and becomes a permanent part of this record.

There was no other public input.

The Council reviewed the CIP, HURF, and Parks Budget. Nancy Buckle advised that the Planning Dept. needed permit tracking software, as their program was no longer sufficient. She explained the program and the costs that ranged from \$115,000 to \$31,000. Council directed her to come back with additional information for consideration at Friday's meeting, including the possibility of charging a permit processing fee to aid in recouping the cost.

Rob Witt made a request for funding on behalf of the Chamber. The Chamber requested a budget increase from \$45,000 to \$134,676, in addition to the \$30,000 that had been budgeted

for the ACERT grant match requirement. Witt explained that a strong Chamber is essential to a community in terms of marketing the community. He said that Roy works 80 hours a week and they need money to hire staff and to do other things that will benefit Camp Verde. Witt said the Town should see the benefits soon of the work they completed this past year.

Baker said that since we don't have that kind of money left over in our budget, she would rather hire an Economic Development Director as a Town employee or buy the software program that P&Z dept needs.

Parry asked the Chamber to take over some of the events. Witt responded that was not possible.

Hauser spoke in support of the request, as did Parrish and Gioia.

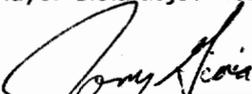
Council will discuss this matter further at Friday's meeting.

6. **Discussion, consideration, and possible approval of Resolution 2006-694, a resolution of the Town of Camp Verde, Yavapai County, Arizona, adopting and declaring as a Public Record that certain document filed with the Town Clerk and entitled, "Town of Camp Verde Tentative FY 2006/2007 Budget".**

Council took to action on this item.

7. **Adjournment**

Mayor Gioia adjourned the meeting at 11:13 p.m.

 7.19.06

Tony Gioia, Mayor



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 Work Session of the Town Council of Camp Verde, Arizona held on the 12th day of July 2006. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 24 day of July 2006.



Deborah Barber, Town Clerk