

MINUTES
SPECIAL/BUDGET WORK SESSION
MAYOR and COMMON COUNCIL
of the
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
473 S. Main Street, Room 106

MONDAY, MAY 21, 2007
4:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Gioia called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Council member-elect Norma Smith, Interim Manager David Smith, Library Director Gerry Laurito, Finance Director Dane Bullard, Community Development Director Nancy Buckel, Parks & Recreation Director Lynda Moore, and Town Clerk Deborah Barber

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Council member-elect Norma Garrison led the pledge.

4. **Discussion of former Town Manager Bill Lee's resignation, followed by discussion, consideration, and possible setting of a possible deadline for his acceptance of the severance agreement, or possible acceptance of the agreement.**

On a motion by Parry, seconded by Hauser, the Council voted to accept the agreement not to sue. The motion passed 5-1, with a no vote from Baker. Ron Smith was absent.

Bullard advised that Lee had signed the severance agreement and that it needed Council approval and the Mayor's signature to be complete.

Baker asked the Mayor what was different that was added to the agreement that they had unanimously approved on May 2nd. She was concerned about binding future Councils with regard to the stipulation that the Town would not reemploy Lee and she felt it unfair to add to what was already improved. She asked for legal advice from the attorney.

Mayor Gioia went over the contract explaining various sections as standard legal jargon. Councilor Parry noted that we can bind future Councils with taxes and this should not be any different. He also noted that Lee's severance was almost doubled.

Attorney Sims explained that future Councils can be bound with a pledge of funds such as the Sanitary District IGA that was just completed, but that future Councils could not be bound with regard to personal services. He cited a case in Gila Bend. He explained that Brad Woodford had sent the agreement to Council members and asked for input. This addition came as a request of some Council members and he believes that the contract is enforceable, noting that the statement is the intent of this particular Council.

Parry explained that the purpose is in an attempt to protect the Town's interest.

Garrison asked for the bottom line cost. Bullard advised that it was \$74,000 not including the employee related expenses. After further questions, he said he would get back to Garrison with the final cost for vacation, sick leave, etc.

PUBLIC INPUT

NANCY FLOYD – stated that she had not spoken at meetings in the past due to her husband's employment with the Town. She expressed her concerns about the Mayor and Council attempting to add or change the verbiage in the agreement that was read into the record and approved at the 5/2/07 meeting where 100 people were present to hear the matter. Floyd read from the minutes of the 5/2/07 meeting and read a letter to the Council that becomes a permanent part of this record. She expressed her deep concerns that Council had voted to approve the resignation and now this agreement with no public input. She was inclined to think that setting this Special Session during a Budget Work Session at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon was Council's way of avoiding the public that supported Lee. Referring to a statement made by Councilor Parry in the Bugle about Lee's resignation as honorable, she asked where Council's honor was now. She said that Council had at least violated the spirit of the Open Meeting Laws and that she had spoken with the Attorney General's Office Open Meeting Law Enforcement Team and she intended to pursue this matter further.

There was no other public input.

Budget Discussion:

5. **FY 2007/08 CIP and Development Fees projections.**

Alex Wilson presented the Chamber's request for funding in the amount of \$159,996 from Town. The Chamber plans to raise \$24K shortfall in membership fees. Council asked questions about budget increases, noting that the Town will also contribute \$30K to the Team Grant. Chamber Director Gugliotta answered questions and presented various reports that are attached and become a permanent part of this record.

Council requested Bullard to contact the Chamber and ask them to present their request in a format similar to that required by all Town departments so that Council could determine how best to fund. Council wanted to know how much each employee made and whether benefits had been added. Council also discussed methods in which to determine the Return on Investment. There were suggestions that the Town require more emphasis on economic development and that their funding be tied to the bed tax. Bullard explained that just a few years ago the Town provided on 40% of the Chamber's budget and now we are providing 67% of their budget. Gioia noted that the Chamber received a substantial increase last year and he had advised them that they needed to be prepared to find ways raise their own funds this year.

Council discussed the remaining CIP items, deleting several items including the Council Chambers remodel, admin flooring, web televising, tennis court, and animal control housing. Other items discussed included P&Z Consultant and software; Parks & Rec request for a ranger/club ca.; Rio Verde Plaza roof to be hot-mopped at a reduced cost, and a tractor; and the Public Work's Office remodel. Hauser requested funding in the amount of \$10,000 each for the Verde River Basin Partnership and the Natural Resources groups.

Council agreed to a meeting on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. to perform another review of the budget. Bullard advised that he would make the changes and provide updated budget pages to Council before the next meeting.

6. **Adjournment**

On a motion by Hauser, seconded by Baker, Council voted unanimously at 6:48 p.m.

Deborah Barber
Debbie Barber, Town Clerk

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 28th day of February 2007. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 7 day of June, 2007.

Deborah Barber
Debbie Barber, Town Clerk