

**MINUTES
RETREAT FOLLOW-UP
MAYOR and COMMON COUNCIL
of the
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
CVMO TRAINING ROOM
646 S. First Street
Tuesday, February 12, 2008
5:00 p.m.**

Working Together for the Future

Call to Order: Mayor Gioia called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. & introduced Lance Decker of the Institute for Community Involvement.

Roll Call:

Mayor Gioia, Vice Mayor Hauser, Councilors, German, Garrison, Kovacovich, Smith, and Elmer

Also Present:

Lance Decker, Assistant to the Manager Carol Brown, Town Manager Mike Scannell, Town Clerk Deborah Barber, Deputy Clerk Virginia Jones, and Receptionist Sharon McCormick

Mr. Decker welcomed the Council and gave a brief overview of the previous retreat and the objectives of this meeting:

- To determine if we were able to keep our personal commitments.
- To assess the success of our short-term action plan.
- To develop new, short-term actions to move us into the future.

Decker said he had heard about the election, resignation, and appointment, commenting that meant that there are still lots of issues for Council to address. At the request of Decker, Scannell and Councilors Elmer and German told a little about themselves. Decker then showed a video of the recent shooting that took place in Kirkwood, Missouri by a resident who had lost a free speech lawsuit against the City.

Decker emphasized that every Council is a mirror of their community. He noted that if citizens see Council members mistreating one another, then they believe it is also O.K. for them to mistreat Council. Decker stressed that it falls to the Mayor to set the standard because he is the one to allow the citizens to speak. He stressed that the Mayor should never allow the citizens to become abusive.

Council addressed relationships, with Decker emphasizing that relationships take time to build. He suggested that Council take 30 minutes prior to a meeting, devote that time to finding out and sharing what is going on their lives and the lives of your constituents, and try to learn to understand one another. Council agreed they should get together more often to find out what is going on in the others' lives.

Decker questioned Council about the method in which they get information out to the citizens regarding what is going on in the community. Council noted the meetings are televised on the

local cable channel, the audio of the meetings are posted on the web site, and the 'Town Page' in the local newspaper. Decker suggested that staff, Boards, and Commission members are the Town's best resources for getting information to the public. If they know what is going on in the community they can help get the word out to the public. He encouraged open communication with these resources.

Councilor Smith acknowledged that he and the Mayor continue to butt heads on occasion. Decker reminded the Mayor that it is his job is to manage the meeting and get involved only when needed. Decker pointed out that the Mayor creates the agenda and suggested that if he was passionate about an issue that he should turn the meeting over to the Vice Mayor to even the playing field. Mayor Gioia responded that he always saves his comments for last and he would not relinquish his seat as Mayor.

Decker acknowledged that he was surprised when he learned that Councilor Smith rescinded his resignation, noting that it took a lot of courage. Councilor Smith explained that numerous phone calls from the public brought him back. He explained that he was frustrated because he believed that Council was not following the Town Code and state law, noting that the Mayor had circumvented the Code by leaving out the Library Commission in his efforts to form the non-profit organization; and that the Mayor, the Vice Mayor, the Interim Town Manager, the Attorney, and Councilor Garrison knew that Council Member Parry lived outside the Town limits when he was elected. He explained that he had followed procedures and laws, including speaking to the Mayor, the Town Manager, the Attorney, and contacting the Attorney General. He reported that when he confronted Parry with the evidence that he was being dishonest, that Parry had cursed at him and left the office. He said that the Attorney General said that the Town of Camp Verde was a "cesspool of politics" and they did not want to touch this issue with a 10-foot pole. The AG referred him to the County Attorney and the County Attorney referred him to the Town Clerk. Smith said that he made every attempt to attempt to correct a situation he knew was morally and legally wrong. He explained that they all took the same oath and they should all be held to the same standard and that was why he became so angry and frustrated that he walked out of the meeting.

Councilor Garrison said she had no knowledge that Parry lived outside the Town limits when he was elected. *(Statement added at the request of Councilor Garrison at the 2/27/08 Council meeting.)*

Council discussed how they could handle a sensitive issue in the future and agreed that a 30-minute discussion during a monthly meeting about things such as what they are working on and what they would like to get accomplished in their term would be helpful, as would showing respect for each other and the opinions of others. Decker stressed that Council needs to build strong working relationship of trust and mutual respect and set the examples for staff and for the citizens.

Decker and Council reviewed the list of items from the previous retreat and formulated the list to current needs of the Town as follows:

- Acquire the water company & determine how to pay – Council agreed this was not feasible at this time.
- Continue to acquire water resources & rights.

- Staff should formulate a public information plan regarding infrastructure acquisitions and be fully apprised of sewer Intergovernmental Agreement and ACC responsibilities.
- Work with the Town Engineer regarding Highway 260 and keep it on top of the burner.

Council reviewed “A Code of Teamwork and Cooperation for Municipal Policy Makers” agreeing to the following:

- What happened in the past, stays in the past
- Dedicated to two-way communication with the formal leader and other members.
- Develop a personal understanding of individual long-range agendas
- Ask my partners if I want to know something they know
- If I have a position on an issue, I will let my policy partners know what it is.
- If I have a position on an issue and I change my mind, I will let everyone know as soon as possible.
- Before speaking or acting, I will check my assumptions; I will determine what collateral effect my words might have on my partners and the Town of Camp Verde.
- Because the leader has the formal responsibility for assuring frequent high quality communications, I will use the leader as sounding board to discuss or test ideas.

Council agreed in return for the commitment to the Code of Teamwork and Cooperation, all members of their policy team will reciprocate as follows:

- If you have concerns that involve me, call me.
- Keep public comment focused on issues and not toward members of the Team.
- If you are approached by the press for comment regarding your partners, refer them to that team member.
- Do not let me be surprised. If you know something that will have an affect on my issues, or me let me know.
- Do not accept being misquoted.
- Do not accept anything negative about a partner behind his back.
- Respect each other’s personal and physical space.

Decker advised Council he would like to see them set aside a time, once per month to allow conversations. Council agreed this is a great opportunity to move forward.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Deborah Barber
Deborah 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 Work Session of the Town Council of Camp Verde, Arizona held on the 13th day of February 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 29 day of February 2008

Deborah Barber
Deborah Barber, Town Clerk