

**MINUTES
SPECIAL SESSION
MAYOR and COMMON COUNCIL
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012
5:30 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 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Burnside, Vice Mayor Kovacovich, Councilors Whatley, Baker, Jones and German were present; Councilor George was absent.

Also Present: Town Manager Russ Martin, Town Attorney Bill Sims (via telephone), Town Clerk Debbie Barber, and Recording Secretary Margaret Harper.

3. Discussion, consideration, and possible direction to staff to prepare the correct paperwork in cooperation with the Camp Verde Sanitary District (District) to enable the question to be placed on the ballot, "Shall the Town of Camp Verde accept trusteeship of the District?" Staff Resource: Russ Martin

On a motion by Burnside, seconded by Whatley, the Council **voted 4 to 2** to direct staff to work with the Sanitary District staff to prepare for a spring election in connection with the March Primary Election, including all necessary steps, and arrangements for this election including working to eliminate the General Levy Tax; this includes the development of a voter information pamphlet outlining the reasoning for the election, as well as provide work sessions with Council and the public; **with German and Baker opposed.**

Martin explained that there has been no formal discussion directly about the subject issue, but staff believes it is an opportunity for economic development, and that has prompted some initial contacts with the Sanitary District. He said it is important for all entities to recognize how important it is for the Town and those in the District. The effort of staff is to try to determine a way it makes sense, where we need to go, and what questions need to be answered; the citizens will help us to do that. Martin pointed out that this is a starting point, not an ending point, and offers an opportunity to be in control of our destiny. As for the financial component, staff believes there is a way to work that out. Martin said he is looking for direction from Council to prepare to accept trusteeship of the District and go to the public for a vote to approve that request. Mayor Burnside then invited comments from the public.

PUBLIC INPUT

(Comments from the following individuals are summarized.)

Irene Peoble questioned how the Town will handle the cost, and referred to the 1% sales tax already in place that people are upset about. Also would there be a conflict of interest if Council members who are members of the District vote on the issue. She questioned how the pay and benefits of the District employees would compare with the Town employees. Other questions included: Is the District in compliance with ADEQ standards. Will the proposed Library funding be adversely affected. Why the rush to get it on the ballot since more discussion is needed. Ms. Peoble also reminded everyone of the upcoming Blood Drive on August 20th.

Linda German said she is confused about what the move does to the boundaries of the existing Sanitary District, whether they would change to fit the Camp Verde boundaries.

James Strava commented that a special district has taxing ability; how will the Town handle that.

There was no further public input.

The Council discussed what was acknowledged to be a complex issue; Baker expressed concern about what has been pledged to the Sanitary District, the fact that Council has not been informed regarding all that is involved; any move forward must be done carefully with public work sessions, and there should be no vote on the Resolution without discussions between the Town and the District. German also commented on her deep concern about not being properly informed and not having had questions answered; no answers on what it will cost the Town, with only the Sanitary District budget to refer to, and she could not vote on the proposed Resolution without further information. Burnside said that the Resolution is only a sample; this is only a starting point, and staff is asking to be allowed to work with the Sanitary District, to move forward and bring back the issue for work sessions to get full public input, and to get answers to all the questions.

There was further discussion regarding the concerns expressed, with input from District Board Chairman Chip Norton, who explained that the Resolution approved by the District was only direction to staff to work with the Town; they believe in the overall intent. Martin pointed out that transfers of funds would be made with complete transparency, and the 1% sales tax is not the issue. There was also some question about what would be the advantage for the Town to take this step right now. Martin stressed that the issue is not about taxes. After the motion made by Burnside, German suggested an amendment since she was opposed to specifying the March election; following a brief discussion, it was decided that the motion would stand as stated.

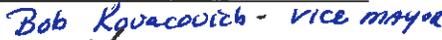
Town Attorney Sims stated that no conflict of interest would arise for members of the Council voting on the issue, as questioned by the public input. He also commended the Town for staff apparently now being able to work with the Sanitary District, pointed out the advantage for the Town, and agreed with the proposed action. He also confirmed that the vote before the Council is to allow the Town Manager to continue the negotiations.

4. Adjournment

On a motion by Whatley, seconded by Kovacovich, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.



Bob Burnside, Mayor

 Bob Kovacovich - vice 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 Special Session of the Town Council of Camp Verde, Arizona, held on the 15th day of August 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 10 day of September, 2012.



Debbie Barber, Town Clerk