

DRAFT MINUTES
WORK SESSION
MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL
Of the TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS · 473 S. Main Street, Room #106
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor German called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

2. **Roll Call**

Mayor German, Vice Mayor Baker, Councilors George, German, Gordon, Jones and Whatley.

Also present: Town Manager Russ Martin, Administration Assistant Barbie Bridge, Economic Development Director Steve Ayers, Recording Secretary Marie Moore

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor German led the pledge.

4. **Presentation and discussion of proposed agreements between the Town of Camp Verde, Verde Valley Archaeology Center and Summerset at Camp Verde, LLC. In the agreements, Summerset at Camp Verde would transfer ownership of Parcel 403-23-104U to the Verde valley Archaeology Center, provide an option for the Verde Valley Archaeology Center to purchase Parcel 403-23-104U and transfer ownership of a 2.68 acre access easement leading to Parcel 800-25-001C (an AZ State Parks parcel), to the Town of Camp Verde. In exchange, the Verde Valley Archaeology Center would construct a water line along the easement and the Town of Camp Verde would agree to construct a paved road with curb and gutter the length of the easement. The Verde Valley Archaeology Center will also update the council on recent activities and future plans as part of the presentation. Staff Resource: Steve Ayers**

Vice Mayor Baker questioned if the Town Attorney was present telephonically and Ayers indicated no decisions would be made today, therefore, if any questions arise, Council should write them down and they can be addressed after. Ayers went on to indicate that he had a power point presentation, which is attached and becomes a permanent part of the record.

Todd Willard with the Prescott National Forest Service explained that a large issue is the lack of public access to the forest service land currently. With the proactive plan in place, that issue would be alleviated as well as managed trail system along the Verde River and management of the area. Prescott Forest is in full support and indicated they would assist the Town in any they are capable of.

Councilor Gordon stated that the Council received information from Steve Goetting indicating that the Archeological Center is not ready for this to proceed. Ken Zoll, Executive Director of the Verde Valley Archeology Center curtly disagreed and continued with a PowerPoint presentation which is attached and becomes a permanent part of the record. Zoll briefly explained awards and credentials the center has received as well as grants received and those that they intend to apply for. Zoll spoke of the financial status of the center and items that have been donated to the center. Zoll outlined the projected income and timelines for the center with detailed explanation to the Council.

Councilor George commended Zoll for his accomplishments and progress in five years and stated he was proud to have the center in Camp Verde. Zoll stated that the Town has been very good to the Center as well.

Vice Mayor Baker commended Zoll for his presentation.

Mayor German opened the meeting to the public:

Linda Buchanan informed Council that the Center had originated in a classroom in Camp Verde and wanted the Council to know that this effort has deep roots in the community.

Katleen Kusaris, resident of Peterson Road indicated her full support and explained that she felt the current area isn't safe and is being abused.

Steve Goetting indicated that he has contributed money, time and energy to the center and does agree that there is a need for space but also felt that there are other projects in the town that are in need of the Town's support to boost economic progress for the community.

Buck Buchanan voiced his strong support for the progression of the archeological center.

Cat Davis Brilliant idea for the Town and feels that the goal is this is best for the town and foolish to pass the opportunity this could bring for the Town.

Tom Kusaris, indicated that he as well as a group of equestrians support having an trail in place that would allow keep riders in Camp Verde. Kusaris explained his home is closest to the new center and will be most impacted but still supports the project fully.

Leanne Switzer feels this is an opportunity for everyone to work together and feels it is a great opportunity for the future.

Councilor Gordon spoke of current parks that are available that have river access and that this would be another point of the string of pearls.

Councilor George indicated that he advocates for the community park but doesn't feel this project would be competing with the ball fields. With this being a totally different concept George feels that if working together this could be successful.

Vice Mayor Baker indicated that originally she strongly disagreed with this matter due to the fact of building a road. Baker indicated that due to the information brought forth her opinion had changed and she retracted her original feelings. She felt the grants spoke of are a potential solution to the dilemmas she was concerned about.

Councilor Jones thanked Steve Ayers and Ken Zoll for their time and presentation. Jones expressed she felt there is nothing wrong with the idea other than it isn't being constructed "tomorrow". Jones indicated her strong support for the project.

Council German seconded Councilor Jones' thoughts and expressed her appreciation toward the information provided and felt hopeful regarding the information received on grants.

Steve Ayers discussed the contract and concerns that have been brought up. Ayers asked that council direct questions to his office so that he may address them before he sends the contract over for review.

Councilor Whatley stated she felt that the location is a prime location. Whatley stated her sister is the director of the Illinois State Museum and when she visited the Center last week she was very impressed. Whatley also stated that she had a discussion with a citizen that expressed displeasure in having to travel out of town to do public trail riding with her horse.

Mayor German indicated that this is a way to build memories and futures for the community youth. Feels it is a huge opportunity in education and economic growth for the town.

Mayor German called the meeting for recess at 7:02 pm. The meeting reconvened at 7:14 pm.

The following item(S) (#5 & #6) WERE ~~was~~ requested by Councilor Carol German

5. **Presentation, followed by discussion regarding a brief update from the Verde Valley Board Advisory Committee (VVBAC) for the Yavapai College District Governing Board and feedback from Town Council on improving the variety and quantity of education from the Verde Valley Yavapai College.**

Councilor German introduced committee members of the governing board and explained their roles and purpose to give an update. Randy Garrison, Paul Savaleigh gave a brief overview of the committee and history. Garrison explained that they have reached out to Cottonwood, Sedona, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Clarkdale, Big Park, Lake Montezuma and now Camp Verde to discuss the importance of access, sustainability and structure for affordable post-secondary education.

Councilor Gordon questioned the response that the committee has received from other communities. Paul Savaleigh spoke about the issue in Sedona that proposed closing the campus located there and the request for marketing progression and introduction programs within the school systems so students are aware of the college as well as the college is attuned to the needs and wants of the students. Paul discussed that 40% of the tax money collected in the Verde Valley is not spent in the Verde Valley and that the tax increase was not advocated by the committee.

Councilor Whatley spoke of her support for a centralized learning center as opposed to online classes. She stated that she is currently taking an online class and indicated that she was not prepared to navigate the program nor did she have the correct computer operating system to ease the online learning curve she faced.

Councilor George discussed what he felt were programs needed to keep students here in our community.

Paul invited council to attend their monthly meetings and Randy Garrison discussed the exponential need for a centralized learning center and how the funding from the state will be pushing toward this idea.

Tom Pitts indicated that the amount of work and detail going into this is crucial and strongly supported the idea of having a facility in Camp Verde due to the ideal location for such a need. Pitts commended the committee for their continued hard work and representation of the community.

Linda Buchanan stated she is a graduate from Yavapai College and feels that collaboration is the only way to improve this situation through fact finding not fault finding. Buchanan voiced her opinion regarding the needs of more improved education opportunities in the Verde Valley.

Councilor Jones expressed her support toward the committee's efforts.

6. **DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, FOLLOWED BY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPLACEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO REPLACE AMBER LEE ON THE YAVAPAI COLLEGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

Council discussed the process in which needed to be followed and the reasoning for a replacement; after a few recommendations were given, Council agreed to notify individuals they would consider a replacement with the information needed to apply.

7. **POSSIBLE APPROVAL AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF STAFF'S NOTICE TO PROCEED TO MCDONALD BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION FOR THE QUOTED AMOUNT OF \$55,250 FOR FINNIE FLAT CURB & STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS. Staff Resource: Troy Odell or Ron Long**

On a motion by Gordon, seconded by George, Council unanimously approved and acknowledged

staffs notice to proceed McDonald Brothers Construction for the quoted amount of \$55,250 for Finnie Flat Curb & Storm Drainage Improvements.

Town Manager Russ Martin explained that due to the time and nature of the project, staff proceeded with the project with his permission. Council discussed where the funding for the project was coming from. Martin explained it was already located in the budget and covered.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Charles German, Mayor

Marie Moore, 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 June 10, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Virginia Jones, Town Clerk