



TOWN OF HUACHUCA CITY

The Sunset City

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
HUACHUCA CITY TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 AT 6:15 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
500 N. GONZALES BLVD.
HUACHUCA CITY, AZ 85616**

AGENDA

A. Call to Order – Mayor

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Roll Call and Ascertain Quorum

Any prayer/invocation that may be offered before the start of regular Council business shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen, for the benefit of the Council and the citizens present. The views or beliefs expressed by the prayer/invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Council, and the Council does not endorse the religious beliefs or views of this, or any other speaker. A list of volunteers is maintained by the Town Clerk's Office and interested persons should contact the Town Clerk's Office for further information.

The meeting was called to order at: 6:15 pm
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Mayor Wallace

Roll Call.

Present: Johann Wallace, Donna Johnson, Joy Banks, Cynthia Butterworth, Christy Hirshberg, Debbie Trate, Jean Post, Suzanne Harvey (Not voting), Brandye Thorpe (Not voting), Thomas Benavidez, Attorney (Not voting).

B. Call to the Public – Mayor

A.R.S. 38-431.01 states the Public Body may make an open call to the public during a public meeting, subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions, to allow individuals to address the public body on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Public Body. At the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the Public Body may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the Public Body, may ask staff to review a matter or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the Public

Body shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.

C. New Business Before Council - Mayor

Public comment will be taken at the beginning of each agenda item, after the subject has been announced by the Mayor and explained by staff. Any citizen, who wishes, may speak one time for five minutes on each agenda item before or after Council discussion. Questions from Council Members, however, may be directed to staff or a member of the public through the Mayor at any time.

C.1. Discussion and/or Action [Fire Chief Bidon]: Chief Bidon will present the Whetstone Fire District's proposed new Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Town to continue to provide the Town with fire protection and emergency medical services.

Motion: Item C.1, **Action:** Open for Discussion and/or Action, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Christy Hirshberg.

Mayor Wallace recognizes Fire Chief Bidon. Fire Chief Bidon briefly speaks about the contract proposals, stating that there can be an addendum regarding the equipment, specifically the Texas truck, which they do have use of but will no longer be using. Fire Chief Bidon gives a presentation regarding the Certificate of Necessity [CON] that he will attempt to get once the Town has decided on which proposal to choose. It will involve Council agreeing to be annexed into Whetstone Fire District and Whetstone Fire District annexing the Town. It is a very long involved process that other possible providers will have to sign off on and the community will have to vote for. Once he can get the CON, the Town will no longer have to pay for services, their fees will be taken from the property taxes from the Town.

Mayor Wallace asks if the contract options are related to the CON options. Fire Chief Bidon advises they are not necessarily, but it is easier for him to move forward with the CON. The easiest route for him would be the first one, which means that his CON would move cover any areas that he annexes. He states that he doesn't want to say that the CON is based on the contract, but it makes it easier.

Fire Chief Bidon shows maps that depict all of the area that Whetstone Fire District covers, and a map of what they plan to annex, which is Huachuca City. He states that he will provide a timeline to Council, Town Attorney and his Board and Attorney. An impact statement will have to be done.

Councilmember Butterworth asks if they will get money from the state if they get the CON. Fire Chief Bidon advises that there is no money from the state. The only money you get from the CON is billable transports. Councilmember states she was hoping that he would get money from the CON and that could be taken off what we pay. Councilmember Butterworth also states that she thought this would go to a vote of the public. She will need pricing laid out well. Fire Chief Bidon states that that is what the impact statement is for. Council will have to approve it, and so will County and Whetstone Fire District's Board. Once it gets approved by everyone, then it gets posted, and then there will have to be Public Hearings.

Councilmember Butterworth asks how much money Fry Fire would be losing if they no longer had the CON for Huachuca City. Doesn't Whetstone Fire transport 90% out of Huachuca City

anyway? Fire Chief Bidon states that they do more transports in Sierra Vista than in Huachuca City. They will only transport in Huachuca City if it is a life threat, otherwise they wait for Fry Fire. Councilmember Banks asks Fire Chief Bidon to spell things out, because some people don't know what CON stands for. Fire Chief Bidon states it is "Certificate of Necessity". Fire Chief Bidon states that Fry Fire does 98% of the transports.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson asks if they are just talking about the CON, or about the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) as well. Mayor Wallace states that the IGA needs to be rewritten. There is old stuff in there that doesn't apply anymore. There's a section in there that talks about having two ambulances here and staffed at all time, which needs to be cleared up. We don't need two. Fire Chief Bidon states he will go through it and provide a clean copy. Mayor Wallace asks that Council go through the IGA and find anything that looks goofy, make notes and send it over to Brandye so it can be consolidated. Ultimately, Council needs to be happy with it and so does the Board. The only way to do that is for both to look at it and make sure that it is realistic for everyone. We need to redo it and have it looked over by our Attorney.

Mayor Wallace asks that Council have their comments to Brandye by the end of next week so everything can be consolidated and we can look at the consolidated copy at the next meeting. If we are all happy with the consolidated copy, we will have the Attorney review it and we can go from there.

Councilmember Post asks about a prior transport by Fry Fire and their billing, which seems to have problems. Fire Chief Bidon states that he can not speak for Fry Fire.

D. Adjournment

Motion: , Action: Adjourn, Moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:47pm

Approved by Mayor Johann R. Wallace on October 8, 2020.


Mr. Johann R. Wallace
Mayor

Attest: 
Ms. Brandye Thorpe,
Town Clerk



Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Meeting for the Huachuca City Town Council held on June 11, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.



Ms. Brandy Thorpe,
Town Clerk