



TOWN OF HUACHUCA CITY

The Sunset City

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
HUACHUCA CITY TOWN COUNCIL
OCTOBER 08, 2020 AT 7:00 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
- c. Invocation

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: 7:00pm

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Mayor Wallace

The invocation was offered by: Elder Thomas

Roll Call.

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

Absent: Joy Banks, Jean Post.

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.

Mayor Wallace recognizes Julian Barkley of 211 First Street. Mr. Barkley states he is here to speak about the digital infrastructure in Huachuca City because he is new here and he came from Sierra Vista and Flagstaff where there is a lot of digital infrastructure. He thanks Councilmember Banks for responding to an email he sent out regarding the infrastructure before he moved here. He wanted to share his insight with the Council in case they were not aware of the problems. Rural areas have been proven in several studies to not have as good of digital infrastructure as more populated cities. With Coronavirus being an ongoing issue and more people possibly having to start working from home and children doing school from home, this is an issue. He would like to know what our leadership is going to do about it. He would like to bring up some past decisions that were curious. In 2016 or 2017 the Town decided to end its contract with Cox because of the amount of debt the Town had, and they ripped out a lot of infrastructure when they left. In 2017 the Town had an offer from Pulse Broadband, which was to bring locally produced internet into Huachuca City. The cost to residents would have only been about \$30/month to utilize this service, which is a lot lower than TransWorld Network is currently. Century Link came here about 2 years ago and there is a new building down the road. According to Councilmember Banks, they are not responsive to expanding their services to the residents. About a year ago, Councilmember Banks had a personal fiber optic line put down only a couple of hundred feet from nearby residences. It is somewhat concerning that a member of the Council has high speed internet personally delivered to a business, but the rest of us who live nearby do not. I respect the rights of a private business and if she wanted to pay for it on her own that is totally fine, but it does raise certain questions. I don't know if Council is aware, but a TWN technician states that the radio tower near Vista Del Norte has not been working at full capacity for about a year now, meaning that people have been paying the same amount that they were paying before for actually less internet. I do know that the Library offers high speed internet to residents, I've been told about 500GB/sec, which is amazing. My question really is, what is it that the Council plans on doing about this going forward? What is the timeframe, what is the idea? I also wanted to make sure that you were aware of these issues, I think that's fair to you.

C. Consent Agenda - Mayor

All items listed in the Consent Agenda are considered routine matters and will be enacted by one motion of the Council. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Member of the Town Council requests that an item or items be removed for discussion. Council Members may ask questions without removal of the item from the Consent Agenda. Items

removed from the Consent Agenda are considered in their normal sequence as listed on the agenda, unless called out of sequence.

- C.1 Consider approval of the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on September 24, 2020, and the Work Session meeting held on September 24, 2020.
- C.2 Consider approval of the Payment Approval Report.
- C.3 Consider approval of the disposal of several office chairs through Public Surplus.

Motion: Items on the Consent Agenda, **Action:** Open for Discussion and/or Action, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Christy Hirshberg.

Motion: Items on the Consent Agenda, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Christy Hirshberg.
Motion passed unanimously.

D. Unfinished Business before the 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.

E. 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.

E.1 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey]: Director Harvey will discuss the information found regarding benefit compensation for employees who do not accept the Town's health/dental insurance benefits.

Motion: Item E.1, **Action:** Open for Discussion and/or Action, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Debbie Trate.

Director Harvey advises Council that we pay all but \$50 of our employee's health benefits which is \$1315.70 per employee per month. Part time employees do not get health benefits. We have 15 full time employees who are taking health insurance at this time and 7 full time employees who have opted out. This saves the Town over \$110,000.00/year. Benson pays \$125/month stipend to any employee who opts out. Tombstone and Sierra Vista have no opt out. Sahuarita pays \$55 twice a month, which is \$110/month. Willcox and Douglas

both do something similar, they don't pay a stipend but they let you take that \$125 and you can pay it into any other benefit. So you can use it for life insurance or your 401k. That's at Willcox. Douglas takes that money and gives you dental and vision for free. They don't give the option.

Some considerations to keep in mind are that when we developed our budgets, department heads did not consider that stipend. Also if budgets were developed using actual costs, if someone were to leave their current position and be replaced by someone who wanted benefits, that would make a significant increase to the budget. Some cities and towns require that employees show that they have other insurance if they want to opt out.

Councilmember Trate asks if we could consider all of this for the next budget cycle.

Mayor Wallace asks that this topic be brought back up during the budget process next year for consideration.

E.2 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey]: Director Harvey will give an update regarding plans for this year's modified trunk or treat event, the "Creepy Candy Cruise."

Motion: Item E.2, **Action:** Open for Discussion and/or Action, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Cynthia Butterworth.

Director Harvey begins by stating that a lot of community events have been effected by Covid-19 and we want to do what we can do, safely. She also shares some photos of last year's trunk or treat event to remind everyone of the fun we had. This year, we are going to do a drive thru trunk or treat event from 5:30-7pm on October 31st. There will be decorated tables set up and cars will be able to drive thru and stop at each table, where pre packaged candy can be taken to the car for the children. This way, families are together in one car, and all we are doing is handing them the candy. This is how we are doing curbside checkout at the library and the food distribution every month. Those handing out candy will be required to wear gloves and encouraged to wear masks, unless Council directs otherwise. So far SAHARA, the Lions Club, the Library, one of the local sewing businesses out of Whetstone, the Friends of the Library all plan to have a table. If Council could volunteer we would appreciate it.

Councilmember Butterworth asks what we need help with. Director Harvey states that if a couple of Councilmembers could help hand out candy that would be nice. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson asks if more candy is needed. It is. Councilmember Butterworth will help hand out candy. Mayor Wallace states he is just happy we can still do something even though it is not a normal trunk or treat. At least there is still a way for kids to get candy.

E.3 Discussion and/or Action [Mayor Wallace and Chief Thies]: Proclamation No. 2020-04 – A proclamation of the Mayor declaring October as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in the Town of Huachuca City. Following the Mayor's proclamation, Chief Thies will share the Town's plans for raising awareness about this significant health and safety issue and the state-wide "Lighting Arizona Purple Campaign."

Motion: Item E.3, **Action:** Open for Discussion and/or Action, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Donna Johnson.

Mayor Wallace reads the Proclamation. Chief Thies shares some photos of the purple lights that are on the Library, Police Department, Town Hall and Community Center. He also advises more have been ordered to light up the water tower on Skyline and the Fire Department. Kits with pins and bracelets have been purchased as well for employees and Council to wear to show support.

E.4 Discussion and/or Action [Laura Wenc]: Resolution No. 2020-21 – A Resolution of the Town of Huachuca City authorizing signature authority for the Town's Wells Fargo Investment Account.

Motion: Item E.4, **Action:** Open for Discussion and/or Action, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Donna Johnson.

Mayor Wallace asks which account this is for. Laura Wenc advises it is a brokerage account with \$30,000.00 in it.

Motion: Resolution 2020-21, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Donna Johnson.

Motion passed unanimously.

F. Department Director reports

Director Halterman advises that there are 3 companies bidding on the dump truck right now. Sierra Vista has a couple of trucks for sale on Public Surplus that would suit the needs of Public Works. He also advises that he was mistaken before and 100% of the dirt for the sewer pond closure is on-site and we will not have to find any.

Director Howe states that the fuel management should be up and running by mid-November.

Laura Wenc advises that expenses have gone down considerably.

Director Harvey states that the emergency light contract needs to be extended since the supplies were unavailable and so they will not be able to get it done in time. Animal Shelter walk throughs for Council members are being done before the next council meeting so please schedule with Doc. Next council meeting is also on wear purple day. We have a meeting with Waste Management for an annual review to see how things are going. We only have one applicant for bus driver and we need at least two bus drivers. We may not be able to start the bus until mid-November instead of on the first due to fingerprint clearance cards and training that has to happen. The Library's history project has now become part of the Arizona Memory Project at the State Library.

Ms. Thorpe advises that the new copiers have been delivered and the customer service has been much better. Phone service for Town Hall has been transferred to Century Link, however there are still some issues we are dealing with.

G. Items to be placed on future agendas

H. Reports of Current Events by Council

Councilmember Butterworth advises that next week she will be working on the long term transportation plan in Sierra Vista and there will be food distribution on Friday, October 16th.

I. Adjournment


7:34pm

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

Approved by Mayor Johann R. Wallace on October 22, 2020.



Mr. Johann R. Wallace
Mayor

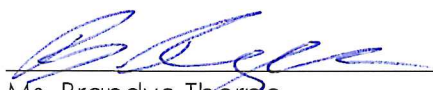
Attest: 

Ms. Brandy 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 September 10, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.



Ms. Brandy Thorpe,
Town Clerk