



TOWN OF HUACHUCA CITY

The Sunset City

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
HUACHUCA CITY TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
November 17, 2020 AT 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
500 N. GONZALES BLVD.
HUACHUCA CITY, AZ 85616**

AGENDA

A. Call to Order – Mayor 7pm

- 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.

Roll Call.

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

Absent: Joy Banks, Debbie Trate.

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 [Mayor Wallace]: The Council will review and discuss renewing and revising the existing intergovernmental agreement with the Whetstone Fire District for the District to provide fire and emergency medical services to the Town. It is possible that members of the Whetstone Fire Board will attend this meeting and join in the discussion. The Council might vote to convene in executive [closed] session, pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4), for consultation with the Town Attorney and to direct the attorney concerning the terms of the agreement.

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

Mayor Wallace: Lets start with who is here from Whetstone.

The Board members introduce themselves as: Donna Graybill, Chair of the Board, Trevor Thompson, Board Member, and Steve Hasson, Board Member. Also present is Cathy Dyer, Office Manager.

Mayor Wallace: The purpose of this is to start going over the IGA that the Town has with Whetstone. We are in a situation right now where I really don't believe we are going to get a good, solid IGA in place before the current one runs out. At our meeting on Thursday, one of the things we are going to be looking at is just extending the current contract, under its current terms with no changes, for six months. That will take both of us through the end of the fiscal year and give us time to work out any final details of the IGA. That is what Council will be doing on Thursday, we will put that forward and if we approve it, we will send it over to Whetstone. I just wanted to put that out there first so that everyone is tracking what we intend.

Mr. Hasson: The current contract does have a provision in it that it expires on December 31st, the question is, prior to that date do we have to take action on both sides in order to extend it and give it life?

Mayor Wallace: Yes. The whole point is that we extend it, both sides would approve the extension for six months so we still have the Fire Protection Services for the Town. That's going to be the first order of business. You can expect to see that coming through, if Council approves it on Thursday, we will send it over to Whetstone.

On to the current IGA. I still want to go through and look at the IGA. We went through and made some changes. When the previous IGA was put into place, circumstances were different. Things have changed and adjustments needed to be made. Specifically, when it was made, we had dispatch, which has since been changed to SEACOM. Things like that needed stripped out. When we were first given this back by Chief Bidon, the only change was an appendix showing the differences in payments, and nothing else was changed in the IGA. In conversations with the former Fire Chief, there were certain things that he said that he didn't want or need as far as equipment goes. The whole point is to go through the equipment, do an inventory, find out what Whetstone wants to keep using and what Whetstone isn't using so we can get that worked out. Some of the things cannot be addressed yet, that's where the six months will give us time to have someone from Huachuca City and someone from Whetstone Fire go through and get an inventory so we can figure out what should stay and what we should remove.

The IGA is reviewed page by page detailing the changes that should be made. There is some discussion regarding a lease of the building, and repairs and modifications that were previously made that the Town had no knowledge of until after the fact, including what was done and the cost. Those repairs and modifications would be the responsibility of the Town, not Whetstone and monies collected from a lease would go toward maintenance and modifications needed in the building. Also discussed was the need for the Town to have access to the building. There is equipment in that building that supplies services to other Town facilities and there has been issue with accessing them previously. It was stated that the Town would much prefer to have Whetstone Fire District annex them. The Town would like a provision that Whetstone will annex the Town within five years.

Members of Town staff and Whetstone Fire District will coordinate to get an inventory done.

Mr. Benavidez asked if any of the Members present had any experience with annexation as it is an intensive project. Ms. Dyer stated that she had participated in consolidation but not annexation. Mr. Benavidez advises that someone has to do the math, someone has to figure out whether annexation makes sense. He states that there should be a deadline regarding a boundary change impact statement being completed.

Mayor Wallace advises that former Chief Bidon had presented numbers to Council before.

Ms. Dyer will check into it and see what can be found.

Mr. Benavidez asks about a committee that was supposed to be created. There should have been a joint advisory board, however one was never created. This should have happened, and needs to be followed through on in the future.

Clerk Thorpe is directed to send a copy of the IGA with the redline changes to Whetstone Fire District for them to review. Mr. Benavidez asks to receive a copy as well.

Mr. Benavidez asks about the Board meetings and if any representative from the Town has been going. Ms. Graybill advises that they haven't been but she would like to change that.

Ms. Harvey advises that members of the Board are welcome at staff meetings as well because a lot is discussed in them and there are times that questions arise and it would be helpful to have someone present. This helps with the communication process.

Mr. Benavidez asks where the Board meeting notices are posted. He suggests that they may want to post them in Huachuca City where the Council agendas are posted. Clerk Thorpe offers to post them if a digital copy gets sent to her.

D. Adjournment

**Motion: 6:44pm, Action: Adjourn, Moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.
Motion passed unanimously.**

Approved by Mayor Johann R. Wallace on December 03, 2020.

Mr. Johann R. Wallace
Mayor

Attest: _____
Ms. Brandye Thorpe,
Town Clerk

Seal:

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 July 2, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Ms. Brandye Thorpe,
Town Clerk