



TOWN OF HUACHUCA CITY

The Sunset City

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
HUACHUCA CITY TOWN COUNCIL
May 11, 2023 AT 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
500 N. GONZALES BLVD.
HUACHUCA CITY, AZ 85616**

A. Call to Order – Mayor

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

B. Roll Call.

Roll Call.

Present: Johann Wallace, Christy Hirshberg, Jeffrey Ferro, Cynthia Butterworth, Town Manager Suzanne Harvey (Not voting), Town Clerk Brandye Thorpe (Not voting), Town Attorney Thomas Benavidez (Not voting).

Absent: Debra Trate, Jean Smelt

- a. 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.

C. 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.

Karen Lamberton, SVMPO Director, gives an update on the regional project that is ongoing. She presented to the Council some fliers and a budget that had been approved by the state legislature and on its way to being signed by the Governor. It has 2.1 million dollars in earmarked funds for the Town of Huachuca City for the town's Skyline Project and pathway. She also wanted to inform the Council that the Highway 90 project is at 95% design plans and in those plans are crosswalks and sidewalk pieces for Huachuca City. Also, they are looking at seeing if any excess from this project can go toward some of the dirt roads shoulders in Huachuca City. She plans to bring more details to the Council in a month of all these projects. She gives credit to Mayor Wallace for going to the Summits and his own advocacy, Councilmember Butterworth for being at the table making sure Huachuca City is known as the Town's SVMPO representative, Manager Harvey for her attendance at the Summit, and Doctor Jim Johnson and Public Works Jim Halterman for their knowledge and hard work in representing the Town.

D. 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 April 13, 2023.

C.2 Consider approval of the Payment Approval Report.

C.3 Consider approval of the disposal of 2018 FORD Fiesta Grey 3FADP4EJ8JM114628, 2015 Nissan Aveo Black 1N4AL3AP9FC206696, and a 2022 Hyundai Sonota Grey 5NPET46C39H522417 through Public Surplus.

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

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

E. 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 [Fire Chief Savage]: Update on the status and activities of Fry Fire District's emergency medical and fire protection services contracted by the Town.

Motion: Update on the status and activities of Fry Fire District's emergency medical and fire protection services contracted by the Town, **Action:** Open for Discussion and/or Action, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Christy Hirshberg.

Fire Chief Savage reported to Council about the month of April. The fire department had no real change in call volume this month. He reported 32 EMS calls and 25 patient transports from those calls. These numbers come from both peak hours and non-peak hours. He informed Council that they have adjusted their scheduling to allow 24-hour coverage being in town. They've been able to do this successfully all but a few days since the adjustment was made. This being due to staffing shortages that they plan to hopefully fill once Cochise College's current program is finished. He apologizes for Fry Fire having to miss out on sending a truck to the school but mentions a mechanical issue that they have since been able to resolve. He mentioned an upcoming ambulance inspection in the beginning of June and how they will have another ambulance up and running by the end of the summer.

Mayor Wallace asked which wall they are trying to put a window in at the Fire Dept.?

Fire Chief Savage explains that it's an exterior wall.

Manager Harvey explained that it's where a big fan unit was.

E.2 Discussion and/or Action [Stephanie Fulton]: Update on the Get Out and Play Kids' Day event planned for Saturday, May 13th, at Leffingwell Park.

Motion: Update on the Get Out and Play Kids' Day event planned for Saturday, May 13th, at Leffingwell Park, **Action:** Open for Discussion and/or Action, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Jeffrey Ferro.

Manager Harvey quickly lead the Council through the plans for this event. This is a collaboration with the Cooperative Extension of the University of Arizona. They want to celebrate our new park, so they offered to have this event. Some of the people set to be there are the Benson Hospital, Healthy Huachuca, and Fry Fire. Its for 10am to 12pm. There's going to be playing on the new equipment, games, a button maker, and tours of the community garden. The Town will supply chalk for the kids to play with, fruit, and water.

Mayor Wallace mentions how he talked about this at the MAC Luncheon and is very excited for it.

E.3 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey]: Update on plans for the Town's 4th of July celebration.

Motion: Update on plans for the Town's 4th of July celebration, **Action:** Discussion and/or Action
Moved by Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Jeffrey Ferro.

Manager Harvey brings this to the Council to update them and seek direction. She lets the Council know that she has run into an issue, that issue being the personnel who can set off the fireworks. The training for this hasn't been offered for two years. Whetstone is unable to do it and the Town and Fry Fire have no one on staff who has the training. Manager Harvey has been able to locate trained volunteers, one being the leader of the people who set them off in Sierra Vista. He's willing to bring five (5) people and there's some tentative support from two people from Fry Fire; one of whom has worked with this group before. They are not able to do it for us on the 4th of July. One of the reasons they can't do it on the 4th is that they do everything for the show. The set up, fire, and tear down and it's a big show in Sierra Vista. If we hold the event on July 1st, they would be available on that day. Manager Harvey lets the Council know that's a decision for them to make. Additionally, they would need to set up Workmen's Compensation for the volunteers, which she let Council know has been done in the past though not for fireworks; and make sure to get supplemental insurance as this wouldn't be contracted out. She lets the Council know that they would like to do an evaluation of our supplies which Manager Harvey thinks a great opportunity. Then she would be able to order anything that needs to be replaced. This would still involve a collaboration with Fry Fire and with Public Works to help with the set up. This group of volunteers wants to do this for the Town for free.

Going this route Manager Harvey would like to find a non-government organization to sponsor them and give them a monetary amount each. Manager Harvey mentions how she'd need to make sure the band would still be available for the 1st. Next, she briefly goes over the rest of the plans that they have for the celebration, mentioning how the cake walk and food are usually the most popular. She mentions wanting to add a hula hoop contest and a possible "Best Dressed Pet Parade" that could be scheduled for a specific time.

Manager Harvey asks Council for direction and purposes several options. One option being to plan the event, with fireworks on July 1st; this is staff recommended. The second option is to plan the event, without fireworks, for July 4th. Another option is to hold multiply events, but Manager Harvey, as a community member, does not recommend this.

Mayor Wallace starts by saying he's always said that the Fourth of July is celebrated on July fourth, but he understands that we have unique circumstances to work with this year. He knows of many people who really enjoy the Town's fireworks both here in Huachuca City and in Whetstone. He also likes the idea of doing this on a Saturday. He likes the first option given to the Council, as it allows the Town to still have an event and if people want to celebrate on the Fourth, they are still able to personally.

Councilmember Butterworth likes the second option presented to the Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Hirshberg likes the second option presented to the Council. She said she always leaves before the fireworks. That the show is nice, but she feels like the community is expecting it to be on the fourth. She thinks that we shouldn't give up trying to find someone who would be able to do the fireworks for the Town.

Councilmember Ferro mentions that while he personally doesn't like fireworks, he doesn't really have much of an opinion about this other than it would be nice to do it on a Saturday.

Councilmember Butterworth mentioned how she remembered there was a year they did the fireworks on the 2nd of July and a lot of people didn't know and weren't able to prepare for them.

Councilmember Ferro Asked to go back to talking about the volunteers. He wants to ask if there are any objections from Council or legally to members of Council being able to help sponsor the volunteers?

Manager Harvey reassures the Council that she knows she'd be able to find a sponsor and that's not a concern if they decide to go that option. The issue is scheduling and getting this decision made. She reminds the Council that there are others that are a factor in this event. A big one is the vendor for fireworks, who is giving the town as much time as possible, but that deadline is still coming up quickly. Also, the issue of if they order them but are unable to find anyone to launch them the town has no where to store them for a year.

Councilmember Butterworth and Mayor Pro Tem Hirshberg both comment on the community aspect being more important than the fireworks.

Motion: Plan the whole event for Tuesday, the Fourth of July, with activities and no fireworks,

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Cynthia Butterworth

In Favor: Cynthia Butterworth, Christy Hirshberg, Jeffery Ferro

Opposed: Johann Wallace

Motion: That the option be no fireworks unless we can find someone by the 19th of May,

Action: Approval, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Christy Hirshberg

In Favor: Cynthia Butterworth, Christy Hirshberg, Jeffery Ferro

Opposed: Johann Wallace.

Manager Harvey asked, for direction, if this looked like appropriate activities for the event. The Council answered yes.

Manager Harvey let the Council know that she would send them a time sign-up sheet for the event.

E.4 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey]: Authorization to spend \$6,396.08 for the purchase and installation of two mobile radios and a base station for the bus service.

Motion: Authorization to spend \$6,396.08 for the purchase and installation of two mobile radios and a base station for the bus service, **Action:** Open for Discussion and/or Action, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Jeffrey Ferro.

Mayor Wallace asked if this was coming out of grant money?

Manager Harvey answered not grant money but that this is funded by Fort Huachuca.

Motion: Approve the expenditure, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Christy Hirshberg.

E.5 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey]: Update on the opioid litigation settlement funds and possible uses for the funds.

Motion: Update on the opioid litigation settlement funds and possible uses for the funds, **Action:** Open for Discussion and/or Action, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Jeffrey Ferro.

Manager Harvey lead the Council through a presentation going over how the settlement is broken down.

Councilmember Ferro commented on how one of the slides was interesting because this area is generally used more for trafficking drugs then distributing them.

The lead on the settlement is Cochise County Health and Social Services because that is how it was written. They are directed in the settlement to consult with Cities and Towns on how they spend the funds they receive, and the funds given to Cochise County. Manager Harvey mentions how there are specific parameters that the funds must be used for, and our Town doesn't really qualify or get enough to start these programs. She shows the Council the equation that is used to determine the amount the Town gets. She mentions that Cochise County is going to create a survey to send out to stake holders in the community to help determine what the funds should be used for. Manager Harvey wants to make sure that these surveys are available for everyone and wants to have them at public places around town like the library. She says the hope is that these surveys will show overarching problems in our area and other surrounding cities and towns, and the money can go toward helping the problems indicated from the surveys. Otherwise, the Town can claim the funds allotted to us, but we would have to use them in an approved way, manage the money, and report back to Cochise County Health and Social Services. Next, she talked about the reporting requirements and what would be our deadline to report. Manager Harvey informed the Council that the State has a separate fund available, and they are prioritizing up to 30% of this fund throughout the state for these kinds of things also. Manager Harvey recommends that the Town actively participates with the survey, distributing and publishing its availability. Then after the survey is completed, come back to Council with what the plan is. From there the Council can then decide if the Town should participate. If participation is decided an IGA would be created with the County and the Town's portion of the funds would be mixed in with other towns and cities portions to implement those plans. Manager Harvey commented to the Council that many at the meeting she attended for this seemed very interested as they have the same limitations as Huachuca City does when it comes to size and proper use of the funds. Many have decided to wait for the survey and to make further decisions when it is completed.

E.6 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey]: Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Chiricahua Community Health Centers for mobile health services.

Motion: Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Chiricahua Community Health Centers for mobile health services, **Action:** Open for Discussion and/or Action, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Jeffrey Ferro.

Mayor Wallace asked if they're coming back?

Manager Harvey answered that yes, they are coming back. They are also bringing digital services, something they didn't offer last year. If Council votes to pass this, they can begin scheduling for them to come out.

Motion: Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Chiricahua Community Health Centers, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Jeffrey Ferro.
Motion passed unanimously.

E.7 Discussion and/or Action [Mayor Wallace]: Resolution 2023-07 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN DESIGNATING BRANDYE THORPE AS THE CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER FOR PURPOSES OF SUBMITTING THE TOWN'S 2023 EXPENDITURE LIMITATION REPORT TO THE ARIZONA AUDITOR GENERAL.

Motion: Resolution 2023-07 – A Resolution of the Town designating Brandye Thorpe as the Chief Fiscal Officer for the purposes of submitting the Town's 2023 Expenditure Limitation Report to the Arizona Auditor General, **Action:** Open for Discussion and/or Action, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Jeffrey Ferro.

Motion: Approve Resolution 2023-07, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Christy Hirshberg.
Motion passed unanimously.

F. Reports of Current Events by Council

Councilmember Butterworth stated that she has a SVMPO meeting on the 26th and will have more information for that after the meeting. The food distribution will be on the 17th and the thing at the park on Saturday. Healthy Huachuca will be doing a fundraising event at Mod Pizza and the fliers are at the library. They want to get more in their bank account and then hopefully can start bring things before the council to help benefit Huachuca City. That's everything current for her.

Mayor Pro Tem Hirshberg has the Mayor Manager meeting next Wednesday that she plans to attend with Manager Harvey. She also plans to be at the park on Saturday.

Mayor Wallace was at the MAC luncheon last week and thought it went well. He was able to get some contacts for Chief Thies to begin working with law enforcement on the Fort. He was also able to mention all the things going on in town from the Get Out and Play Day on Saturday, to library programs, and Summer Splash. He also mentioned some Congressional directed funding that is being worked on to come to the town for fire related things. Next week on Friday is the Hispanic Chamber Mixer where Sheriff Daniels will be speaking. Mayor Wallace mentions he is curious to see if Sheriff Daniels will talk about Title 42 as that is a big topic right now and he is wondering how that could affect the Town. He has also talked to COX and they have had some issues that have caused them to push back their timeline to mid-July to when they can start providing services. They plan to keep the Town informed. COX is also looking into setting up an information center around when school begins again.

G. Adjournment

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

Approved by Mayor Johann R. Wallace on May 11, 2023.

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 April 27, 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Ms. Brandye Thorpe,
Town Clerk