

**THE MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLCOX, COCHISE COUNTY, AZ  
HELD ON THIS 15th DAY OF OCTOBER 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER-** Mayor Bob Irvin called the work session meeting to order on Monday, October 15, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance

**ROLL CALL-**City Clerk Virginia A. Mefford, called the roll:

**PRESENT**

Mayor Robert A. Irvin  
Vice Mayor Bill Holloway  
Councilman Gerald W. Lindsey  
Councilman Elwood A. Johnson  
Councilwoman Monika Cronberg  
Councilman Earl Goolsby  
Councilman William "Bill" Nigh

**STAFF**

City Manager Pat McCourt  
City Clerk Virginia A. Mefford  
City Attorney Ann P. Roberts  
Finance Director Ruth Graham  
Public Services & Works Director Dave Bonner  
Development Services Mr. Stoddard  
Library Director Tom Miner

**ABSENT**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** lead by Mayor Irvin

**DECLARATION ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None Declared

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Cronberg moved to adopt the agenda as presented.

**SECONDED:** Vice Mayor Holloway seconded the motion. **CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ON HISTORICAL THEATER PRESERVATION INC**

Ms. Gayle Berry gave an update on the Rex Allen Theater. The theater group has offered \$50,000 to the museum and it was accepted. It will take a little more of a down payment and a higher interest rate but it will be workable. We do have a lease with the Museum so we can get into the theater building and an agreement to start fixing it. We were in there at 8:30 this morning and everything seems to work and do not see any major problems. This is 180% from where we were before. Sam Pillsbury who is a winemaker and film-director will be showing a family – friendly movie as a fundraiser. There will be no admission fee; it will be donations only, Saturday, October 20, 2012. This will give us a little test to ensure everything does work. The down payment is double than expected; it is \$6000 instead of \$3000. She explained what needs to be paved and that a wooden ramp would be removed. We have found out other interested things i.e., we have had some sponsors who have paid in advance to have advertisement before the theater closed and we feel we can fulfill that responsibility, but it doesn't bring in any revenue immediately. Bottom line we have more anticipated cost as in construction costs and the paid advertisement to deal with. Ultimately will we get this going? Yes. Will this open before the holiday movies come out? Probably not; there are many things we have to do, and we have to the down payment before we can open it. Councilman Lindsey asked if they are considering extending the block program the museum uses to continue the walkway. Ms. Berry stated we have not considered this, as of yet, but it is a possibility. Mr. Lindsey asked where you stand as far as the ticket booth. Ms. Berry replied, while we are leasing the theater we will be using the ticket booth. Once the Pedro place is gone we will be selling at the door for the short term. Councilman Johnson asked Mr. Stoddard if there are going to be permits for the walkway. Mr. Stoddard replied, there will be for the demolition a fee of \$50, but as far as the walkway, as long as they keep the fence at a four- foot level there is no fee. Councilman Holloway asked how long it will take to have a movie. Ms. Berry stated around Thanksgiving time, if we can get over the hump; if we had around \$15,000 would be home free. Councilwoman Cronberg asked what you see as a role of the City of Willcox. Ms. Berry stated to help us financially. Councilwoman Cronberg stated you have done a lot of research on this. Ms. Berry stated if you could give us some support it would be great to promote this theater for example: a dinner theater, drama club and live entertainment. We are actively promoting this to other outlying area. Councilwoman Cronberg stated if the Council could have discussion on how the City of Willcox may be able to help out financially. Ms. Berry stated this theater is Self-sustainable, on an operational basis. Councilman Goolsby stated you mentioned live entertainment, what kind of design are you

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going to have? Are you going to convert one for the live entertainment or keep two screens? Ms. Berry stated the initial plan is to keep both screens and use the bigger theater for movies and the smaller one for other entertainment, one weekend out of the month. We will show firsts-run and second-run moves. Councilwoman Cronberg stated it is great to see and exciting, all it takes is the willingness of the community and stepping outside the box. Ms. Berry stated it were the community that made all of this happen; people really wanted this. Councilman Goolsby stated what you said about the diversity and variety and like Councilwoman Cronberg mentioned, it gets exciting. Ms. Berry stated we will learn what works and what doesn't during this process. Councilman Lindsey asked if this could come back as an agenda item where we can discuss it further. Councilwoman Cronberg stated this is definitely worthy of our attention; it definitely affects everyone in the community. Mayor Irvin asked that item gets on the next agenda. City Manager stated yes, we will put on the November 5, 2012 agenda.

**ADJOURN**

Being no further discussion before the Mayor and Council, Mayor Irvin adjourned the Work Session at 6:55 p.m.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the special meeting of the City Council of the City of Willcox held on the 1st day of October 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

**Dated this 15th day of October 2012**

/s/ Virginia A Mefford  
City Clerk Virginia A. Mefford

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 19th day of November 2012.

/S/ ROBERT A IRVIN  
MAYOR ROBERT A IRVIN

Signed November 20, 2012

ATTEST:

/s/ Virginia A Mefford  
City Clerk Virginia A. Mefford