

**THE MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLCOX, COCHISE COUNTY, AZ  
HELD ON THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER**-Mayor Irvin called the work session meeting to order on Monday, March 18, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. and

**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 arrived at 6:15 pm  
Councilwoman Monika Cronberg  
Councilman Earl Goolsby  
Councilman William "Bill" Nigh

**STAFF**

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

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

**DECLARATION ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No Conflicts were declared.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cronberg moved to adopt the agenda as presented

**SECONDED:** Councilmember Lindsey **CARRIED.**

**1. DISCUSSION REGARDING REVIEW WASTEWATER (SEWER) BUDGET AND RATES FOR FY2014**

City Manager Mr. McCourt began the discussion explaining to the Council that he has asked John Bowen to put together a presentation for next week's meeting. We do have several funds and the part of budget we will be talking about tonight is the Wastewater (Sewer) Fund. We track our fund cost and our goal is to supply reasonable service and cost to the customer. We should have at least 3 months of reserve in the fund as per city code. In this fund we are going to see a significant rate fluctuation, as we have been discussed this for many years. City Manager McCourt pointed out the Revenue/Expense report to the Council. Councilman Lindsey asked why there was greater fluctuation in one month than another. City Manager McCourt stated it isn't much of a difference but I am not exactly sure. He explained we have a fixed fee meter size, and variable fee. The fixed fee covers our fees each month and the variable has two components usage fee and value fee, value fee is determining how much each household is using, in the months of December, January and February determine our rates for rates in July. He pointed out the chart from the council packet. Each individual account has their usage rate, and pointed out what the estimated monthly rate would be at the 5% increase. Starting in 2014 the average rate would be \$34.10 for ten years at 5% rate increase would be \$52.90 in year 2023. We know we will have grant money but we don't know how much it will be. We will start building in Year 2014 and we will make our first payment in Year 2015 of \$372,072. Councilman Lindsey asked you are using 6% which is about two to three percent points more. City Manager McCourt stated I am using a conservative estimate. Councilman Johnson stated it also depends where the city is rated i.e. A, B, C etc... City Manager McCourt stated the staff has been very consistent on keeping the spending down and should be commended for spending under budget. I recommend raising the rate 5% this year. In my opinion it would be beneficial to keeping the 5% increase. I think this is a very realistic projection. We do need to work hard controlling the Capital Fund and the staff has been working very hard doing that. We have been lucky we have a great water supply. The sewer water has to be cleaned up to be brought up to drinking water standard. I am recommending no rate increase to the Gas fund, and a 1.7% to the Solid Waste fund. Councilman Goolsby asked what the staff has been doing to keeping the cost down. Mr. McCourt stated that is what John Bowen will be presenting on in a future meeting. Vice Mayor Holloway stated he hates to see a 5% increase but we do have to be proactive on this. Mr. McCourt stated all the utilities do pay their

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own way. Councilman Lindsey asked will it hurt us to have this great of a reserve in this fund. Mr. McCourt stated the lenders have asked us for this exact projection sheet, and our next week meeting will start later at 6:30 pm. I have asked the operating department if they don't have to spend the money save it and build it up and spend it on a big capital purchase. Councilman Johnson asked if we have to keep up the lines. Mr. McCourt stated we are using far better lines with PVC pipes, and they last much longer. Mr. Bonner stated we ended up buying 2 dump trucks paying \$4,200 a piece which was needed they were cheaper than we had anticipated.

**ADJOURN**

Being no further business before the Mayor and Council, Mayor Irvin adjourned the Work Session at 6:34 p.m.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Work Session of the City Council of the City of Willcox held on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2013. I further certify that the work session was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

**Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2013**

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

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2012

/s/ Robert A. Irvin  
**MAYOR ROBERT A IRVIN**

Signed 04/03/2013

**ATTEST:**

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