

**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLCOX, COCHISE COUNTY, AZ
HELD ON THIS 16th DAY OF July, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Bob Irvin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT

Mayor Robert A. Irvin
Vice Mayor Earl Goolsby
Councilman Elwood A. Johnson
Councilman Gerald W. Lindsey
Councilman William "Bill" Nigh
Councilman Timothy A. Bowlby
Councilman Michael J. Laws

STAFF

City Manager Ted Soltis
City Clerk Virginia Mefford
City Attorney Ann P. Roberts
Interim Police Chief Jose Rios
~~Finance Director Crystal Hadfield~~
Library Director Tom Miner
~~Public Works Director Kevin Hagerich~~
Development Services Jeff Stoddard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - Led by Mayor Irvin

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Kim Moore and Donnis Black discussed their concerns regarding the number of golf carts available for their upcoming golf tournament. As they will need to rent additional carts for their tournament, they propose that the City waive the tournament fees and they would cover the rental fees for the addition carts. They mentioned that money they raise goes back to the community.

DECLARATION ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST - None

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Councilmember Johnson made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

SECONDED: Councilmember Bowlby seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2015

MOTION: Councilmember Bowlby made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

SECONDED: Councilmember Laws seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING - TO DISCUSS THE CREATION OF A TARGETED REDEVELOPMENT AREA TO ALLEVIATE CONDITIONS OF SLUM AND BLIGHT

Open: 6:39 p.m.

Jeff Stoddard gave a presentation on the Slum and Blight targeted area. Five areas are recommended for designation: Wee Blu Inn, Desert Breeze Motel, Hacienda Inn, Desert Inn, and a gas station with two accessory buildings.

Comments:

Councilmember Nigh commented that he believed these buildings are structurally sound and could be refurbished instead of torn down.

Mr. Rob Jones thanked Mr. Stoddard for the research he has done on the various properties and stated he supports the demolition of structures.

Councilmember Lindsey commented that it would take a lot of money to renovate them and that it would not be cost effective.

Councilmember Bowlby commented that if the structures are demolished, the properties will be available for potential buyers.

Councilmember Laws felt that removing the structures would improve the appearance and would attract potential buyers.

Closed: 6:55 pm

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RESOLUTION 2015-20 - A RESOLUTION FINDING, PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF A.R.S. §36-1473, THAT A REDEVELOPMENT AREA EXISTS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

MOTION: Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-20.

SECONDED: Councilmember Lindsey seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING ON FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BUDGET

Opened: 6:56 p.m.

City Manager Soltis reviewed the budget. He thanked Council for their support and the teamwork from the staff on getting the budget together.

Councilmembers asked various questions and Mr. Soltis answered them.

Closed: 7:16 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPERTY TAXES

Opened: 7:17 p.m.

The City Manager reviewed the property tax changes.

Closed: 7:19 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2015-21 - A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF WILLCOX FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

MOTION: Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-21.

SECONDED: Councilmember Bowlby seconded the motion.

Councilmember Johnson stated he rarely compliments the budget. He commended staff on the budget.

MOTION CARRIED

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE RENEWAL - ED BANTEL

Mr. Ed Bantel gave a presentation on the Workers' Compensation coverage renewal and he presented the City with two awards. One award was for the Workers' Compensation turnaround and the other was for keeping the property and casualty losses low.

MOTION: Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the Workers' Compensation Coverage renewal.

SECONDED: Councilmember Lindsey seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE - AL THUNBERG

Mr. Al Thunberg gave a presentation on the medical insurance coverage and noted that by changing the medical insurance provider, premiums decreased by almost 2%.

DISCUSSION: Councilmembers asked questions and Mr. Thunberg answered them.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Goolsby made a motion to approve the medical insurance coverage as presented.

SECONDED: Councilmember Laws seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- He had a great time on his vacation to Montana and celebrated his 30th wedding anniversary while there.
- He will be attending the ACMA annual conference July 22-24, 2015, at Dove Mountain, Marana.
- He announced Chief Childers's retirement and thanked him for all he did for our community. He welcomed Jose Rios as the Interim Police Chief.
- Interim Chief Rios thanked everyone for their vote of confidence.

COMMENTS NOT FOR DISCUSSION FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Mayor Irvin thanked the City Manager for his work on the budget. He also congratulated Chief Rios on his appointment.

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- Vice Mayor Goolsby thanked Mr. Soltis for balancing the budget and congratulated Chief Rios.
- Councilmember Laws thanked the City Manager and staff for all their hard work and welcomed Chief Rios. He commented on a recent article in the newspaper that suggested that the city was moving away from the business community. He stated that Council is very supportive of the business community.
- Councilmember Bowlby congratulated incoming Interim Chief Rios and outgoing Chief Childers. He commented he would like to see a solution regarding the upcoming golf tournament.
- Councilmember Lindsey commented positively on the budget. He announced Salsa Fiesta is closing their doors.
- Councilmember Johnson commented we should support our community by shopping locally.
- Councilmember Nigh commented on the golf course.

ADJOURN

With no further business before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. by Mayor Irvin.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Willcox held on the 16th day of July, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 16th day of July 2015

Virginia A. Mefford, CMC
City Clerk Virginia Mefford, CMC

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of August, 2015.

Robert A. Irvin
Mayor Robert A. Irvin

ATTEST:

Virginia A. Mefford, CMC
City Clerk Virginia A. Mefford, CMC