

**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLCOX, COCHISE COUNTY, AZ
HELD ON THIS 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2016**

SWEAR IN NEWLY ELECTED CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS - Judge Ward swore in the newly elected councilmembers: Johnson, Garza, and Rowden.

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Robert 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
Councilman Gerald "Sam" Lindsey
Councilman Elwood A. Johnson
Councilman Timothy A. Bowlby
Councilman Michael J. Laws
Councilwoman Rachel D. Garza
Councilwoman Terry Rowden

STAFF

City Manager Ted Soltis
City Clerk Virginia A. Mefford
City Attorney Ann P. Roberts
Finance Director Crystal Hadfield
Library Director Tom Miner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - Led by Mayor Irvin

DECLARATION ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST - None

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Rob Jones spoke on building the City of Willcox and healing of the Nation one community at a time. He welcomed the new councilmembers.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

SECONDED: Councilmember Rowden seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

ELECT A MAYOR

Mike Laws was elected Mayor with 6 out of 7 votes from among his peers. Councilmember Laws thanked the other councilmembers for their votes.

ELECT A VICE MAYOR

Terry Rowden was elected Vice Mayor with 4 out of 7 votes from among her peers.

RECESS AND RETURN TO NEW SEATING WITH NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR CHAIRING THE MEETING

Recessed at 6:43 p.m.

Returned at 6:54 p.m. to new seating with the newly elected Mayor chairing the meeting.

APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 3, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Councilmember Irvin made a motion to approve the November 3, 2016 council meeting minutes.

SECONDED: Councilmember Lindsey seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: AYES (5): Mayor Laws, and Councilmembers: Irvin, Lindsey, Johnson, and Bowlby; NAYS (0); ABSTAIN (2): Councilmember Garza and Vice Mayor Rowden.

APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 10, 2016 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Councilmember Bowlby made a motion to approve the November 10, 2016 special council meeting minutes.

SECONDED: Councilmember Irvin seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: AYES (5): Mayor Laws and Councilmembers: Irvin, Lindsey, Johnson, and Bowlby; NAYS (0); ABSTAIN (2): Councilmember Garza and Vice Mayor Rowden.

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**APPROVE STREET CLOSURE REQUEST FOR THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTED PARADE TO BE HELD ON
DECEMBER 3RD FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

MOTION: Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the street closure request for the Christmas lighted parade to be held on December 3rd from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

SECONDED: Councilmember Bowlby seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

**WILLCOX TRANSPORTATION SERVICE UPDATE - SEAGO TRANSPORTATION PLANNER – CHRIS
VERTREES**

Mr. Vertrees gave an update on the transportation service and introduced Debbie Douglas and George Castle, part of the SEAGO transportation program. He explained how they were able to bring this program to Willcox. At the present time, this program is in the process of recruiting a driver, and once this is accomplished this program will be implemented. He is hoping to get a few volunteers. Once this begins, they will be doing a needs assessment. This program is supported through the Legacy Foundation.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Lindsey asked how much was donated for this program. Mr. Vertrees stated the Legacy Foundation for Southeastern Arizona provided \$20,000 and in the future another \$10,000 will be provided. Councilmember Johnson asked how many days a week the service will be available. Ms. Douglas stated it will be five days a week Monday thru Friday. Drivers will have cell phones clients which clients will be able to call to schedule a ride. For trips to Tucson, a week's notice will be required. Councilmember Johnson asked how long this program will be funded. Ms. Douglas stated it will be funded for the next three years.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- He attended the Veteran's Day parade. He thanked everyone who made the event possible, especially Connie Dunham who organized the event.
- He attended the 125th anniversary of the Masonic Temple.
- He attended the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Company (SSVEC) luncheon which was instructive.
- He attended the quarterly manager's meeting.
- He provided an update on the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). The City is still \$3 million short in funding.
- He thanked staff, SSVEC, and volunteers for putting up the lights at Railroad Park. He also thanked those who donated funds for the lights. He can hardly wait to see the Christmas lighted parade when the entire park will be lit up.

COMMENTS NOT FOR DISCUSSION FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilmember Garza thanked everyone in the audience and councilmembers and stated there will be a lot of positives happening.

Councilmember Bowlby congratulated Vice Mayor Rowden and Mayor Laws for being elected into their positions. Councilmember Lindsey shared with the councilmembers he attended the water meeting and wanted the City to be aware of some of the issues. He welcomed Mayor Laws and Vice Mayor Rowden to their newly elected seats and welcomed newly elected Councilwomen Garza and Rowden and reelected Councilmember Johnson. Councilmember Johnson congratulated Councilwoman Garza and Vice Mayor Rowden. He also congratulated Mayor Laws and Vice Mayor Rowden to their new elected positions. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember Irvin stated it was a privilege serving as Mayor. He welcomed the newly elected councilmembers and Councilmembers Laws and Rowden for being elected Mayor and Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Rowden expressed honor for being elected to council and being elected Vice Mayor. She is looking forward to serving on council and being Vice Mayor.

Mayor Laws stated he has big shoes to fill and hopes he does. He added that this council is pro-growth. He also thanked council for their trust.

ADJOURN

With no further business before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m. by Mayor Laws.

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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 1st day of December 2016. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

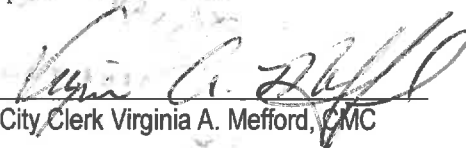
Dated this 1st day of December 2016


City Clerk Virginia A. Mefford, CMC

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of December 2016.


Mayor Michael J. Laws

ATTEST:


City Clerk Virginia A. Mefford, CMC

