

**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLCOX, COCHISE COUNTY, AZ
HELD ON THIS 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2016**

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

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

PRESENT

Mayor Michael J. Laws
Vice Mayor Terry Rowden
Councilman Gerald "Sam" Lindsey
Councilman Elwood A. Johnson
Councilman Timothy A. Bowlby
Councilwoman Rachel D. Garza

STAFF

City Manager Ted Soltis
City Clerk Virginia A. Mefford
Finance Director Crystal Hadfield

ABSENT

Councilmember Robert A. Irvin - Excused.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - Led by Mayor Laws

DECLARATION ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST - None

CALL TO THE PUBLIC - None

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

SECONDED: Councilmember Bowlby seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE THE DECEMBER 1, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Councilmember Bowlby made a motion to approve the December 1, 2016 Council meeting minutes.

SECONDED: Vice Mayor Rowden seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE - ALAN BAKER

Mr. Baker gave an update on the Chamber of Commerce and provided a handout for Council.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Garza asked several questions. Councilmember Johnson asked about the quarterly financial report as he didn't see it in the handout. Mr. Baker apologized for not bringing it. Councilmember Johnson also asked who was on the Economic Development from Council and why more was not being done with the local organizations. Mr. Baker stated that the Chamber is trying to do more with local organizations. Councilmember Johnson asked why bigger chains were not looking to locate here. Mr. Baker stated Willcox's demographics are not suitable for them to come to our City. Vice Mayor Rowden noted that she is on the Economic Development committee which she said is going great and they are working on trying to bring something into our community. Mayor Laws stated a lot of younger people do not relocate here because they want to be closer to a bigger city. Councilmember Lindsey added that some like to be closer to amenities that Willcox does not offer.

RESOLUTION 2016-20 - A RESOLUTION PRESCRIBING STANDARDS OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FOR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

MOTION: Councilmember Bowlby made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-20.

SECONDED: Vice Mayor Rowden seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: City Clerk Mefford explained the key changes of the financial disclosure for local elected officials.

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2016-21 - A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RE-DESIGNATION OF CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT TO CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL PARK

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MOTION: Vice Mayor Rowden made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-21.

SECONDED: Councilmember Lindsey seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Lindsey stated that the use of the word "re-designation" does not read well. Councilmember Garza felt that the use of the word "re-designation" was appropriate and that this could be a good thing for our community. Councilmember Johnson asked if this designation would infringe on any landowners. Vice Mayor Rowden stated she researched the issue, and it will only be a name change from National Monument to National Park. She felt it will bring more people to our area if it goes through, and the Council should support the name change.

MOTION CARRIED

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- He attended the Christmas Parade. He thanked everyone who helped with the event. It was a wonderful event.
- He thanked Mayor Laws, Vice Mayor Rowden, and Councilmember Garza for attending the Newly Elected Training. They indicated it was great training and they learned a lot.
- He provided an update on the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) and stated the City is getting closer to obtaining the additional three million dollars. He is hoping to have the construction contract ready for approval for the January 19th Council meeting.
- He will be submitting a draft of Title 17 to the City Attorney. Once this is reviewed by the City Attorney, it will go to Planning and Zoning for review and then to public hearings before being brought to Council for approval.
- He announced the January 5th Council meeting will be cancelled due to the holidays.

COMMENTS NOT FOR DISCUSSION FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilmember Garza stated she learned valuable information at the Newly Elected Official's Training and networked with other communities. She thanked the City Manager and Chief Rios for the speed detection device that has been setup in the school zone.

Councilmember Bowlby was not able to attend the Christmas parade, but he heard how great it was; he was sorry he missed it. He mentioned Napa won Business of the Year and Jeff Stoddard won Citizen of the Year. He wished he knew a City employee was receiving an award, as he would have attended. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He noted that people could donate money or garland and lights for refurbishing the old Christmas decorations that will be hung on the light poles on Haskell Avenue.

Councilmember Lindsey noted that he enjoyed the Christmas parade and wished everyone Merry Christmas. Councilmember Johnson noted that some citizens expressed safety concerns for the intersection of Arizona Avenue and Rex Allen Drive. He felt the Christmas parade was phenomenal. He mentioned he would like to have a work session for WWTP to get more up to date. He hoped Title 17 gets approved soon. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember Lindsey announced ex-Councilmember Nigh has been sick and he is now doing better. He also wished everyone Merry Christmas.

Vice Mayor Rowden stated the Newly Elected Official Training was great. She thanked the City crew for the great work in putting up the lights at Railroad Park. She stated the Christmas parade was a great social event. She was glad to see Ace Hardware is expanding; it looks great. She congratulated Jeff Stoddard for receiving the Citizen of the Year award. She mentioned that Wings Over Willcox (WOW) will be doing more tours and getting more kids involved with the event. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a joyous new year.

Mayor Laws stated it was a great Christmas parade and he enjoyed it. He congratulated Jeff Stoddard for receiving Citizen of the Year. He attended the Chamber dinner and it was great. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

ADJOURN


With no further business before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m. by Mayor Laws.

CERTIFICATION

**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND
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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 15th day of December 2016. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 15th day of December 2016


City Clerk Virginia A. Mefford, CMC

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of January 2017.


Mayor Michael J. Laws

ATTEST:


City Clerk Crystal Hadfield