

**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 MARCH 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER** - Mayor Michael Laws called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** - City Clerk Crystal Hadfield called the roll.

**PRESENT**

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

**STAFF**

City Manager Ted Soltis  
Finance Director/City Clerk Crystal Hadfield

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** - Led by Mayor Laws

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC** - None

**DECLARATION ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST** - None

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Vice Mayor Rowden made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

**SECONDED:** Councilmember Bowlby seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVE THE MARCH 2, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Bowlby made a motion to approve the March 2, 2017 Council meeting minutes.

**SECONDED:** Councilmember Garza seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVE A FAIR/FESTIVAL LICENSE APPLICATION FOR GOLDEN RULE VINEYARDS FOR AN EVENT TO BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER ON APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> FROM 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Bowlby made a motion to approve the Fair/Festival License application for Golden Rule Vineyards.

**SECONDED:** Vice Mayor Rowden seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilmember Garza asked if the event was a wine tasting. City Manager Soltis confirmed that it is.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVE A FAIR/FESTIVAL LICENSE APPLICATION FOR ZARPARA VINEYARD FOR AN EVENT TO BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER ON APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> FROM 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Garza made a motion to approve the Fair/Festival License application for Zarpara Vineyard.

**SECONDED:** Vice Mayor Rowden seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** Vice Mayor Rowden asked if the event will be held in the fireplace room. City Manager Soltis confirmed that it is.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

- This month, the Mayor/Manager's meeting will be held March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at Big Tex BBQ in Willcox. Rod Keeling will be the guest speaker and all Council is invited to attend.

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- City Manager Soltis attended a Rate Review Advisory Board (RRAB) meeting with the County where a five year renewal was discussed. An IGA is forthcoming and there will be no increase on tipping fees for next fiscal year.
- The wastewater treatment plant loan closed on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March. Though the contract was signed, Notice to Proceed is still needed. Specifications, plans, addendums, etc. were needed and all paperwork is complete with the exception of an updated payment bond. The date on the bond has to correspond to the date that the contract is signed. A pre-construction meeting will be held and the Notice to Proceed will be signed. Mobilization will begin mid-May.
- City Manager Soltis stated that there are donors available for the Keiller Park playground equipment. Donors will come up with 50% of donation funds with the City matching donations. Currently, an ad-hoc committee is looking at a \$30,000 structure. The goal is to get the project done in this fiscal year. There will be other types of fundraisers and donations will be accepted.
- The Keiller Park Trail Grant has been submitted; however, there is no information yet. City Manager Soltis will keep Council updated on the progress.

**COMMENTS NOT FOR DISCUSSION FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councilmember Johnson: Councilmember Johnson asked with new funding for the treatment plant, is the City looking at rate increases? City Manager Soltis said that there will be no rate increases and the City will be paying off the old sewer bonds. Johnson mentioned concern over several streets (Austin and Arizona, and Maley) falling apart and collapsing. He asked if the City will be doing a chip-seal project. City Manager Soltis explained that the City bid certain streets and will hit other areas if extra materials and funding are available; however, he will take a look at the mentioned areas. Johnson asked a question regarding a request for proposal for the gas department. City Manager Soltis explained that the City will be hiring an individual on an on-call basis to do gas welding. The position will be part-time, on-call. Soltis then explained that over the next several years, the goal is to replace gas lines with polyurethane.

Councilmember Lindsey: Councilmember Lindsey mentioned that he is now chairman for SEAGO for another year.

Councilmember Garza: Councilmember Garza stated that the goal of the ad-hoc committee is to have the playground equipment in place by Memorial weekend. She stated that there is a bake sale scheduled Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at Safeway from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Garza will be attending a grant class with Cochise Community Fund on Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> to look at funding for the playground equipment. Garza also has several contacts for corporations that build the equipment. Garza's sister is part of Willcox Healthy Committee and they are also aware that the City is looking for playground equipment. Garza attended a Benson City Council meeting. She mentioned that they do things differently, but the concept is the same. Garza also expressed concern over the potholes on the corner of Scott St. and Bisbee Ave.

Vice Mayor Rowden: Vice Mayor Rowden said that when Council is informed about issues they are better able to respond to citizens. She then provided an example of when she called the City Manager for additional information on an issue and was better able to respond to a resident's concern. Rowden emailed a company called Aldi that is a grocery store with household goods located in Mid-west. They are currently expanding into Texas and Southern California. There are no stores in Arizona or New Mexico at this time but will look into our area.

Mayor Laws: Mayor Laws received a call from a concerned citizen stating that it is time to clean up again. Laws gave an update on the remodel work NAPA is doing on the old KT's Market building. He stated that Council needs to go take a look at the progress. A meat market will be going in next door. Laws stated that the remodel of the former Best Western Hotel is coming along nicely. Laws also stated that they are redoing the roof at DOCs.

**ADJOURN**


With no further business before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

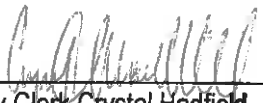
**Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk Crystal L. Hadfield

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Michael J. Laws

**ATTEST:**

  
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City Clerk Crystal Hadfield