

**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLCOX, COCHISE COUNTY, AZ
HELD ON THIS 17TH DAY OF AUGUST 2017**

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Michael Laws called the meeting to order at 6:30 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
City Attorney Ann Roberts
Finance Director/City Clerk Crystal Hadfield
Public Safety Director Jose Rios

ABSENT – Councilman Robert A. Irvin - Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - Led by Mayor Laws

CALL TO THE PUBLIC – None

DECLARATION ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Councilmember Rachel Garza abstained from voting on Rex Allen Days Street Closure as she is a Rex Allen Board Member.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

SECONDED: Councilmember Bowlby seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE THE JULY 20, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Councilmember Bowlby made a motion to approve the July 20, 2017 Council meeting minutes.

SECONDED: Councilmember Lindsey seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

APPOINT CHERYL MOSS TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

MOTION: Councilmember Johnson made a motion to appoint Cheryl Moss to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

SECONDED: Vice Mayor Rowden seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Laws mentioned that Moss has been a part of the community for a long time, is a business owner, and he appreciates her putting in her time.

MOTION CARRIED

WILLCOX TRANSPORTATION SERVICE UPDATE: SEAGO TRANSPORTATION PLANNER CHRIS VERTREES

Chris Vertrees gave an update on the Willcox Transportation Service. He gave a brief background of the project followed by the current service status. A Willcox Transit Needs Survey was completed and main concerns of the respondents were noted. Vertrees discussed future goals, grant funding sources, and a future feasibility study. He then answered questions from Councilmembers.

APPROVE A STREET CLOSURE REQUEST FOR THE REX ALLEN DAYS PARADE TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 7TH FROM 6:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.

MOTION: Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve a street closure for the Rex Allen Days Parade.

SECONDED: Councilmember Lindsey seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE A STREET CLOSURE REQUEST FOR ROCA MOTION WILLCOX FLYER BIKE RIDE FOR RAILROAD AVE. FROM STEWART ST. TO MALEY ST. FOR SEPTEMBER 2ND FROM 6:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

MOTION: Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve a street closure for Roca Motion Willcox Flyer Bike Ride.

SECONDED: Councilmember Bowlby seconded the motion.

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MOTION CARRIED

**RESOLUTION 2017-18: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID FOR PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY
ADJOINING 700 NORTH VIRGINIA AVENUE**

MOTION: Vice Mayor Rowden made a motion to approve the resolution.

SECONDED: Councilmember Bowlby seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Garza asked for the area to be identified. City Manager Soltis explained that it is an expansion of Magic Circle RV Park. Trees and landscape will outline the area. Councilmember Bowlby said that a correction to the Resolution had been made. Finance Director/City Clerk Crystal Hadfield stated that the correction to the Resolution is on the website.

MOTION CARRIED

PAY INCREASE FOR THE CITY MANAGER

MOTION: Councilmember Bowlby made a motion to approve a pay increase for the City Manager

SECONDED: Councilmember Lindsey seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Vice Mayor Rowden stated that she understood that there was no raise when City Manager Soltis' contract was renewed. Soltis explained that his goal was to first raise employee's wages. Soltis explained that in 2006 a salary survey had been done. The wage increases were to bring employees up to the 2006 wages. Soltis then explained the high, mid, and low point system to Council. Soltis explained that minimum wage went up and steps were taken to bring employee's wages up. Mayor Laws said that he works with Soltis on a daily basis. He appreciates his ethic, honesty, quick responses, balanced budget, cleaning up the city, getting the waste water treatment plant project started, bringing up employee wages, paying off bonds early to save money, and his hiring choices. Councilmember Lindsey stated that the cost of living adjustments in the Soltis' contract had not been fulfilled. Vice Mayor Rowden stated that the unfulfilled cost of living adjustments indicate that he is truly concerned about the welfare of the City. Councilmember Garza said that Soltis has done a good job and he has clarified her questions regarding the budget and she feels comfortable being able to do this. Councilmember Bowlby stated that even with the raise The City is still saving money.

MOTION CARRIED

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- City Manager Soltis said that Planning and Zoning had a meeting on Title 17. There were a number of questions, comments, and changes that needed to be made. The changes were made and are ready for their next review which will be discussed at the next Planning and Zoning meeting on the fourth Wednesday in September. Councilmember Lindsey asked why a councilmember is not present at the meetings. Chairman Fusco said that Councilmember Johnson was at the last meeting. Fusco said that they will meet quarterly going forward.
- Soltis said that the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony was a success. He thanked everyone who helped with the ceremony. Soltis said that we may have another ceremony for the trail renovation upon completion, hopefully next year, depending on the grant funding timeframe.
- Soltis said that there are new picnic tables in Keiller Park. They were purchased through state bid. The old tables have been removed and distributed to Quail, Gonzales, and Huffman Parks.
- Soltis thanked the Friends of the Library for their recent reimbursement for five new computers and a self-check-out system for the Library.
- Soltis thanked the Chuck Wagon Committee for their reimbursement for the new Quail Park electricity project. Lighting and electrical sockets were installed in the small pavilion and additional electric sockets were installed on backside of the bleachers. The City will also partner with the committee to re-do some of the fencing at Quail Park. Currently, the fencing is residential grade and in a state of disrepair. The City crews will be installing commercial grade fencing to make it safer and longer lasting.

COMMENTS NOT FOR DISCUSSION FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilmember Johnson said that the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony was a success. He thanked Rachel Garza for her efforts.

Councilmember Garza thanked Soltis for all the calls he made to make the playground equipment possible and the businesses that made the ceremony possible. Garza thanked Chief Rios and the Public Safety Department for patrolling the school zone. Garza said that at an Economic Committee Meeting a person voiced their concern that the Fire Department is not more visible.

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Councilmember Lindsey said that he enjoyed the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony. The food was good and the Fire Department did a good job with cooling the kids down. Lindsey said he appreciates the community for making it happen. Lindsey said that he is looking forward to seeing continued changes in town. He said that we are working on the weed problems around town and suggested that maybe a group could organize a work crew for those who are not able to keep their weeds under control.

Vice Mayor Rowden gave kudos to John Cropper and Linda Drew for the task of rolling up the fire hoses at the ceremony. Rowden said the kids loved it and she was happy to see Council there in support of the community. Rowden welcomed Cheryl Moss to Planning and Zoning. Rowden thanked the Public Works crew for their hard work assembling the equipment. Rowden said that it was good to see representatives from NCCH, SSVEC, and VTC present at the ceremony. Rowden echoed Councilmember Lindsey in that she wishes there was more help to clean up yards.

Councilmember Bowlby stated that there was good turnout and discussion at the recent Economic Committee Meeting. Bowlby said that he is excited to see Cheryl Moss on Planning and Zoning. Bowlby said that at a recent Quarterback Club Event, between \$14,000 and \$15,000 was raised to help provide funding for student athletes. Bowlby said the bike ride is coming up and is becoming a bigger and better event each year. He said that it is good to have businesses come together and sign off on the street closures.

Mayor Laws thanked Cheryl Moss for joining Planning and Zoning. He noted that at the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony there were a lot of positive comments about Keiller Park. Laws said the Fire Department wetting the kids was a big hit. Laws thanked everyone who was involved in putting the equipment project together, Councilmember Garza, City Manager Soltis, and everyone else involved for their efforts. Laws commended Soltis on a job well done.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Councilmember Bowlby made a motion to adjourn the meeting with no further business at 7:20 p.m.

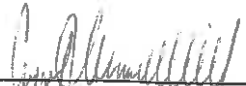
SECONDED: Vice Mayor Rowden seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

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 17th day of August 2017. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 17th day of August 2017



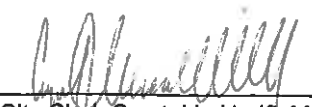
City Clerk Crystal L. Hadfield

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of September 2017.



Mayor Michael J. Laws

ATTEST:



City Clerk Crystal L. Hadfield