

**THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLCOX, COCHISE COUNTY, AZ  
HELD ON THIS 11<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2018**

**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 Elwood "Woody" A. Johnson  
Councilman Gerald "Sam" Lindsey  
Councilman Robert A. Irvin  
Councilman Timothy A. Bowlby  
Councilwoman Rachel D. Garza

**STAFF**

City Manager Caleb Blaschke  
City Attorney Ann Roberts  
Finance Director/City Clerk Crystal Hadfield  
Public Safety Director Jose Rios  
Interim Public Safety Director Dale Hadfield

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

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC** - Paul Sheats addressed the Council to discuss the recent election. He said thank you for the race and the time to serve coming up and for all of your support. He then thanked City Clerk Hadfield for setting up the candidate forum. It was very well organized and there were good questions. Sheats said he believes the campaign ran well and with politeness. He said thank you for giving him the opportunity to serve the City. He looks forward to working with Council, staff, and the community.

**DECLARATION ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST** - None

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVE THE AUGUST 16, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Garza made a motion to approve the August 16, 2018 Council meeting minutes as presented.

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

**DISCUSSION:** Councilmember Garza wanted to make sure that things had been settled with Rex Allen Days after the last meeting. City Manager Blaschke said that he met with the committee and agreed to have a staff member present during the Rex Allen Days events. We will put marks on the sprinkler heads and change the locks on the gates so that not everyone has a key. Blaschke said we will look at other opportunities so that they aren't driving over the fields and trails. We have checked with the contractor and they said that putting boards on the trails is fine. We will ensure that it is a successful event. Garza asked if the liquor location is still okay. Blaschke replied that as far as he understands the liquor board has already approved the location so changing it now would be next to impossible. Councilmember Bowlby said he will abstain from voting as he was not at that Council meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVE THE AUGUST 20, 2018 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Vice Mayor Rowden made a motion to approve the August 20, 2018 Special meeting minutes as presented.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION 2018-23 – A RESOLUTION DECLARING AND ADOPTING THE RESULTS OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION HELD ON AUGUST 28, 2018**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-23.

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

**DISCUSSION:** Councilmember Lindsey said that there was an error on the Resolution and it says that Mayor Laws received 158 votes. Vice Mayor Rowden said on Section 4, it has Laws as only receiving 158 votes and it should say 231. City Clerk Hadfield replied that her computer is down and Rowden showed her the Resolution presented.

**THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLCOX, COCHISE COUNTY, AZ  
HELD ON THIS 11<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2018**

Hadfield replied that it is an error and will be fixed. Mayor Laws commented about how it appears that he is last in place. He said that his cousin, a lawyer, said that if a doctor graduates with A's, they call him doctor and if a doctor graduates with B's and C's, he is still called doctor.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PROCLAMATION – CONSTITUTION WEEK**

Mayor Laws read and presented the Proclamation for Constitution Week to members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to include Vice Mayor Terry Rowden. Vice Mayor Rowden mentioned that DAR will be making presentations to three schools about the Constitution to include Mr. Hamilton's eighth grade Social Studies classes on Monday.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Blaschke handed the microphone over to Chief Rios. Rios announced formally that he is retiring after 24 ½ years. He said another opportunity presented itself. He said it was a pleasure serving the City, the Council, City Managers, and numerous police officers. He said we have the best police force that he has seen in a long time. It will be hard to leave but he has spoken with Caleb and he highly recommends Sergeant Dale Hadfield for the Interim Chief position. Hadfield is very capable and has been there over twelve years. No one has any issues with him. He is liked and respected by others. He is going to make a great Chief. Rios said thank you for letting him be Chief for the last three years. Blaschke said his short time with Chief Rios has been great and he has been able to catch him up on a lot of things. He said that Hadfield will be the Interim Chief for the next six months and then they will open it up to the public. He said he is excited to work with Hadfield as he has some good ideas and brings a lot to the table. Blaschke reported that we were awarded three water bottle fill stations through a grant through the University of Arizona. That is exciting news and thank you to Linda Stoddard for writing the grant. Blaschke said that the trash pickup days are going to be changing. He will ensure that the trash company properly advertises the dates in the paper to let our patrons be aware. In January we will be holding a Council retreat to establish goals and priorities. Between now and January, Blaschke has and will be speaking with the business community. We are looking at having two or three meetings with the businesses at various locations. We just created a City Facebook account today so information will be added to that. Other things that we are working on are creating a schedule with forthcoming agenda items. Today, Blaschke and the Mayor attended an economic development meeting in Benson. It was a great meeting and they made a lot of contacts. The County was there along with the Arizona Commerce Authority. Just the other day, Blaschke met with the Schaefer's and the Arizona Tourism Commission was videotaping the wineries. We are going to be on the front of multiple wine magazines. They will send all of the pictures and video to us to use as advertisements. If the City was to flip the bill on this it would cost \$20-30,000 and they are already doing it for us. One comment made was that Willcox needs to capitalize on the wine industry. The comment was also made that it's disgusting to watch other communities capitalizing on Willcox's grapes. Councilmember Garza asked if we are taking precautions for Saturday for the Pro-Trump Rally. Blaschke said patrol will drive by and pay close attention. A special event process is forthcoming, however; it's hard to say how many people will show up. Mayor Laws said that no one else has rented the ramada for that day so it is first come, first served.

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

Councilmember Lindsey said he is here tonight with mixed emotions. Congratulations to Chief Rios and he hopes his future endeavors work out. He welcomed the new members to Council with some reservation and he feels like he has been betrayed by the City of Willcox. He feels that there were some undercurrents in this election. One of them was that he was too old which he said he is but he feels his faculties are just as good. He was also told that he opposed the wine industry which he has never voted against. He doesn't participate in it but he has never opposed it. In fact, he has encouraged it. He has spent 12 years in City positions which will require some changes. He has represented Cochise County and SEAGO for about 9 years and served as chairman for 3 years. He also represents the City on the Senior Citizens group as well as other things. He has enjoyed the time that he has put in. A lot of work has gone into it and he feels that the City didn't support him. He can understand part of it. He will have more time to spend on other things and he doesn't intend to downgrade the Council because he still lives in the City of Willcox. He will support the Council.

Councilmember Garza said congratulations to the new faces on Council – Becky Akes and Paul Sheats and we look forward to working with you. We lose a wealth of experience and knowledge with Sam Lindsey and Bob Irvin. Garza said congratulations to Chief Rios and she hopes he enjoys his future adventures. For Sergeant/Interim Chief Hadfield enjoy your future adventures. In the paper there was an article from the City Manager on the City cleanup. As a Councilmember she takes it as part of the blame because we have not been pushing our zoning and planning committees. For two years we have been looking for a commission to be able to push forward on the City cleanup. It involves the City, County, and the residents to get it going. Garza is still hearing comments on the Fremont and Soto

**THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLCOX, COCHISE COUNTY, AZ  
HELD ON THIS 11<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2018**

wash boarding issues and the potholes not being filled properly. Garza said she hopes the Range News gets someone new in to get the word out.

Councilmember Bowlby said congratulations to Paul and Becky for getting on the Council. He encourages them to go to the training that the League puts on in December. It's very informative and it tells you what you can and can't do. He likes that Blaschke is going to put on a retreat and that will give everyone time to come up with some goals. To Sam and Bob, let's make the best of the three months. It's good to see Bob back. There has been a lot going on lately. At the Bike Race, he saw Blaschke and the Mayor. It is a big event and almost 500 people were involved in it. There are a lot of volunteers and it was good to see everyone come together for that event. All the people that came out of Tucson and Phoenix and other places said that this is one of their favorite places just because of the scenic route. Last Saturday was the hospital banquet and it was a good event. Last week in Sierra Vista there were several non-profits that were awarded grants from the Legacy Foundation and the Arizona Community Foundation. Little League got help with a grant to build a concession stand. Willcox Theater got two grants. Congratulations to Chief, it has been a pleasure working with you. To Hadfield, he hopes things work out well for him.

Vice Mayor Rowden gave her best wishes to Chief Rios. It has been a pleasure as a Council person working with him. She said she has confidence in Sergeant Hadfield and she knows he will do a great job as Interim Chief for the City. Congratulations to Becky and Paul. It's a learning experience and she recommends they go to the training by the League. You will learn a lot. Rowden said she will be sorry to see Sam and Bob leave the Council because she has gone to both of them for advice and counseling on things dealing with the City. Rowden is anxious to see Titles 5 and 17 finished so that we can get on with cleaning up the town. It's good to see Woody back. Rowden thanked the ladies from DAR for being there. The motto for DAR is "God, Home, and Country." DAR helps sponsor the Veteran's Day Parade. Boots and Bling raised over \$23,000. It was great to see a lot of people out there. Rowden said she encourages Council, staff, and people to get involved with things in the community. That is how you find out what people think about their City. Rowden has also heard about the conditions of Soto and Fremont and the potholes. That was a big concern that she keeps hearing about. Rowden is looking forward to working with Caleb. They have had a few meetings and he is very progressive.

Mayor Laws said congratulations to Woody for being back. Laws said congratulations to Chief Rios and he hopes he enjoys his retirement. Laws told Hadfield that he will do a good job. He has some big shoes to fill. Laws said congratulations to our new Councilmembers and welcome aboard. Laws told Bob and Sam that he will miss them. They have had a lot of great discussions and given good advice. Councilmember Bowlby convinced Laws to go to the school that the League provides and they will teach you a lot. Blaschke and Mayor Laws had a discussion with Jeff Hooper and we are back on schedule with the funding. Laws said that they went to the meeting in Benson today and learned a lot. There are some big grants going to the County for paving roads for the dairy. Mayor Laws then presented an eight year plaque to Councilmember Irvin that was awarded at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Bowlby made a motion to adjourn the meeting with no further business at 7:11 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 special meeting of the City Council of the City of Willcox held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018

  
City Clerk Crystal L. Hadfield

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018.

**ATTEST:**

  
City Clerk Crystal L. Hadfield

  
Mayor Michael J. Laws

