

# TOWN OF WELLTON

## Minutes of the October 19, 2021 Regular Meeting

Mayor Cecilia McCollough called the regular meeting to order at 7:00PM on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. Councilmember Davidson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mayor McCollough gave the invocation. Roll call was taken.

**Councilmembers Present:** Mayor Cecilia McCollough, Mayor Pro Tem Kenneth Baughman, Councilmembers Scott Blitz, Sylvia Davidson, and Michelle Jones.

**Councilmembers Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Larry Killman, Deputy Town Clerk Sandra Jones, Finance Director Marisol Hernandez, Police Chief David Rodriguez, Public Information Officer David Williams, Grants Administrator Yolanda Galindo, and Attorneys Andrew McGuire and Michael Goodman (telephonically).

**Guests Present:** Allen & Sharon Lockwood, Bob Ludwig, Bob & Peggy Leeper, Shirley Reynolds, Jim Sampson, Ralph Davidson, Walt Bratton, Gerald Alberigi, Martin Hernandez, and Steve Juarez.

**Call to the Public**  
None submitted.

### Discussion and Action Items

**1. Approval of Minutes:**

**a. For the Meeting of October 5, 2021 (Regular Meeting).**

Motion made by Councilmember Blitz, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of October 5, 2021 (Regular Meeting). Voice vote:

Baughman: Yay  
Jones: Yay  
McCollough: Yay  
Davidson: Yay  
Blitz: Yay

Motion carried.

**2. Discussion, and possible action to authorize the Mayor to execute the One Arizona Distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds Agreement to establish binding terms for the distribution and spending of funds from Settlements with the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants with the State and the Participating Local Governments.**

Questions by Council – What is the opioid presence in Wellton? Has there been training? Education? Not a huge presence in Wellton, training and education will be part of the spending of the settlement funds.

Motion made by Councilmember Blitz, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Baughman, to authorize the Mayor to execute the One Arizona Distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds Agreement to establish binding terms for the distribution and spending of funds from Settlements with the

Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants with the State and the Participating Local Governments. Voice vote:

Baughman: Yay

Jones: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Davidson: Yay

Blitz: Yay

Motion carried.

### 3. Public Hearing to solicit input from the community regarding:

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Baughman, seconded by Councilmember Blitz, to open the Public Hearing to solicit input from the community regarding a potential increase in City Sales Tax and potential Property Tax at 7:06PM. Voice vote:

Baughman: Yay

Jones: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Davidson: Yay

Blitz: Yay

Motion carried.

#### a. Increase in City Sales Tax; and

#### b. Potential Property Tax.

The Census 2020 results are what is driving the quest for an increase in City Sales Tax or instituting a Property Tax. The State will be allocated at the lower numbers for State Shared Revenues. There will be at least a 20.64% reduction in revenues for the Town. This equates to: VLT (\$28,097), TPT-Sales Tax (\$75,506), and URS-Income Tax (\$83,946) in General Fund. HURF will be reduced (\$51,953). A total reduction of: (\$239,502).

Ralph Davidson (Wellton Hardware) – Propose the Town lease out the golf courses. Get rid of holes in the budget (ex: golf courses, pool, restaurant). Propose a stiff tax on alcohol, tobacco, and fuel.

Bob Leeper (Canal Avenue) – The Town needs to look at a couple ways to cut the budget. Look to include taxes for travelers, etc. Look at departments that can be outsourced. If you do choose to go for a property tax – make the presentation simple.

David Williams (Baja Street) – Need to look at golf courses. Sees them as a ‘money pit’. The Town works on a skeleton crew as it is. Feels as if the Pool is a waste of money – as the residents do not utilize it. He feels a Property Tax should be a last resort. Sales Tax increase would be a small, small step.

Ralph Davidson – Acknowledges we need the golf courses as a draw for visitors – but can they be leased out?

Larry Killman (Town Manager – Informational) – Canadian Border is scheduled to open in November. Rancho El Mirage went from 75 reservations to 92 in 5 days. Rye seed went from a \$1 a pound to over \$2.00 per pound this year. Coyote Wash Golf Course has picked up at least 4 season passes from Las Barrancas golfers as a result of the condition of our course compared to others in the County.

Councilmember Baughman - suggested a potential sunset on the proposed City Sales Tax.

Larry Killman – The Town has growth and we need to maintain the Police Department and Fire Department. Council voted to not raise the City Sales Tax in 2013 after the sunset of the State Sales Tax. A 1% increase could potentially raise an additional \$400,000 in revenue.

Robert Leeper – The Town needs to look at long term and how they operate. Look at the potential of where there can be cuts made.

Mayor McCollough – reminder the Town operates on a skeleton crew currently.

Gerald Alberigi (Wellton Mini Mart) – a small percentage increase would not be noticeable.

Jim Sampson (Mountain View Avenue) – Recommends a Citizen Committee and Staff to review and come up with suggestions.

Al Lockwood (Vista Ridge Boulevard) – the Community is not involved as they should be.

Councilmember Blitz – Does not think one year would be enough to raise the funds needed.

Motion made by Councilmember Blitz, seconded by Councilmember Davidson, to close the Public Hearing to solicit input from the community regarding at 8:05PM. Voice vote:

Baughman: Yay  
Jones: Yay  
McCollough: Yay  
Davidson: Yay  
Blitz: Yay

Motion carried.

#### **Future Agenda Items**

- A potential rezoning application at an upcoming council meeting.
- USDA documents for the Commercial Sanitation Truck.
- San Francisco Avenue Road Improvements RFP has been approved. Costs of supplies are currently much higher than normal.
- Public Hearing on November 10, 2021 for CDBG (the Regional SSP and Colonia) to solicit public input for potential projects.
- Sales Tax discussion. Potential timeline and structure.

**Town Manager Report**

- Coyote Wash Golf Course has been reseeded. The Front 9 is scheduled to open October 23, 2021. The Back 9 is tentatively scheduled to open on October 29, 2021.
- Coyote Den Restaurant is scheduled to open on October 29, 2021.
- Butterfield Golf is tentatively scheduled to open at the beginning of November as it was reseeded a week behind Coyote Wash Golf Course.
- Pool – Staff is still working on collecting bids from the contractors.
- Coyote Wash Entrance Building (Guard Shack) – contractor has delivered their onsite Conex box. They are scheduled to begin construction soon.
- The clarifier has been ordered for the Water Plant. There is a 38-week advance order required.
- Staff is working on the additional tank rehab bids.

**Council's Report**

- Mayor McCollough attended the RTAC conference last week, the COVID update meeting for Yuma County, and is scheduled to attend the GYEDC Luncheon on October 20, 2021.

**Executive Session**

None requested.

**Adjournment**

Motion made by Councilmember Blitz, seconded by Councilmember Davidson to adjourn.

Baughman: Yay

Jones: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Davidson: Yay

Blitz: Yay

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12PM.

  
Cecilia McCollough  
Cecilia McCollough, Mayor

ATTEST:

Larry Killman  
Larry Killman, Town Manager

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the forgoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the regular meeting held October 19, 2021 and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

Larry Killman  
Larry Killman, Town Manager