

MINUTES

Town Council Regular Meeting

6:00PM – Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Wellton, Town Hall Council Chambers

28634 Oakland Avenue, Wellton, Arizona 85356

Mayor Scott Blitz called the regular meeting to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. Mayor Blitz led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilmember Sylvia Davidson gave the invocation. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Scott Blitz, Vice Mayor Cecilia McCollough, Councilmembers Barbara Biggs, Sylvia Davidson, and Michelle Jones.

Councilmembers Absent: None

Staff Present: Town Manager Richard Marsh, Deputy Town Clerk Sandra Jones, Finance Director Dennis Osuch, Police Chief David Rodriguez, Town Magistrate Russell Jones, Grants Director Yolanda Galindo, Butterfield Golf Course Manager Shasta Baughn, and Attorney John Austin Gaylord (via Zoom).

Guests Present: Bruce Elford, Marie DeTucci, Doris Maynard, Elra Claymore, Jonathan Athens, Stan Lucier, Audrey Zingler, Lynda Lake, Jim Sampson, Juquin Brown, Thomas Laybourne, Kenny Ward, Dolores Ward, Jack Trainer, Catherine Blitz, Allen Lockwood, Janet Lockwood, Larry Killman, Alicia Jorajuria, Reyna Curiel, Darren Simmons, and Evie Pistone.

Call to the Public

Thomas Laybourne – 11771 Castle Dome Street (daughter's property): Mr. Laybourne spoke as to how he feels he has been treated in the process of building a storage shed on the lot within the setbacks. He is upset, as he sees numerous other sheds in the area that would be considered violations.

Marie DeTucci – Boris Street: She requested a possible extension of the pool season.

Presentations

- Presentation of Appreciation: Sherry Cordova, Tribal Chairwoman for Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Presentation of Employee of the Month: Shasta Baughn
- Presentation of new Administrative Assistant at Police Department: Felix Reyes

Discussion and Action Items

1. Approval of Minutes:

a. For the Meeting of May 2, 2023 (Regular Meeting).

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to approve Minutes for the Meeting of May 2, 2023 (Regular Meeting) as amended.

Davidson: Yay
Jones: Yay
Blitz: Yay
McCollough: Yay
Biggs: Yay
Motion carried.

2. Discussion and possible action to accept:

a. Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report for FY 2021 – 2022,

Motion made by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Vice Mayor McCollough, to accept the Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report for FY 2021 – 2022 prepared by BakerTilly US, LLP for Town of Wellton.

Davidson: Yay
Jones: Yay
Blitz: Yay
McCollough: Yay
Biggs: Yay
Motion carried.

b. Annual Expenditure Limitation Report for FY 2021 – 2022 performed by BakerTilly US, LLP for Town of Wellton, and

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to accept the Annual Expenditure Limitation Report for FY 2021 – 2022 prepared by BakerTilly US, LLP for Town of Wellton.

Davidson: Yay
Jones: Yay
Blitz: Yay
McCollough: Yay
Biggs: Yay
Motion carried.

c. Single Audit Report for FY 2021 – 2022.

Motion made by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Vice Mayor McCollough, to accept the Single Audit Report for FY 2021 – 2022 prepared by BakerTilly US, LLP for Town of Wellton.

Davidson: Yay
Jones: Yay
Blitz: Yay
McCollough: Yay
Biggs: Yay
Motion carried.

3. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Mayor to sign the Professional Services Agreement between James A. Davey & Associates and the Town of Wellton for Construction Admin & Inspection Services for CDBG Contract #145-23 Bakersfield Avenue Improvements.

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough Councilmember Davidson, seconded by, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Professional Services Agreement between James A. Davey & Associates and the Town of Wellton for Construction Admin & Inspection Services for CDBG Contract #145-23 Bakersfield Avenue Improvements.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

4. Discussion and possible action to adopt the Public Participation Plan is developed as part of the Wellton General Plan Update as presented by Logan-Simpson.

Motion made by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Vice Mayor McCollough, to adopt the Public Participation Plan is developed as part of the Wellton General Plan Update as presented by Logan-Simpson.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

• Recess Regular Session of the Common Council and open Public Hearing as Board of Adjustment

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Biggs, to recess Regular Session of the Common Council and open Public Hearing as Board of Adjustment at 7:11PM.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

5. Public Hearing for:

- a. Variance Case #V-23-001: Mark and Jackie Johnson request a variance of Planning & Zoning Code Chapter 8, Section 8-5.4.1-B (3): One (1) Guest House/Casita or an

Accessory Building is allowed on a lot, on their property located at 11661 Laguna Street (Parcel #: 709-52-042).

- b. Variance Case #V-23-002: Michelle Jones requests a variance of Planning & Zoning Code Chapter 8, Section 8-5.4.1-D (1): Minimum Interior Yard Setback: 6 feet on her lot located at 11822 Cortez Street (Parcel #: 709-59-219).

Discussion regarding Variance V-23-001 and V-23-002.

• **Close Public Hearing.**

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Biggs, to close the Public Hearing at 7:14PM.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve:

- a. **Variance Case #V-23-001: Mark and Jackie Johnson request a variance of Planning & Zoning Code Chapter 8, Section 8-5.4.1-B (3): One (1) Guest House/Casita or an Accessory Building is allowed on a lot, on their property located at 11661 Laguna Street (Parcel #: 709-52-042).**

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Biggs, to approve Variance Case #V-23-001.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

- b. **Variance Case #V-23-002: Michelle Jones requests a variance of Planning & Zoning Code Chapter 8, Section 8-5.4.1-D (1): Minimum Interior Yard Setback: 6 feet on her lot located at 11822 Cortez Street (Parcel #: 709-59-219).**

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Biggs, to approve Variance Case #V-23-002.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Abstain

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

- **Open Public Hearing on Final FY 2023-2024 Budget as Town Council**

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Davidson, to open the Public Hearing on Final FY 2023-2024 Budget as Town Council at 7:17PM.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

7. Public Hearing regarding the Final Operating Budget for FY 2023 – 2024.

Discussion regarding the Final Operating Budget for FY 2023 – 2024 led by Town Manager Richard Marsh.

- **Close Public Hearing, recess the Regular Session and convene in a Special Session.**

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to close the Public Hearing, recess the Regular Session and convene in a Special Session at 7:23PM.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

8. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 708 the adoption of the Final Operating Budget for FY 2023 – 2024.

Motion made by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Vice Mayor McCollough, to adopt Resolution No. 708 the adoption of the Final Operating Budget for FY 2023 – 2024.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Nay

Motion carried.

- **Adjourn the Special Session and reconvene in the Regular Session.**

Motion made by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Vice Mayor McCollough, to adjourn the Special Session and reconvene in the Regular Session at 7:42PM.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay
Biggs: Yay
Motion carried.

9. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 709 to adopt fee changes for the Town of Wellton for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to adopt Resolution No. 709 to adopt fee changes for the Town of Wellton for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

Davidson: Yay
Jones: Yay
Blitz: Yay
McCollough: Yay
Biggs: Yay
Motion carried.

10. Update regarding Fire Department EMS Subscriptions and billings.

Update given by Deputy Town Clerk Sandra Jones.

Future Agenda Items

- Presentation of the CDBG Program.

Town Manager's Report

- Thank you to Joe Grant, Public Works Director, for assisting Ryan Stuhr, VFW, in the placement of the flags along William Street in recognition of Memorial Day.
- Code Enforcement Update:
 - 28565 San Francisco Avenue – Staff is in the process of securing a formal inspection prior to the official determination to demolish the abandoned residence.
 - 29410 Oakland Avenue – This property has been bought by a private individual who has contacted the Town about opening a water account so he may start to complete the property clean-up.
 - 29249 San Jose avenue – This property has been sold to Housing America. It is currently going through the title company to close escrow.
- Wellton Police Department was awarded \$93,081 from the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA). It is part of the Border Fencing and Technology program. The funds will go towards the purchase of a Law Enforcement outfitted Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) w/trailer, Night vision/thermal Imaging Binoculars, and an unmanned aerial vehicle (Drone).
 - WPD has also received \$144,000 from Stonegarden.

- WPD Staff is also in the process of applying for a competitive grant from the Tohono O’odham Nation. Their fleet is approximately 6 years old and is nearing the end of its useful lifespan. They are seeking funds to purchase a new fully outfitted vehicle. If awarded, this grant would be in the amount of \$67,071.31, towards that vehicle.
- WPD has also applied for \$180,000 from DOJ, an additional \$44,000 from DOJ as well, and \$60,000 from the Gila River Indian Tribe.
- This brings the combined total of grants (received and applied for) this fiscal year to over \$550,000.
- Bio for Chairwoman Sherry Cordova, Cocopah Indian Tribe:

Ms. Cordova began her employment for the Cocopah Indian Tribe, as the Executive Secretary for the Chairman, Mr. Barley in 1971. She went on to work for the tribe in various programs until 1976, at which time she left the area for a few years, but returned in 1979 and once again, began working for the tribe.

She has also always been very active on various committees and boards, such as Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, AIGA and AIGA II. She was instrumental in PROP 202 for the gaming compact.

She was elected to the Cocopah Tribal Council, as a council member, in 1980. She was then elected to the position of Vice-Chairwoman in 1982 and served in that position until she ran for the chairmanship in 1996. Ms. Cordova was elected to the position that she currently holds as Chairwoman.

Honorable Chairwoman Cordova has served, her community, as an elected official for 36 consecutive years.

Ms. Cordova’s goal has always been to preserve the past, to live in the present and to build on our future. That has been the goal since she took office and continues down that path. “

Council’s Report

- Vice Mayor McCollough discussed the Governor’s Office meeting. Discussion centered around youth, faith, and Family. She attended the YMPO Board Meeting where discussion was the Transportation Improvement Program edits. Attended the VFW Memorial Day Parade. She reiterated that WACOG is looking for volunteers to represent the Town. Governor Hobbs attended the San Luis Port of Entry Grand Opening.
- Councilmember Biggs informed attendees the volunteer clean-up is on hold during the summer. Councilmember Jones thanked Staff for their efforts in cutting palm fronds, etc. on the medians and main streets in Town. A resident addressed a dead tree on the corner of Los Angeles Avenue and Hindman Street. Councilmember Biggs requested the IPMC be revisited on a future agenda. She had a question regarding trash pick-up and the route utilized.

Staff Report

- Butterfield Golf Course/Pool Manager Shasta Baughn explained the schedule for Water Dog Day and opening the Pool. She has eight total guards, two of which are seniors, one college student , and one recent graduate). Water Dogg Day is scheduled after the last day of school and the lifeguard classes have been completed to certify/recertify the lifeguards. Water Dog Day is scheduled for June 10, 2023, from 1:00PM to 5:00PM. There have been multiple donations of hot dogs and buns, raffle prizes, and refreshments from the Town's businesses and residents. Swimming lessons schedule will be determined after sign-ups. Classes are tentatively scheduled to start June 19, 2023. The pool season has been scheduled to extend through mid-September.

Executive Session

- None requested.

Adjournment

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Jones to adjourn.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

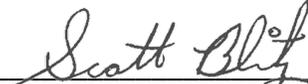
Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.



 Scott Blitz, Mayor

ATTEST:



 Richard Marsh, Town Manager

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the forgoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the regular meeting held June 6, 2023, and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.



 Richard Marsh, Town Manager