



MINUTES

Town Council Regular Meeting

6:00PM – Tuesday, November 7, 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, November 7, 2023. Mayor Blitz led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilmember Biggs 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 (via Teams), Police Chief David Rodriguez, Code Enforcement Officer Belen Medina, Public Works Director Joe Grant, Events Coordinator Mary Miranda, Coyote Wash Golf Course Superintendent Brian Claar, Coyote Wash Golf Course Head Groundskeeper Anthony Ware, and Attorney John Austin Gaylord (via Teams).

Guests Present: James Rightmire, Jim Sampson, Audrey Zingler, Karen Henry, Tim Henry, Bob Bruley, Diane Bruley, Reyna Curiel, Catherine Blitz, Carminia Marquez, Bob Ludwig, Ralph Davidson, Lisa Alma, Connie Zimmerman, Julie Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Linda Hasting, Mike Ellano, and Diana Ellano.

Call to the Public

None submitted.

Presentations

- Employee of the Month: Anthony Ware was presented with his plaque.
- Upcoming Events and Trunk or Treat Recap: Events Coordinator Mary Miranda presented the First Responders Tribute PowerPoint and upcoming events.
- Yuma Region Bicycle Coalition Inc. Tour de Fields update: PIO Dolores Ward updated on the Town's involvement in the upcoming bicycle event.
- Code Enforcement Update: Chief David Rodriguez and Code Enforcement Officer Belen Medina updated on nuisance properties, both ongoing and new.

Discussion and Action Items**1. Approval of Minutes:****a. For the Meeting of October 3, 2023 (Regular Meeting).**

Motion made by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Biggs, to table the Minutes: for the Meeting of October 3, 2023 (Regular Meeting).

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

b. For the Meeting of October 17, 2023 (Special Meeting).

Motion made by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to approve the Minutes: for the Meetings of October 17, 2023 (Special Meeting).

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of the Liquor License request for Maverick Bar & Grill at 28311 E Los Angeles Avenue.

Motion made by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Vice Mayor McCollough, to approve the Liquor License request for Maverick Bar & Grill at 28311 E Los Angeles Avenue.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

3. Update regarding Fire Department EMS Subscriptions and billings.

Update given by Deputy Town Clerk Jones.

Future Agenda Items

- Arizona Department of Revenue Intergovernmental Agreement for the collection of TPT for cities and towns in Arizona.

Town Manager's Report

- Financial Year end FY 2022 – 2023, Final Financial Recap:
 - General Fund, Fund Balance: \$2 million
 - Fund Balance Increased by \$900,000.

This is a result of a strong economy and expenses being less than budgeted, which was a .5-million-dollar reduction in expenses.
 - Strong Cash Position-\$2.4 million vs \$1.7 million in FY 2021 – 2022
 - Golf courses and restaurant funds have been transferred out of the General Fund:
 - Coyote Wash Golf Course: \$78,323
 - Butterfield Golf Course: \$25,000
 - Den Restaurant: \$27,500
 - Highway User Revenue Fund
 - Fund balance of \$40k at year end; and increase of \$28k over FY22
 - Actual expenditures were \$62k less than budget
 - Water Division
 - Preliminary results report a net loss in net position of \$21k; relatively equal to FY22 when excluding FY22 capital contribution
 - Actual expenses in FY23 fell below budget by \$75k
 - Sanitation
 - Net increase in net position of \$71k and ending net position of \$261k
 - Revenues exceeded budget
 - Expenses less than budget by \$52k
- Town Heroes – Wellton Volunteers: Wellton Volunteers have contributed 4,632 hours of labor in support of the Town of Wellton and over \$12,000 in personal financial contributions. The labor value of the volunteer hours is \$64,153. This is based on a minimum wage of \$13.85 an hour. Their areas of assistance have been in grounds and operations, office assistance, Public Information Officer, and Pickleball Court restoration. These efforts will potentially assist with future grant requests.
- First Responder Appreciation Dinner/Clarification:
 - For your reference
 - Mary Miranda spent \$550.00 out of her own pocket on food and decorations. She also donated a 43-inch TV.
 - She obtained a laptop, 3 tablets, and 3-\$20.00 gift cards from her community partners.
 - Town of Wellton (\$600.00 for food and tablecloths)
 - Labor spent
 - Charlie Williams, Mary's daughter volunteered 12 hours for the event. She assisted with cooking meals for 80 people and decorating.
 - Mary Miranda volunteered 30 hours of her time. She planned, cooked, communicated with businesses, created a power point presentation, and created and distributed invitations as well.
 - Thank them both for a job well done!
- Grants the Wellton Police Department have received this year:
 - Operation Stone garden - \$172,638
 - 100 Club of AZ - \$7,492

- Governor's Office of Highway Safety - \$12,489
- Department of Emergency and Military Affairs - \$93,081
- U.S Deputy Sheriff's Association - \$1,464
- Safe School's Grant - \$273,924
- Department of Justice weapons grant - \$44,000
- Regional Center for Border Health - \$10,000
- TOTAL AWARDED FOR 2023: **\$615,088**

Grants they have submitted, but not awarded:

- Apache Gold Casino Resort - \$84,454.13
 - Tohono O'odham Nation - \$67,071.31
 - Gila River Indian Community Grant - \$39,324
 - TOTAL: **\$190,849.44**
- Mary Miranda, Events Coordinator reached out to Gen Grosse, Property & Community Relations for the Yuma International Airport, and the Airport has extended the opportunity to the Town of Wellton to have free advertising of their community events on the digital board in the airport's baggage claim area.
 - The transfer of funds occurred on October 18, 2023, and the letter of commitment has been submitted to Magistrate Jones regarding the Court Enhancement Fund and the balance owed.
 - Deputy Town Clerk Sandra Jones attended the Caselle Conference in Salt Lake City, UT on October 10-11, 2023. Caselle is the financial software the Town utilizes. She attended classes on General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Cash Receipting, Payroll, Timekeeping and System Management.
 - Vice Mayor McCollough has been awarded a scholarship to attend the NALEO Policy Institute on Health: Creating Pathways Toward Latino Well-Being, taking place on November 16-17, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency John Wayne Airport in Newport Beach, California. The scholarship will cover the cost of travel and hotel accommodation at the Hyatt Regency John Wayne Airport.
 - Due to reporting errors and the cost of Cassell, It is imperative that we immediately bring on board a temporary part-time worker to assist with payroll, and special projects in the Finance department. She will work approximately 10 hours per week for the next several months. This action will cut the Town's costs in half, minimize liabilities, and assist us in strengthening ties with the court, as well.
 - As a result of our recent IT assessment, staff is currently in the process of moving forward with the Cloud Hosting Conversion with Caselle. This move will alleviate the need for onsite servers. This effort will replace our current aged servers.
 - Staff is also in the process of assessing the streets in Coyote Wash 3 for material that will be necessary to crack seal in that area of Wellton. Work is anticipated to begin in December 2023.
 - See Click Fix Update:
 - 82 total reports
 - 45 closed
 - 37 acknowledged and in process

- Dolores Ward PIO has volunteered 65.75 hours during the month of October. Her detailed report of daily activity is attached for your review.

Council's Report

- Councilmember Jones reported the Hoodini Solar project has pulled from the Yuma County Board of Supervisors, the Boyd/Killman project was approved at the County level, the Arizona Peace Trail and Wellton's potential involvement as a stop, and the potential of a boondocking area off County 12th Street.
- Mayor Blitz would like to start spotlighting businesses again during council meetings.
- Vice Mayor McCollough attended the Rural Transportation Summit, the Mayor's International Bike Ride, 4FrontED (cross board education discussion), Education Forward (focusing on 3rd grade reading scores as an indicator for high school graduation), the Tri-Valley Ambulance Annual Benefit is upcoming on November 18, 2023 at 6:00PM,
- Councilmember Biggs gave an update (as a citizen) on the Links at Coyote Wash Utilities and the ACC.

Executive Session

None requested.

Adjournment

Motion made by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Biggs to adjourn.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay


Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33PM.



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 November 7, 2023, and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.



Richard Marsh, Town Manager