

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING
GILA BEND TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday May 14, 2024; 6:00pm
Gila Bend Unified School District Media Center
308 North Martin Avenue
MINUTES

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Call to Order **meeting called to order at 6:00 pm**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance **led by Mayor Tommy Sikes**
- C. Invocation **given by Councilmember Clyde Kreeger**

II. **ROLL CALL**

Mayor Tommy Sikes	Councilmember Chris Riggs
Vice Mayor James Turner	Councilmember Scott Swanson
Councilmember Fernando Fernandez Absent	Councilmember Donny Young Absent
Councilmember Clyde Kreeger	

- III. **Call to the Public** (The procedures to follow if you address the Council are: Council requests that you express your ideas in three minutes or less and refrain from any personal attacks or derogatory statements about any individual. The Mayor will limit discussion whenever he deems such an action appropriate to the proper conduct of the meeting. At the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the Council may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the Council, may ask staff to review a matter, or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the Council shall not discuss or take legal action on any matters during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.)

Resident Amanda Litwhiler spoke about the 9/11 Memorial and the bird droppings on the memorial and surrounding benches and the dark green water with trash. Ms. Litwhiler also spoke about the Community Center Park the equipment having vulgar graffiti that has been there for years along with the man that has been camping in the town park illegally. Ms. Litwhiler spoke about Council needing to ask where the sign is for the Town Office or why it is so hard to fix the front door. Ms. Litwhiler also spoke about the seniors being restricted on where they can go as they should be able to go to the casino and be at the zoo longer than an hour. Ms. Litwhiler also spoke about new equipment that has not been installed or in used at the Community Center and would also like to know the status of the new ambulance to be purchased. Ms. Litwhiler spoke about running for Council and learning about the culture and visited the museum to learn about the Gatlin Site and the Town is not representing the town. Ms. Litwhiler is tired of the negativity and believe the town can do better. Councilmember Scott Swanson asked about what was meant by the covering at 9/11 and Ms. Litwhiler is talking about the covering over the steel beam and also spoke about being from the east coast and the significance of the 9/11 Memorial.

- IV. **Presentation:** Kevin Larson, Water Operator of Record for the Town of Gila Bend, will discuss the sewer capacity report. **Discussion only**

Town of Gila Bend Water Operator of Record Kevin Larson gives his presentation on the CMOM report including guidelines for maintenance and servicing for the sewer lines. A CMOM is a Capacity Management Operation Maintenance and collection and

distribution systems do not come with a tangible O&M manual. The manual is included once you have a lift station or booster station in place. This gives you information on how to operate and maintain it. The Town now has a real life map of the system via GIS as well as a condition assessment with recommendations.

Councilmember Scott Swanson asked about the force main line and Kevin Larson responded that this picks up at Main and St. Louis where it goes from the lift station to the next gravity sewer which is roughly a mile long.

Kevin Larson went over the pipeline velocities in various areas around town and the depth over diameter should not be more than 75% and this shows that the system is mostly flat.

Councilmember Scott Swanson asked about the pump house and where the next line would go and where he does not see any sewer lines if that means they have no sewer. Kevin Larson informed Council that these areas are not publicly mapped in this setting for infrastructure safety concerns.

Kevin Larson continued to speak about the cleaning of the system recommended at about 40% of the lines each year and the Town actually doubles this. Kevin Larson continued to speak on the line cleaning and other testing.

Councilmember Scott Swanson asked about the need for developments to model the capacity needed for their development and Kevin Larson confirmed that yes these developments are responsible for providing their own modeling which the Town will determine if the infrastructure has the capacity required by the needs of the development.

V. **CONSENT AGENDA** (all items subject to approval by a single motion; any Councilmember may require any of these items to be voted on separately).

A. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action on the approval of the April 23, 2024 regular council meeting minutes. **Discussion and possible action**

B. **Payment of Claims:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to ratify claims in the amount of \$201,622.82 and approve claims in the amount of \$99,836.04 for the period of April 17, 2024 through May 7, 2024. **Discussion and possible action**

**Councilmember Chris Riggs moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented
Second by Councilmember Clyde Kreeger**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed (5-0)

**For: Mayor Tommy Sikes, Vice-Mayor James Turner, Councilmembers
Clyde Kreeger, Chris Riggs and Scott Swanson**

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Councilmembers Fernando Fernandez and Donny Young

VI. **NEW BUSINESS** - Discussion and possible action on the following items:

A. **Logan Simpson Contract Amendment:** Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to waive bidding requirements, pursuant to Title 3, Chapter 38, Section 38.08 "Selection of Supplier", to approve a General Plan Update contract amendment to include Zoning Code and Town Code Updates between the Town of Gila Bend and Logan Simpson for FY24 through FY25 in the amount of \$111,624. **Discussion and possible action**

**Councilmember Chris Riggs moved to table the Logan Simpson Contract Amendment
Second by Councilmember Clyde Kreeger**

Motion to table the Logan Simpson Contract Amendment passed (5-0)

For: Mayor Tommy Sikes, Vice-Mayor James Turner, Councilmembers Clyde Kreeger, Chris Riggs and Scott Swanson

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Councilmembers Fernando Fernandez and Donny Young

- B. **Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona Grant Award Approval:** The Mayor and Council may discuss and possibly take action to accept the award for a Water Meter Replacement Grant from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) in the amount of \$330,000. **Discussion and action**

Councilmember Chris Riggs moved to approve the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona Grant Award

Second by Councilmember Clyde Kreeger

Motion to approve the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona Grant Award passed (5-0)

For: Mayor Tommy Sikes, Vice-Mayor James Turner, Councilmembers Clyde Kreeger, Chris Riggs and Scott Swanson

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Councilmembers Fernando Fernandez and Donny Young

VII. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT ON CURRENT EVENTS

(This is the time Councilmember's may present a brief summary on current events. The Council may not propose, discuss, deliberate or take any legal action on the information presented except that an individual Councilmember may ask that an item be placed on a future agenda.)

Councilmember Scott Swanson had a good Cinco De Mayo with lots of food and candy that he had never had before; Mayor Tommy Sikes asked how the dog situation is going for Councilmember Swanson and Councilmember Swanson spoke about the 84 dogs and puppies that he has just taken in 2 moms and 6 puppies were taken in from the Palms and they were full of fleas and ticks. County came to pick them up and one of puppies has already been adopted. Councilmember Swanson is getting them off the streets and into homes and they are being fixed and getting their shots. The dogs in town are suffering with diseases like parvo and instead of putting them in a plastic bag on the street this is what we need to do.

Councilmember Chris Riggs would like to address and show appreciation for DPS Officer Bowers as he was outstanding in his response to the Cinco De Mayo Celebration incident. He was first to arrive and did a great job and Councilmember Riggs will be bringing this up again in Future Agenda Items.

VIII. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

(This is the time the Town Manager may present a brief summary on current events. The Council may not propose, discuss, deliberate, or take any legal action on the information presented except that an individual Councilmember may ask that an item be placed on a future agenda.)

Town Manager Katherine Valenzuela spoke about the MAG meeting and Proposition 479 which will be going to voters in November to extend the \$.05 sales tax that helps to fund transportation. If the proposition passes it will be extended through 2045 otherwise it will end in 2025 and there will be a \$28.2 billion dollar investment loss for transportation funds which will impact economic development. The State budget is in a \$1.3 billion deficit and this money may be cut from HERF funding. Town Manager Katherine Valenzuela will be scheduling work sessions soon for the budget. Game and Fish awarded

a grant for the shooting range and thank you to Councilmember Riggs and Parks and Recreation Manager Pat Riggs and their sons for assisting with the development of this grant which will help with the safety, signage and maintenance of the burms.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(This is the time Councilmembers may request items be placed on future agendas. Requests for future agenda items that are supported by at least 3 Councilmembers shall be added to future agendas. No discussion or voting shall occur on future agenda items.)

Councilmember Chris Riggs would like Council to entertain the idea of giving a letter of commendation to Officer Bowers with DPS and sending the commendation to Col. Jeffery Glover the Director of the Department of Public Safety as well as a copy to the Assistant Director of the Highway Patrol Division Lt. Col. Deston Coleman. His response to the incident at the town park was significantly faster than the response we received from MCSO and Councilmember Riggs would like to show that we appreciate our DPS officers when they go above and beyond like they did that day. This was supported by Mayor Tommy Sikes, Vice-Mayor James Turner, Councilmember Scott Swanson agreed with this item.

Special Meeting: Mayor and Council will convene into a Special Meeting for a Board of Adjustment Variance hearing.

Councilmember Chris Riggs moved to convene into a Special Meeting for BOA Variance Hearing Second by Vice-Mayor James Turner

For: Mayor Tommy Sikes, Vice-Mayor James Turner, Councilmembers Clyde Kreeger, Chris Riggs, and Scott Swanson

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Councilmembers Fernando Fernandez and Donny Young

A. Love's Sign Variance: The applicant, Effective Images, is requesting the approval of a Variance for an additional height of 5.1 feet for a sign to be placed at the Loves's Travel Center located at 820 W Pima Street. **Discussion and action**

Sandra Hoffman with Logan Simpson provides Mayor and Council with information regarding the signage variance that Love's is applying for. The sign height variance is for general visibility due to the semis and safety as Love's will be easier to locate with the height of the sign. If the variance is approved the stipulation would be to include the purchase and approval of the necessary building permits.

Councilmember Scott Swanson asked about the signs and the difference and Sandra Hoffman explains the overall size and height which did not change but more updating to the overall sign. Councilmember Swanson thanked the Love's Representative for making improvements and the representative agreed and is happy to be here.

Councilmember Scott Swanson moved to approve the variance of the additional 5.1 feet for a sign to be placed at the Love's Travel Center

Second by Councilmember Chris Riggs

Motion to approve the Love's Travel Center sign variance passed (5-0)

For: Mayor Tommy Sikes, Vice-Mayor James Turner, Councilmembers Clyde Kreeger, Chris Riggs and Scott Swanson

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Councilmembers Fernando Fernandez and Donny Young

Councilmember Chris Riggs moved to come out of the Special Meeting and move into Executive Session number one

Second by Vice-Mayor James Turner

Motion to come out of the Special Meeting and move into Executive Session number one passed (5-0)

For: Mayor Tommy Sikes, Vice-Mayor James Turner, Councilmembers Clyde Kreeger, Chris Riggs and Scott Swanson

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Councilmembers Fernando Fernandez and Donny Young

- X. **Executive Session:** Mayor and Town Council may convene into executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3)&(4) for legal advice and discussion concerning the building permitting process and the Town's contracts for building permitting services. **Discussion only**

Executive Session: The Mayor and Town Council may convene into executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for legal advice concerning MCSO's Cinco De Mayo incident response and liability issues associated therewith.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Chris Riggs moved to adjourn at 7:36 pm

Second by Councilmember Clyde Kreeger

Motion to adjourn at 7:36 pm passed (5-0)

For: Mayor Tommy Sikes, Vice-Mayor James Turner, Councilmembers Clyde Kreeger, Chris Riggs and Scott Swanson

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Councilmembers Fernando Fernandez and Donny Young


Tommy Sikes, Mayor


ATTEST:



Beth Sanchez
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Council Meeting held on May 14, 2024 and that the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.


Beth Sanchez
Town Clerk

This agenda posted no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting at the following locations:

Town Website: www.gilabendaz.org

Gila Bend Post Office bulletin board: 109 W Papago

Gila Bend Town Hall lobby: 644 W Pima

Community Center lobby: 202 N Euclid