

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING  
GILA BEND TOWN COUNCIL  
**Tuesday September 12, 2023; 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	Council Member Chris Riggs
Vice Mayor James Turner	Council Member Scott Swanson
Council Member Fernando Fernandez <i>absent</i>	Council Member Donny Young
Council Member Clyde Kreeger	

III. **CONSENT AGENDA** (all items subject to approval by a single motion; any Council Member 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 August 22, 2023 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 \$277,381.90 and approve claims in the amount of \$268,567.16 all for the period of August 15, 2023 through September 5, 2023. **Discussion and possible action**  
*Councilmember Chris Riggs moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented*  
*Second by Councilmember Clyde Kreeger*  
*With no discussion Mayor Tommy Sikes called for the vote*  
*Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented passed (6-0)*  
*For: Mayor Tommy Sikes, Vice-Mayor James Turner, Councilmembers*  
*Clyde Kreeger, Chris Riggs, Scott Swanson and Donny Young*  
*Against: 0*  
*Abstain: 0*  
*Absent: Councilmember Fernando Fernandez*

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

- A. **Approval of the contract between the Town of Gila Bend and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action to approve the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) contract in the amount of \$729,251.24 for fiscal year 2023-2024. **Discussion and possible action**  
*Vice-Mayor James Turner moved to approve the contract between the Town of Gila Bend and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$729,251.24 as presented*  
*Second by Councilmember Clyde Kreeger*

*Councilmember Chris Riggs asked if there would be a representative from the Sheriff's Office tonight and expressed his concern over incidents that were brought to his attention regarding a man walking into a Town owned facility and exposed himself to staff. The responding deputy said that due to no video evidence it is a he said she said situation and no charges were filed. Councilmember Riggs would like an explanation from MCSO as another incident from the same person occurred at a store in town where the man was grabbing at his waistline and proceeded to grab himself in front of the employee. Councilmember Donny Young asked about cameras in this store of which a brief discussion was had regarding the employee and the incident.*

*Town Attorney Allen Quist added that these are questions that could be asked of an MCSO representative as they may be able to better explain their policies in this situation.*

*Vice-Mayor James Turner expressed his agreement with Councilmember Riggs and would also like to speak with a representative from MCSO.*

*Mayor Tommy Sikes spoke about the contract and the deadline to approve the contract and a brief discussion was held regarding the need to approve the contract tonight. Councilmember Scott Swanson spoke about the ability to vote to approve the contract tonight but pursue answers to the questions posed.*

*With no further discussion Mayor Tommy Sikes called for the vote  
Motion to approve the contract between the Town of Gila Bend and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office as presented passed (5-0)*

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

*Against: Councilmember Chris Riggs*

*Abstain: 0*

*Absent: Councilmember Fernando Fernandez*

- B. **Trap-Neuter-Return Program and Processes:** The Mayor and Town Council may receive and discuss information regarding Trap-Neuter-Return Program and Processes. **(Item will be presented by Council Member Scott Swanson) Discussion only**  
*Councilmember Scott Swanson spoke to Council regarding the Trap-Neuter-Return Program of which a flyer was provided to Council outlining the details. Discussion was held regarding partnerships and communicating with other cities and towns on how they have implemented programs of this nature.*
- C. **Town Code Chapter 96, Animal Control:** Council Member Scott Swanson requests Council discuss possible revisions to the Town Code, more specifically Chapter 96 Animal Control. **Discussion only**  
**Discussion was held regarding the Town Code Chapter 96, Animal Control and potential updates.**  
**Councilmember Scott Swanson spoke about poultry and updating the Town Code to include a specific number as a limit to how many chickens can be owned.**  
**Councilmember Swanson would like to involve the public to gain input on what the public thinks are reasonable numbers and taking lot size in to consideration as well.**  
**Councilmember Chris Riggs spoke about the sale of eggs and whether there were special provisions for selling a few eggs here and there but not in a commercial capacity.**  
**Councilmember Clyde Kreeger agreed with taking lot size into consideration given the changes in lot sizes of new developments.**  
**Town Attorney Allen Quist spoke about needing to update and amend the zoning code along with the Town Code, and the process of doing so which will involve public**

code along with the Town Code, and the process of doing so which will involve public input.

Discussion continued regarding dogs and enforcement of the Town Code regarding penalties and processes. Multiple inconsistencies were discussed and possible updates.

- D. **Sister Cities Letter of Intent:** The Mayor and Town Council may discuss and possibly take action regarding submittal of a Letter of Intent to establish a sisterhood relationship with Oquito, Mexico and Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point). **Discussion and possibly action**  
**Councilmember Chris Riggs moved to approve the Sister Cities Letter of Intent to establish a sisterhood relationship with Oquito, Mexico and Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point) as presented**  
**Second by Councilmember Donny Young**  
**Councilmember Chris Riggs commented that becoming Sister Cities with Oquito was excellent as the Jesuit Order can be tracked back to this town.**  
**With no further discussion Mayor Tommy Sikes called for the vote**  
**Motion to approve the Sister Cities Letter of Intent as presented passed (6-0)**  
**For: Mayor Tommy Sikes, Vice-Mayor James Turner, Councilmembers Clyde Kreeger, Chris Riggs, Scott Swanson and Donny Young**  
**Against: 0**  
**Abstain: 0**  
**Absent: Councilmember Fernando Fernandez**

V. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT ON CURRENT EVENTS**

(This is the time Council Member'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 Council Member may ask that an item be placed on a future agenda)  
**Councilmember Chris Riggs spoke about spreading the bentonite in the pond tomorrow and invited the community to grab a shovel and come and help.**  
**Mayor Tommy Sikes attended the 9/11 Ceremony and thanked Pat for a very nice ceremony.**

VI. **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 Council Member may ask that an item be placed on a future agenda)  
**Town Manager Katherine Valenzuela reported on the progress of the aluminum plant and a pre-application meeting scheduled for this Friday. The Gila Bend Ranch has been receiving inquiries from home developers for homes and RVs. Town Manager Katherine Valenzuela also spoke about the bentonite clay being spread over the pond tomorrow.**

- VII. **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.)*  
**No Call To The Public**

VIII. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

(This is the time Council Member's may request items be placed on future agenda's)

**Councilmember Scott Swanson would like to add a workshop to discuss the Town Code Chapter 96, Animal Control**

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Vice-Mayor James Turner moved to Adjourn at 6:50 pm**

**Second by Councilmember Chris Riggs**

**With no discussion Mayor Tommy Sikes called for the vote**

**Motion to Adjourn at 6:50 pm passed (6-0)**

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

**Against: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Absent: Councilmember Fernando Fernandez**

NOTE: The Council may go into Executive Session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Town's Attorney(s) on any of the above agenda items pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3).

  
Tommy Sikes, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Beverly Turner, MMC

Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Council Meeting held on September 12, 2023 and that the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

  
Beverly Turner, MMC  
Town Clerk

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

**Town Website: [www.gilabendaz.org](http://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**