



TOWN OF JEROME

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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JEROME TOWN COUNCIL

Council Chambers, Jerome Town Hall, 600 Clark Street

TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2021, AT 7:00 P.M.

<p>ITEM #1: 7:00 (0:16)</p>	<p>CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL Mayor/Chairperson to call meeting to order. <i>Mayor Jack Dillenberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.</i> Town Clerk to call and record the roll. <i>Town Manager/Clerk Candace Gallagher called the roll. Present were Mayor Dillenberg, Vice Mayor Mandy Worth, and Councilmembers Sage Harvey, Alex Barber, and Jane Moore. Also present were Police Lt. Rusty San Felice, Zoning Administrator John Knight, Finance Manager Melanie Atkin, and Deputy Town Clerk Rosa Cays.</i> <i>Mayor Dillenberg rearranged the agenda and moved Items #7A, #10B, and #10E to follow Item #2. Agenda items have been left in their original order in these minutes.</i></p>																																										
<p>ITEM #2: 7:01 (1:27)</p>	<p>FINANCIAL REPORTS Financial reports for June 2021 <i>Motion to accept the June 2021 Financial Reports</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="391 842 1393 968"> <thead> <tr> <th>COUNCILMEMBER</th> <th>MOVED</th> <th>SECONDED</th> <th>AYE</th> <th>NAY</th> <th>ABSENT</th> <th>ABSTAIN</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BARBER</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DILLENBERG</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HARVEY</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>MOORE</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>WORTH</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	BARBER		X	X				DILLENBERG			X				HARVEY	X		X				MOORE			X				WORTH			X			
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<p>ITEM #3: 7:44 (44:10)</p>	<p>STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS Reports by the Town Manager/Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Utilities Clerk, Accounting Clerk, Public Works Department, Building Inspector, Library, Municipal Court, Police Chief, and Fire Chief, and Council members. <i>Ms. Gallagher read from her staff report: the FY2021-22 budget is complete; she submitted the application for the American Rescue Plan and has already received \$75,980, which the town will receive again next year and is separate from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) reimbursement. She announced monthly staff meetings have resumed as of June and that Scott Kolu has been hired as the weekend shuttle driver. She spoke with ADOT—they've sent their original plans for the "abandoned" public restroom project on Hull Avenue and the IGA (intergovernmental agreement) done back then. She congratulated police officer Kerry Lee for his 8 years of full-time service and shared June sales tax numbers: \$70k was budgeted, \$141k was brought in, and the parking kiosks made \$21k.</i> <i>Ms. Harvey said she has been getting complaints about the town website, and that each time she is on it, it seems different. Ms. Gallagher said the format has been changed by Municipal Impact; that she will stop changing the color scheme if that is confusing, and offered to help Ms. Harvey navigate the website.</i> <i>Vice Mayor Worth remarked about the renovated bathroom at the police station and was impressed with the staff's work. Ms. Gallagher reminded Council that a financial gift from the Yavapai-Apache Nation made that possible.</i> <i>Motion to accept the June 2021 Staff Reports</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="391 1472 1393 1598"> <thead> <tr> <th>COUNCILMEMBER</th> <th>MOVED</th> <th>SECONDED</th> <th>AYE</th> <th>NAY</th> <th>ABSENT</th> <th>ABSTAIN</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BARBER</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DILLENBERG</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HARVEY</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>MOORE</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>WORTH</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	BARBER			X				DILLENBERG			X				HARVEY		X	X				MOORE			X				WORTH	X		X			
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<p>ITEM #4: 7:52 (52:20)</p>	<p>ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT AND MINUTES Minutes are provided for the information of Council and do not require action. <i>Mr. Knight read from his staff report, highlighting topics discussed at the recent P&Z and DRB meetings, including the public hearing about temporary signs in the commercial district; the approval of Keith Lazaro's site plan review for a new house; and new signs for Jerome Ghost Tours.</i> <i>He then referred to the Rich Street survey maps he had distributed to Council. He pointed out the drivable surface on Rich Street, which is on Verde Exploration property and on Stephanie Kelly's land; and the strong possibility that some of the private parking leased by Vino Zona is on public works county right of way, not Kelly's property. Mr. Knight invited councilmembers to join him on July 22 at 3:30 to walk the properties. He said details of the survey have not been finalized and that he plans to talk with property owners on Rich Street.</i> <i>Mr. Knight said the work being done at the Clubhouse is modern stucco replacing concrete stucco, along with other structural repairs. He will meet with the owner when she is back in town, along with the fire chief and building inspector.</i> <i>Ms. Harvey said she walked the Rich Street survey, and suggested the town consider purchasing the property owned by the Jerome Historical Society to avoid having tandem parking behind Hotel Jerome; the current parking is on TOJ property.</i></p>																																										

ITEM #5:
8:00 (1:01:14)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 6, 2021 (open and closed sessions); June 2, 2021; June 8, 2021; June 9, 2021 (open and closed sessions); June 29, 2021
Note: If necessary for review of closed session minutes, Council may convene in executive session, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(2), for discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection.

Ms. Harvey pointed out corrections to the roll call and voting in the June 29 minutes.

Motion to approve minutes of the May 6 open session

COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY		X	X			
MOORE			X			
WORTH	X		X			

Motion to approve minutes of the May 6 closed session

COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY		X	X			
MOORE			X			
WORTH	X		X			

Motion to approve minutes of the June 2, 8, and 9 (open and closed) meetings

COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER		X	X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
WORTH						X

Motion to approve minutes of the June 29 meeting with corrections

COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER		X	X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
WORTH			X			

ITEM #6:
8:05 (1:05:46)

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no petitions from the public.

ITEM #7
7:02 (2:13)

PRESENTATIONS

ITEM #7A: BROADBAND IN THE VERDE VALLEY

Mary Chicione of the Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization will update the Council on the organization's efforts toward bringing high speed internet to the Verde Valley.

Ms. Chicione said she has been traveling across the Verde Valley talking to city and town councils, unincorporated communities, the rotary, etc., about broadband, a great need for the region. She went through her PowerPoint presentation and talked about the 2018 economic development strategic plan, where housing and broadband were the top priorities, with the latter having impact on every component of the regional plan. She also talked about the Verde Valley Regional Broadband Initiative (VVRBI) that was initiated 11 years ago. Funding was obtained in 2016, but providers would not cooperate, so the project was halted.

Ms. Chicione said their mission is "One gigabit for all" and to "overcome the regional digital divide." She said VVRBI has three goals: To grow and sustain a vibrant economy; to enable businesses and individuals to effectively live and work in a digital world; and to foster a high quality of life with access to telemedicine, seamless access to education, and effective public safety. Ms. Chicione said providers need the network infrastructure in place to get a return on investment (ROI), then showed the proposed "Middle Mile" network map, dark fiber and conduit that she believed would be owned by the state. She quickly covered the five phases of the project and said they were hoping for funding from the county for construction. Ms. Chicione then listed all the aspects of support the project has behind it, including letters of support, key players like NACOG, APS, and ADOT, and cities and towns willing to match grant funding.

Mayor Dillenberg said he did not see mentioned in the packet the uniqueness of Jerome.

Councilmember Barber addressed this and said the mayor was referring to the town not wanting more poles and cell sites or visual clutter. She said fiberoptic already comes to town hall and that a survey needs to be done to see if the residents feel the need for faster internet. She also asked if the fiber optics already in place would need to tie into the Middle Mile network and if it could be done without cell sites.

Ms. Chicione asked who owns the fiber optics to Jerome. Ms. Gallagher said that it was installed by Cable One (now Sparklight). Ms. Chicione said the Middle Mile network would eliminate cable that is owned by single providers and would allow any provider lease access to the network, which would be underground. She said existing APS poles would also be an option.

Ms. Barber asked for clarification regarding Sparklight service in Jerome. Ms. Gallagher said she believed it was for businesses only, not residential, and that the company caused a ruckus when they installed unsightly cabling on APS poles. She said future installations underground would be an improvement. Ms. Chicione said the Village of Oak Creek has also requested that their skyline be left clear and unobstructed. She said the Middle Mile would be underground, but once they

start branching out to communities, it cannot all be underground. “Sometimes you have to compromise if you want broadband,” she said, because no provider will go to the expense of going underground to each home. Councilmember Moore asked if this would eliminate the need for cell towers. Ms. Chicone said it would depend on the connectivity that’s available and what design would work best for Jerome. She said she would update the Council as the project moved forward.

ITEM #8:

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

8:06 (1:06:06)

ITEM # 8A: RESOLUTION NO. 620, A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JEROME, ARIZONA, LEVYING UPON THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF PROPERTY WITHIN THE TOWN A CERTAIN SUM OF MONEY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 TO BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE VALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR PRIMARY TAX PURPOSES.

Council may approve the property tax levy for the Town of Jerome for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. No increase in the tax levy has been proposed.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 620

COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
WORTH		X	X			

8:06 (1:06:42)

ITEM #8B: RESOLUTION NO. 621, A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JEROME, ARIZONA, COMPILING AND RESTATING FEES CHARGED BY THE TOWN

Council may approve Resolution No. 621.

Ms. Barber asked about the building fees, which Ms. Gallagher said were part of Ordinance 358 and that she has asked Building Inspector Barry Wolstencroft to remove items that do not apply to Jerome and that she would bring that back to Council for revision in the future.

Vice Mayor Worth clarified for the record that all existing fees from the town code and zoning ordinance were simply being compiled in one place, which Ms. Gallagher confirmed.

Ms. Moore said this has made it clear how confusing it was to have the fees scattered through the code and ordinance.

Ms. Gallagher clarified for Ms. Barber that the fee schedule would now be in a resolution and not in the town code or zoning ordinance, and that the public could access it online or obtain a hard copy from town hall. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Knight said some fees should be adjusted and increased.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 621

COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
WORTH		X	X			

8:11 (1:11:45)

ITEM #8C: FIRST READING - ORDINANCE NO. 473, AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JEROME, ARIZONA AMENDING THE JEROME TOWN CODE, JEROME SUBDIVISION CODE AND JEROME ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING FEES CHARGED BY THE TOWN

Council may conduct the first reading of Ordinance No. 473.

The first reading was conducted in title only. Ms. Gallagher said she would delete “Zoning Ordinance” from the title, since fees are not included in the zoning ordinance.

8:12 (1:12:22)

ITEM #8D: FIRST READING – ORDINANCE NO. 474, AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JEROME, ARIZONA AMENDING SECTIONS 201, 502, 503, 504 AND 505 OF THE JEROME ZONING ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH BEEKEEPING AS A CONDITIONAL USE IN ALL ZONES, AND TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS REGARDING SAME

Council may conduct the first reading of Ordinance No. 474.

Mayor Dillenberg conducted the first reading in title only.

Ms. Moore read from section 207 of the ordinance regarding the queen bee’s “gentleness” and a defensive hive, and should a colony sting passersby, what the beekeeper must do. She asked who would determine these things. Mr. Knight said a consultant or another expert in the area could be called.

Ms. Harvey said it would be hard to prove the bee came from a beekeeper’s hive. Mr. Knight said he can make minor changes prior to the second reading of this ordinance and that he would consult with a beekeeping expert.

8:15 (1:15:14)

ITEM #8E: RESOLUTION NO. 622, ESTABLISHING WORKERS COMPENSATION RATES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS

Council may adopt Resolution No. 622.

Ms. Barber asked for clarification. Ms. Gallagher said that a volunteer firefighter was recently injured while on duty and a workman’s comp issue came up as a result. She explained that the town needs to have a resolution on file with the Risk

Pool stating what the equivalent salary is for a firefighter. Ms. Gallagher said this will unfortunately increase the yearly premium with the risk pool by a few thousand dollars.

Ms. Moore said Risk Pool used to do workshops with the town regarding safety protocol and asked if they could meet with the Jerome Fire Department. She said they have been to Jerome before to meet with the town crew as a group.

Ms. Gallagher said she would ask about this, but that they have sent a representative over the years to make sure safety practices are in place.

Ms. Barber asked for clarification on the total financial increase, which Ms. Gallagher said would be approximately \$4,000.

Ms. Moore asked if this was because of the accident. Ms. Gallagher said the accident shed light on the fact that the town did not have the resolution in place.

Ms. Harvey confirmed that the injured volunteer firefighter was being financially supported.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 622

COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG		X	X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
WORTH			X			

ITEM #9:
8:19 (1:19:15)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITEM #9A: WATER AND SEWER RATES – NOTICE OF INTENT

Council will discuss the recommendations made by Dan Jackson of Willdan Financial Services regarding changes to our water and sewer rate structure and may approve a Notice of Intent in that regard.

Ms. Moore said a resident in town came to the Council saying the billing was unfair and that he's not alone in this opinion. Council engaged Willdan to survey our water rates to come up with a fair way to charge for water and how to implement changes. She said a notice of intent sets a time clock and gives Council two months to talk about changing the water rates and set up a public hearing. Ms. Moore said the Council is going to need at minimum a couple of workshops to consider doing this, especially regarding out-of-town accounts and how to charge for those homes miles away, those just outside the limits, and even those that straddle the town limits. She reminded Council that they had discussed changing rates for out-of-town and commercial users, and that it is important that enough money is collected to maintain the water and sewer systems. Ms. Moore said she despises looking at water as a commodity, and that it is not fair that the use of water is based on what the person can afford. She said it is important to maintain a habitat for critters and trees as well, and proposed having a workshop or two between now and the public hearing on Sept 14.

Ms. Barber clarified what the notice of intent entailed. She also said residential accounts would be difficult to charge by usage since not all residences have designated water meters. She also shared her feelings about the importance of keeping in place the community that still exists, and letting the tourists help pay for water usage.

Mayor Dillenberg said workshops would be good to hold, then asked Ms. Gallagher for her opinion and about the timing of the notice of intent. Ms. Gallagher said it would be a good first step and explained that approving the notice of intent does not obligate the Council to make any changes.

Council broke for a 7-minute recess at 8:29 p.m.

Motion to approve Notice of Intent regarding changes to Jerome water and sewer rate structure

COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY		X	X			
MOORE			X			
WORTH	X		X			

8:41 (1:30:30)

ITEM #9B: DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE REGARDING SPECIAL EVENTS

Council will continue their discussion of the regulation of special events in Jerome and may initiate the process for the adoption of an ordinance.

Ms. Gallagher presented a draft which she said was a simplified version of the cumbersome draft ordinance presented at the last meeting.

Ms. Moore approved of it and asked about private events on private property. She said events at Spook Hall have impacted parking and traffic in the past and asked if block parties would also be considered. A brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Moore gave other examples of types of events that have attracted large crowds and suggested that they be directed to park at the 300 level. Ms. Gallagher said that if a public road was being used for an event, the organizers would need a permit. As for private events, she said she cannot see how the town can regulate them and will check with the Town attorney about that.

Mr. Knight said the main difference is that private events are intended for specific people. If it is open to the public on a residential street, a permit would likely be needed. He said town-sponsored events could be exempt and suggested not regulating special events in residential areas.

Ms. Moore asked about the NA (Narcotics Anonymous) events at Spook Hall and wondered how much businesses would be impacted if the approximately 300 attendees took up a lot of the parking. Ms. Harvey added that attendees are not likely to patronize the businesses, other than the eating establishments, because of how the event is set up.

Ms. Gallagher started a discussion about which events were town sponsored, such as the home tour and Halloween ball,

8:53 (1:42:01)

and which ones should be exempt. Mr. Knight suggested a resolution listing the separate town events to indicate which are exempt. He also asked if Council would want to require a permit for events such as the film festival or a motorcycle rally, for example.

Ms. Gallagher clarified that no action was needed at this time and that she would be contacting Town Attorney Bill Sims with a list of questions from Council, should they want to add any other questions about the ordinance.

ITEM #9C: COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

Zoning Administrator John Knight will update Council regarding the Community Garden.

Mr. Knight said the community garden, started during the COVID pandemic, had a good start while people had the time to volunteer, and that Council asked him to stop working on the garden toward the end of 2020. He said he has obtained a couple of fence estimates but has held off going forward with construction to make sure Council is still supportive of the community garden. He also expressed interest in doing workshops on the weekends.

Mayor Dillenberg said he wants to see it continue. He asked about the fence, which Ms. Gallagher said would cost approximately \$8,000.

Ms. Harvey asked how many people were currently involved. Mr. Knight replied three or four people and that there are 11 beds. He said interest needs to be built up again by getting plants growing.

Ms. Harvey said she didn't think the town should be paying anyone to work on the community garden, and that Mr. Knight can volunteer to conduct workshops if he so chooses. She said if there is not enough community interest, then perhaps Middle Park could be expanded, and pollinator beds could be planted.

Vice Mayor Worth suggested reaching out to Mingus High students in the agriculture class to see if they would like to start a project.

(1:48:23) Jerome resident Lacy Ritter asked for clarification on the paid position. She said fencing will encourage people to get involved and asked about the shed and tools, etc., that were previously planned. Mr. Knight said nothing is in place since they did not get beyond completing the fencing. He said they need to rebuild the interest and energy, and as for the shed, they do need a place to keep tools secure.

Ms. Barber suggested stirring up excitement via the town newsletter and asked about the APS tree voucher. Ms. Gallagher said the voucher had expired. Ms. Barber suggested getting a volunteer to direct the project.

Ms. Gallagher mentioned that the fencing was being paid for by Prop 202 funds from the Yavapai-Apache Nation and that there was plenty of funding to pay for it.

Mayor Dillenberg said to get the fencing installed. Ms. Harvey suggested having a plaque posted to recognize the tribe for the financial gift. Mr. Knight said that once the deposit is paid, the company will start the installation of the fence.

Ms. Moore suggested inviting the Yavapai-Apache Nation to plant native plants in a couple of the beds.

ITEM #10:

NEW BUSINESS

9:05 (1:54:16)

ITEM #10A: INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT: POLICE DISPATCHING EQUIPMENT

Council will review and may approve a renewed IGA with the Town of Clarkdale regarding police dispatching equipment.

Ms. Gallagher said the agreement was not ready so no action could be taken. Council moved on to the next item.

7:19 (19:28)

ITEM #10B: APPOINTMENT TO DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Council may make an appointment to fill the vacancy on the Design Review Board for the remainder of the term ending February 28, 2024. As of agenda preparation date, one application had been received, from Mimi Romberger. Any additional applications received prior to or at the meeting will be considered as well.

Mr. Knight introduced Jerome resident and businessowner Mimi Romberger and said she would be a great addition to the Design Review Board.

Mayor Dillenberg said he agreed 100 percent.

Ms. Barber said she was concerned that Ms. Romberger had not read the zoning ordinance according to her answer on the application. Ms. Romberger said she plans to read it before she sits on the board.

Ms. Moore asked Ms. Romberger if she was willing to educate herself on Jerome's architecture.

(21:55) Ms. Romberger stepped forward to reply to Ms. Moore and thanked the Council, then stated that she was very concerned about keeping the Jerome spirit and keeping the history and that she was doing her homework, even through her artwork. She said she loves the town.

Ms. Gallagher clarified for the record that this appointment was for the remainder of the term ending February 28, 2024.

Mr. Knight mentioned that he does extensive training with all the new board members.

Motion to appoint Mimi Romberger to the Jerome Design Review Board, term ending February 28, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY		X	X			
MOORE			X			
WORTH	X		X			

9:05 (1:54:24)

ITEM #10C: AFFORDABLE/WORKFORCE HOUSING STUDY

Zoning Administrator John Knight will report to Council regarding the possibility of University of Arizona students completing a study in Jerome regarding affordable/workforce housing.

	<p>Mr. Knight said people who work in town cannot afford to live in town, so it is important to develop affordable housing. He said he was approached by the University of Arizona and that Verde Ex said they would donate \$5k to cosponsor a project to research and develop affordable housing in Jerome. The project would be managed by the town. Mr. Knight said students are limited as to what they can do, but they can gather information and provide perspective. He said they would need housing while they explore the town for one night or two.</p> <p>Vice Mayor Worth said she liked the proposal except for the fact that UA wants Jerome to pay for the housing study. She said graduate students typically like to compete in projects like this and will be charged an entry fee to participate. She praised Verde Ex for being willing to financially cosponsor, but that she has a big issue with one public entity charging another public entity to do this.</p> <p>Ms. Harvey said she agreed with the vice mayor. She said if the town is going to pay someone, we should hire professionals, not students.</p> <p>Mayor Dillenberg said in-kind donations might be okay to support the project. He asked Mr. Knight to tell them the town is interested but to take the \$5k “off the table.”</p> <p>Ms. Moore said let Verde Ex pay the \$5k to look at their project.</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher said if Jerome residents were willing to host the students, it would bring the cost way down; and if Verde Ex is willing to pay \$5k, it would negate the town from having to pay anything at all.</p> <p>Vice Mayor worth said that if the town would not have to spend town or the taxpayers’ money, she is fine with the project. A brief discussion continued about housing the students.</p>
<p>9:16 (2:05:04)</p>	<p>ITEM #10D: LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING</p> <p>Council will discuss the upcoming redistricting process.</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher said all the towns in the Verde Valley want to be in the same district and want it known. She said if Council agrees, a statement can be drafted in support of this.</p> <p>Vice Mayor said she likes 90 percent of the redistricting process and that from a regional “voice” perspective, the Verde Valley citizens need this; they would have more say. She said if the municipalities can work with the same congressional/legislative leaders, they can work better to do what is best for the region. It would also be a cost-saving measure. She said Jerome, Clarkdale, and Cottonwood are grouped with Prescott, and that Sedona and Camp Verde are grouped with Flagstaff.</p> <p>Council expressed their support. Ms. Worth said she planned to be at the redistricting meeting and can present the statement in person.</p> <p>Ms. Moore said she has attended similar meetings in the past and did not feel heard; she hopes it is different now.</p>
<p>7:24 (24:02)</p>	<p>ITEM #10E: COMMUNITY CARE</p> <p>Council will discuss ways in which the community could come together to watch out and care for our most vulnerable citizens.</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher read a letter from Margie Hardie stating her support for a community-based program.</p> <p>Mayor Dillenberg thanked Police Lt. Rusty San Felice for attending the meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Moore said she has received many phone calls since Jerome resident Denise Guth disappeared, citizens asking questions about what they can do as a community to prevent this from happening in the future. She felt Chief Muma’s letter [in the agenda packet] was essentially quashing anything the residents could do as a community and found this disturbing. She said that after reading his response to Jerome resident Linda Heidenreich’s letter [also in the packet], she didn’t know what to say.</p> <p>Mayor Dillenberg suggested holding a public meeting to discuss this as a group, to which Ms. Moore agreed. The mayor asked what the next step would be.</p> <p>Ms. Moore said that based on Chief Muma’s letter, it seemed residents would be legally restricted in ways they haven’t been in the past.</p> <p>Councilmember Harvey said she has had conversations with Chief Muma about the legal aspects of these types of situations. She said the town could help facilitate the effort, though she didn’t think it was necessary. She pointed out that Jerome has a phonebook, people can call each other on their own—it’s about community paying attention. Ms. Harvey stated that she was appalled by rumors she has heard about the police department and strongly defended them and the fire department. She said Jerome has changed; that it is not the tightknit community it used to be.</p> <p>Vice Mayor Mandy Worth said the legalities around this are difficult and it would have to be kept extremely “general.” She suggested looking for guidance from other towns or the League to see if there is an organization that can present on how to approach this. Vice Mayor Worth said resources abound regarding geriatric mental health, and that perhaps helping some of the elders make sure they have their personal affairs in place (e.g., family contacts, power of attorney, advanced directive, etc.) in case of emergency is one way to go about this.</p> <p>Mayor Dillenberg said he feels Council should do something and perhaps reach out to Town Attorney Bill Sims who likely knows of other communities and what they’re doing, and suggested pursuing public interest in Jerome via a town meeting.</p> <p>(33:35) Jerome resident Lacy Ritter asked for clarification: was the Council saying there are legal issues around checking on a neighbor?</p> <p>Vice Mayor Worth said that as an official government body, the Council has rules to follow. Mayor Dillenberg said it could</p>

not be under Council auspices but that they could be involved on some level.

Ms. Ritter said she has seen posts on the community bulletin board about neighbors in need and wondered if there was a legal issue with helping them.

[The meeting was disrupted when a drone appeared outside the window. Lt. San Felice left the meeting to investigate.]

Ms. Moore said some folks are not on Facebook or don't get the Verde Independent online, and there seemed to be a lack of communication with the community, to keep them informed. She asked how the residents could get transparency in these situations, and that perhaps a town hall with residents could be the protocol.

Ms. Ritter asked at what point is an individual crossing a legal line if they're checking on a neighbor? Ms. Harvey said she would be free to check on a neighbor or even call the JPD to do a welfare check. Vice Mayor Worth clarified that the councilmembers as individuals can do whatever they choose to be supportive of the community, but that as a governing body, they are restricted.

Ms. Gallagher suggested creating a resource page on the town website that updates residents with information along with links to helpful social services. Vice Mayor Worth suggested the Area Agency on Aging and to check with Megan at NACOG for other resources. Ms. Gallagher said she could start on this right away.

Ms. Barber said that in his letter, Chief Muma suggested an individual could have a list of people who first responders could call at all hours in case of emergency, which she thought was a good idea, and that she would get on that list.

Mayor Dillenberg said this was an opportunity to do something meaningful as a community. Ms. Barber agreed.

Ms. Harvey said we also must trust our police and fire departments. She said part of what is happening in this situation is that a community member died unexpectedly and too soon, and folks didn't know the circumstances around the cause. She defended the JPD and JFD once again for their dedication to Jerome.

Ms. Gallagher said that since not everyone is on the web, she could do a mailing to inform all the residents about the information on the website's resource page, once created..

Ms. Moore asked if the letter from Chief Muma was public; Ms. Gallagher replied yes. Ms. Harvey suggested it be posted [Ms. Cays posted it the next day].

ITEM #11:
9:20 (2:09:12)

TO AND FROM THE COUNCIL

Council may direct staff regarding items to be placed on a future agenda.

Ms. Worth said the Rich Street block party was great and to see people in person was awesome. She reminded everyone that the food bank would be open the next day with lots of produce, and that a box of groceries could be delivered to anyone who could not come to the church in person. The vice mayor also reminded the public that the Joan Evans memorial was on Saturday, July 31. She asked for an update on hiring a backup court clerk, a backup building inspector, and to see if anyone on town staff was interested in training to do fire inspections.

Ms. Moore said the concrete wall below Passion Cellars is leaning more; Ms. Gallagher said she would alert Public Works Director Marty Boland. A brief discussion followed. Ms. Moore asked about the tile in the parking lot across from the Spirit Room. Ms. Gallagher said Mr. Boland will salvage as much as possible, and that he is getting one section that says BANK on it back from the Gold King Mine. Ms. Moore also asked about setting up a meeting to discuss water rates and a community meeting about what residents can do to help each other in town once legal questions are answered. Ms. Gallagher said she would start work on the website resource page. Vice Mayor Worth said Yavapai County can do presentations on this and other related topics.

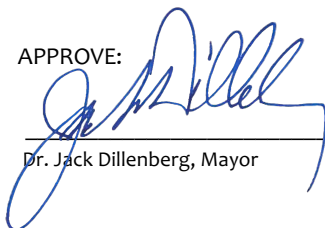
ITEM #12:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:28 p.m.


COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
WORTH		X	X			

APPROVE:



Dr. Jack Dillenberg, Mayor

ATTEST:



Candace B. Gallagher, CMC, Town Manager/Clerk

Date: 8/11/2021