

# TOWN OF JEROME

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**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE JEROME TOWN COUNCIL**  
**CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021 AT 10:00 AM**

<p><b>ITEM #1:</b> 10:00 (0:14)</p>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL</b></p> <p>Mayor/Chairperson to call meeting to order.</p> <p>Mayor Dillenberg called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Town Clerk to call and record the roll.</p> <p>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 Town Attorney Bill Sims, Utilities Clerk Kristen Muenz, and Deputy Town Clerk Rosa Cays.</p> <p>Before moving on to Item #2, Mayor Dillenberg thanked Mr. Sims, Councilmember Moore, and others for their work on the staff summary.</p>																																										
<p><b>ITEM #2:</b> 10:02 (1:37)</p>	<p><b>WATER AND SEWER RATES</b></p> <p>Council will continue their discussion of possible changes to the water and sewer rate structure as presented in a study completed by Willdan Financial Services. A portion of this discussion may be conducted in executive session with the Town Attorney, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3) and (A)(4).</p> <p>Ms. Moore said that, because of Covid and having to conduct meetings via Zoom, she wanted to work with Ms. Cays on drafting something for the upcoming town newsletter so the public knows these discussions are happening. She also said it is of utmost importance that the town is covering costs when they make changes to the water rate structure.</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher noted that the memo Council received is for discussion during closed session, which was the next step. She asked Jerome business owner John Bartell, who was online, if he had anything to say before Council went into closed session.</p> <p>10:04 (3:12) Mr. Bartell said that he agreed that the public needs to know about these discussions, but suggested that we also let people know that the upside of doing this is that it will save residents money. Mr. Bartell asked why Council had to go into executive session.</p> <p>(4:37) Mr. Sims replied to Mr. Bartell and told him that risks being considered will be discussed in executive session but that the outcome will be explained to the public.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion to go into executive session</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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 style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DILLENBERG</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HARVEY</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>MOORE</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>WORTH</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Before the mayor could call the question, Mr. Bartell requested a copy of any public information discussed during the executive session.</p> <p>Ms. Moore told Mr. Bartell that a few legal questions needed to be answered and that she too wants the information available to the public, that everyone needs water, and a new rate structure needs to be fair and cover costs.</p> <p>Council then moved into executive session at 10:08 a.m.</p> <p>At 10:55 a.m., Council returned to open session.</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher reviewed a list of questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does Council wish to change billing for commercial accounts to a volumetric billing effective January 1?       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If so, Council will need to adopt a Resolution by December 1, 2021.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Does Council wish to work toward volumetric billing for residential customers?       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If commercial accounts are changed first, we can use experience gained with those in order to best determine how to move forward with the residential accounts, perhaps within the next two years.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	COUNCILMEMBER	MOVED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	BARBER			X				DILLENBERG			X				HARVEY	X		X				MOORE		X	X				WORTH			X			
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- Does Council wish to establish a water line maintenance fee based on the distance from where our water enters the town?

(11:23) Mr. Bartell said that he agreed with the line maintenance fee and pointed out that Prescott charges a 40 percent premium to all outside residents.

- Does Council wish to go forward with looking at a 10,000-gallon base minimum?

(13:18) Mr. Bartell said that according to the EPA and the USGS, the average water use is 82 gallons per day, or 2400 gallons per month. He explained how setting a 10,000-gallon minimum would affect lower-income residents.

Ms. Gallagher summarized what had been decided—yes to all questions but the last one (regarding the 10,000 gallon minimum)—and said she would schedule another work session prior to the public hearing. She explained to Mr. Bartell about the public hearing taking place via Zoom and the possibility of continuing it so that the public is given ample opportunity to participate.

Mr. Bartell mentioned that Willdan had submitted a proposal for starting with just the commercial accounts.

**ITEM #3:**  
11:04 (16:37)

**ADDENDUM TO AGREEMENT WITH WILLDAN FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Council may approve an addendum to the agreement with Willdan Financial Services for consulting services regarding the town’s water and sewer rate structure.

Councilmember Harvey said it would be wise to approve this addendum and have Dan Jackson of Willdan join Council at upcoming meetings to be sure they are doing things legally.

**Motion to approve the addendum to the agreement with Willdan Financial Services**

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

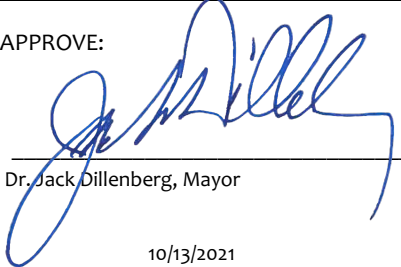
**ITEM #4:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn at 11:05 a.m.**

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

APPROVE:



Dr. Jack Dillenberg, Mayor

Date:

10/13/2021

ATTEST:



Candace B. Gallagher, CMC, Town Manager/Clerk