

# TOWN OF JEROME

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**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JEROME TOWN COUNCIL**  
**CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021 AT 10:00 AM**

<p><b>ITEM #1:</b> 10:00 (0:08)</p>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL</b></p> <p>Mayor/Chairperson to call meeting to order.</p> <p><i>Mayor Jack Dillenberg called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.</i></p> <p>Town Clerk to call and record the roll.</p> <p><i>Town Manager/Clerk Candace Gallagher called the roll. Present were Mayor Dillenberg, Vice Mayor Mandy Worth, and councilmembers Alex Barber and Jane Moore. Councilmember Sage Harvey was not in attendance. Also present were Town Attorney Bill Sims and Deputy Town Clerk Rosa Cays.</i></p>
<p><b>ITEM #2:</b> 10:01 (1:07)</p>	<p><b>AREA TRANSIT</b></p> <p>Council will discuss the possibility of Jerome’s participation in area transit services.</p> <p><i>Ms. Gallagher introduced Tod Morris, senior mobility planner with the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG), and Rudy Rodriguez, Deputy City Manager of Cottonwood.</i></p> <p><i>(3:32) Tod Morris shared a visual presentation and talked about the Jerome Transit Feasibility Plan. He said NACOG jumped in to help Cottonwood and Jerome figure out a good plan for this unique situation and said funding for the project would be available in October 2022. Mr. Morris stated that the transit service would be geared for residents, not necessarily for tourists, and that a service route would need to be determined based on need and interest of Jerome residents. He said what also needs to be determined is if the service is feasible, viable, and desirable, then shared the online survey results conducted last fall, filled out by 78 people, with over 80 percent stating they were Jerome residents. He said this was strong enough data to make determinations. Mr. Morris said most survey takers were aged 50+ who shared their needs for and access to transportation. He also talked about service considerations, such as busses in Jerome, budget, times and days of the week, impact on the supply of drivers, ADA paratransit service (determined by ADOT), and integration with existing Cottonwood area transit (CAT) routes, whose hub is at the Cottonwood Library. Mr. Morris said they were looking for a \$4,500 match from Jerome toward a total of \$9,000 per year to pay for the service. He said they are playing with “red route” adjustments to avoid a need for additional drivers or vehicles and evaluating navigation in Jerome. Mr. Morris said pickup in Jerome could be at the 300-level parking lot, although additional stops by the Sliding Jail and across from Puscifer on Main Street are also being considered. He said they would start with one day per week with a fee of \$1.25 one way that would include one transfer, which they would need because the route would only stop at the Cottonwood Library.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Gallagher asked how often CAT busses go by the library. Mr. Morris said they leave every 45 minutes.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Morris shared an example of a roundtrip to Walmart, which would cost a total of \$2.50 and would take a total of 145 minutes, including two transfers of busses. He then talked about the current “high level” door-to-door shuttle service Jerome offers on Wednesdays and asked if it would remain if public transit were established.</i></p> <p><i>Mayor Dillenberg said the town would maintain both if possible. Mr. Dillenberg asked if Walmart could be approached about free bus passes. Mr. Morris said he has not had much luck with other Walmarts in other rural areas but said he can look into it. Mr. Morris also said he was not sure what the ADA requirements are just yet, since it is an unusual route, and that it is an expensive service.</i></p> <p><i>He then asked if Jerome could make the \$4,500 commitment per year. Ms. Gallagher said it has been budgeted for the last two years in anticipation of adding the transit service.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Moore asked if there would be other stops besides Walmart. Mr. Morris said Walmart was just one stop, which he simply used as an example. He presented a map showing other routes. Mr. Rodriguez said the routes stop at all grocery stores, pharmacies, medical clinics, and Yavapai College.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Moore then suggested other stops in Jerome, including Hampshire Avenue at the high school or overlook lot owned by the Jerome Historical Society, or at the hairpin curve by the old fire station. She asked what times in the day the bus would come up to Jerome. Mr. Morris said this is still being evaluated. Mr. Rodriguez mentioned time constraints because of the effects on other routes, so they plan to start with just one bus stop for now. He was concerned that three stops were being suggested. Ms. Moore clarified that she meant two spots total, one</i></p>

uptown and one lower in town. Mr. Morris said they can play around with stops and see what works in the pilot year.

Mr. Morris said marketing of this new service and familiarizing riders with the CAT system would be important; he welcomed strategies.

Ms. Barber thanked Mr. Morris and Mr. Rodriguez for their work on this project. She said the 300 level is more of a service for tourists and suggested two or three quick stops closer to residents who would use the bus.

Ms. Gallagher asked if there would be flexibility in changing the stops if the ones chosen are not effective. Mr. Morris said he was taking a flexible approach to the whole project. Ms. Gallagher said Council did not seem to think the 300-level stop would serve the residents well, and that perhaps the central steps on Main Street would be a good stop.

Vice Mayor Worth said school bus stops could be considered.

Mr. Rodriguez said they can look at the locations mentioned and make a test run with the stops suggested.

Ms. Barber mentioned that there is a red zone by the steps used by the police and fire departments.

Ms. Moore asked what size bus will be used. Mr. Rodriguez said they are "cutaways" that are 20-25 feet long and 8 feet wide.

Ms. Gallagher asked if certain days would be preferred. Mr. Morris said they are assessing this, and that Thursday was one day being considered. Mr. Rodriguez said Wednesday was also a possibility. He said they need to talk to Clarkdale about adjusting the route.

Ms. Gallagher pointed out that Wednesday is the established day for our existing shuttle service, and that choosing a different day would allow residents two opportunities each week to travel to Cottonwood.

(43:10) Council took a five-minute break.

**ITEM #3:**  
**10:51 (43:16)**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council will convene in executive session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(3) and (A)(4) to confer with and receive legal advice from the Town Attorney regarding:

1. Development agreement re: 300 Queen Street
2. Short term rentals

No action will be taken on these items.

**Motion to go into executive session at 10:51 a.m.**

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

(43:51) Council returned to open session at 11:37 a.m.

Ms. Gallagher stated for the record that at the next Council meeting, Sedona's ordinance regarding short-term rentals would be discussed, with the possibility of doing something similar in Jerome.

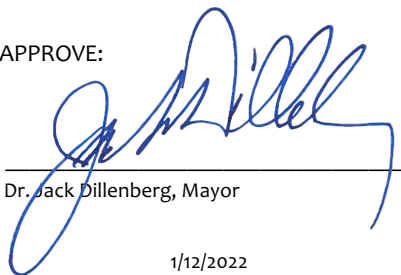
**ITEM #4:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn at 11:39 a.m.**

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

APPROVE:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Jack Dillenberg, Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1/12/2022

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Candace B. Gallagher, CMC, Town Manager/Clerk