

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, HELD FEBRUARY 17, 2009, AT 6:00 P.M., AT THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS BUILDING, 826 NORTH MAIN STREET, COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA.

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CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Joens called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Diane Joens, Mayor  
Karen Pfeifer, Vice Mayor  
James Chapman, Council Member  
Tim Elinski, Council Member  
Duane Kirby, Council Member  
Linda Norman, Council Member  
Terence Pratt, Council Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Doug Bartosh, City Manager	Rudy Rodriguez, Finance Director
Marianne Jiménez, City Clerk	Dan Lueder, Utilities Director
Steve Horton, City Attorney	Scott Mangarpan, Project Manager
Mike Casson, Fire Chief	Jody Fanning, Police Chief
George Gehlert, Community Development Director	Kyla Allen, Executive Assistant
Tim Costello, City Engineer	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Chief Casson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND/OR CITY MANAGER--  
THE PUBLIC BODY DOES NOT PROPOSE, DISCUSS, DELIBERATE OR TAKE LEGAL ACTION ON  
ANY MATTER BROUGHT UP DURING THIS SUMMARY UNLESS THE SPECIFIC MATTER IS  
PROPERLY NOTICED FOR LEGAL ACTION

Mr. Bartosh stated that on Friday the 20th, there would be a grand opening of the Willard Street extension. On March 5th there would be a Board & Commission member training session. A new Council Communications form was e-mailed to Council Members today for their comments. Added to it were areas for a recommended motion and for indicating costs and funding sources.

Council Member Chapman announced his parents from Arkansas were in attendance and introduced them.

Council Member Kirby stated last Wednesday he attended the annual Head Start review of

progress and budget which would be presented to the Northern Arizona Council of Governments on Thursday. Along with other Council Members he attended the ground breaking ceremony for the new recreation center last Tuesday.

Mayor Joens stated ballots would be sent out soon to all registered voters. Representative Ann Kirkpatrick had asked for a list of federal stimulus package projects, which would be given to Council Members for consideration.

Mr. Bartosh stated the list was due to be presented to Congresswoman Kirkpatrick by February 27th.

Mayor Joens stated the list of projects previously submitted would be used. Any others desired by Council Members could be added to that list for the federal fiscal year 2010.

#### CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. John Altizer, of 215 South Cowboy Way, stated the Council should further review the recent resignations of Airport Commission members, two of whom strongly believed the commission broke the law and violated a city ordinance. By ratifying the past commission's actions, the Council may have also violated those same laws. He requested the Council reconsider its decision to ignore the input of 11 pilots who asked the Council not to adopt the Airport Operations and Procedures Manual in total, and only to adopt those portions they recommended. He noted only one Council Member and no staff member had asked him or Mr. Minch why they felt so strongly about this issue or why 3 experienced pilots had resigned from the Commission at the same time.

#### PROCLAMATION—RED CROSS MONTH—MARCH 2009

Mayor Joens read a proclamation declaring the month of March 2009 Red Cross Month in Cottonwood.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE FOURTH QUARTER EMPLOYEE SAFETY AWARD TO RYAN BIGELOW, SPORTS COORDINATOR

A certificate and award payment were presented to Ryan Bigelow in recognition of his selection for the quarterly safety award.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER AWARD FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER TO HEZEKIAH ALLEN, SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

A certificate and award payment was presented to Hezekiah Allen, in recognition of his selection for the employee of the quarter award.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES—Regular Meeting of February 3, 2009

Vice Mayor Pfeifer moved to approve the minutes of February 3, 2009. The motion was seconded by Council Member Norman, and carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS—The following items were for Council discussion, consideration, and possible legal action.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 540—AMENDING THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD ZONING ORDINANCE BY AMENDING SECTION 405. B., DEFINITIONS BY ADDING A NEW DEFINITION FOR SIGN, WALKING; ADDING A NEW SECTION 405. E. 13., SIGN, WALKING; ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION J. TO SECTION 405. D. PERMITS; AND AMENDING SECTION 405. E. 10., OFF-SITE ADVERTISING BY DELETING SECTION 405. E. 10., IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 405. E. 10.; SECOND & FINAL READING

Mr. Gehlert stated this ordinance was being presented for its second reading. It had been before the council several times, as well as the Planning and Zoning Commission. It was part of a larger community process of reviewing the Sign Code which had been ongoing for several years. The State allowed sign walkers, subject to certain standards, rules, and regulations. This ordinance was designed to set those performance standards. Some of the rules included the size of signs permitted and limiting their use to in front of the business location they advertised. Only one was allowed per business. The ordinance also established a permitting process. Staff recommended approval of the ordinance.

Mayor Joens stated for the public's benefit that this item had been discussed by the Council several times. She asked if any Council Member or anyone from the public had comments about this item. There were none.

Council Member Pratt moved to approve Ordinance Number 540. Council Member Kirby seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Joens asked the City Clerk to read Ordinance Number 540 by title only.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 540

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD ZONING ORDINANCE BY AMENDING SECTION 405. B. DEFINITIONS BY ADDING A NEW DEFINITION FOR SIGN, WALKING; ADDING A NEW SECTION 405. E. 13., SIGN, WALKING; ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION J. TO SECTION 405. D. PERMITS; AND AMENDING SECTION 405. E. 10., OFF-SITE ADVERTISING BY DELETING SECTION 405. E. 10., IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 405. E. 10.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 541—AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 2.96, AIRPORT COMMISSION, OF TITLE 2, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL; SECOND & FINAL READING

Mr. Bartosh stated this ordinance was presented for its second and final reading pertaining to changes to the ordinance which created the Airport Commission. The changes made it clearer that the Commission was advisory to the Council and reduced the number of commission members from 7 to 5.

Mayor Joens stated for the public's benefit, that previously two members needed to be citizens but did not need to have airport experience. That had been changed to one member of the five. Four needed to have airport experience or operate a business at the airport. She asked if any Council Member or anyone from the public had comments about this item. There were none.

Council Member Norman moved to approve Ordinance Number 541. Vice Mayor Pfeifer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mayor Joens asked the City Clerk to read Ordinance Number 541 by title only.

#### ORDINANCE NUMBER 541

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 2.96, AIRPORT COMMISSION, OF TITLE 2, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL.

CONSENT AGENDA--The following items were considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Council and would be approved by one motion. There would be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member or a citizen so requested, in which case the item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

#### APPROVAL OF AN EASEMENT TO ALLOW ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE TO UPGRADE THE POWER SUPPLY TO THE CITY'S 8/9 WELL FACILITY

Mayor Joens asked that item 2 be pulled for discussion because it concerned \$60,000 of public money.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer declared a conflict of interest regarding item 3, which was also pulled for discussion.

Council Member Kirby moved to approve the consent agenda, which was just the one item. Council Member Elinski seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### APPROVAL OF SUBMITTING A GRANT FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE CITY'S EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Chief Fanning stated this grant was for \$248,357 from Homeland Security, of which 25 percent was to be paid by the city. The grant was to completely equip the emergency operations center at the police department and would allow video conferencing, video recording, and audio recording. The center would, in time of need, be capable of operating independently from the emergency operations center in Prescott.

Council Member Elinski asked if the 25 percent matching funds from the city had been budgeted.

Chief Fanning stated it had not been, but we would not have an answer regarding the grant until October.

Mayor Joens stated this would be an item for next year's budget. All that was being asked for at this time was permission to apply for the grant. The amount would be worked into next year's budget and discussed at that time.

Mayor Joens asked if there were any questions from the public or further discussion from the Council. There were none.

Council Member Pratt moved to approve having Chief Fanning and the department apply for the grant. The motion was seconded by Council Member Norman and carried unanimously.

SPECIAL EVENT LIQUOR LICENSE FOR THE COTTONWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR AN EVENT SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2009

Ms. Jiménez stated the Chamber of Commerce requested that the Council approve their application for a special event liquor license for a business networking event to be held February 19, 2009, at Country Bank.

Council Member Kirby moved to grant approval of the temporary liquor license. The motion was seconded by Council Member Elinski, and carried unanimously, with Vice Mayor Pfeifer abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

NEW BUSINESS—The following items were for Council discussion, consideration, and possible legal action.

AWARD OF BID FOR INSTALLATION OF TEN FIRE HYDRANTS IN THE VERDE VILLAGE WATER SYSTEM AREA

Mr. Lueder stated that with the purchase of the water companies by the City, the Council made a priority of water flows and fire fighting capabilities. The City had worked closely with the Verde Valley Fire District to identify which areas they felt would best protect lives and property. These ten hydrants were the result of their recommendations. While some were grouped closely together, it was because of the commercial development in that area. Staff recommended that the Council award the bid received from Rocky Construction, under our

underground job order contracting process, for complete installation of 10 fire hydrants for the amount of \$66,835. Approval would allow construction to start next Monday, with completion in a few weeks.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer asked if such construction would improve the insurance rating of the area.

Mr. Lueder stated it would, especially for the commercial properties.

Council Member Pratt asked if there was any conflict with the County since these areas were outside the City limits.

Mr. Lueder stated while the properties were in the County, we had a right-of-way. For each of these, the City would apply for an encroachment permit.

Mayor Joens stated she had contacted the County Supervisor to advise him this item was on the agenda. She expressed her pleasure that communities were working together.

Mr. Lueder concurred and expressed his appreciation since the City was fulfilling its desire to upgrade the system as economic circumstances allowed.

The Mayor asked for public comment. There was none.

Council Member Elinski moved to award the bid for the installation of 10 fire hydrants to Rocky Construction in the amount of \$66,835. The motion was seconded by Council Member Pratt, and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2425—REIMBURSING THE CITY'S WATER UTILITY FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE FOXWORTH-GALBRAITH BUILDING

Mr. Rodriguez stated this resolution was similar to those approved for Riverfront Park and the library expansion. Basically, it set mechanisms in place in case there was reason for floating bonds, or accessing Greater Arizona Development Authority (GADA) funds. Several large projects were coming up, including the Riverfront reclamation facility. While it would initially be funded through cash up front, a reimbursement resolution would be requested. If the Council was to decide in the future to do any financing, and would like to tag items such as this on to that financing, we would be able to reimburse the utility funds for those amounts and could go out and use that money for additional projects in the future. The amount was for 1 million dollars, not the \$650,000 being paid for the Foxworth-Galbraith building. The difference was due to necessary building renovations.

Council Member Elinski asked if it was intended to purchase the Foxworth-Galbraith property for cash.

Mr. Rodriguez stated yes. The cost was to be split between water and wastewater. If

bundling of such items as Riverfront reclamation were to occur, it was prearranged and the Council would not have to worry about it.

Mayor Joens opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

Council Member Kirby moved to adopt Resolution Number 2425. The motion was seconded by Council Member Elinski, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Joens asked the City Clerk to read Resolution Number 2425 by title only.

#### RESOLUTION NUMBER 2425

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, DECLARING, FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 1.150-2 OF THE FEDERAL TREASURY REGULATIONS, OFFICIAL INTENT TO BE REIMBURSED IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN CAPITAL EXPENDITURES RELATING TO THE "FOXWORTH-GALBRAITH BUILDING ACQUISITION".

#### PAY APPLICATION NUMBER ONE FOR THE RECREATION CENTER PROJECT

Mr. Mangarpan stated the first pay application for the recreation center project was a large amount because it included payment for the insurance and performance bonds up front, which was normal for projects of this size. Actual work completed was for grading seen by Council Members at the groundbreaking.

Mayor Joens opened the floor to members of the public for comments. There were none.

Council Member Pratt moved to approve pay application number one on the recreation center project. Vice Mayor Pfeifer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF YAVAPAI COUNTY PROPERTY FOR PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE CITY'S NEW RECREATION CENTER

Mr. Mangarpan stated the agreement was for the purchase of the portion of the parking lot on the recreation center side of Paula Street which the Council discussed about a month and a half ago. Staff requested approval of the terms of the purchase agreement, subject to corrections of typographic errors and legal review by the city attorney. The cost of the property was based on the previously agreed to amount, when we did the last transaction with the county, and adjusted up based on the LGIP yield rates. The amount came to \$159,019. There would be offsets regarding improvements along Paula Street at the county parking lot. It would not change the cost to the city, but offsets would reduce any cash to be paid for the property by our costs of engineering and construction. The current estimate was that our construction costs would be \$125,000 plus \$9,000 engineering costs.

Mayor Joens asked what account the \$159,019 cost would come from.

Mr. Mangarpan stated funding could come from the interest earned on the bond money not yet spent. The County Board of Supervisors had reviewed and approved this proposal.

Council Member Pratt asked if it was correct that the net cash payment amount that would go to the County would amount to about \$25,000.

Mr. Mangarpan stated, yes.

Council Member Pratt said that it stated "It was the opinion of legal counsel that the restriction is perpetual". The original restriction said it had to be used for a pool. He asked if that part of it was perpetual too and would there be a conflict by using it for parking.

Mr. Horton stated the manager was in discussion with the grantor. It was hoped that a waiver and release could be obtained from the grantor because there was a deed restriction which stated that if the land was not used for that purpose it would revert back to the grantor.

Mayor Joens stated the parking would be used for the pool.

Mr. Bartosh stated his discussion had indicated that the grantor was comfortable with that. We would get a signed release from them once the property had been obtained back.

Mayor Joens opened the floor to the public. There was no public comment.

Council Member Pratt moved to approve to proceed with the purchase of land from Yavapai County to be used for the community recreation center parking. The motion was seconded by Council Member Elinski, and carried unanimously.

#### UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE CITY'S 2008-09 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Mr. Rodriguez gave a PowerPoint presentation and stated the cause of the financial problems today was government backed bad loans which had resulted in tightened credit. At the local level there was a slowdown in retail sales of 11.3 percent. The increase of 0.8 percent in local sales tax had not resulted in as much revenue as anticipated. State shared taxes were down but the demand for services was expected to increase as the economy worsened. Currently our status was bad. General fund revenues were estimated to be down 7.3 percent or \$1.4 million as were other sources of revenue. No improvement was expected next year. Preventative measures taken by the City included a 5 percent across-the-board budgetary reduction. The filling of vacancies had been delayed by up to 90 days, but would now no longer be filled this year. Travel and training budgets had been reduced as well as operating and maintenance supplies, and some continuing education. Cost of living increases had been eliminated as had undesignated reserves. Also eliminated were the Impact of Growth Study, equipment purchases, a compensation study, and the Council's & City Manager's contingencies had been reduced. Reductions had been made in the GRL

sales tax reimbursement amount, and a city-wide asset inventory was eliminated together along with some overtime and operating and maintenance costs. Budget reductions amounted to \$1.32 million with a remaining shortfall of \$120,000 which could be absorbed through the general fund balance. The numbers were estimates and subject to changes to be approved by the Council. Further reductions in non-essential services and staffing may be necessary in order to keep use of reserves at a minimum. Priorities were to follow the Council's direction for maintaining city services and protecting staff positions.

Mayor Joens asked Mr. Rodriguez to talk a little bit about reserves.

Mr. Rodriguez explained what had been done to create reserve accounts in the past, various types of reserves, and how he saw that carrying us through on some things.

Council Member Elinski asked how this year's budget meetings would be held.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that a roundtable discussion would be held with the Council and department heads for mutual feedback.

Mayor Joens stated her support for this idea and opened the floor to the public.

Mr. Bob Oliphant, of 330 Desperado, stated the City seemed to be cutting back wherever it could. It also seemed to be spending money excessively: \$800,000 for the Foxworth Building; \$67,000 for new fire hydrants; and \$55,000 to Coe and Van Loo for a satellite sewer facility. What was the standard for use of reserves?

Vice Mayor Pfeifer asked if the City had an obligation to install the fire hydrants.

Mr. Rodriguez stated there was no obligation but it was promised to the bond holders. The reason to continue with capital expenses was that they were one-time expenses. The reclamation facility was expected to be automated and save on staffing.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer stated that with regard to the Foxworth Building purchase, we were currently leasing facilities whose costs were due to increase while we were now able to acquire a property at a very good price.

Mr. Rodriguez stated P.A.N.T. would move into the new facility, remodel at its own expense, and provide a police presence in that area. There would also be space for an evidence facility which would save the cost of building one.

He responded to questions about reserves by stating that one reason for maintaining reserves was to be prepared for a catastrophic event, not merely emergencies. The less the reserves were tapped into for maintenance and operations purposes, the longer the reserves could be used to sustain the city.

Council Member Kirby asked if the projects being discussed were out of enterprise funds

that would be replaced by those enterprises.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the reclamation plant was funded by a transfer from capital projects. To replenish those funds would require an increase in rates which was undesirable.

Council Member Pratt stated it was important to have in the minutes that Vice Mayor Pfeifer said we would save almost \$45,000 a year on lease costs for the utility building on 6th Street.

Mr. Bartosh stated the city was in a much better financial situation than most cities and towns across the nation. Whether the economy was up or down, the opportunity was available because of the long term savings that could be gained for citizens.

Mayor Joens stated it was important for citizens to understand the actions of the Council on their behalf. Counties were subdivisions of the state but did not have the ability to do infrastructure improvements and had to make do by having districts created.

There was a discussion about the need for better communication with the public to explain the financial decisions of the city in a way that was easily understandable and demonstrated the Council's care and caution with spending public funds.

Mr. Bob Richards, of 1495 East Crestview Drive, stated Mr. Rodriguez said that revenues were below expectations, but large amounts of money were available elsewhere. Cuts in staff and services did not seem compatible with that. Some of the projects looked as if they were being built for future growth which seemed unnecessary at this time.

Mr. Bartosh stated the wastewater treatment plant was needed today. There was over 900,000 gallons of wastewater running through one lift station. If that lift station were ever to fail there would be serious consequences. This project had been discussed for some time. The work on Highway 260 was infrastructure that was needed for future investment. Several projects had pulled out because we did not have that infrastructure in place. The quicker it is completed, the sooner new retail would come into the city. We needed to be ready when the turn-around came.

RATIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED FOR THE ROLF H. JENSEN MEMORIAL PUBLIC EDUCATION GRANT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A KIDDE PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINER

Council Member Pratt stated this was an application for a \$5,000 grant to be applied toward the purchase price of \$7,444.75 which left a city obligation of \$814 since we were partnering with Camp Verde and the Verde Valley Fire District. He expressed his support for this item.

Council Member Pratt moved to ratify the fire department's application for the Rolf H. Jensen Memorial Public Education Grant. Council Member Elinski seconded the motion,

which carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2427—APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2428—APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Mr. Gehlert stated there were two vacancies on the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&ZC). Since December, when the terms of the Chairman and Vice Chairman expired, it had been decided to incorporate the Design Review Board (DRB) into the P&ZC. Discussions had been held about the importance of having people with design related backgrounds on the commission. This was due to a lack of design related codes. Ten applications had been received but two had withdrawn. Several applicants were unable to attend tonight's meeting. He named the candidates, four of whom were in attendance.

Mayor Joens asked each of the candidates present, Robert Oliphant, Raymond Cox, Patricia Dixon, and Terilyn Platt, a series of interview questions.

Mr. Gehlert indicated that candidates would likely be asked to have an extra level of commitment because of the combining of the DRB function into the P&ZC which would occur in April after two more DRB meetings.

After discussion of the candidates' qualifications by the Council, Mayor Joens moved to appoint Raymond Cox and Patricia Dixon to the two positions for the Planning and Zoning Commission. Council Member Norman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mayor Joens asked the City Clerk to read Resolution Numbers 2427 and 2428 by title only, inserting the names of Mr. Cox and Ms. Dixon.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2427

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, APPOINTING RAYMOND COX A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND ESTABLISHING HIS TERM OF OFFICE.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2428

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, APPOINTING PATRICIA DIXON A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND ESTABLISHING HER TERM OF OFFICE.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2429—APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Mr. Costello stated there were four candidates for the one open position on the newly reconstituted Airport Commission. One was in attendance while the other three were unable to attend. The commission had two types of commissioner: one for a Cottonwood resident, which was already filled, and the others for those with aviation experience and/or tenants of the Airport. The vacancy was for such a commissioner and all applicants were qualified.

Mayor Joens asked candidate Michael Casebier a series of interview questions.

After discussion of the candidates' qualifications by the Council, Council Member Pratt moved to appoint Mr. Casebier to serve on the Airport Commission. Vice Mayor Pfeifer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mayor Joens asked the City Clerk to read Resolution Numbers 2429 by title only, inserting the name of Mr. Casebier.

#### RESOLUTION NUMBER 2429

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, APPOINTING MICHAEL CASEBIER A MEMBER OF THE AIRPORT COMMISSION AND ESTABLISHING HIS TERM OF OFFICE.

#### REVIEW OF THE CITY'S DRAFT BICYCLE PLAN

Mr. Gehlert stated last year the Council gave direction to develop a bicycle plan; primarily a basic on-street system that could be developed inexpensively and be implemented in a reasonable amount of time. Last year a presentation had been given emphasizing aspects of the planning process. Working with members of the Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition (VVCC), staff had reworked its document to provide additional detail, particularly on the city's collector street system and the educative process, including safety standards and training that the City might want to consider. A tentative route map had been distributed. He wanted to know if the Council believed the document was ready for public review. Additional changes were to be made after review by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission, after which it would again be brought to the Council for approval. Long term plans included tying bike routes into bus routes as a form of multi-modal transportation, using bus shelters as route information kiosks, adding striping on primary routes, and expanding the system outside the city limits. The plan documents set tasks including determining the level of service needed, taking the initiative by providing bike racks, encouraging employees to bicycle to work, and working with the VVCC to identify problems and provide for improvements. The Public Works Department would assume most of the responsibility for maintenance, training, education, and promotional events.

Council Member Pratt expressed his support for the plan and thought it was ready for public review immediately.

Council Member Elinski agreed and stated the concept of signage at bus stops was a good idea for promoting the plan. He stated there should be more signage to help visibly brand the city as a place with a higher quality of life.

Mayor Joens stated this was an opportune time to plan for our future. We must be one of the first cities our size to develop a plan like this. It is not just a quality of life issue for local residents but could be used by the Chamber of Commerce as a marketing tool to promote tourism. She would like to see this extended into the State Trust Lands should their annexation occur. We should collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce to promote tourism once we were ready with this. She would like to see a 60 day time frame for public input rather than a 30 day one. The Council should recommend this go to the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission for their advice. It should also go to the County, Clarkdale, Cornville, the Verde Villages, State Parks, Forest Service, and other interested parties who might be impacted.

Mayor Joens opened the floor to the public.

Mr. Bob Richards, of 1495 East Crestview Drive, stated width of bike lanes was very important since they currently varied from 3 to 5 feet. Uniformity was important because wider lanes were safer. When a route, lane, or shared pathway was adjacent to or within a Planned Area Development (residential or commercial), the cost of striping, signage, construction of lanes, trailheads, and other bike facilities should be part of the city development contracts. Additionally, a source of revenue, separate from the city development contracts should be funded by building impact fees and set aside as a bicycle development fund.

Mr. Randy Victory, of 1050 South Viejo Drive, stated the plan was good and the cost low. The enforcement section should be improved and require police participation. Strengthening this section could make the plan a superior one.

Mr. Bartosh stated while more police participation was desirable, it was a matter of police priorities. There were limited public safety resources. While 4 to 6 hours of training didn't seem to be much, the cost and demand on officer time was significant.

Council Member Elinski asked if the recently formed C.O.P.S. program could assist in enforcement and education by interacting with the public.

Mr. Bartosh stated it was possible.

Ms. Michia Casebier, of 1903 South Camino Real, stated the Planning Assistance Program provided grant opportunities for the Safe Routes to School program. Some grants required and funded community participation. Such a group could then become an educational body for children, parents, and police. Events that involved officers on bicycles would help to educate police officers.

Council Member Kirby stated that he thought we used to have officers on bicycles.

Mr. Bartosh stated the police department had bicycles, but found it difficult to use them regularly because of staffing issues.

Mayor Joens asked if there was consensus for changing the document wording regarding police participation from “may” to “will” and that it would be left up to the police chief to prioritize and administer it as appropriate.

The Council and Mr. Victory agreed.

Mayor Joens stated there was consensus and direction to staff was to take it out for 60 days and bring it before all the different entities and return to the Council for the public process.

APPROVAL OF AN ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AERONAUTICS GRANT APPLICATION TO COVER 2.5 PERCENT OF THE CITY'S SHARE OF THE ELECTRICAL UPGRADE GRANT FOR THE COTTONWOOD AIRPORT

Mr. Costello stated that this grant was a matching one from the state along the lines of the federal grant given for the electrical upgrade work at the airport. It would cover 2.5 percent of the cost of the improvements.

Mayor Joens opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

Council Member Pratt moved to authorize the mayor to sign the grant application documents for an ADOT Aeronautics grant. Council Member Elinski seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

PROPOSAL FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW COUNTY (VERDE COUNTY ARIZONA) FROM A PORTION OF YAVAPAI COUNTY

Mayor Joens stated a previous intergovernmental meeting had had this as an item on its agenda. They had asked that the Council discuss the matter and report the results at the next intergovernmental meeting on February 26th. At another intergovernmental meeting, Council Member Kirby had expressed pretty strong comments about this topic.

Council Member Kirby stated talk of whether or not we're getting our dollar's worth or whether or not we'll get more out of it if we secede or stay; the money part of it has no impact on my decision. My decision is based on a great deal of emotion from my experience of the past 42 years here. He said he was tired of being the sad sister on the other side of the mountain where they throw a bone once in a while to make you feel good.

Council Member Pratt stated some of the same issues had arisen at Yavapai College. It was a topic that needed to be discussed and if the time for it was not now it would come. The mountain was a natural boundary and barrier. Most people he spoke with felt there was a

division between the east and west county.

Council Member Elinski stated he favored discussion but wanted more facts since so much emotion was involved.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer stated she had read that the County was considering closing their offices here in Cottonwood.

Council Member Norman stated it required approval by the whole county. There were a lot of people on the other side of the mountain. If this were to happen, things would have to be split. It was a great idea, but would require a lot of work.

Council Member Kirby stated he had been on the Board of Supervisors when La Paz County split off from Yuma County in 1983. The thing that brought about the most controversy was the splitting of assets. We have a large number of public assets that belong to the County in the Verde Valley. There are a large number on the other side. In Yuma County it took about 5 years to settle the matter. It was easier to create new counties then and afterwards have arguments about assets. Now, it does kind of require that you have this pre-argument about what the assets are and who belongs to what. He could not divorce the animosity that he felt toward the other side of the mountain, even though he had served on that Board of Supervisors, and had to put up with it for those four years. He has always felt that we really need to be a county over here. We're a different culture. We're a different people. We have all of these things that require us, absolutely require us, to do whatever we can to make this happen.

Council Member Chapman stated he agreed there were quite different cultures on the two sides of the mountain. It seemed there were often two sets of priorities and he wondered why this wasn't a separate county.

Council Member Pratt stated an exploratory committee of all the governments and institutions in both sides of the county should probably start work on this.

Mayor Joens stated that as far as water issues were concerned we would have more clout as a single county. However, our interests were so different. The number of county supervisors was due to be increased soon, so that would be the time to start talking about this. More information was needed, facts and figures, and financial data. We would have to have probably three supervisors, our own sheriff, auditor, treasurer, all of those offices. She asked what the cost be.

Council Member Kirby stated we were already paying for those offices.

Mayor Joens stated we had a lot of the facilities here already.

Council Member Kirby stated all the information asked for in the documents from the state was public record and was available for the asking. It was a matter of public record.

Mayor Joens stated perhaps Supervisor Davis would be willing to assist sharing data.

Mr. Bartosh stated at the last intergovernmental meeting, one question asked was what issues or problems would precipitate this separation. This would likely be considered at the next meeting too.

Council Member Pratt stated he would supply a packet of data to other Council Members.

Mayor Joens stated the direction she heard was a desire for more information. She asked how that could be done and least impact the staff.

Mr. Bartosh stated that was a discussion for the intergovernmental group. A task force should be put together and not just as a Cottonwood project.

Council Member Norman stated this was on the agenda for their meeting next Thursday.

Mr. Bartosh stated this would be a massive undertaking.

Mayor Joens stated Clarkdale had discussed the matter and were not really interested.

Council Member Pratt stated an ad hoc committee was needed with representatives from all the entities.

Mayor Joens stated the County Supervisor, if he was interested, could supply the staff for a committee and he could do the appointments.

Council Member Kirby stated it was a great idea but was probably not financially feasible. It had to be a volunteer effort.

Council Member Norman stated there would be a lot of people who would volunteer.

Mayor Joens stated the suggestion was the Council expressed interest in collecting data to make a better decision. We would suggest at the intergovernmental meeting, how did that group suggest we might accomplish something like that, if the other communities agreed.

Mr. Bartosh stated that was the next step: gaining a consensus, if there was one from the other councils. Then it would make sense to pursue more data.

#### OBSERVATION OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY--NOVEMBER 7, 2010

Mr. Bartosh stated that milestone anniversaries were generally celebrated by municipalities. Common methods of doing so included posters, stickers, ads on letterhead and stationary and a celebration on the actual day itself.

Council Member Pratt suggested forming a committee of volunteers from various departments who could work together with the Council to plan this. Advance planning could bring in donations and participation of other groups. An event such as Walkin' on Main would be a great way to celebrate our city.

Discussion determined that the city manager would be the best person to head such a committee.

Mayor Joens asked how the Council could help the city manager, in view of staffing limitations, with a committee that open meeting laws would allow.

A discussion followed up with recommendations of staff members who would be willing to assist and the need to research news archives for historical events of significance.

#### CLAIMS & ADJUSTMENTS

Council Member Kirby moved to pay the claims and adjustments. Council Member Norman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Kirby moved to adjourn. Mayor Joens seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

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Diane Joens, Mayor

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Marianne Jiménez, City Clerk