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TOWN OF JEROME

POST OFFICE BOX 335, JEROME, ARIZONA 86331
(928) 634-7943 FAX (928) 634-0715

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JEROME TOWN COUNCIL JEROME CIVIC CENTER - 600 CLARK STREET - COUNCIL CHAMBERS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M.

ITEM #1:	CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL Mayor/Chairperson to call meeting to order. Town Clerk to call and record the roll. <i>Mayor Currier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.</i> <i>Town Manager/Clerk Candace Gallagher called roll. Present were Mayor Currier, Vice Mayor Freund, Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember Barber and Councilmember Vander Horst.</i> <i>Other staff present were Al Sengstock, Zoning Administrator, Fire Chief Rusty Blair and Joni Savage, Deputy Clerk. Bill Sims, the Town Attorney, was present as well.</i>
ITEM #2: 7:00	PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mayor/Chairperson to lead the Pledge. <i>Mayor Currier led the Pledge of Allegiance.</i>
ITEM #3: 7:01	STAFF REPORTS Written staff reports by the Town Manager/Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Utilities Representative, Public Works Department, Building Inspector, Library, Municipal Court, Police Chief, and Fire Chief. <i>Ms. Gallagher provided an update to her report, noting that she had just learned that the Town was not awarded funding from Freeport-McMoRan this year. We had applied for funds to purchase concrete benches and picnic tables. She had inquired as to why we were not awarded funds this year, and was told that Freeport can fund only one project per community. This year, the Jerome Historical Society also applied for funding toward the wall at Art Park, and the award went to them.</i> Motion: Vice Mayor Freund made a motion to accept the staff reports . It was seconded by Councilmember Barber. <i>Councilmember Vander Horst wanted to wish "Godspeed to Chief Muma."</i> <i>Ms. Gallagher explained that Chief Muma had back surgery that day, it went well, and he will have an additional surgery the next day. Mayor Currier commented that Chief Muma said that he would be available by phone if needed.</i> The motion passed, 5-0.
ITEM #4: 7:02	FINANCIAL REPORTS Issued checks and financial reports for the month of January 2016. Figures included therein are presumed accurate as of the report's preparation date, but are subject to adjustment as further information is gained. <i>There were no questions or comments regarding the financial reports.</i> Motion: Mayor Currier made a motion to accept the financial reports . It was seconded by Vice Mayor Freund. The motion passed, 5-0.

<p>ITEM #5: 7:03</p>	<p>PLANNING AND ZONING AND DESIGN REVIEW MINUTES/ RECOMMENDATIONS/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT</p> <p>Minutes are provided for the information of Council and do not require action.</p> <p>As a part of the Zoning Administrator's report at this meeting, Mr. Sengstock will update the Council regarding homelessness in the Verde Valley.</p> <p><i>Mr. Sengstock introduced Mr. and Mrs. Mills, who were present for an item later in the meeting to request a lot combination at 29 Magnolia Avenue. He spoke about their plans and noted that both Planning & Zoning and the Design Review Board have unanimously approved their build.</i></p> <p><i>He also noted that the General Plan Steering Committee is now meeting twice a month and is working on the Economic Element of the Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Sengstock reported that he attended, as the Town's representative, a meeting of the Verde Valley Homeless Coalition, which is doing well. On a cold night in December, he said, they were able to house 56 people. Catholic Charities is acting as their advocate, and pulling things together for them.</i></p> <p><i>Mayor Currier thanked Mr. Sengstock for representing the Town with this group, and asked if Jerome might contribute financially at some point, and what that share would be, and that he bring it to Council's attention at budget time.</i></p> <p><i>Vice Mayor Freund asked Mr. Sengstock if he had met yet with students from NAU. Mr. Sengstock replied that he and JFD Duty Officer Ron Chilston met with them that morning. Under their Capstone program, he said, graduating engineering students provide a community service project. They will be looking at ways to maximize our existing parking, without any construction, but with the use of good signage and optimal traffic flows. He would like for them to focus on certain areas of Town, and we will then have an overlay map which we can use as a reference going forward. It could be added to the circulation element of the general plan.</i></p>
<p>ITEM #6: 7:11</p>	<p>COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES</p> <p>September 29 special meeting; October 15 special meeting; December 8 regular meeting; January 12 regular meeting</p> <p><i>Ms. Gallagher noted and corrected three minor typographical errors in the minutes of September 29 and October 15.</i></p> <p>Motion: <i>Vice Mayor Freund made a motion to accept the minutes of September 29, 2015 with corrections. Councilmember Stewart seconded it. The motion passed, 5-0.</i></p> <p>Motion: <i>Councilmember Stewart made a motion to accept the minutes of October 15, 2015 with corrections. Vice Mayor Freund seconded it. The motion passed, 5-0.</i></p> <p><i>Vice Mayor Freund requested a correction to the December 8, 2015, minutes, Item #9D, where he had stated that the last special meeting was held to approve a liquor license for an event. He said that he had gone on to say that it was an event that was to occur after the next scheduled meeting, and would like that added to his comments in the minutes. Ms. Gallagher said that staff would listen again to the recording and adjust the minutes accordingly¹.</i></p> <p>Motion: <i>Mayor Currier made a motion to accept the minutes of December 8, 2015. Councilmember Barber seconded it. The motion passed, 5-0.</i></p> <p>Motion: <i>Mayor Currier made a motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2016. Vice Mayor Freund seconded it. The motion passed, 5-0.</i></p>

¹ Clerk's note: In listening to the recording, what Vice Mayor Freund said was that the last special meeting was held to approve a liquor license for an event, "and that was because they weren't on top of things in a prompt manner." The minutes were adjusted to include that comment.

<p>ITEM #7: 7:15</p>	<p>PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC</p> <p>Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01 (H), public comment is permitted on matters not listed on the agenda but the subject matter must be within the jurisdiction of the Council. All comments are subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions. All petitioners must fill out a request form with their name and subject matter. When recognized by the chair, please step to the microphone, state your name and please observe the three (3) minute time limit. No petitioners will be recognized without a request. The Council's response to public comments is limited to asking staff to review a matter commented upon, asking that a matter be put on a future agenda, or responding to criticism.</p> <p><i>There were no petitions from the public.</i></p>
	<p>CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS: <i>At this time, Mayor Currier said that he would like to move on to Item #9B so that the Town Attorney would be present for it. Council had no objections, and Item #9B was addressed at this time, but is reflected in the minutes in the order originally agendized.</i></p>
<p>ITEM #8 7:30</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>ITEM #8A: PROCLAMATION SUPPORTING INCREASED AWARENESS RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING</p> <p>Council may approve the Mayor's signature on a Proclamation to support efforts underway in Yavapai County to increase awareness of human trafficking. Scott Mabery will be present to provide information and answer questions.</p> <p><i>Mayor Currier said that there is a concern in the Verde Valley about prostitution and human trafficking. It is a national issue, and although he doesn't believe that Jerome is the focus of this now, to show our good faith and concern about the problem, he will read the proclamation and Council can vote to approve it. He then read the proclamation in full:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Supporting Increased Awareness Relating to Human Trafficking”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHEREAS, human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain; and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHEREAS, every year, millions of men, women and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States; and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHEREAS, it is estimated that human trafficking generates billions of dollars of profit per year, second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of transnational crime; and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHEREAS, human trafficking is a hidden crime, as victims rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, fear of the traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement; and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHEREAS, traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. They look for people who are susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters, or political instability. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings; and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHEREAS, the United States Senate designated January 11th as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day and other organizations have designated January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month; and,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHEREAS, the Town of Jerome is supportive of the many efforts underway in Yavapai County, including the production of the Nursery Rhymes music video, to bring awareness to the issue of human trafficking.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Lew Currier, Mayor of Jerome, Arizona, do hereby proclaim the Town of Jerome's support for increasing public awareness of human trafficking.</p>

Ms. Gallagher informed the Council that Scott Mabery was present to provide further information about this issue.

Mr. Mabery introduced himself as the Director of Juvenile Court Services for Yavapai County in Prescott. He said that this is an issue in Yavapai County; if he has five or ten girls in detention, half of them have been involved in some form of trafficking. Many of our girls are runaways and they are exploited. He is raising awareness because it is happening in our small towns.

Mr. Mabery said that he has written a song and produced a video about the issue with Mike McClellan and Christopher Robin, and that video has "taken off." He has raised the attention of the McCain Foundation, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Governor's office. "I cannot thank the Council enough for putting this proclamation on the agenda," he said. "It would break your heart if you've ever gone through this." He said that the grand finale of the video will be filmed in Prescott on February 20th. Anyone is invited, he said, and they are expecting 500 people to be there. "Basically, we're saying we take care of our kids in Yavapai County," he said. "We won't tolerate it." He noted that there is a Facebook page about the video: Nursery Rhymes Video.

Liz Gale, a Jerome resident, asked how can the public support this effort. Mr. Mabery responded that they could respond by being there. It will take place at the Juvenile Justice Center at 1100 Lake Parkway in Prescott.

As a result of Jerome's proclamation, Mr. Mabery said, the Town will be listed as a collaborator on the video. He said that he believes this will be going nationwide, and once again thanked the Council. Those in attendance expressed their appreciation for the work he is doing with a round of applause.

Motion: Mayor Currier made a motion **to approve the Proclamation supporting increased awareness relating to human trafficking.** Councilmember Vander Horst seconded it. **The motion passed, 5-0.**

ITEM #9

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7:40

ITEM #9A: FINANCIAL OPERATIONS GUIDE

Council will review and may amend and/or approve a Financial Operations Guide prepared by the Town Manager and Finance Director.

Mayor Currier explained that our auditors have recommended that we have a Financial Operations Guide. Ms. Gallagher, he said, looked at what other area communities have done and put this draft together.

Ms. Gallagher said that she had received comments on the draft document from two members of Council, and she had provided a list of those comments in the meeting packet. She noted that one suggestion was that we include a statement that all cash on hand is secured in the safe each evening; however, the Finance Director has informed her that the cash goes into a locked filing cabinet in her office rather than into the safe, as she considers that more secure. This was discussed briefly, with Mayor Currier and Councilmember Vander Horst disagreeing that keeping the cash in a locked cabinet is more secure than the safe.

Councilmember Vander Horst said that he believes that this is a very important document and Council should perhaps discuss it further at a special meeting.

Mayor Currier asked if this draft has been reviewed by our auditors. Ms. Gallagher replied that it has not. She did ask the auditors if they would like to review it before it went to Council, she said, but they declined, and said that the important thing is that we have something in place.

Liz Gale asked if the Guide has to do with preparing the budget. Mayor Currier said that it has nothing to do with the budget, it is simply an in house financial policy covering debt collection, cash receipts, and the like.

Vice Mayor Freund said that he would prefer to call it a "manual," rather than a "guide." Ms. Gallagher was asked to place this on a special meeting agenda for further discussion.

7:16

ITEM #9B: DISCUSSION ONLY: DRAFT ORDINANCE TO AMEND TOWN CODE REGARDING UTILITY BILLING, DEPOSITS, PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY, SHUT OFFS AND COLLECTION PROCEDURES

Council will review the first draft of an ordinance to amend the Jerome Town Code with respect to utility billing, deposits, payment responsibility, shut offs and collection procedures. Council may make changes to the draft, schedule a first reading, and/or direct staff in this regard.

Attorney Bill Sims stated, "You are embarking on a fairly complex process of overhauling your utility rate section of the Code to go after accounts in arrears. You are not alone. ... The legislature very much protects property owners—they drafted legislation that denied you the ability to go after owners, with no recourse when tenants leave." He added that we are his only client where there can be more than one customer on a meter, so we can't turn off the water in that instance because we'd be turning off the neighbor's water as well.

"To what extent," Mr. Sims asked, "do you want to pierce the veil that legislature has created in protecting owners? The legislation passed four or five years ago - for residents with four or less units, you can't go after the owner. The best way... is to ask for an increased deposit from renters." Mr. Sims recommended requiring a three-month deposit.

Mr. Sims went on to note that our Code provides the authority for us to place a lien in the event of nonpayment. However, we can only lien the property if the owner is on the contract. That can be expensive, he said, and they must be in arrears for at least 90 days. We then have to give them another 30 days notice, which must be sent by Certified Mail. After that, we can record the lien. This is in our Code now, he said, but if we wish to enforce it, we will need to add some language.

Referencing a provision in the draft ordinance, Mr. Sims noted that it was taken from Clarkdale's Code, "and it is a tough one"-- if the tenant applies for water service, the owner will have to sign and acknowledge that they are liable. That is perfectly legal, he said, and they do that in Globe. Clarkdale won't start service unless the owner signs; however, the statute says that property rights are protected and that an owner does not have to sign it. "If you want to do that," he said, "then I can find a way to do it." He gave an example where the tenant does not want to pay a three month deposit. You could have the owner sign in that case, he said.

He noted that another provision in the draft ordinance is that, if a customer is 12 months in arrears we just stop billing them. Ms. Gallagher clarified that anyone 12 months in arrears would no longer be receiving service, so there would be no water or sewer fee at that point, but the ordinance would allow us to discontinue the accrual of late fees after 12 months.

Mr. Sims summarized the points he had just discussed, and said that these are the policy questions for Council to decide.

Mary Wills, a Jerome resident, asked, "What are we even talking about? We have 450 people. We are paying this gentlemen quite a bit of money to talk about this." "Not that much," Mr. Sims interjected. "How much, exactly?" Ms. Wills asked. Mr. Sims estimated that his billings last year totaled about \$30,000. "Oh well, no problem then," Ms. Wills said, and asked what the problem is that triggered this draft ordinance.

Ms. Gallagher responded to Ms. Wills, explaining that, when Council adopted a debt collection policy recently, it referenced the Town Code with respect to collection of utility debt. However, there are parts of that Code that are outdated and illegal, and should be updated.

Ms. Wills asked how much money we are looking at. "Not that much," Ms. Gallagher replied. Mayor Currier said that the point is that the Code should be tightened. He noted that Council recently wrote off \$14,000 accumulated over the course of six years. Primarily, it is a housekeeping issue, he said.

"Staff has presented a workable first draft," the Mayor said. "We're not going to spend a lot of time on this. If Council wishes to go into detail we could schedule a work session." Vice Mayor

	<p>Freund said that he would prefer not to get into this at this meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher asked Mr. Sims if it was acceptable for the Council to review the ordinance and send their comments to her, and then discuss it at a special meeting. Mr. Sims said that was perfectly fine.</p> <p>Mayor Currier asked Council to put their comments in writing and forward them to Ms. Gallagher. She will compile them for discussion at a special meeting.</p> <p>"Your town is not alone," Mr. Sims said. "The code is illegal right now, and you just need to catch up with the legislature."</p>
<p>ITEM #10</p>	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>
<p>7:45</p>	<p>ITEM #10A: LOT COMBINATION – 29 MAGNOLIA AVENUE</p> <p>Council may approve a request by Ron and Wendy Irving Mills to combine three parcels on Magnolia Avenue into one – 401-06-164, 165 and 166.</p> <p>Mr. Sengstock explained that Mr. and Mrs. Mills have three properties on Magnolia that they would like to combine into one lot. They held a Neighborhood Meeting, and it has been approved by both the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Design Review Board. They could split it again in the future, he said, and added that they may add one additional home. This will reduce the density on the hill, he said, which he believes is a good thing.</p> <p>The document they submit to the County to combine the lots requires a zoning authority signature, which he has done. The document that Council has in front of them, he said, is to clean up the abandonment of easements that are no longer necessary. Once that's signed, they can move forward to combine the lots. He recommended that Council approve this.</p> <p>Councilmember Vander Horst asked Mr. Sengstock if he is asking for approval of the lot combination or the abandonment of an easement. "Both," Mr. Sengstock replied.</p> <p>Councilmember Vander Horst asked Ms. Gallagher to confirm that we were not in violation of any time period specified in the Code. "I don't believe so," Ms. Gallagher replied, and Mr. Sengstock confirmed that, explaining that the required time period is only for conditional use permits.</p> <p>Mayor Currier asked what was the original purpose of the easement. Mr. Sengstock said that they were old easements that were recorded for cable and telephone, which are no longer necessary. They went to each utility company and got them to release the easements, which they did. "Then the utilities were the holders of the easements, and we weren't?" Mayor Currier asked. "Yes," Mr. Sengstock answered. The Mayor asked how we could then act on them. Mr. Sengstock said that part of the process to abandon the easement requires Town review by Planning & Zoning and signatures by Public Works, the Mayor, and the P&Z Chair.</p> <p>Mayor Currier asked the attorney to comment. Mr. Sims asked if the easements are being abandoned to the adjacent property owners that initially granted them. Mr. Sengstock responded by saying that they are easements on their property. Mr. Sims confirmed that the easements are not going to a third party. "You are allowed to abandon the easements," he said, "but you're not allowed to abandon any underlying utility." He said that he suspects these are easements granted to the Town, and there is a statute that allows us to abandon them without consideration to the adjacent property owner. He has not seen the document, but suspects they are being abandoned subject to the utilities.</p> <p>At this time, the documents were provided to Mr. Sims for his review.</p> <p>Chief Blair commented that he thought there might be old sewer lines coming from up above.</p> <p>Ms. Gale asked what lots are being discussed, and the Mayor explained that they are lots on Magnolia Avenue.</p> <p>Mr. Sims, upon completing his review, said that the document shows all the utilities abandoning the easement, and an acknowledgement by the Town. "You are welcome to sign this," he said, adding that he believes that the title company should have something more saying that the Town is abandoning the easement.</p>

Mr. Sims reviewed the language on the agenda and said that Council does not have the authority to approve abandoning the utilities at this meeting, because it was not listed as such on the agenda. "You can approve the lot combination," he said.

Motion: Vice Mayor Freund moved to approve **the lot combination** and it was seconded by Councilmember Vander Horst. **The motion passed, 5-0.**

7:54

ITEM #10B: FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT APPLICATION – FUEL ABATEMENT

Council may approve the submission of a grant application by the Fire Department for fuel abatement funding. The Department intends to apply for \$50,000, and a 10% match would be required, which could be provided via in kind services.

Chief Blair asked for permission to apply for a grant available to them for fuel abatement. Awards range up to \$200,000, and they are looking for \$50,000.00 over the next two years. "We are trying to keep this fuel abatement momentum going," he said, "and we're making great progress in the Gulch area. We feel the additional money would help us to mitigate fuels throughout Town." He added that this is not Firewise funding, but a different avenue.

Mayor Currier noted that this would involve a 10% match. Chief Blair confirmed this, and said that it could be provided in kind, through use of the County probation department and APS. "It's a soft match," he said.

Councilmember Vander Horst said that he believes this is one of the most important, if not the single most important thing to do to protect our community from fire. "I am certainly in favor of it," he said, and Mayor Currier agreed.

Chief Blair said that they can ask for up to \$200,000, but he feels that \$25,000 a year keeps it conservative and is good for now. He would like to get rid of the heavy fuels first and then move into mitigation of stumps, he said.

Councilmember Vander Horst said that the work being done has also improved the view.

Motion: Councilmember Vander Horst made a motion **to approve going forward with the grant application** and Mayor Currier seconded it. **The motion passed, 5-0.**

Chief Blair left the meeting at this time.

7:58

ITEM #10C: RESOLUTION NO. 533, A RESOLUTION OF THE JEROME TOWN COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE I-17 BLACK CANYON CITY TO CORDES JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Council may approve a Resolution in support of ADOT's pursuit of a public-private partnership for the purpose of improvements to the I-17 corridor between Black Canyon City and State Route 69.

Ms. Gallagher explained that this came up at a recent Mayors and Managers meeting, where every Verde Valley town was asked to support ADOT's pursuit of a public-private partnership to make improvements to I-17.

Vice Mayor Freund asked if there had been any discussion regarding what form that partnership would take. "Toll roads are an option," he said. Ms. Gallagher responded that there was not a lot of discussion about this at the meeting.

Vice Mayor Freund said that he believes the Resolution presented is too vague in that it does not say what form that public/private partnership would take. It is also worrisome to him that the Resolution is not only discussing the zone between Black Canyon City and Cordes Junction, because at the very end it states, "and urge ADOT to continue pursuing public-private partnership funding opportunities to deliver improvements to the entire I-17 corridor." He said that he believes that a toll road section on I-17 would be detrimental to Jerome and to the whole Verde Valley. Mayor Currier agreed. Ms. Gallagher noted that this is the same verbiage that all the Towns have in front of them.

Councilmember Vander Horst said, "As someone who travels that corridor several times a week, something does need to be done." Mayor Currier agreed, but added that the question is, "what are the financial implications of this?"

Councilmember Vander Horst asked if there are any toll roads in Arizona, and the Mayor said that he is not aware of any. Mayor Currier then asked if any member would like to make a

8:01

motion to approve the Resolution. None were forthcoming, and he declared that the subject died for lack of a motion.

ITEM #10D: STAGGERED TERMS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council will discuss the possibility of implementing staggered terms for members of Council, and may direct staff in this regard.

Mayor Currier asked Ms. Gallagher to explain this item, which had been requested and sponsored by Councilmember Vander Horst.

Ms. Gallagher had provided a report listing the statutes governing this, as follows:

- A.R.S. 9-232.02 provides that "The common council may, by majority vote of the qualified electors of the town voting thereon, provide for four-year staggered terms for members of the town council in the manner provided in section 9-272, with respect to cities. In the event the common council consists of five members only, the first class shall consist of two councilmen and the second class shall consist of three councilmen."
- A.R.S. 9-272 provides, "The first class shall consist of three councilmen and the second class of four. Those of the first class shall hold office until the next regular election, and those of the second class until the second regular election. At the first regular election held after the change, three councilmen shall be elected, and at the second regular election four councilmen shall be elected. ... Thereafter councilmen shall be elected in classes of three and four at successive, regular elections and shall hold their office for terms of four years each and until their successors are elected and qualified."

She noted that, in 1992, Council established staggered terms for its members with the adoption of Ordinance 258; however, that ordinance was later repealed by referendum of the voters.

Councilmember Vander Horst said, "This Council was seated with three new members and then a fourth new member, who had never been on a Council before. The way we currently do things, we could be replacing all five members the next time we do an election." He said that he talked with people around town, and it seems that the longer a person has been in Town, the more they are against staggered terms; however, he said, overall, it seems like it is about three to one in favor of it.

Mayor Currier said that, six years ago, none of the sitting Council chose to run again, and we had four previous Council members decide to come back. "The community responded to the issue," he said. "We were able to handle it." Staggered terms were brought up, tried and voted down. "I believe that the longer you're here," he said, "the more you understand how fallible the Council is." He noted that being on Council takes a lot of commitment and a lot of time, so people are reluctant to do it. "It takes your first term to figure out how it works," he said, "and by that time, you're ready to drop out." The people that have been here awhile, he said, realize that a term of more than two years is not a good idea. To have a longer term would make it even harder to commit to.

Vice Mayor Freund said that he believes that, since staggered terms were defeated by a referendum, it would be appropriate, if there was an interest in it, that it be revived as an initiative by the people and not by the Council.

Councilmember Vander Horst reminded Mr. Freund that the referendum took place over a generation ago.

Councilmember Stewart said that he believes two year terms are a wise thing. If members want to run again, they can. He added that staggered terms might add some consistency to projects, but he believes a four-year term is too long.

Councilmember Barber said that she believes that "instead of us deciding, the Town should decide." She agreed with Councilmember Stewart that a four-year term would be too long, and thanked Mayor Currier for his dedication.

Ms. Gallagher was asked if two-year terms could be staggered. She said that she believes that

	<p>they cannot be, but she will check with the Town Attorney.</p> <p>Councilmember Barber added that she agreed with Councilmember Vander Horst that staggering the terms would help us to not have an entirely new Council every two years. Councilmember Vander Horst commented, "We're lucky we have the same Town Manager. Four to six years is the average life span of a manager."</p> <p>Councilmember Stewart said he would like to know for sure if the staggered terms would need to be four years, or if they could be two-year staggered terms. Councilmember Vander Horst pointed out that this would require an election every year, which would be very expensive. Mayor Currier asked that this topic be tabled for the time being.</p>
<p>8:11</p>	<p>ITEM #10E: AMENDMENT TO ARIZONA PUBLIC EMPLOYERS HEALTH POOL (APEHP) MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT</p> <p>Council may approve an amendment required by APEHP to their Membership Participation Agreement.</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher reviewed the amendment to be approved. This came about, she said, because sometimes, employees or dependents (in other towns, not Jerome) were not removed from the plan when they were no longer eligible and then claims were paid that should not have been. This amendment would make the Town liable for its mistakes in failing to add or delete employees or dependents in a timely fashion. "We're pretty good about that," she added. Mayor Currier asked Ms. Gallagher for her recommendation. She said that <u>not</u> to sign it would put the Town in a poor position with the Pool. "Basically," she said, "it says that we're responsible if we mess up."</p> <p>Councilmember Stewart asked how many participants we have in the pool. Ms. Gallagher estimated that we have 14 or 15 participants, and clarified that this is only for health insurance, not retirement.</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher said that, if we do not sign this, she believes that our membership in the Pool would continue on a month to month basis.</p> <p>Mayor Currier said that he would like to have the attorney's recommendation. Mr. Sims was out of the room at the time, attending to a conference call with another client.</p> <p>Councilmember Stewart asked who is responsible for adding and removing people on the health plan. Ms. Gallagher informed him that Ms. Cretti takes care of that.</p> <p>Mayor Currier asked that this item be tabled so that we could receive the attorney's advice.</p> <p>Motion: Councilmember Stewart made a motion to table Item #10E and Vice Mayor Freund seconded it. The motion passed, 5-0.</p>
<p>ITEM #11 8:16</p>	<p>TO AND FROM THE COUNCIL</p> <p>Council may direct Staff as to items of pending importance that they would like placed on a future meeting agenda.</p> <p>Councilmember Vander Horst noted that a budget meeting has been scheduled for February 25, and asked why it wasn't scheduled on the designated special meeting date and time (the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.). Ms. Gallagher replied that holding it during the day will facilitate attendance by our department heads.</p> <p>Councilmember Vander Horst said, regarding the Financial Reports, "48 pages of Financials got emailed at 6:23 last night. I understand it used to be a lot worse; however, there is no way that I can go through that much documentation in that amount of time."</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher said that she will request that Ms. Cretti get these out sooner. She noted that Council has requested additional reports as part of the financials, and added that we could return to having the reports generated for one month back.</p> <p>Mayor Currier said that he looked at the financial reports that afternoon, but he is sympathetic to other people not having the time.</p> <p>Mayor Currier said that, at budget time, Council should look at giving Ms. Cretti more help. Ms.</p>

	<p>Gallagher agreed.</p> <p>Councilmember Vander Horst said that the financial reports are important, and Mayor Currier agreed, adding that he has been frustrated with this for years.</p> <p>Vice Mayor Freund asked if Council could prioritize which documents are needed first, and Ms. Cretti could concentrate on those.</p> <p>Mayor Currier said this is not the right time to discuss this, but Council could think about it.</p> <p>Vice Mayor Freund noted that this is the 50th anniversary of our Jerome Historic District being added to the National Historic Register. There is nothing on the Historical Society or Chamber of Commerce website about this half century mark, he said, and added that he believes that next year marks the 50th anniversary of the entire Town being on the National Historic Register. Technically, he said, "we have two years to make a big deal out of it." He suggested that we could sell some sort of merchandise pertaining to our status without infringing upon other people's livelihood.</p> <p>Nancy Robinson, a Jerome resident, said that she has gone through documents from Don Walsh's house. She has stacks from the dedication in 1967 and the first house tour. She found numerous copies of everything and, once she has gone thru all of the documents, she will distribute them between the Historical Society, The Chamber and The Town.</p> <p>Mayor Currier thanked her.</p> <p>Vice Mayor Freund suggested a Mayoral proclamation at the next meeting. Mayor Currier agreed and asked Ms. Gallagher if she could draft that. She agreed, and requested assistance by Vice Mayor Freund.</p> <p>Ms. Robinson said that she has the proclamation and photos from the ceremony. Don Walsh was the driving force beyond this, she said, She will bring them in.</p> <p>Councilmember Vander Horst said that it seems to him that this may be bigger, and perhaps it should be a state proclamation from the Governor. Ms. Robinson noted that Mr. Walsh's items might facilitate that. Ms. Gallagher suggested that the Historical Society might be interested in getting involved, and Councilmember Vander Horst said, "yes, we are."</p> <p>Mayor Currier asked about for a status update on the leaning wall.</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher said that we're currently looking for Jersey barriers. She contacted both Yavapai and Coconino County, and they didn't have any to spare. Mr. Ave is now looking for them. As soon as we those in place, Vice Mayor Freund will fabricate the iron fencing.</p> <p>Vice Mayor Freund commented that it turns out we have 24 feet of this fencing that is three feet tall. He believes there may be enough fencing material to do the wall.</p> <p>Mayor Currier then asked about the School Street regulator.</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher replied that the new engineer has found problems with the plans and is rethinking it. The crew is doing some exploratory work now. Apparently, there is a water line under the steps that they had thought was active, but now it appears that it may be inactive. They are not sure yet. Mayor Currier asked how they would determine that, and Ms. Gallagher could not say.</p> <p>Ms. Wills asked who our new engineer is, and Ms. Gallagher advised her that they are Westland Resources out of Flagstaff.</p> <p>At this time (8:26 p.m.), Mayor Currier called a brief recess. The meeting resumed at 8:38 p.m.</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher suggested that Item #10E be placed on the February 25th special meeting agenda, if the Town Attorney recommends that it be signed.</p> <p>Motion: To table Item #10E was made by Vice Mayor Freund and seconded by Councilmember Stewart. The motion passed, 5-0.</p> <p>Councilmember Vander Horst mentioned the question on Item #10D, whether two year staggered terms permitted. Ms. Gallagher said that she would ask the attorney. "Even if they are," Mayor Currier said, "the cost of elections is prohibitive."</p>
<p>ITEM #12</p>	<p>APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES</p>

	<p>October 15, 2015</p> <p><i>If necessary, Council may enter into executive session, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.01(A)(2), for the purpose of discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection.</i></p> <p>Motion: Mayor Currier made a motion to approve the executive session minutes of October 15, 2015 and the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Freund. The motion passed, 5-0.</p>
ITEM #13	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>Upon motion by Vice Mayor Freund, seconded by Councilmember Barber and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.</p>

Edited by Town Manager/Clerk Candace Gallagher from minutes taken and transcribed by Deputy Town Clerk Joni Savage.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Lew Currier, Mayor

Candace B. Gallagher, CMC, Town Manager/Clerk

Date: _____