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TOWN OF JEROME

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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JEROME TOWN COUNCIL
JEROME CIVIC CENTER - 600 CLARK STREET - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.

FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF 2014

ITEM #1:	CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL Mayor/Chairperson to call meeting to order. Town Clerk to call and record the roll. <i>Mayor Check called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.</i> <i>Deputy Town Clerk Rosemarie Shemaitis called roll. Present were Mayor Nikki Check, Vice Mayor Lew Currier and Councilmembers Randall Hunt, Anne Bassett and Bill Phinney.</i> <i>Other staff in attendance at roll call included Town Manager/Clerk Candace Gallagher and Zoning Administrator Rebecca Borowski. Town Attorney Bill Sims was available telephonically but was not needed or called.</i>
ITEM #2: 7:02 pm	PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mayor/Chairperson to lead the Pledge.
ITEM #3: 7:02 pm	STAFF REPORTS Written staff reports by the Town Manager/Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Utilities Representative, Public Works Department, Building Inspector, Library, Police Chief and Fire Chief. <i>Councilmember Bassett noted that the project list has been trimmed down. She asked about the status of the easement for the sewer line on Richard Martin's property. Ms. Gallagher responded that, given the ordinance under consideration, it may no longer be necessary.</i> <i>Vice Mayor Currier noted that there was no report from the Building Inspector. It had been turned in but had not made it into the packet. Ms. Shemaitis left to make copies for Council to review.</i> <i>Councilmember Bassett said that she was glad to see that the reports are being copied two-sided to save paper. Councilmember Hunt agreed.</i> <i>It was decided to move on to Item 4 while Ms. Shemaitis made the copies.</i>
ITEM #4: 7:05 pm	FINANCIAL REPORTS Issued checks and Budget to Actual reports for the month of December 2013. Figures included therein are presumed accurate as of the report's preparation date, but are subject to adjustment as further information is gained. <i>Vice Mayor Currier inquired about a listed vendor, Kathrine Nunn. Ms. Gallagher explained that Ms. Nunn is an intern being used in Planning & Zoning. She is doing GIS support – mapping – with respect to the General Plan update, and her time is paid for by the SHPO grant we received.</i> <i>Mr. Currier also asked about a check payable to the Town of Jerome in the amount of approximately \$15,000 that was labeled as for a "new C1." Ms. Gallagher said that she believes this represents the transfer of funds from one of the accounts we held at Chase Bank. She will verify this and email everyone¹.</i>

¹ Clerk's note: This was a transfer of the funds remaining in the Capital Improvement Account at Chase Bank to a new Capital Improvement Account opened at the Arizona State Credit Union.

	<p>Councilmember Hunt asked about the transfer of Town funds from Chase to other banks. Ms. Gallagher clarified that funds have been transferred from Chase to both the National Bank of Arizona (payroll account) and to the Arizona State Credit Union (checking and savings accounts).</p> <p>Vice Mayor Currier noted that a payment was being posted to what appears to be a revenue account and he wanted to know how that is possible. He will meet with Ms. Gallagher and Finance Director Rebecca Cretti to review it.</p> <p>Ms. Bassett asked if the Giroux Street regulator rebuild project shows in the Budget to Actual reports under the Fire department. Ms. Gallagher responded that that was in the prior year's budget.</p> <p>Councilmember Bassett noted that some numbers in the "Actual" budget figures have been frontloaded, and in order to make sense of the numbers, Council will need to subtract all but the prorated portion of the year.</p> <p>Motion: Councilmember Bassett made a motion to approve the financial reports. It was seconded by Vice Mayor Currier and approved by all with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.</p>
<p>ITEM #3: 7:10 pm</p>	<p>Council reviewed the Building Inspector's report.</p> <p>Motion: Vice Mayor Currier made a motion to accept the staff reports. It was seconded by Mayor Check and approved by all with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.</p>
<p>ITEM #5: 7:11 pm</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>Mayor Check commented that Zoning Administrator Rebecca Borowski is attending her first regular Council meeting. Ms. Borowski had been attending school and was not able to be present at prior regular meetings.</p> <p>Vice Mayor Currier congratulated Ms. Borowski on her new degree.</p> <p>Councilmember Bassett remarked that Ms. Borowski does not need to reprint minutes if she is just adding one word². Vice Mayor Currier disagreed, and said that the minutes are important and should reflect reality. If they are flawed, they should be reprinted with the correction.</p>
<p>ITEM #6: 7:13 pm</p>	<p>COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES</p> <p>October 15 Special Meeting; December 10 Regular Meeting</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher noted that a name was misspelled in the October 15 minutes and will be corrected.</p> <p>Since all Councilmembers were present at both meetings, it was decided to approve both minutes in the same motion.</p> <p>Motion: Vice Mayor Currier made a motion to approve the minutes of October 15 and December 10, 2013. It was seconded by Councilmember Phinney.</p> <p>Councilmember Bassett noted that a correction was to be made in the October 15 minutes, as noted by Ms. Gallagher.</p> <p>AMENDED Motion: Vice Mayor Currier made a motion to approve the minutes of October 15, as amended, and the minutes of December 10. Councilmember Phinney amended his second.</p> <p>Mayor Check called the question and it was approved by all with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.</p>

² During approval of these minutes on February 11, Ms. Bassett clarified that she was referring only to minutes presented to Council for review, not to the permanently filed copy, which should be the final, corrected version.

<p>ITEM #7: 7:15 pm</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>Doug Freund, a Jerome resident, read a letter to Council asking that they consider proactively repealing Ordinance 405 before its referral to the voters at the August primary. His letter is included at the end of these minutes. Mayor Check commented that, although Council is permitted to respond to criticism, she is opting not to do so.</i></p>
<p>ITEM #8</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p>
<p>7:19 pm</p>	<p>ITEM #8A: VERDE RIVER BASIN PARTNERSHIP – STRATEGIC PLAN</p> <p>Brent Bitz of the Verde River Basin Partnership (VRBP) will present the organization's draft Strategic Plan, and seek input from Council.</p> <p><i>Mayor Check recused herself from any discussion on this matter, because she is up for election to the VRBP board. She left the dais and sat in the audience during this presentation.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Bitz, who is on the board of the VRBP, presented the organization's strategic plan, which was included in the meeting packet, and read and discussed its Mission and Vision statements:</i></p> <p>Mission</p> <p>The Partnership is a scientific and educational resource raising awareness among citizens and community leaders about the workings and limitations of Verde River Basin's interconnected groundwater and surface water systems, and the life they support.</p> <p>Vision</p> <p>The Partnership aims to secure the long-term health of Verde River Basin's groundwater and surface waters, by assisting citizens and community leaders in exploring strategies and management practices that will sustain the Verde River system for all future generations.</p> <p><i>Mr. Bitz explained that this organization was formed in 2005, at the direction of Senator John McCain, to address regional water issues. However, it is not a federal entity—it is a community organization that is comprised of many organizations, associations, communities and governmental entities. He added that not all of the communities in the area are members, but they have many volunteers from the area.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Bitz commented that, in 2010, the Partnership received a grant of about \$275,000 from the Walton Family Foundation for a study on the impact of human habitation on the Verde Valley's water resources. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) worked on this issue on behalf of the Partnership. The study indicated that, historically, human habitation impacts the base flow of the river and the level of the aquifers, and going forward, they can expect to see continued impact on the water resources with the expected growth of the Valley.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Bitz said that they are an all-volunteer organization, with the exception of two administrative support personnel. The Partnership received an additional \$80,000 from the Walton Foundation to assist them in supporting their activities.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Bitz gave an overview of the Strategic Roadmap, which was also included in the meeting packet. Over the next few years, the Partnership will:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to work on the production of the science report through partnership with the USGS, which is the most significant water science study ever concluded in the Verde Valley. 2. Focus on education.

3. Need to prepare a regional water plan. Mr. Bitz stated that water in the Verde Valley and the Verde Basin is interconnected. Even though ground waters and surface waters are viewed as legally distinct, they are not.
4. Develop and disseminate a range of solutions and suggestions for community consideration.

Councilmember Bassett commented that their group would be an appropriate advocate for changing state water laws so that groundwater and surface water are dealt with together instead of separately. Mr. Bitz agreed and said that current Arizona water law is an impediment to a long-term solution. He said that they try to work with all sides on these issues.

Mr. Bitz said that another element that they will be working on is financial sustainability. Their goal is to develop some of their own sustainable resources because they cannot always rely on outside funding, such as the grants that they have received.

Mr. Bitz said that their goal is to bring the community together by prodding Councils, businesses, newspapers, etc. to get it going. The science is now generally well understood – they are in a position to understand how growth can out-strip the sustainable resources of the Verde Valley Basin. Mr. Bitz said that the recently published State Strategic Water Plan acknowledges that current water resources are not sustainable for Arizona and, particularly, the Verde Valley.

Mr. Bitz explained that their organizational structure is comprised of boards and committees and all work is done by volunteers. They encourage Jerome to continue to be an active member – they have been pleased with their relationship with Jerome. They are also honored to now have Mayor Check on the board of directors.

They will have their annual meeting on January 28, at 4:00 p.m. at Yavapai College, and they will be discussing the annual plan.

Ms. Bassett asked if he could explain what "direct" and "caucus" mean, in the context of the list of partner members which was provided. Mr. Bitz explained that the way the Partnership was set up is that all major entities, including cities, towns, county governments, state and federal governmental agencies, the Indian Nations, etc., have an individual vote. Community organizations were put together into caucuses, such as for business, culture, environment, etc. Each caucus has two to four members, but only one vote. The individuals in the caucus would appoint one person to represent them and that person carries forward their interest.

Mr. Bitz disseminated copies of a study to Council as well as brochures about the partnership. He will try to keep all informed.

Ms. Moore asked if Mr. Bitz would consider the presentation in Camp Verde a manner of running the USGS model for the Verde Valley. Mr. Bitz said "yes." He said that the Partnership utilized this somewhat controversial model, which is also being used by Flagstaff and Clarkdale. He thinks that they will see further use of this model in spite of the fact that some political entities are hesitant about it.

Councilmember Phinney asked how far west the basin group covers. Mr. Bitz responded that it covers the entire basin, which includes all the communities in Prescott, on up to Dewey-Humboldt, and Big Chino to Camp Verde – everything in the Verde Valley area and everything in the Prescott Valley area. It does not include Kingman, which is outside the basin area.

Lee Christensen, a Jerome resident, asked what the study says regarding the population that will be supported based on the amount of water. Mr. Bitz made the disclaimer that he is not a hydrologist, but he replied that the population in the basin was 200,000 in 2006 and is projected to increase to 600,000 by 2050 – that will lead to a shortfall. Mr. Bitz said that we currently consume approximately 75,000 acre-feet of water per year, and, with the projected increase in population, an extra 45,000 acre-feet of water will be needed to meet the demand.

Mr. Bitz thanked everyone for the opportunity to present this information. Vice Mayor Currier thanked Mr. Bitz and added that it was very enlightening.

Mayor Check returned to the dais at this time.

ITEM #9	ORDINANCES
7:41 pm	<p>ITEM #9A: DISCUSSION ONLY: ORDINANCE NO. 409, An Ordinance of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Jerome, Yavapai County, Arizona, Amending Article 11-1, "Definitions," and Article 11-3, "Department and Consumer Responsibilities," and Adding New Section 11-3-11, "Shared Sewer Lines," of Chapter 11, "Sewer," of the Jerome Town Code, and Declaring an Emergency.</p> <p>Council will continue their discussion of an Ordinance to clarify the Town Code with respect to the responsibility for maintenance of shared sewer collection lines. During discussion, Council may opt to convene in executive session for consultation with the Town Attorney, who may participate electronically, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3). No action on this item will be taken at this meeting.</p> <p><i>Mayor Check explained that, at a previous meeting, there had been a first reading of this ordinance, but she had requested that this be placed on this agenda for discussion because there may have been updates since then. She added that Ms. Gallagher had let her know that, while there are no updates yet on the physical work, we are making progress toward fixing Ms. Stanley's line.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Gallagher reported that Ms. Stanley has signed a release and the Town will be able to make repairs to that line by addressing it through the Nuisance Code. She said that they won't be able to reline the sewer line as they had hoped, so they will have to excavate. Ms. Stanley is on board with this.</i></p> <p><i>Mayor Check said that Council needs to figure out what to do with shared sewer lines in general, and, while this isn't ready for a second reading, she would like to discuss it further. The Mayor noted that they could get Mr. Sims on the line to discuss this or go into executive session.</i></p> <p><i>Vice Mayor Currier referenced three areas in the ordinance (Page 1, Section 1, Item U; Page 2, Section 2, Item D; and Section 11.3.11, Items A, B and C) and asked if they still need further work. Mayor Check responded that she thinks that Council still needs to figure out its general direction – this was a starting point. After discussion at the last meeting, she doesn't think that Council had reached any clear decision regarding its direction.</i></p> <p><i>Vice Mayor Currier said that he was trying to figure out a way to make progress on this. He suggested that they assign each of these sections to staff to come up with better wording if this is not adequate for Council. He asked if Item U is still open for changes. Ms. Gallagher opined that the language seems a bit cumbersome and could possibly be clarified, and said that she would work with Mr. Sims on that. Ms. Bassett disagreed, and said that she thinks that it is well expressed. She said that "it all looks good" and she likes that consumer negligence is covered in two places. Mr. Currier said then that, if Ms. Bassett is okay with Section U, they should just use that language.</i></p> <p><i>Councilmember Phinney commented that some verbiage is overused and clumsy. Also, he isn't sure if "consumer" is the appropriate word to be using. Ms. Gallagher responded that "consumer" is used throughout the water and sewer ordinances.</i></p> <p><i>Mayor Check explained that the reason this is on the agenda for discussion only is because there were so many directions to go in. Some of the possible directions included (1) leaving the Code as is, with the addition of having the "clean and lien" option available, so that if someone is unable to take care of a public health issue, the Town will do it and place a lien on the property; and (2) to accept responsibility for the shared portions of the lines, but no one seemed comfortable with accepting that. She noted, as a follow up, that Ms. Gallagher and Chief Blair have been working on a plan to map the sewer lines. The Mayor said that she thinks that there has been progress on that and asked when that might be ready. Ms. Gallagher replied that Public Works is obtaining equipment that can be used to map the sewer lines. It will show where they are located and which are shared lines.</i></p> <p><i>Vice Mayor Currier asked where Council is on this issue and how will they make progress on it. Mayor Check responded that they will need to take the time to understand what liability they will be assuming. Ms. Gallagher noted that we are now addressing the issue that brought this to light, but it would be good to clarify this in the ordinance.</i></p>

	<p>Councilmember Bassett asked if they should drop the emergency clause of the ordinance. Ms. Gallagher agreed, since the emergency is now being addressed.</p> <p>Mayor Check noted that Mr. Sims is on stand-by if any one has questions – they can call him.</p> <p>Motion: Vice Mayor Currier made a motion to table this item. It was seconded by Councilmember Phinney. Mayor Check noted that they do not have to table this item since it is just discussion.</p> <p>Ms. Moore asked if a draft of this ordinance is on the Town website. It would be helpful for the public to be able to look at it. Ms. Gallagher agreed and will make sure it is posted there.</p> <p>Ms. Moore also commented that she knows that some of the Councilmembers are keeping this in mind, but it was not always the homeowner's choice regarding the way the sewer lines were run, and the decision made by the Town to run the sewer lines through other people's property. Mayor Check responded that many members of Council are also affected by this issue.</p> <p>Councilmember Bassett pointed out that this would change the Town's sewer laws/ordinances to more closely resemble what has been its practice. She also said that she wanted to make a verbal tribute to Johnny Boyle, who she thinks was the first person on the Public Works crew to help people on their own property. Vice Mayor Currier said that he thinks that the Town has <u>always</u> helped people who had problems, adding that "Mr. Boyle was a nice guy and he did help." Ms. Moore agreed with Mr. Currier that this practice preceded Mr. Boyle. Mr. Currier said that he thinks that, through the years, the Town has always been helpful to the residents.</p> <p>Mayor Check said that they are trying to reduce the conflict of using public funds on private property, so they will put it in the Code to make it fair and even. The Mayor said that she doesn't think that there is any harm in honoring Vice Mayor Currier's motion and Councilmember Phinney's second to table.</p> <p>Ms. Gallagher pointed out that this item was agendized only for direction, and not for action, therefore no motion can be made.</p> <p>Mayor Check said that Council will discuss this again when they have more information – this is not an item that they want to drop.</p>
<p>ITEM #10</p>	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>
<p>7:53 pm</p>	<p>ITEM #10A: APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION</p> <p>Council will review applications received for a vacant seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission, and may make an appointment to fill that vacancy. The appointment would be for the remainder of the unexpired term ending February 28, 2015. At the time of agenda preparation, one application had been received, from Frank Vander Horst.</p> <p>Mayor Check introduced Mr. Vander Horst and commented that they had met him previously when he had submitted another application. She asked him to explain to Council, in a nutshell, why he would like to serve on the Planning & Zoning Commission.</p> <p>Mr. Vander Horst commented that the main reason is because he has volunteered most of his adult life for various things. He and his wife purchased land here about 20 years ago but were only able to move here about one-and-one-half years ago. Now, he said, he would like to offer his assistance to the Town.</p> <p>Mayor Check asked Zoning Administrator Borowski if she endorsed Mr. Vander Horst. Ms. Borowski replied that she did.</p> <p>Motion: Councilmember Bassett made a motion to appoint Frank Vander Horst to the Planning & Zoning Commission. It was seconded by Councilmember Phinney.</p> <p>Vice Mayor Currier asked Mr. Vander Horst if he has any plans to open a Bed & Breakfast in the near future. Mr. Vander Horst replied that he does not.</p> <p>Mayor Check called the question and it was approved by all with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.</p>

<p>7:55 pm</p>	<p>ITEM #10B: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSPRS) BOARD</p> <p>Council may approve the Mayor's appointment of a citizen member to Jerome's local Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) Board for a four-year term ending November 20, 2017.</p> <p><i>Mayor Check commented that Ron Chilston would be a good addition to this Board, and Ms. Gallagher said that Mr. Chilston has agreed to serve. Mr. Phinney asked if anyone else was interested in doing this. Neither Mayor Check nor Ms. Gallagher knew of anyone else expressing interest. Mayor Check added that this a very low-profile board that meets just once a year.</i></p> <p><i>Mayor Check expressed her gratitude that Jerome is not in the same predicament with this board as other cities are. She said that this retirement system is a very daunting thing for many cities and really threatens the sanctity of their budgets. That is not so much the case in Jerome.</i></p> <p><i>Vice Mayor Currier stated that this Board decides where to invest the police department pension fund. He asked who does it for the fire department and was told that they have their own pension board.</i></p> <p>Motion: Councilmember Bassett made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Ron Chilston to the PSPRS Board. It was seconded by Vice Mayor Currier and approved by all with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.</p>
<p>7:58 pm</p>	<p>ITEM #10C: WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE</p> <p>Water Liaison Jane Moore will provide an update regarding the activities of the Water Advisory Committee (WAC).</p> <p><i>Mayor Check explained that Ms. Moore has been Jerome's Water Liaison for many years and has been actively participating as a member on this committee.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Moore explained that the past year has seen some changes in the original WAC meeting structure. She presented a report on the 2013 activities of this group and also a copy of the budget.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Moore noted that \$40,000 had been set aside to run models for WAC but they could not come to a consensus as far as running the model. They were also lacking another technical advisory board member and there was discussion and disagreement as to who to appoint to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Also, in April of last year, the WAC decided to have subgroups, which decided to meet on their own. They did not disband WAC, but it was felt that they might be able to make progress separately in doing these projects.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Moore clarified that the Prescott area as well as Cottonwood had some questions regarding whether there was enough data to input into running the model.</i></p> <p><i>She said that they have been meeting as the Middle Verde WAC. Cottonwood has chosen to not be a member of that committee. They have met four times since April with the main focus being on the purpose and structure of what they might be able to accomplish in the group apart from the entire WAC.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Moore continued and said that the WAC decided to begin meeting again with the focus being the Central Yavapai Highlands Water Resource Management Study (CYHWRMS). That study has been a several year project working with the U.S Bureau of Reclamation to ascertain existing and future water supplies into 2050 for our communities. This began in 2007-2008. Communities were meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation to input what their projected growth figures were, figuring out their available water resources, and then projecting forward to see if they were going to have enough water for future growth by 2050. She said that the TAC has been meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation in order to present the scientific aspects of it in a public-friendly form so that people can become involved and give input.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Moore said that the WAC also wants to educate the public, which would include the CYHWRM study. They want to use the \$40,000 to continue to gather and analyze the data with the USGS so they can come to some conclusions in the near future about running the models with the CYHWRMS predictions.</i></p> <p><i>In the meantime, the Verde River Basin Partnership (VRBP) has merged with the Verde Watershed Association, and they have taken the lead on educating the public on the area's water resources, including running the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) model in simplified form</i></p>

for the Verde Valley.

Mayor Check thanked Ms. Moore for all the time she spent attending these meetings.

Ms. Moore stated that she is interested in this and cares about Jerome's water future. She noted that Jerome is not officially part of the USGS system, so they won't do a model, but it is a "perched" system of aquifers. While it might connect by gravity to the Verde River, the pumping in the Verde Valley will not impact the springs here. Ms. Moore said that Clarkdale hired a hydro geologist to run the model to determine the water situation there if they continue to grow, and the impact on their aquifer. It has been indicated that we may be running out of water by 2050.

Ms. Moore spoke with John Rasmussen, who is the water coordinator and works directly with the USGS. He told her that he would talk to somebody at the USGS to find out what it would cost the Town to age-date our water. They test for radioactive things in the water to age-date it – they can use the signature from the nuclear testing in the 1950s.

Mayor Check clarified that the study done in Clarkdale had to do with future predictions of precipitation, since our aquifer is very precipitation-based. She said that it is important that we learn how long it takes for water to go from precipitation to stored groundwater. Ms. Moore responded that it is very fast; with snowmelt and extreme rainfall, they notice the results of that almost instantly in the spring flows. She said that we don't have a huge storage system in the aquifer system up there. The USGS people say that our groundwater is 50 years old or less. If we have more droughts and less snow pack on the mountain, we will have less water. They have taken this into account with the CYHWRM study and have determined that Jerome cannot grow a lot – we may be able to double our population.

Councilmember Bassett thanked Ms. Moore and asked if there is anything that the Jerome Council can do to encourage the USGS to run the model. Ms. Moore said that all are ready to run the model except for Cottonwood and the Prescott area communities.

Vice Mayor Currier asked if WAC controls the model. Ms. Moore replied that they do not. Mr. Currier asked if we can still run the model without those who don't want to. Ms. Moore responded that we can, but it is expensive – the VRBP did run their model with the Walton money.

Mr. Bitz said that the Partnership sought private funding, ran the model itself and produced it. Both Flagstaff and Clarkdale are using the model. He said that the best use of the model is if a community has a specific question in mind that applies to its needs, then the model is an excellent tool. Both Flagstaff and Clarkdale have goals to determine their long-term water strategy and are using the model to assist in their deliberations. The Partnership anticipates that other communities will eventually do the same thing because it is the only tool right now that will provide reasonably sound science for communities to understand the consequences of impacts on the aquifer from which they are drawing their water.

Vice Mayor Currier asked about CYHWRMS. Mr. Bitz explained that it is a supply and demand study – it is not an aquifer model. He said that it is an estimate of future growth and water demand. It is an inventory of existing water resources – a menu of alternative solutions to alleviate the anticipated shortfall. Mr. Bitz said that there will be lots of questions regarding CYHWRMS because, by its very nature, it is incomplete.

Mr. Currier questioned that the model doesn't comment on CYHWRMS findings. Ms. Moore replied that that is what running the model was supposed to do and explained how it works: you put in your predicted population (what you want to see), your available water supply and then you look on the impacts of different pumping rates.

Mr. Currier questioned whether these studies have all been done. Ms. Moore replied that the data is there, but we would have to input our own figures into that model to come up with these figures. There is a flow model that shows how much is flowing by gravity to the Verde River, and its direction. It shows how we would impact the aquifer and the flow to the river if we intercepted the flow here. Also, it would show communities where they could put in wells that would reduce the impact on the river.

Mayor Check noted that we would have to put up money to run the model. Ms. Moore confirmed this and said that Clarkdale is doing that for their community. She added that we can't do that, because Jerome is not part of the study, as we are not pumping out of wells that are part of the system that goes into the Verde River, although we are intercepting water from the springs.

	<p>Councilmember Bassett commented that she has not seen arsenic in the studies. To remove it would cost water. But, if aquifers get lower, there would be a higher concentration of arsenic. Ms. Moore agreed. Ms. Bassett said that arsenic in the water affects a lot of things.</p> <p>Mr. Bitz explained that the CYHWRM study is like an appraisal, which is the first step of the federal government's process for determining how to move forward with water solutions. It includes an environmental impact study. The communities come up with a selection of alternatives and then agree to move forward with a feasibility study, which is the next step. Then, the Bureau of Reclamation undertakes an environmental impact study with regard to the solutions. Ms. Bassett interjected that there is both financial cost and water cost. Mr. Bitz said that it's a combination of preliminary engineering drawings on the identified solutions, the environmental impact statement with regards to those solutions, and the preliminary cost estimate associated with those solutions. They are essential in order to get the federal government to be forthcoming if any capital monies are required. To go through the process takes time and, in theory, he said, the federal government would come up with huge monies to fund your water resources, but he doesn't know how it will be in the future.</p> <p>Ms. Moore commented that Jerome is small and separate from some of the communities and the Verde Valley. Throughout the Valley and other communities, there is talk of forming a water district and imposing certain things, as a whole, on all the communities. She thinks that Jerome needs to be proactive in being careful that we do not get financially tied or restricted, because one size does not fit all – we're not pumping off a well. Ms. Moore said that it is important for us to stay involved, especially with information on drought and its impact.</p> <p>Mayor Check thanked Ms. Moore and Mr. Bitz.</p>
<p>ITEM #11 8:25 pm</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 Bassett commented that all her concerns are being addressed. She also said that she is pleased that the sewer line insurance will soon be available.</p> <p>Mayor Check said that she would like to discuss the possibility of annexing and extending the current town limits without extending our service area. She was not part of the conversation regarding annexation when it went down before, so she would like to rehash it. Councilmember Bassett agreed.</p> <p>Councilmember Hunt said that additional handicapped parking had been approved on Hull Avenue as well as restriping existing handicapped zones, and asked about the status of these items. Ms. Gallagher said that she spoke with ADOT's engineer about the new handicapped parking, and will need to review her notes. Mr. Hunt will stop by her office for an update.</p> <p>Councilmember Hunt then said that he has been hearing rumors that Mayor Check no longer lives in Jerome, and asked her to respond. Mayor Check stated that she <u>does</u> live in Jerome and had sent out a message addressing that, including photographs. She does have a roommate, she said, and her boyfriend lives outside of town.</p> <p>Councilmember Phinney spoke regarding the speed limit change heading up 89A towards the old Jerome High School curve – the speed reduces from 35 mph to 20 mph and there is no signage warning that the speed is going to be reduced ahead. He thinks that, by law, if there is a reduction of more than 15 mph, there has to be a "Reduced Speed Ahead" sign. Ms. Gallagher replied that she would check with ADOT about that.</p>
<p>ITEM #12 8:28 pm</p>	<p>REVIEW OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES</p> <p>Council may enter into executive session, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.01(A)(2), if necessary for the purpose of discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection.</p> <p>Council took a few moments to review the closed session minutes. There was no need to enter into executive session.</p>

ITEM #13 8:29 pm	APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES October 15, 2013; December 10, 2013 Motion: Vice Mayor Currier made a motion to approve the closed session minutes of October 15 and December 10, 2013. It was seconded by Councilmember Hunt and approved by all with 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.
ITEM #14	ADJOURNMENT Upon motion by Councilmember Bassett seconded by Vice Mayor Currier and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Edited by Town Manager/Clerk Candace Gallagher from minutes taken and transcribed by Deputy Town Clerk Rosemarie Shemaitis.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Nikki Check, Mayor

Candace B. Gallagher, CMC, Town Manager/Clerk

Date: _____