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TOWN OF JEROME, ARIZONA

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MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JEROME TOWN COUNCIL JEROME CIVIC CENTER - 600 CLARK STREET - COUNCIL CHAMBERS TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M.

<p>ITEM #1:</p>	<p>CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL</p> <p>Mayor/Chairperson to call meeting to order.</p> <p><i>Mayor Vander Horst called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Town Clerk to call and record the roll.</p> <p><i>Town Manager/Clerk Candace Gallagher called roll. Present were Mayor Vander Horst, Vice Mayor Kinsella, Councilmember Bachrach, and Councilmember Currier. Councilmember Barber had an excused absence.</i></p> <p><i>Also present was Joni Savage, Deputy Clerk.</i></p> <p><i>The pledge of allegiance was said.</i></p>
<p>ITEM #2: 7:01</p>	<p>PUBLIC HEARING ON 2017-18 BUDGET AND TAX LEVY</p> <p>The Mayor and Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 2017-18 budget and tax levy for the Town of Jerome. Any taxpayer may appear and be heard in favor of or against any proposed expenditure or tax levy. No increase in the tax levy is proposed.</p> <p><i>Mayor Vander Horst opened the public hearing. It was noted there were two members of the public and one reporter in attendance. There was no public comment.</i></p> <p><i>Mayor Vander Horst closed the public hearing.</i></p>
<p>ITEM #3: 7:02</p>	<p>RESOLUTION #557: ADOPTING THE 2017-18 BUDGET</p> <p>Following the public hearing, the Mayor and Council may approve Resolution #557, adopting the final budget for the Town of Jerome for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.</p> <p><i>Mayor Vander Horst asked for any discussion or if there was a motion.</i></p> <p><i>Motion: Councilmember Currier made a motion to adopt the budget as presented [approve Resolution 557]. It was seconded by Vice Mayor Kinsella.</i></p> <p><i>Councilmember Bachrach noted that total government expenses are up 28%, and the general fund expenses are up 22%. He said that he hopes that we will have the revenue next year to support this.</i></p> <p><i>Mayor Vander Horst said that he believes that the increase is due to capital projects, and is coming from the general fund balance. He added that we cannot continue to deplete the fund balance in future years.</i></p> <p><i>Councilmember Bachrach mentioned the "substantial increases in salaries and wages," and said, "we certainly can't continue that."</i></p> <p><i>Mayor Vander Horst agreed, and recalled that Council had discussed at their strategic planning meeting that they wished to invest in six key employees. "It was a one-time event," he said.</i></p> <p><i>Councilmember Currier noted that payroll accounts for half of our operating expenses, and added, "Last year, the Council was very tight with the budget and it was embarrassing." He said that he has felt bad about the increases that have been given in the past. "We never give people on the bottom a decent raise," he said. "The people on the top always get the most. This year, we tried to maintain our key people and not lose them. We're all getting older and we will have to replace these key people. We have to draw the right people into these positions. I think it's critical that we keep our key people. We need them."</i></p> <p><i>Councilmember Bachrach commented that we need the "people on the bottom" also, and</i></p>

	<p>Mr. Currier replied that they can be replaced more easily than those on the top.</p> <p>Vice Mayor Kinsella said that he has been doing this for many years, and he agrees with Councilmember Currier that "payroll and personnel is the toughest thing to do." "Kudos to the staff," he added, and said that he appreciated their getting the budget together along with everything else they have been doing. He expressed support for this budget.</p> <p>Councilmember Bachrach suggested that, next year, "we take Councilmember Currier's lead and discuss the bottom half."</p> <p>Mayor Vander Horst said, "That's appropriate, however when I looked at the wages, I compared every position, and the people on the bottom are making the same or more as other towns. We had a huge discrepancy on key personnel. I know we are small, but we had a big discrepancy. I believe we addressed what we could."</p> <p>Chief Muma commented that, a year or two ago, the lowest paid employees were increased from \$10.00 to \$12.00 per hour.</p> <p>The Chief went on to say, "It seems that some people believe that the police is not that big a job up here," and went on to detail some of what they deal with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide attempts where they intervened • Several suicides ("Let me tell you when you clean brains off cement, that sticks with you a long time.") • Their work in ending a multi-state crime spree. Our officers caught the perpetrators. • Assaults on our officers over the years. He himself was shot at a few years ago, he said. • Twice the volume of misdemeanors and traffic violations as in Clarkdale. <p>Chief Muma also spoke of his accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been no lawsuits resulting from police specific incidents since he has been Chief. • He has secured more than a million dollars in grants for the police department. • When he arrived here, the average length of service was 1.8 years. Now, it is about eight years. • He heard that there was a rumor that he only works one day a week. He said that this is untrue, and that he put in 116 hours during the last pay period, not counting EMS calls that he responds to. <p>"We have an ethically correct police department," he said. "I have turned down more wage increases than I have accepted. I don't make what a Sergeant in Clarkdale makes, even with this raise. I've been ethical and correct. This department has a good name all over the valley. I train all over the state, and I've outlasted everybody here. This is not a popularity contest for me. My job is to deal out effective, ethical law enforcement."</p> <p>He said that, last year, there was a .028 percent raise, and before that, nothing. "Add those raises up for a few years," he said.</p> <p>Kevin Savage, a Jerome resident, commented, "Every town should ask for a Police Chief like him."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Resolution was approved, 4-0.</p>
<p>ITEM #4:</p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>Upon motion by Vice Mayor Kinsella, seconded by Councilmember Currier and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.</p>

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

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Frank Vander Horst, Mayor

Candace B. Gallagher, CMC, Town Manager/Clerk

Date: