

# TOWN OF WELLTON

## Minutes of the NOVEMBER 5, 2013 Regular Council Meeting

**Mayor James L. Deermer called the regular session to order at 7:00PM on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, lead the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation. Roll call was taken.**

**Council Members Present:** Mayor James L. Deermer, Vice Mayor Cecilia C. McCollough, Councilmen Alejandro M. Bejarano, Vickie Bornt and Lisa J. Jameson

**Staff Present:** Interim Town Manager Joe Grant, Financial Director Ana M. Flores, Billing Clerk Sandra Jones and Interim Police Chief Cannon Ball.

**Guests Present:** Ed and Sally Hawley, Sandi Luna, Janet Hall, Judith Hilarie, Brian and Sharon MacGillivray, Don and Candace Besse, Robert Hohlbein, Johnnie Altstadt, Frank Hibbard, Sophia Castro, Victoria Manriquez, Clarissa De Anda, Marie T. Rodriguez, Jeff Peters, Luis Saboria, Billie Slocum, Sheila Vogt, Serina Rasmussen, Shirley Reynolds, Lynette Layton, Cynthia Quiroz, Anita Sandoval, Charles Vanderwindt, George West, Victor and Lynn Frankfather, William and Anna Lee Phillips, Mary Klawuhn, Laura Noel, Matt Brooks, Jose Castro, Juell and Vera Barker, and Scott Ferris.

### **Call to the public**

- Candace Besse announced a pickle ball program starting up in Wellton on November 6. Flyer attached
- Shirley Reynolds expressed concern about the noise from parties at the Community Center. The last party held there had received permission to go until 1:00 AM, instead of 11:00 PM, and was held outside instead of inside. It was extremely loud and could be heard at Arrowhead. She believes that there should be a noise ordinance. Mayor Deermer asked Mr. Grant to look into it.
- Billie Slocum had two things to say. First, she apologized to the Council, and especially Vice Mayor McCollough, over her previous comments regarding the invocation. She thought she knew the laws of the land but found that she was not correct. In regards to sectarian prayers in municipal functions, this will be heard in the very near future by the Supreme Court. The second item was in regard to the Police Chief hiring. She provided a copy of the November 1, 2011 Council Minutes where Mr. Rinehart introduced Jeffrey Philpot as the new Interim Police Chief. It was unclear whether the Town Manager or the Town Council were responsible for hiring the police chief. She said that when she talked with Jeffrey Philpot, he was unclear as to whether he worked for the Town Manager or the Town Council. She had heard that personnel procedures had recently been changed and expressed her concern. She suggested that any offer to Mr. Ellis be severed and to put Jeffrey Philpot into the position.
- Scott Ferris said that he is happy to see the emotional participation. Everyone must keep the attitude that they want the best for our town. He encouraged people to get behind the Council and lend a hand. Matt and Robbie have obvious gifts and abilities. Matt has a talent for writing grants. Don't waste energy and money on recalls. We want peace in our town. We could do our town well by building instead of burning it down.

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

#### **1. Approval of Minutes**

##### **A. For the Meeting of August 6, 2013.**

A motion was made by Councilman Bejarano, seconded by Councilman Bornt to approve the minutes for the meeting of August 6, 2013. Voice vote 5-0, motion carried.

**B. For the Meeting of September 24, 2013.**

A motion was made by Councilman Bejarano, seconded by Vice Mayor McCollough to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 24, 2013. Voice vote 5-0, motion carried.

**2. Add Councilman Vickie Bornt as a signer for the Town of Wellton banking accounts.**

Councilman Bejarano moved to add Vickie Bornt as a signer for the Town of Wellton banking accounts and Vice Mayor McCollough seconded. Voice vote 5-0, motion carried.

**3. Update on Police Chief status.**

Interim Town Manager Joe Grant recently received an email from Mr. Ellis detailing that there has been a family emergency. Upon return back to Washington, Mr. Ellis will get with his lawyer to make any final changes to the proposed contract.

**4. Discussion and possible action regarding Dallas Self's proposal on Gila Ranch Road.**

Interim Town Manager Joe Grant reported that Mr. Self is going to try to recoup his losses and will not be pursuing the road issue again.

**5. Water System update presentation by NCS Engineers.**

Regulations have changed which necessitated an evaluation of the Town's water system. The findings were presented (copy of presentation attached). The estimated project cost is \$900,000. Eighty-nine percent (89%) will be funded with grants from CDBG, USDA and Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) programs. There is also an estimated impact on water rates anticipated of approximately \$9/month per customer for capital and operating and maintenance costs. The timeline for proposed funding, engineering and construction is two years.

**6. Wellton Elementary School annual update presentation by Dr. Laura Noel.**

The school is doing very well academically. This past year, the school received a B rating for last year (on an A-F scale). It has been improving each year. They teach kids to hope and teaching them that they can make a difference in what happens. They are providing 30% increased time; increased day and year, and finding that this is making a difference. Also providing more accountability, setting a standard and helping the students reach their goals. They are recognizing the effort exerted by the students; if students put in the time and do all the things they need to do to get the grade, then they'll move on. Teachers are well trained in identifying what student's needs are. There are several volunteers assisting with providing focused help in student tutoring and with the sports programs. They are looking for additional volunteers for Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday after school programs. The school will be having a Celebration of Achievement on February 20 at the school.

One community member commented that there is nothing in the town for youths to do except to get in trouble. He indicated that that lack of things for the youth to do fell on the shoulders of the Council. Dr. Noel said that what the school was doing is to provide sports programs, the Turkey Trot is happening in November but indicated there could always be more programs.

Mr. Ferris commended Dr. Noel and the school's efforts.

**7. Discussion and possible action in the selection of a hiring committee for the positions of:****A. Town Manager/Clerk.**

The Town Council and Interim Town Manager Joe Grant will be interviewing. Interim Town Manager Joe Grant will set up appointments for interviews. Mr. Ferris commented that it was good that Interim Town Manager Joe Grant is on the interviewing committee as he has been performing the job as an interim. Mr. Ferris went on to say that the Council should include Jeffrey Philpot or Interim Police Chief Ball for consideration for the police chief vacancy. Eighteen applied for the Town Manager/Clerk position and the Council narrowed it down to four to interview.

**B. Deputy Town Clerk.**

The Council reviewed the applications for the Deputy Town Clerk, however, hiring is going to be left to the new Town Manager/Clerk. The Council will provide its recommendations for consideration.

**8. Discussion and possible action to consider requests for golf tournaments:**

**A. Antelope High School Annual Golf Tournament request by Jeff Peters for January 11, 2014.**

The tournament has been held annually for the past 20 years. Funds raised are used to support various activities throughout the year. Councilman Bejarano moved to approve the request by Antelope High School to use the golf course and Councilman Bornt seconded. Voice vote 5-0, motion carried.

**B. Habitat for Humanity requested by Charles Vanderwindt on January 18, 2014.**

Last year they raised \$700 for Habitat for Humanity. If possible, would prefer to have January 25 instead of January 18. Councilman Bejarano moved to approve the request by Habitat for Humanity contingent upon the 25th being available and Councilman Jameson seconded. Voice vote 5-0, motion carried.

**• Future Agenda Items**

1. Cost of Border Patrol Station.
2. Rules and Regulations for Community Center and Park.
3. Procedure for handling complaints about dogs, etc.
4. Grand Marshall for the 37th Annual Pioneer Day Parade and Fiesta.
5. Update on Police Chief status (while this item was being addressed as a future agenda item, some of the community members brought up the topic again about cancelling the job offer with Mr. Ellis and putting Jeffrey Philpot in the Police Chief position. Mayor Deermer brought up that this topic was not an agenda item and it was improper to be discussing it at this time in the meeting, however, the discussion continued for several minutes more.)
6. The progress on sale of church property.
7. Sports complex.

**• Other Reports**

No Other Reports

**• Staff's Report**

Interim Town Manager Joe Grant reported Mike Washburn, the Permit Clerk, gave his two week notice. His last day will be next week.

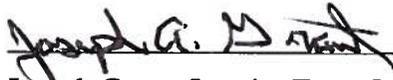
• **Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Councilman Bejarano, seconded by Vice Mayor McCollough to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote 5-0, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22PM.

  
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James L. Deermer, Mayor

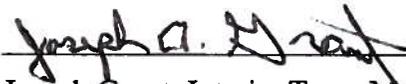
ATTEST:

  
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Joseph Grant, Interim Town Manager

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the forgoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the regular meeting held November 5, 2013 and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

  
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Joseph Grant, Interim Town Manager