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TOWN OF JEROME, ARIZONA

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MINUTES

BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE JEROME TOWN COUNCIL JEROME CIVIC CENTER - 600 CLARK STREET – COUNCIL CHAMBERS THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015 AT 2:00 P.M.

<p>ITEM #1:</p>	<p>CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL</p> <p>Mayor/Chairperson to call meeting to order. Town Clerk to call and record the roll.</p> <p><i>Mayor Currier called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Town Manager/Clerk Candace Gallagher called roll. Present were Mayor Lew Currier, Vice Mayor Doug Freund, and Councilmembers Abe Stewart, Alex Barber and Frank Vander Horst.</i></p> <p><i>Also in attendance were Joni Savage, Deputy Clerk, and Rebecca Cretti, Finance Director.</i></p>
<p>ITEM #2:</p>	<p>2015-16 BUDGET</p> <p>The Manager will present the fourth draft of the 2015-16 budget for Council's review and discussion. There may be detailed discussion regarding any portion of the budget.</p> <p><i>Ms. Gallagher reviewed changes that were made to the draft budget based on Council's discussion at the last meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Utility rate increases were eliminated.</i> • <i>The General Government budget was increased slightly to accommodate attendance by one Councilmember at the annual League conference as well as additional trainings which may take place during the coming year.</i> • <i>In the Fire Department budget:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Revenue from wildlands fire fees was removed from the Fire Department budget and placed in the Contingency Fund.</i> ○ <i>Fire Dept. Services Revenue was reduced from \$10,000 to \$3,500, and the difference placed in Contingency revenues.</i> ○ <i>NAEMS Reimbursement revenue was moved to the Operating Grants fund.</i> • <i>Public Works salaries were reduced as a result of eliminating the position of Public Works Crew Chief.</i> • <i>In the Properties budget, rental revenues were increased slightly in light of the possible rental of a space below the Artists Co-op.</i> • <i>The Youth budget for the Kids Art Workshop program was increased by \$750, to accommodate an assistant and an expansion of the program.</i> <p><i>Ms. Gallagher said that, in this draft, the general fund is subsidizing the utility accounts as follows: Sewer - \$5,000 and Sanitation - \$20,000.</i></p> <p><i>The new capital fund totals \$113,000, earmarked toward a skid steer, eventual garbage truck purchase, and general capital improvements.</i></p> <p><i>Discussion ensued, the highlights of which are presented below (not necessarily in</i></p>

	<p>chronological order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margie Hardie, a resident, spoke of the need to repair our streets and sidewalks, which are in disrepair. She added that the storm drain on her street needs repair. It was noted that property owners are responsible for the sidewalks abutting their property, and that the Town, through an agreement with ADOT, maintains the sidewalks along 89A. The expense and difficulty of undertaking street repairs was discussed, and the problems that would be inherent in the Town making sidewalk repairs and placing a lien against the property owner. Ms. Hardie concluded that she does not understand why there is money budgeted to repair the leaning wall when our neighborhoods are falling apart. • It was decided to use the monies to be realized from 1% of the 3% bed tax (which 1%, by law, must be dedicated to the promotion of tourism) toward hiring a weekend shuttle driver and for related shuttle expenses. • Councilmember Vander Horst expressed concern about raising sales taxes and would like to find other ways to reduce expenses instead. Council then spent time reviewing items line by line in the General Government, Police, Fire Library, P&Z and Properties budgets, and Ms. Gallagher explained what was included in them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ During review, it was determined that the P&Z budget will be increased slightly to: (a) allow for two hours per week of clerical assistance by Laura Levering; (b) add another two hours per month for the part-time minutes taker; and (c) add \$200 for map upgrades/copies. ○ It was also determined that the budget for infrastructure R&M in the Parks budget would be increased by \$2,800, to include \$500 for adding native vegetation in the area between Middle Park and Main Street. ○ There was discussion regarding fuel abatement. Councilmember Vander Horst said that, in some communities, those costs are split with the homeowner. It was agreed to budget \$10,000 for this year that would focus on Town properties only, as an example to our residents, and also to increase the Fire Department's budget for operating supplies to \$1,500. ○ Mayor Currier expressed interest in obtaining a 3-D printer for the library. • There was general discussion regarding ways in which to address the subsidence issue, and it was stated that the \$30,000 we will be receiving from the County Flood Control District could be used for that purpose. • The need for work on Queen Street was discussed and it was deemed a priority. • The Town Manager's pay was discussed. Vice Mayor Freund stated that Ms. Gallagher, at \$64,100, is "grossly underpaid" for her work as Town Manager and Town Clerk¹, and Mayor Currier said that he would like to increase her pay to \$70,000. Ms. Gallagher declined, and stated that, while she greatly appreciated their offer, and needs the money, she would not be comfortable accepting such an increase unless those who work for her are also awarded more substantial increases. She suggested, as an alternative, a 5% increase across the board. Council was not comfortable with that. • It was agreed that the minimum wage for any Town employee will be \$12 per hour. <p>Mayor Currier noted that the current group of Town employees is "the best team he's seen in 40 years."</p>
<p>ITEM #3:</p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>

¹ Clerk's note: Upon approval of these minutes, Vice Mayor Freund requested that this footnote be added to clarify that his statement was made in the context of what other towns pay their managers and clerks.

Upon motion by Councilmember Vander Horst, seconded by Councilmember Stewart and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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: _____