



# MINUTES

## Town Council Regular Meeting

6:00PM - Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Wellton, Town Hall Council Chambers

28634 Oakland Avenue, Wellton, Arizona 85356

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**Mayor Scott Blitz called the regular meeting to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. Mayor Blitz led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilmember Sylvia Davidson gave the invocation. Roll call was taken.**

**Councilmembers Present:** Mayor Scott Blitz, Vice Mayor Cecilia McCollough, Councilmembers Barbara Biggs, Sylvia Davidson, and Michelle Jones.

**Councilmembers Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Richard Marsh, Deputy Town Clerk Sandra Jones, Finance Director Dennis Osuch, Public Works Director Joe Grant, Assistant Public Works Director Salvador Arcos, Police Chief David Rodriguez, Fire Chief Mark Rivera, Grants Administrator Yolanda Galindo, Coyote Wash Golf Course Manager Brian Claar, Butterfield Golf Course Manager Shasta Baughn, and Attorney John Austin Gaylord (via Zoom).

**Guests Present:** Audrey Zingler, Mary Callen, Lynda Lake, Bob Stueve, Kenny Ward, Dolores Ward, Jim Sampson, Stan Lucier, Ralph Davidson, Connie Bennett, Catherine Blitz, Lisa Lama, Evie Pistone, Rob Murdock, Reyna Curiel, Teresa Piedra, Traci Sparks, Tim Burns, Bob Leeper, and Peggy Leeper.

### Call to the Public

**Robert Parker – 11732 Mohawk Street:** A marshal at Coyote Wash Golf Course told his wife that she would get a ticket for their dog being on the golf course. His dog is a service dog that his wife was walking.

**Ralph Davidson – Avenue 28E:** Discussed the possible action of a recall. Employees are not happy, according to their discussions with him. Recall is expensive and he would like to not go that route, but he is ready to pull the trigger. Complaints to the Town Council have had no response. Please email or text him with questions. No phone calls please. The community is not happy.

### Presentations

- Employee of the Month: Mary Miranda.
- Recognition of Appreciation to Darren Simmons, Yuma County Supervisors District No 3
- Introduction of the new contracted positions:
  - Water System Operator, Tim Burns
  - IT, Bryant Hamilton
  - CPA, Dennis J. Osuch.

**Discussion and Action Items****1. Approval of Financial Statement:****a. As of March 31, 2023**

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to approve Financial Statement: as of March 31, 2023.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

**2. Approval of Cash Disbursements:****a. For the Period: January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023**

Motion made by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Vice Mayor McCollough, to approve Cash Disbursements for the Period: January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023.

Davidson: Abstain

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes:****a. For the Meeting of April 18, 2023 (Special Meeting).**

Motion made by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Vice Mayor McCollough, to approve Minutes for the Meeting of April 18, 2023 (Special Meeting) as amended.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

**4. Discussion and possible action to:****a. Accept the bid for the purchase of 29249 San Jose Avenue (PID 709-13-030), WELLTON ANNEX, Block 42, Lot 3.**

Motion made by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to accept the bid for the purchase of 29249 San Jose Avenue (PID 709-13-030), WELLTON ANNEX, Block 42, Lot 3 from Housing America in the amount of \$20,000 as submitted.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay  
Blitz: Yay  
McCollough: Yay  
Biggs: Yay  
Motion carried.

**5. Discussion and possible direction regarding community park.**

Discussion was held with the public regarding a community park in the Coyote Wash area.

• **Recess Regular Session of the Common Council and open Public Hearing as Board of Adjustment**

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to recess Regular Session of the Common Council and open Public Hearing as Board of Adjustment at 6:58PM.

Davidson: Yay  
Jones: Yay  
Blitz: Yay  
McCollough: Yay  
Biggs: Yay  
Motion carried.

**6. Public Hearing for:**

- a. **Variance Case #V-23-001: Mark and Jackie Johnson request a variance of Planning & Zoning Code Chapter 8, Section 8-5.4.1-B (3): One (1) Guest House/Casita or an Accessory Building is allowed on a lot, on their property located at 11661 Laguna Street (Parcel #: 709-52-042).**
- b. **Variance Case #V-23-002: Michelle Jones requests a variance of Planning & Zoning Code Chapter 8, Section 8-5.4.1-D (1): Minimum Interior Yard Setback: 6 feet on her lot located at 11822 Cortez Street (Parcel #: 709-59-219).**

Councilmember Jones recused herself from the dais during the discussion.

• **Close Public Hearing.**

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Biggs, to recess Regular Session of the Common Council and open Public Hearing as Board of Adjustment at 7:07PM.

Davidson: Yay  
Jones: Yay  
Blitz: Yay  
McCollough: Yay  
Biggs: Yay  
Motion carried.

**7. Discussion and possible action to approve the redistribution of funds to reduce Fund 71-47 (GOHS) in the amount of \$69,828.00 and increase Fund 87-49 (Stonegarden 2022 Funds) by \$69,828.00.**

Motion made by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Vice Mayor McCollough, to approve the redistribution of funds to reduce Fund 71-47 (GOHS) in the amount of \$69,828.00 and increase Fund 87-49 (Stonegarden 2022 Funds) by \$69,828.00.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay

Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

#### **8. Discussion regarding Tentative Operating Budget FY 2023 – 2024.**

Discussion regarding Tentative Budget:

- staff is not recommending the reduction of City Sales Tax,
- possible penalty for exceeding the Expenditure Limitation this FY,
- the Town will receive a reduction in State Shared Revenues,
- possible Rental Tax Elimination,
- possible Food Tax (for Home Consumption) elimination,
- Census Challenge,
- Possible reclassification of the Court Enhancement Fees (\$221,000) collected from the surplus fund to a restricted fund.

Comments/questions included:

- Animal license module
- SeeClickFix - anti
- Pickleball funding
- Raises
- Public Safety
- Pickleball – grants
- Animal Control laws in Yuma County
- Golf Cart licensing
- Golf Carts being driven by kids.
- No budget increase desired
- Lower Sales Tax
- Butterfield Golf Course – 7-day season pass instead of the 5-day.

#### **9. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 707 to adopt the Tentative Operating Budget FY 2023 – 2024 and establish the maximum budget amount for the Town of Wellton for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.**

Motion made by Vice Mayor McCollough, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to adopt Resolution No. 707 to adopt the Tentative Operating Budget FY 2023 – 2024 and establish the maximum budget amount for the Town of Wellton for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

Davidson: Nay

Jones: Yay

Blitz:	Yay
McCollough:	Yay
Biggs:	Nay
Motion carried.	

**10. Discussion regarding 5-day work week.**

Discussion regarding public and Council input regarding a 5-day work week. This item is to be tabled for 6 months.

**11. Update regarding Fire Department EMS Subscriptions and billings.**

Discussion was held.

**Future Agenda Items**

- Presentation of the FY2021-22 Audit.

**Town Manager's Report**

- Clarifier issue update: We will be soliciting a new round of bids. ADEQ was consulted, and funds are not available through ADEQ for this project. ADEQ will still assist us in implementing the findings of the consultant they have hired to deal with other issues at the plant.
- Visit by Lacey Loftin, Data Dissemination Specialist with the US Census Bureau from Washington, DC. Mayor Blitz, Vice Mayor McCollough, Sandy, Ashley, and I attended this meeting. The 2030 Census process has begun, and an address database is to be provided for use, project manager for Wellton has been appointed by Census to assist in organizing the census campaign for 2023.
- Staff is in the process of reviewing existing Zoning Codes and Zoning Map to provide recommendations for modifications. There will be a workshop with the Town Council for review and consideration. Mayor, Councilmember Jones, Sandy, Ashley, and I are working on this project.
- We are attempting to confirm dates for a Town Council retreat during the month of August. The purpose of the retreat is to review the Strategic Plans outcomes and proposed updates for the next two years.
- JW Holdings will hold a community meeting on May 16, 2023, at 2:00PM, to answer questions regarding the proposed Links at Coyote Wash Utilities sewer rate increase and the comment period to be held by the Arizonan Corporation Commissions. The Coyote Wash Community Action Committee will be hosting this meeting.
- Meeting with the Consulate of Mexico to discuss mutual border issues. A follow-up meeting is to be held to discuss outreach to the Hispanic population in Wellton. The Consulate of Mexico will be hosting a Bi-National Golf tournament sponsored by the Coyote Wash Golf Club to include Mayors and Councilmembers from both sides of the border.

- Meeting at Antelope Union High School by SBDC and AZ@Work. I introduced the host and presenters at the meeting and made introductions. The goal was to connect Wellton businesses to youth workers who would be paid. \$16.50 an hour by AZ@Work.
- Dennis J Osuch is the Town's new contracted CPA. . In 2016, his firm became a top 10 accounting firm and Dennis finished his career at the beginning of 2023 to serve the governments he has been passionate about his entire career in another capacity.

Dennis' previous experience with government entities includes the Arizona City/County Management Association; Arizona Municipal Clerks Association; Central Arizona Water Conservation District; City of Avondale, Arizona; City of Douglas, Arizona; City of Flagstaff, Arizona; City of Glendale, Arizona; City of Mesa, Arizona; City of Scottsdale, Arizona; City of Surprise, Arizona; City of Nogales, Arizona; City of Peoria, Arizona; City of Scottsdale, Arizona; Government Finance Officers' of Arizona; League of Arizona Cities and Towns; Maricopa Association of Governments; Maricopa County Stadium District; Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority; Regional Public Transportation Authority; Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona; Town of Kearny, Arizona; Town of Miami, Arizona; Town of Paradise Valley, Arizona; Town of Parker, Arizona; Town of Payson, Arizona; Town of Sahuarita, Arizona; Town of Star Valley, Arizona; Town of Wickenburg, Arizona; Valley Metro Rail, Inc.; and numerous other local governments.

#### Education and professional involvement

- Bachelor of science in accounting from Arizona State University
- Certified Public Accountant
- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Arizona Society of Certified Public Accountants
- Government Finance Officers Association
- Arizona Association of School Business Officials
- Arizona Society of Certified Public Accountants Board Member (Term to begin May 2023)

#### Civic and philanthropic organizations

- Desert Schools Federal Credit Union, past director of the board
- Desert Schools Federal Credit Union, past supervisory committee member
- Children and Student Ministry at Hope Bible Church
- Foster and Adoptive Parent – Sponsored through Christian Family Services
- Big Brothers Big Sisters past volunteer
- Cactus Foothills Little League Manager
- Bryant Hamilton is the Town's new IT Consultant. He has worked with numerous entities, to include:
  - Robert Nickerson Farms, INC.
  - Quail Corporation (Construction)
  - Big O Tire (Yuma)
  - Western Financial
  - Blohm Farms
  - Newberry's Furniture
  - Professional Home Doctors (PHD)

- Kammann Farms
- Apollo Drain
- C&C Machine Shop
- Department of Defense
- Yuma Proving Grounds

The industries he is involved in include IT consulting (Certified Information Systems Security Professional - CISSP), Systems administration, network administration, low voltage and structured cabling, Video Security Systems (Axis Certified Professional), Alarm Security (Alarm.com Dealer/Installer).

### **Council's Report**

- Vice Mayor McCollough attended Cross Border Connection, State of Arizona Leadership, DES Second Chance Summit, Sunset Community Health center Grand Opening of new Yuma facility, and YMPO Board Meeting this last month. The Rural Transportation Summit is upcoming.
- Councilmember Biggs meets with Town Manager Marsh in a touchpoint meeting monthly. She would like to see the trash can's locations (Sanitation Dept) and IPMC on future agendas for discussion.
- Mayor Blitz met with Senator Sinema's Outreach Manager with Council and Staff to discuss Wellton's possible future needs. Discussion regarding USDA and RD. Title 42 and the potential ramifications of it have been a topic of discussion. The Gila River flow has also been increasing due to the release of additional water.

### **Executive Session**

- None requested.

### **Adjournment**

Motion made by Councilmember Davidson, seconded by Councilmember Jones to adjourn.

Davidson: Yay

Jones: Yay

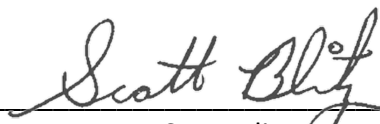
Blitz: Yay

McCollough: Yay


Biggs: Yay

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36PM.

  
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Scott Blitz, Mayor

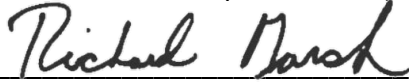
ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Marsh", is written over a horizontal line.

Richard Marsh, Town Manager

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the forgoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the regular meeting held May 2, 2023, and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Marsh", is written over a horizontal line.

Richard Marsh, Town Manager