

## MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BISBEE, COUNTY OF COCHISE, AND STATE OF ARIZONA, HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023 AT 5:30 PM AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT, 915 S. TOVREAVILLE ROAD, BISBEE, ARIZONA.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR BUDGE AT 5:35PM.

### ROLL CALL

#### **COUNCIL**

Councilmember Juanetta Hill, Ward III  
Councilmember Joni Giacomino, Ward II  
Councilmember Frank Davis, Ward I            Excused  
Mayor Ken Budge  
Councilmember Leslie Johns, Ward I  
Councilmember Mel Sowid, Ward II  
Councilmember Anna Cline, Ward III, Mayor Pro Tempore

#### **STAFF**

Stephen J. Pauken, City Manager  
Ashlee Coronado, City Clerk  
Keri Bagley, Finance Director  
Matthew Gurney, Public Works Director

#### **CITY ATTORNEY**

Joseph Estes

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WERE DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING:

1. Discussion regarding the future operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Contract with Jacobs.  
Stephen Pauken, City Manager

Mr. Estes gave an overview regarding the contract with Jacobs and gave his recommendation.

Mr. Pauken spoke regarding the relationship with Ron Jacobsen, superintendent down at the plant through Jacobs. He felt he had attended to the maintenance at the plant to a degree that it was a definite plus over the past few years. The plant is seventeen (17) years old and will require more care as we go.

Mayor Budge wanted to ensure that there was enough time to discuss how we wanted to move forward with the plant operation.

Mayor and Council discussed and asked questions regarding the operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the contract with Jacobs, and staff welcomed the discussion and responded to their questions.

2. Discussion regarding the current Wastewater Rates and the possibility of increasing them.  
Stephen Pauken, City Manager

Mr. Pauken spoke regarding the 2018 Wastewater Rate Study that had been done and the financial aspect of running the Wastewater Plant. He proposed an increase in the wastewater rates and explained his proposal. Mr. Pauken said that rates had not been increased since 2013. We were already behind the schedule that was

proposed in the study. He proposed that while we put the three percent increase into effect as soon as possible for all residents, the residents that were currently on the discounted rates would have until July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2024 before the increase went into effect.

Mayor and Council discussed and asked questions regarding increasing the Wastewater rates, and staff welcomed the discussion and responded to their questions.

Mr. Pauken said that there was a long process to increase the wastewater rates. It was going to be a few months before this took effect.

MOTION: Mayor Budge moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Councilmember Cline

MOTION PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT: 6:46 PM

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Ken Budge, Mayor