



TOWN OF JEROME

POST OFFICE BOX 335, JEROME, ARIZONA 86331
(928) 634-7943
www.jerome.az.gov

ACTION MINUTES

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF JEROME
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JEROME TOWN HALL
600 CLARK STREET, JEROME, ARIZONA**

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023, AT 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL 7:01 P.M.

Mayor/Chairperson to call meeting to order
Town Clerk to call and record the roll.

PRESENT: MAYOR ALEX BARBER, VICE MAYOR JANE MOORE, COUNCIL MEMBERS JACK DILLENBERG, SAGE HARVEY, AND SONIA SHEFFIELD

PROCLAMATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

State Historical Preservation Office Presentation

Ariana Urban from the State Historical Preservation Office will be present for a brief discussion and recognition of the Town's historic preservation efforts.

DISCUSSION HELD

Hotel Jerome Presentation

Steve Knowlton will be providing a presentation regarding potential design elements for residential possibilities and commercial modifications for the Hotel Jerome building.

PRESENTATION GIVEN

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Discussion/Possible Action

Financial Report and Detail Invoice Register Report for May, 2023

Council will consider and may approve the financial reports for month ending May, 2023

APPROVED

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Discussion/Possible Action

Reports by the Town Manager / Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Utilities Clerk, Accounting Clerk, Public Works Director, Building Inspector, Library Director, Municipal Magistrate, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Council Members

Council will consider and may approve the staff reports.

APPROVED

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT/PLANNING & ZONING AND DESIGN REVIEW BOARD MINUTES

Information/Council Review

Report Provided by the Zoning Administrator. Minutes are Provided for Information only and do Not Require any Action

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion/Possible Action

Consider Approval of the May 9th Special Council Meeting Minutes, May 9th Regular Council Meeting Minutes, and the May 30th Special Budget Meeting minutes

Council will consider and may approve the May 9th and May 30th meeting minutes.

MAY 9TH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APPROVED WITH MINOR CHANGES; MAY 9TH REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AND MAY 30TH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC -NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Possible Action

Consideration of Council Chambers Flooring: Tear Out and New vs. Rehabilitation

Council will consider the cost and complexity of preserving the original flooring compared to a complete re-flooring project and may provide staff direction.

APPROVED MOTION FOR NEW FLOORING

Consider Approval of the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact Agreement

Council will consider and may approve the updated Arizona Mutual Aid Compact Agreement.

APPROVED

Consideration of Permanent Approval for the Jerome Fire Department Auxiliary to Utilize the Basketball Court for the Annual Halloween Dance

Council may authorize and provide approval for the use of the basketball court for the annual Halloween Dance for 2023 and all subsequent years it's held.

APPROVED

Consideration of a Tour Company Business License Application for Sip Sedona

Council will consider and may approve a business tour license application.

APPROVED

Consideration of a Tour Company Business License Application for Sedona Hiking Adventures, LLC, dba, Wine Tours of Sedona

Council will consider and may approve a business tour license application.

APPROVED

Consideration of Expiring Lease(s) and Possible Renewal

Council will consider and may approve the renewal of the lease for Studio 2, with or without changes.

APPROVED MOTION TO NOT RENEW LEASE

Discussion and Consideration of a Possible Land Swap with, or Receipt of Land from, the Jerome Historical Society for Parking at the Hotel Jerome

Council will consider and may approve and / or provide staff direction in reference to a land swap or the receiving of land from the Jerome Historical Society.

DISCUSSION HELD

Consider Approval of the Tentative Budget of FY 2023-2024

Council will consider and may approve the proposed tentative budget for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024. If approved, the public hearing for the budget and tax levy final adoption will take place on June 26, 2023.

APPROVED

TO AND FROM THE COUNCIL

Council may direct staff regarding items to be placed on a future agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNED AT 8:19 P.M.



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MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF JEROME COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JEROME TOWN HALL 600 CLARK STREET, JEROME, ARIZONA TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023, AT 7:00 PM

7:01 (0:01) 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor/Chairperson to call meeting to order
Town Clerk to call and record the roll.

Present were Mayor Alex Barber, Vice Mayor Jane Moore, and Council members Jack Dillenberg, Sage Harvey, and Sonia Sheffield.

Staff present included Town Manager/Clerk Brett Klein, Zoning Administrator Will Blodgett, and Deputy Town Clerk Kristen Muenz.

7:01 (0:24) 2. PROCLAMATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

A. State Historical Preservation Office Presentation

Ariana Urban from the State Historical Preservation Office will be present for a brief discussion and recognition of the Town's historic preservation efforts.

Ariana Urban from the State Historical Preservation Office introduced herself to the council. She said she was here to get feel for Jerome and have the new Planning & Zoning Administrator give her an idea of plans for future preservation efforts. She spent the whole day in Jerome and was impressed. Urban indicated she appreciated being able to gather depth and understanding of the town, its built environment, and historic resources. Ms. Urban said Fire Chief Blair and ZA Blodgett had spent the entire afternoon with her and she appreciated their time. She added that the fact that the council were excited for historic preservation is a big deal; it was important but rare for municipalities to have supportive administration. Ms. Urban stated that Jerome is unique and has challenges that will need unique solutions for preservation. She said that she understood that the council has put aside funds in the budget for historic preservation projects which can sometimes be cosmetic but can also be critical. She thanked the council and said that she looked forward to spending more time in Jerome.

Council member Dr. Dillenberg agreed that Jerome is a unique place in Arizona, and we appreciate her continued positive promotion.

Mayor Alex Barber stated that Jerome is also a national historic landmark for over 50 years.

Ms. Urban added that Jerome was one of the earliest, and there are very few municipalities that are considered to be one in their entirety.

7:06 (4:48) B. Hotel Jerome Presentation

Steve Knowlton will be providing a presentation regarding potential design elements for residential possibilities and commercial modifications for the Hotel Jerome building.

Ms. Barber thanked Mr. Knowlton for his impressive presentation and invited him to the front to speak.

Mr. Knowlton stood and gave his presentation, which included slides of illustrated images of the lobby area of the Hotel Jerome as it could look after renovation.

Dr. Dillenberg commented that it was beautiful.

Council member Jane Moore asked if the plan for the lower level would be in conjunction with the upper 3 floors.

Mr. Knowlton answered yes, but it was only a concept. You will need a certified architect. What you decide on will be money driven.

Dr. Dillenberg asked how much it would cost.

Mr. Knowlton replied that the cost would be large and would depend on the choices for lighting and materials. He also added a caution: you talked about doing the downstairs area first, but all the mechanical for the floors above must go through somewhere, so you may end up remodeling the remodel. He said the technical people can tell you what can and cannot be done, and that may make a difference in the way it is done.

7:19 (17:49) 3. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Discussion/Possible Action

Financial Report and Detail Invoice Register Report for May, 2023

Council will consider and may approve the financial reports for month ending May, 2023

Council member Sage Harvey asked for clarification on the payment to Elite Performance. She asked, "that is the slab for the bathrooms, right?"

Mr. Klein and Ms. Muenz confirmed that Elite Performance had been paid for pouring the concrete slab for the new bathrooms.

Ms. Barber explained that earlier, she had questioned that last item on the Invoice Register and wanted everyone to know it was for the new truck purchased by the Fire Department.

Motion to approve Financial Reports for May 2023

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
SHEFFIELD		X	X			

7:20 (18:48) 4. STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Discussion/Possible Action

Reports by the Town Manager / Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Utilites Clerk, Accounting Clerk, Public Works Director, Building Inspector, Library Director, Municipal Magistrate, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Council Members

Council will consider and may approve the staff reports.

Mr. Klein summarized a few items from his report. He said there were two meetings coming up, including the Yavapai Supervisors update in Prescott, and one for the Verde Valley area managers and elected officials. Klein said he will be having a meeting with the leaders of Haven UMC, the church that does food drive for the food pantry. Mr. Klein said that ever since the pandemic, there has been a growing number of people taking advantage of it and they are having trouble getting the resources to Jerome. They wish to utilize a vehicle and driver once a week. He said he will update the council on the potential date and bring the formal request before the Council at a future meeting.

Ms. Barber wanted to bring up the date of the upcoming meeting because she thought the tribe was not available on Thursdays, so it was moved. Also, she wanted to bring up the fact that the ADEQ representative thought we were not moving quickly enough. What consequences is that for us, is that just their opinion, and how can we move faster?

Mr. Klein responded that we have had some good dialogue, and now they understand we are doing everything we can. It is stuck because of the Section 106 artifact study and comment period; we are waiting on the state historic office and tribe to sign off on it. Zoning Administrator Will Blodgett added that we are waiting for comments on the survey and mitigation. SHPO waits 2 months to get responses back, so this is not atypical.

Ms. Harvey asked, you do not have a meeting with C.A.T. until the 28th? So, the 14 per week she indicated that the shuttle driver told her he is not picking people up in Jerome. She said that last week he brought a busload of teenagers up and she had to watch them while they were in her shop. She said, for what we are putting out, she really does not think we are benefiting our residents and we can use this money somewhere else. Also, can we do things about dogs not allowed in the Upper Park sign? She said she is tired of seeing people take their dogs up there because our kids run around there and it's gross. Lastly, there are trucks parked on School Street that are dilapidated and she would like to see that cleaned up.

Dr. Dillenberg gave a brief update on the Chamber of Commerce. He said that Ginger and Dylan are doing a great job. He got a call from Findlay Subaru of Prescott, and they want to be a sponsor for Jerome and maybe do an event. We are setting up a lunch with the leaders of the dealership, Ginger, and himself to see what possibilities there are. They really are excited to support Jerome. Jerome resident John McDonald said that people don't want to use the C.A.T.S bus because they will only drop you off at the Cottonwood library. You basically have to walk all over Cottonwood if you go and people are not going to bother.

Ms. Harvey said that the one person she sees use it takes his bicycle.

Ms. Moore asked, is there no C.A.T.S van that takes you other places around Cottonwood?

Ms. Harvey said that there was supposed to be.

Council member Sonia Sheffield said that you have to go from one route to another.

Mr. Barber said it was a pilot program, something we were trying and apparently it did not work out as planned. She congratulated employees Mark Boan of the Jerome PD for 7 years of service, Fire Chief Rusty Blair for 22 years, and Brett Klein for 1 year.

Ms. Harvey wanted to point out that, yet again, we had 12 oversized trucks drive into town. Sometimes we get multiple at the same time, and it was getting ridiculous.

Ms. Barber said the APS substation is nearing completion, so maybe we could talk to ADOT and Clarkdale about the piece of road there. Is there any way we could get a turnaround there? There is no place to get a big rig turned around.

Motion to approve Staff and Council Reports for May 2023

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG		X	X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
SHEFFIELD			X			

7:29 (28:30) 5. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT/PLANNING & ZONING AND DESIGN REVIEW BOARD MINUTES

Information/Council Review

Report Provided by the Zoning Administrator. Minutes are Provided for Information only and do Not Require any Action

Mr. Blodgett briefly read his report which included updates from recent meetings. A demolition application had been approved for a hazardous house that had long needed repair. This was the second demolition permit currently out. He said he had a number of code enforcement items he has been working on, such as the vehicles on School Street that were mentioned, and also an RV that may be occupied. He and Building Inspector Barry Wolstencroft will have discussions with some of the homeowners with properties on Chief Blair’s list. Mr. Blodgett also reached out on behalf of the Hotel Jerome looking for project managers. The groups he reached out to seemed to think it was a bigger project than they wanted to take on, so he was exploring possible outcomes. If we don’t hire an individual, he thought perhaps we could have a small committee of himself and a group of people who know their trades. He said his day spent with Ms. Urban was beneficial because he was able to talk about a variety of projects that need to be done. One of the things looked at were the cobblestone roads located in the core of town. He said there are ways to save some of them, but some sections we may need to consider modernizing. The council thanked Mr. Blodgett for his report.

7:33 (32:01) 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion/Possible Action

Consider Approval of the May 9th Special Council Meeting Minutes, May 9th Regular Council Meeting Minutes, and the May 30th Special Budget Meeting minutes

Council will consider and may approve the May 9th and May 30th meeting minutes.

Ms. Barber asked if there were corrections.
 Ms. Harvey asked if “council members” can be inserted into the Call to Order section after Jane Moore’s name so that it does not appear that every council member is a vice mayor.
 There was some discussion as to whether this was from the May 9th Special Meeting, or the May 9th Regular Meeting, and it was determined that it was from the May 9th Special Meeting.
 Ms. Moore said that she wanted to specify the library she had mentioned was the Yavapai College Library, which Ms. Muenz said she had added.
 Ms. Barber said that her agenda did not include one of the sets of minutes and Ms. Muenz explained that she had picked up her packet before those minutes had been completed. She then asked if there was any discussion for the May 30th Special Meeting minutes.
 Ms. Harvey motioned to approve as submitted and the vote was taken.
 Ms. Barber asked to say something on behalf of our library in Jerome. She said our library has been getting books from the Yavapai College Library and we have a bunch more books now. She said that thinks that the digital age is amazing, but when she thinks of a library, she thinks of books. It will be a sad day when we can have a digital learning center, but our libraries have no books in them. She thanked Kathleen Jarvis, Jerome’s wonderful librarian.

Motion to approve Minutes of the May 9th, 2023, Special Council Meeting with minor adjustments

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE		X	X			
SHEFFIELD			X			

Motion to approve Minutes of the May 9th, 2023, Regular Council Meeting as presented

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG		X	X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
SHEFFIELD			X			

Motion to approve Minutes of the May 30th, 2023, Special Council Meeting as presented

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG		X	X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
SHEFFIELD			X			

7:39 (38:21) 7. PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no petitions from the public.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Possible Action

7:40 (38:29) A. Consideration of Council Chambers Flooring: Tear Out and New vs. Rehabilitation

Council will consider the cost and complexity of preserving the original flooring compared to a complete re-flooring project and may provide staff direction.

Ms. Barber introduced the item by saying that we have been given a few different options to replace the floor. She asked Ms. Moore if she would like to speak.

Ms. Moore said when you think of the cost of refinishing the floor, and we may be able to put in new that would last a longer, maybe we should look at putting in a new floor that looks similar.

Ms. Barber said that she also brought up the fact that we have other floors that are similar, and we could save usable pieces for rehabilitation. There is a big spot in the middle that can never be rehabbed. We have a new floor in fire station that we were going to try to mimic.

Carl Whiting said that Chief Blair told him to relay that, as far as the floor goes, it could go either way. The Fire Department may be able to assist in some way but as far as saving and restoring existing flooring, that would be a smart idea because there are a lot of floors in town that have the same maple floor. He said we tried to acquire some but were unsuccessful.

Ms. Barber and Ms. Harvey thanked Mr. Whiting and there was a discussion of floor types and costs.

Ms. Moore said we must realize this floor has to be pulled out; it is hard to say what someone would charge. It may need OSB or plywood beneath it.

Mr. Whiting said Chief Blair had told him the subfloor runs diagonally and may need a subbase.

Ms. Harvey asked if it was a floating floor like in the Historical Society? Is it connected to the subfloor?

Mr. Whiting replied that he could not tell her, but the Historical Society floor and Fire Department floor were of the same material. He said, after the Fire Department had a flood, we had to sand and re-stain it, and put 3 coats on finish to preserve it.

Ms. Barber said we also wanted to see what the public had to say about it. Does anyone want to speak?

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. Barber said she was on the fence. The reason she had said we needed a new floor is because a professional looked at it, she asked Ms. Moore if that was the case.

Ms. Moore said that Building Inspector Barry Wolstencroft had also looked at it.

Ms. Barber added that he and the builder both looked at it and said it would never be right in the middle. We don't even know how thick it is, after repairs, are we going to have anything left? It is time for a new floor.

Dr. Dillenberg agreed.

Ms. Barber asked, in this situation, can we do the work in-house? It is not enough money to go out to bid.

Mr. Klein replied that we can complete the project with in-house staff. He explained that if she says "new" in the motion, the project will come back before the Council at a later date with several options. Mr. Klein stated that as requested the public was made aware of this item and that they were being provided an opportunity to comment.

Motion to approve a Re-Flooring Project

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER	X		X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY		X	X			
MOORE			X			
SHEFFIELD			X			

7:47 (46:36) B. Consider Approval of the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact Agreement

Council will consider and may approve the updated Arizona Mutual Aid Compact Agreement.

Ms. Moore pointed out a misspelling of Chief Muma's first name.

Ms. Barber directed Mr. Klein to be sure we spelled it right on the contract.

Mr. Whiting said he had a comment. A few weeks ago, Verde Valley Fire had an incident on the other side of Western Drive. It was a multiple structure fire, and every agency in the Verde Valley was stripped of resources. To provide coverage to the entire Verde Valley area, including Sedona, Jerome, Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, and Rimrock, we had no resources available. Through this compact, agencies from central Arizona could be made available to provide services with one phone call through dispatch. This Mutual Aid Compact doesn't cost us anything and we can be provided with assistance throughout the state. He said, if we had this, they would have provided services.

Ms. Harvey asked, we didn't have this?

Mr. Whiting confirmed that we did not.

Ms. Harvey commented that it says in the compact that we can decide whether we need to be here. She read a section of page 95, number 6, about the providing party making reasonable efforts, providing aid as is able, taking into consideration existing commitments within its own jurisdiction.

Mr. Whiting repeated that if we had this compact in place on the day of the multiple structure fire, we would have had resources.

Ms. Harvey replied, "Let's remedy that right now."

Ms. Barber thanked Mr. Whiting.

Motion to approve the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact Agreement

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG		X	X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
SHEFFIELD			X			

7:52 (51:12) C. Consideration of Permanent Approval for the Jerome Fire Department Auxiliary to Utilize the Basketball Court for the Annual Halloween Dance

Council may authorize and provide approval for the use of the basketball court for the annual Halloween Dance for 2023 and all subsequent years it's held.

Ms. Harvey motioned to approve, and Ms. Sheffield seconded.

Ms. Barber said this was something that needed to happen, probably even before covid, because the dance had outgrown the hall by twice or even three times. Also, it is helping the Fire Auxiliary because they are making more money by being able to have more people. She called the vote, and it was approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Permanent Approval for the Jerome Fire Department Auxiliary to Utilize the Basketball Court for the Annual Halloween Dance

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
SHEFFIELD		X	X			

7:53 (51:54) D. Consideration of a Tour Company Business License Application for Sip Sedona
Council will consider and may approve a business tour license application.

Ms. Barber said the tour company was already in operation, but the owner wanted to come into compliance.

Dr. Dillenberg replied, good, and motioned to approve.

Ms. Harvey asked Mr. Klein if the owner had his insurance and TPT license, and Mr. Klein confirmed that he did.

Motion to approve the Tour Company Business License Application for Sip Sedona

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG	X		X			
HARVEY		X	X			
MOORE			X			
SHEFFIELD			X			

7:54 (53:02) E. Consideration of a Tour Company Business License Application for Sedona Hiking Adventures, LLC, dba, Wine Tours of Sedona

Council will consider and may approve a business tour license application.

Ms. Barber said that she wanted to point out a couple of things about the Audrey Headframe; it had been misspelled with a "b."

Ms. Harvey asked the business owner, Jim Reich, to come to the front so we could ask some questions.

Mr. Reich introduced himself and his business.

Ms. Harvey asked if he would be conducting a walking tour or a driving tour.

Mr. Reich answered that it was a walking map, and we will park in the lot by the Sliding Jail or the big lot by the Fire Department unless we have the luck to find parking elsewhere.

Ms. Harvey asked if the 2nd tour map was also a walking tour.

Mr. Reich said it would be, but they also do driving tours. Sometimes the customers ask about mining, so we talk to the guests about the Grand Hotel, Cleopatra Hill, and take photos. If they are interested, we will go to the headframe.

Ms. Moore asked if he was looking to do hiking in Jerome.

Mr. Reich replied not at all, we started out doing hiking tours, but now people love wine, so we have transitioned. He said we have had some frustrated customers because we suspended tours until we got approval.

Ms. Harvey thanked Mr. Reich for coming into compliance as soon as he was asked to and motioned to approve.

Motion to approve the Tour Company Business License Application for Sedona Hiking Adventures, LLC, dba, Wine Tours of Sedona

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG		X	X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
SHEFFIELD			X			

7:59 (57:31) F. Consideration of Expiring Lease(s) and Possible Renewal

Council will consider and may approve the renewal of the lease for Studio 2, with or without changes.

Ms. Barber said this has been problematic, because we had someone trying to live here. She said she did not have a problem with renewing the lease, but we want to make sure we are not having problems with the person we are renewing with. In this lease, it says you are not allowed to live here.

Ms. Harvey agreed that the agreement clearly says that.

Dr. Dillenberg asked if it was the apartment downstairs.

Ms. Barber confirmed that it was. She brought up the other two leases, which were already renewed but were increased, and said this also needs to be increased a little. Plus, we need to reiterate that it is in no way, shape, or form to be lived in.

Ms. Harvey repeated that it was clearly stated, and Ms. Barber agreed.

Dr. Dillenberg said that the trouble is that they are living there; they are cooking there.

Ms. Barber asked Mr. Dillenberg if he wanted to make a motion not to renew.

Dr. Dillenberg said he would like to a motion that we do not renew the lease without a negotiated change in behavior.

Ms. Harvey said that the person had been spoken to for over a year.

Dr. Dillenberg replied that nothing had changed, and he had gotten complaints.

Ms. Harvey asked Mr. Klein if he had been inside the studio, and if it appeared lived in.

Mr. Klein said that he had been inside and could not confirm it has been lived in but from staff's perspective there were also other issues and complaints such as a lack of updated insurance documents and cooking odors, etc.

Ms. Harvey said that she would make a motion to not renew. She said the person has been out of compliance.

Ms. Barber said that this is a building that is dear to all of us, and if something were to happen to it, it would be nightmarish.

Motion to not Renew the Expiring Lease for Studio 2

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG		X	X			
HARVEY	X		X			
MOORE			X			
SHEFFIELD			X			

8:02 (1:01:05) G. Discussion and Consideration of a Possible Land Swap with, or Receipt of Land from, the Jerome Historical Society for Parking at the Hotel Jerome

Council will consider and may approve and / or provide staff direction in reference to a land swap or the receiving of land from the Jerome Historical Society.

Ms. Barber said that on March 15th, 2022, under New Business, the Historical Society received a letter with a proposal for a land swap. She and Ms. Moore met on site and talked about it with John Knight and Jay Kinsella. The New State Motor Company has 3 lots on Rich Street, and we have a lot, called "Bobby D's dumpster," that is 3 spaces. The Chief of Police said they would be willing to give that lot to the town as long as they were given assurances that if Post Office left town, they would have parking. There was never a proposal made to the town. She said that many members of the Historical Society have since left, but we are considering trying to do this to have a whole parking lot. Ms. Barber said that she had asked the Town Manager to provide details.

Mr. Klein explained that we would have to ensure that anything we receive is of equal value, otherwise, we go through the process of selling town property. A land swap can be difficult, but it could be done. We would have to have surveys done, make sure the properties are the same value, then there are several other statutory requirements.

Ms. Harvey asked if we are sure those are the 3 parking spaces mentioned. Would it be tandem parking?

There was some discussion as to the location of the town property and the feasibility of parking.

Ms. Barber asked Mr. Klein for a suggestion as to how to proceed and he replied that we should find substantially equal land.

Ms. Barber suggested that we have someone come out to do the survey.

Mr. Klein replied that surveys are running a year behind, and Ms. Harvey commented that the Hotel Jerome would not be done this year.

Ms. Barber said we have time to free up more parking for the huge building we are trying to restore.

Mr. Blodgett said we do have some more flexibility with remote parking in the commercial zone than in a residential zone.

There was more discussion as to town property locations.

Ms. Barber said we should take time to think about this and then revisit it at a later date because there are new members on the Historical Society board, and this is a preliminary discussion.

8:14 (1:13:13) H. Consider Approval of the Tentative Budget of FY 2023-2024

Council will consider and may approve the proposed tentative budget for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024. If approved, the public hearing for the budget and tax levy final adoption will take place on June 26, 2023.

Ms. Barber said that she has mentioned to the Town Manager that we need more benches against the wall in the park. It is a beautiful park, but we need more seating.

Mr. Whiting said that we have a supply of benches in the town yard.

Ms. Barber replied there is potential for more benches and then can revisit if we need to add more picnic benches. We have a lot of visitors and that is a great place to sit in the shade; we should utilize it.

Ms. Barber said she and Ms. Moore would like to point out that our flags were not in great shape, but they had been replaced. She suggested that we keep replacements on hand.

Ms. Harvey said that starting page 142, it says 2 new Firewise employees, but she thought we had discussed 3.

Mr. Klein clarified that the budget and FD are set for two.

Ms. Harvey asked for clarification on if the safety fence along 89A was for the cantilevered sidewalk, and Mr. Klein confirmed that it was.

Ms. Harvey said she wanted to bring to everyone's attention how much money we were continuing to use to subsidize utilities, even with parking funds. Mr. Klein said it was far less than last year, which Ms. Harvey agreed was the case, but said it was still a lot.

Ms. Barber said she had one more question regarding internet services going up; she asked if it was fiber optic.

Mr. Klein explained that it was still Sparklight. They gave us the e-rate previously, and they are not doing that any longer, so we are going to commercial rates.

Motion to approve the Tentative Budget of FY 2023-2024

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER			X			
DILLENBERG	X		X			
HARVEY		X	X			
MOORE			X			
SHEFFIELD			X			

8:19 (1:18:13) 9. TO AND FROM THE COUNCIL

Council may direct staff regarding items to be placed on a future agenda.

Ms. Barber asked the members of the council if anyone would like to speak, and no one had any items to add.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:19 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
BARBER	X		X			
DILLENBERG			X			
HARVEY		X	X			
MOORE			X			
SHEFFIELD			X			

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Alex Barber, Mayor



Brett Klein, Town Manager/Clerk

Date: 7/11/2023