



TOWN OF JEROME

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

AGENDA

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - PUBLIC HEARING #1 ALTERNATIVE EXPENDITURE LIMITATION (HOME RULE) OF THE TOWN OF JEROME

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JEROME TOWN HALL
600 CLARK STREET, JEROME, ARIZONA

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024, AT 6:30 PM

Due to the length of this meeting, Council may recess and reconvene at the time and date announced.

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02 notice is hereby given to the members of the Council and to the General Public that the Jerome Town Council plans to hold the above meeting. Persons with a disability may request an accommodation such as a sign language interpreter by contacting Kristen Muenz, Deputy Clerk, at 928-634-7943. Requests should be made early enough to allow time to arrange the accommodation. For TTY access, call the Arizona Relay Service at 800-367-8939 and ask for the Town of Jerome at 928-634-7943.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to A.R.S. 1-602.A.9, subject to certain specified statutory exceptions, parents have a right to consent before the State or any of its political subdivisions make a video or audio recording of a minor child. Meetings of the Town Council are audio and/or video recorded, and, as a result, proceedings in which children are present may be subject to such recording. Parents in order to exercise their rights may either file written consent with the Town Clerk to such recording, or take personal action to ensure that their child or children are not present when a recording may be made. If a child is present at the time a recording is made, the Town will assume that the rights afforded parents pursuant to A.R.S. 1-602.A.9 have been waived.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**
Mayor/Chairperson to call meeting to order
Town Clerk to call and record the roll.
- 2. NEW BUSINESS**
Discussion/Possible Action

A. Public Hearing: Alternative Expenditure Limitation (Home Rule)

Council will conduct the first of two public hearings in accordance with A.R.S. 41-563.01, regarding an Alternative Expenditure Limitation (Home Rule Option) for the Town of Jerome.

- 3. ADJOURNMENT**

The Town Council may recess the public meeting and convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussion or consultation for legal advice with the Town Attorney, who may participate telephonically, regarding any item listed on this agenda pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3). The Chair reserves the right, with the consent of Council, to take items on the agenda out of order.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE

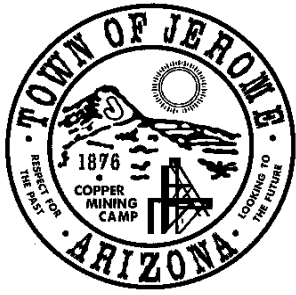
The undersigned hereby certifies that this notice and agenda was posted at the following locations on or before 7 p.m. on _____ in accordance with the statement filed by the Jerome Town Council with the Jerome Town Clerk: (1) 970 Gulch Road, side of Gulch Fire Station, exterior posting case; (2) 600 Clark Street, Jerome Town Hall, exterior posting case; (3) 120 Main Street, Jerome Post office, interior posting case.

Kristen Muenz, Deputy Town Clerk

File Attachments for Item:

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Founded 1876
Incorporated 1899

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT

FROM: Brett Klein, Town Manager/Clerk
ITEM: **Item: Public Hearing on Alternative Expenditure Limitation (Home Rule Option)**
MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

Summary:

Any city or town may adopt an "alternative" expenditure limitation (also known as “Home Rule”) that is free from any ties to the State imposed limitation if a majority of the qualified electors voting on the issue at the city/town election vote in favor of the alternative limitation. An alternative limitation may be referred to the city/town voters by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the city/town council. If approved, the annual adopted budget becomes the alternative expenditure limitation for the city or town and remains in effect for four consecutive years. If the alternative limitation is defeated by the voters, no new alternative expenditure limitation may be submitted to the voters for at least two years, and the city or town will be subject to the State limitation.

The voters of the Town of Jerome in 1982, 1986, 1990, 1994, 1998, 2002 and 2006 adopted an alternative expenditure limitation - home rule option. Voters in 2010 and 2011 adopted a one-time override, accomplishing the same purpose. In 2012, 2016, and 2020, an alternative expenditure limitation was once again approved by Jerome voters by a wide margin. It is now time to reaffirm the alternative expenditure limitation in 2024.

A city/town council contemplating an alternative expenditure limitation must hold two public hearings on the proposed action. Notice of these hearings must be published twice, and following the second hearing, the council must vote on the proposed alternative expenditure limitation. A record of the vote and, if approved, the amount of expenditure in excess of the State limitation and purposes for the excess expenditure must be published.

Public hearings have been scheduled for March 12th and March 18th, 2024, and notice was published in the Verde Independent on February 24 and March 2nd. Following the March 18th hearing, Council will be asked to vote on the proposed alternative expenditure limitation, and a record of the vote will be published.

At least 60 days prior to the election, we must submit a detailed analysis, summary analysis and summary analysis worksheet to the Auditor General for review. The detailed analysis of the alternative expenditure limitation must contain specific amounts estimated to be expended in specific areas for a period of four consecutive years, and specific amounts of estimated revenue from each and any source, and any assumptions used in estimating such revenue, for a period of four consecutive years. We will be preparing and submitting these analyses to the Auditor General.

We must also prepare a publicity pamphlet for this election, containing information required by statute, including any arguments for or against the proposal. It must be provided to each household within the town containing a registered voter at least 10 days before the election. Any arguments for or against the alternative expenditure limitation must be filed with my office no later than May 1, 2024. I will be working with a service provider to prepare and mail the required publicity pamphlet.

A full timeline is attached for your reference.

Key Considerations:

- If approved, the expenditure authority will be used only for local purposes including police, fire, courts, library and youth programs, economic and community development, parks and recreation, street maintenance and improvements, water and wastewater systems operations and maintenance, refuse and recycling services, and other important public services.
- Without approval of the alternative expenditure limitation, the Town will be limited to spending only \$550,476 in 2024-25, and similar amounts in succeeding years, resulting in drastic reductions to these same services.
- Home Rule allows the Town to decide for itself what services it will provide to its residents through the annual public budget process, rather than be subjected to formulaic restrictions imposed by the State.
- The proposal does not permit the Town to spend more than it receives, and it is not a tax increase. Actual expenditures will continue to be subject to the public budgeting process and the Town's fiscal policies.
- Jerome voters have consistently approved a local alternative to the State-imposed expenditure limit every four years since 1982.

Fiscal Impact:

Unknown at this time.

Recommendation:

Hold the requisite public hearing to allow for public input. No Council action is taken until following the second public hearing.

HOME RULE - ALTERNATIVE EXPENDITURE LIMITATION

PRIMARY ELECTION JULY 30, 2024

Chronology/Timeline

Deadline set by Law	Statutory Requirement	Recommended Date	Action Steps	
2/1/2024	Must be published PRIOR to public hearings <i>(sent to paper 2/21/24)</i>	3/5/2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Received estimated State-imposed expenditure limitation for coming fiscal year	
		2/24/2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete Home Rule Budget Expenditures Worksheet	
		3/2/2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First notice of public hearings	
		3/12/2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Second notice of public hearings	
		3/18/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> First public hearing for Home Rule Option	
		3/18/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Second public hearing - Council votes on the proposal immediately after second hearing in a special meeting	
	Following hearing/vote	3/21/2024*	<input type="checkbox"/> Publish record of vote and amount of the expenditure in excess of the state imposed limitation and purposes for the excess	
4/1/2024	At Least 60 days prior to election & before printing of publicity pamphlet within 15 business days of submittal Not less than 90 Days prior to election	4/1/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Receive actual State-imposed expenditure limitation	
		3/29/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit Detailed and Summary Analyses and Summary Analysis worksheet to Auditor General's Office (AG has 15 days to respond)	
		4/19/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Receive reviewed detailed and summary analyses and worksheet from the AG office	
		5/1/2024*	<input type="checkbox"/> Receive arguments for or against alteranative expenditure limit for publicity pamphlet	
		5/10/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete prep of publicity pamphlet; send draft to AG office allowing time for review and comment prior to returning	
		5/31/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Send Publicity Pamphlets to the printer after incorporating any AG comments	
		6/27/2024*	<input type="checkbox"/> Make Early Ballots Available; mail PP or let early voters know when and where they are available	
		MUST be available no less than 33 days prior to election - Prohibited to distriute until 27 days before	7/3/2024*	<input type="checkbox"/> Distribute Early Ballots
		At Least 10 Days before election	7/19/2024*	<input type="checkbox"/> Distribute Publicity Pamphlets (if not done earlier, this is the statutory deadline)
7/30/2024			7/30/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Primary Election
		8/19/2024*	<input type="checkbox"/> Canvass Vote; inform AG and Economic Estimates Commission of the result	

*Latest date to comly with election deadlines