

**FREDONIA TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING -MINUTES**

**June 13, 2024**

**25 N. Main St, Fredonia AZ, 86022**

**7:00 pm**

Pursuant to ARS 38-431.01, notice is hereby given to members of the Fredonia Town Council and the Public that a Public Meeting will be held on June 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order - Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

Roll Call – Mayor Johnson  
Vice Mayor Scott  
Councilor Ballard  
Councilor Johnson

Invocation – Lisa Findlay  
Pledge of Allegiance - All in Attendance

Public comment (The council shall not discuss or take legal action on matters unless the matters are properly noticed.)

A. Consent Items: (The following items may be approved by a single motion, unless a member of the Town Council requests that any item be considered separately and acted upon accordingly. Each item considered separately may be approved by motion of the Council as though originally listed as an action item)

1. Agenda for June 11, 2024
2. Minutes from May 28, 2024
3. Payment Register for June 13, 2024

*Councilor Ballard made a motion that we accept all consent items.*

*Vice Mayor Scott seconded the motion.*

*All in favor.*

B. Reports (The council shall not discuss or take legal action on matters unless the matters are properly noticed)

1. Mayor

*Mayor Johnson said that during this fiscal budget everyone gave up something.*

2. Council Members:
3. Department Heads
4. Town Office Updates:

- a. Ted Jensen

- i. Audit update

*Ted said that the audit will be reported on in executive session.*

*This audit has been a learning year, for future audits. The meeting will be an A1 and A2.*

ii. Budget update

*Ted gave an update on the budget. He stated that the average State of Arizona cost of living is at a 2 ½ percent increase proposed a 5% raise hoping to get 3% for employees. The goal is not to dip into the contingency fund. Ted said that Lisa is a big help in the town office and Nicole White has been great at finding grants for the police department. City Council was asked to go down to action items. Lars Johnson, the city's financial consultant was on the phone. Councilor Ballard made a motion to move down to action item 6 first. Vice Mayor seconded the motion. All in favor.*

C. Action Items

1. Discussion and possible action regarding hiring an Assistant Deputy Clerk.  
*Vice Mayor Scott made a motion to hire a new assistant deputy clerk to share between city office, senior center and police. Councilor Ballard seconded the motion, all in favor. Councilor Ballard said he spoke with Chief Peterson; he was worried about conflict of interest. New assistant deputy clerk will help out at the senior center and town office as a full-time employee. Pay will come from the two departments, per hours at that department.*
2. Discussion and possible action regarding Chief Peterson's request for a new officer manager and officer. *(It was discussed that there was enough money in the budget for 1 year for the new office. Using less overtime, it would cover his wages.)*  
*Councilor Ballard made a motion to hire a new office manager at 30 hrs per week. Councilor Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor.*  
*Councilor Ballard made a motion to hire a new officer. Councilor Johnson seconded the motion and all in favor.*
3. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of Care & Share items and roll over budget. *(It was discussed that there was \$ 9,400 to roll over to the next years budget. With the roll over and the new budget there would be enough to approve the items.*  
*Councilor Ballard made a motion to approve the budget and the roll over.*  
*Councilor Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor.*
4. Discussion and possible action regarding switching IT services  
*Mayor Johnson talked about how difficult it was to get the sever at the town office back up after the power outage, and how costly it was. Vice Mayor said the contract with Les Olsen is up on August 2, 2024. Councilor Ballard asked if we needed to put out for bid. Ted said yes. Mayor Jonson asked Ted to contact Les Olsen for a new bid. We already have a bid from Kinetics IT Solutions from Kanab. Council Ballard made a motion to put it out for bid to switch IT services.*

*Vice Mayor Scott seconded it. All in favor.*

5. Discussion and possible action regarding budget planning for 2024-2025 fiscal year.

*Ted started with Lars Johnson the financial consultant on the phone.*

*A discussion ensued to move funds around to make the budget work, (please see online meeting.) New person needed at the court, possible future discussion and action on subscription to Arizona League of Towns and Cities. The Mayor and Council take little or no money, so that money will go back into general funds. There was discussion about setting up an appropriations fund instead of using the contingency fund. Lars mentions that they would need council approval for use of either fund. Lars said the two positions for the police officer and officer manager were not planned in to the budget. Chief Peterson said that there were funds in the budget for the academy, wages, and benefits. Other issues will be discussed in executive session. Councilor Ballard asked why salary and benefits for Parks and Rec and Public Works was split between two departments. Both are under Public Works. There was a discussion about attorney fees and public defenders' fees being up. There was some adjudgments for police professional and tech services. Discussion about a totaled vehicle and where the funds went and where they needed to be. Lars would check into it and make sure it was in the right place. Serena Cutchin and Dusty Tait from the courts reported that they were understaffed and needed one full time employee. Asked a wage increase for the Judge. This will be put on the agenda for next time. Councilor Ballard said we should consider Library wages also. Building and grounds Mini X is something we could live without but could be really helpful. There was discussion where we could get the funds for this. There was a discussion on how the building inspector gets paid and permits. This discussion will be visited at a later date. There was more budget discussion on how to get the power fund reserve back up. Lars checked and the goal was met. Paving and concrete project can have a percent of the wages paid from the Hurf funds. Discussion on loans and the amount of money we have to keep in the contingency fund because we have Home Rule. Discussion with Lars about somethings in the police budget are contingent upon receiving grants. Councilor Johnson checked to make sure that the money for the crusher fines for the top of the levee was in the budget and it is. Mayor Johnson thanked Lars for helping and answering questions. Lars said he has been updating during the meeting and we are still over. Councilor Ballard would like Lars to email the information to the council. Lars said we need to be careful each year and try to get grants.*

6. Discussion and possible action regarding approval Vice Mayor Scott to be put on the contact list for Attorney Brandon Kavanagh

*Councilor Ballard made a motion to put Vice Mayor on as a contact person on the list for Attorney Brandon Kavanagh. Mayor Johnson seconded it. All in favor.*

D.

1. Future Agenda Items:

- a. New form for land combination/split/lot line adjustment
- b. Evaluation of Magistrate's Wage
- c. Town Committees and departments; council representation
- d. Sawmill Estate Subdivision progress
- e. General Plan
- f. 911 Readdressing the streets
- g. Emergency preparedness-backup generators, get quotes
- h. Secure water supply
- i. Utility Board
- j. Model City tax code
- k. Equipment and vehicle policy
- l. Levee repairs
- m. Purchasing policy
- n. Purchasing electrical structure on the old Kaibab land
- o. Wages for Volunteers working in Town Office

Adjourn: 9:03 pm

Approved

Attest

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Don Johnson, Mayor

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Traci Goodall, Town Clerk

Certification- I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held.

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Traci Goodall, Town Clerk