

## AGENDA

AGENDA OF THE WORK SESSIONS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BISBEE, COUNTY OF COCHISE, STATE OF ARIZONA, TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018, AT 5:01PM IN THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEARING ROOM, 1415 MELODY LANE, BUILDING G, BISBEE, ARIZONA.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY \_\_\_\_\_ AT \_\_\_\_\_ PM.

### ROLL CALL

#### **COUNCIL**

Councilmember Anna Cline, Ward III  
Councilmember Joan Hansen, Ward II  
Councilmember Frank Davis, Ward I  
Mayor David M. Smith  
Councilmember Bill Higgins, Ward I  
Councilmember Douglas Dunn, Ward II , Mayor Pro Tempore  
Councilmember Gabe Lindstrom, Ward III

#### **STAFF**

Robert E. Smith, City Manager  
Ashlee Coronado, City Clerk  
Keri Bagley, Finance Director  
Dan Duchon, Personnel Director  
Andy Haratyk, Public Works Director  
Albert Echave, Police Chief  
George Castillo, Fire Chief

#### **CITY ATTORNEY**

Britt Hanson

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WILL BE DISCUSSED AND/OR CONSIDERED AT THESE MEETINGS:

1. Discussion of the Budget Priorities from Council for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

David M. Smith, Mayor

### ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with hearing disabilities can contact the City Clerk's Office (520) 432-6012 to request an Assisted Listening Device, at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Anyone needing special accommodation to attend this meeting should contact Ashlee Coronado at (520) 432-6012 at least twenty-four hours before the meeting.

Public documents referred to herein may be viewed during regular business hours at the City Clerk's Office at 1415 Melody Lane Bldg. G., Bisbee.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (3), the Council may vote to enter executive session at any point during this meeting for discussion or consultation for legal advice with its attorney(s), who may appear telephonically.



AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 1

**MAYOR & COUNCIL WORK SESSION FOR  
April 3, 2018**

**DATE ACTION SUBMITTED:** March 26, 2018

**DISCUSSION ONLY**

**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET PRIORITIES FROM COUNCIL FOR FISCAL  
YEAR 2018-2019**

**FROM: David M. Smith**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**PROPOSED MOTION: WORK SESSION ONLY**

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**DISCUSSION:**

**This Work Session will allow Council to discuss their priorities for the upcoming budget.**

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**FISCAL IMPACT: N/A**

**DEPARTMENT LINE ITEM ACCOUNT: N/A**

**BALANCE IN LINE ITEM IF APPROVED: N/A**

**Prepared by:**

Ashlee Coronado  
Ashlee Coronado,  
City Clerk

**Reviewed by:**

David M. Smith  
David M. Smith,  
Mayor

## **Bisbee Fire Department Funding Alternatives-- Councilman Douglas Dunn (2016)**

1. City Sales Tax: .5 % increase would raise approximately \$375,000 annually. An increase of 1.8 % (from current 9.6% to 11.4%) would be necessary to cover our 2016 PSPRS obligation of \$1,332,007. This increase would need to be in force for 23 years to pay off our current “net unfunded accrued liability” of \$17,671,261. Sales tax alone can not remedy our situation. Arizona ranks 41<sup>st</sup> out of 50 states in “tax fairness.” Arizona has one of the most regressive tax structures in the nation due to its heavy reliance on sales tax revenue.
2. Expand City Limits to provide fire protection and other city services to outlying areas.
3. Form a Fire District in the area outside the Bisbee city limits that would in turn contract with the existing Bisbee Fire Department for services. This could include with the agreement of property owners the existing San Jose and Naco Fire Districts. The fire district would be funded by a Secondary Property Tax Assessment on all property within the District. The use of a property tax to fund a fire department makes sense in that the primary benefit is the protection of property. Such fire protection coverage would reduce homeowner insurance rates to district property owners. A Fire District is established through a petition to the Cochise County Board of Supervisors with signatures of a majority (at least 51%) of all property owners in the delineated district PLUS a majority (at least 51%) of the assessed valuation of the proposed district. What would it cost? Fire district levies are currently capped by state law at \$3.25 per \$100 assessed valuation (\$325 for a \$100,00 home). The establishment of a Fire District would also qualify the district to receive a small amount of funding from the “County Fire District Assessment Tax” that is currently levied on taxable property county-wide to support fire districts.
4. Annual (voluntary) Subscription: During a City Council Call to the Public, the late Robert Nutti recommended that a method be established whereby individuals who support the fire department can show their support through a financial contribution. Fire departments historically were supported through subscription. Such a subscription could be in lieu of a sales tax increase or a fire district property tax. Subscribers would receive a decal indicating that they are a supporter of the Bisbee Fire Department. The subscription could entitle subscribers to certain free services, i.e. home/business inspections and non-emergency in-home public assists (that would also serve to reduce repetitive 911 calls). It could include a paramedic assessment with purpose of building our paramedic program—to insure that paramedics are there when we need them.
5. Offer an ambulance insurance policy: Copper Queen Hospital now offers an insurance policy to cover Air-Vac helicopter transport. Bisbee could offer something similar that would cover any co-pay or other out-of-pocket costs of a 911 ambulance call not covered by patient’s Medicare or their insurance carrier. Such an insurance policy could also be offered as part of the earlier suggested subscription program.
6. Lobby for a state “income tax credit” for donations made to local police and fire departments--in collaboration with League of Cities and Towns and our Arizona State Legislators. Arizona tax credits are now available for contributions made to public school districts, private schools and to charities benefiting low income (and 70 other causes). It could be proposed to Legislature as a way to assist with local public safety retirement obligations. The Arizona Legislature loathes tax increases but loves tax credits.

7. Inter-facility Transfers (IFT's): Back in 2013 the City Council analyzed the profit return possible from increasing the number of IFT's. There were differences of opinion. My assessment of the numbers at that time convinced me that we were receiving a net income/profit of \$500 per transfer after subtracting fuel costs, equipment depreciation, personnel, overtime pay, retirement and other costs from the \$1,500 per transfer collected. See #10 below for ideas on how to cut costs and increase profit on inter-facility transfers.
8. Community fund raising: In the rural communities in which I have lived most of my life, fire departments are funded significantly through community fund raising activities. An example is the Bisbee Vogue Fireman Iceman Challenge. Other examples are limited only by imagination, i.e. bring back Bisbee's annual cake auction with the addition of a tamale cook-off and sale. Other city departments are significantly supported by friends' groups, i.e. Friends of Copper Queen Library and Friends of Bisbee Animal Shelter. The Evergreen Cemetery Endowment under The Bisbee Foundation has so far raised over \$55,000 through local donations. In past years the American Legion held a public safety personnel appreciation. That event was limited to public safety personnel, the mayor and city council. Why not expand that into a huge Public Safety Personnel Appreciation Day and fund raiser that could give citizens an on-site, hands-on orientation to equipment and services provided? Those of us who support public safety need to roll up our sleeves and show that support.
9. Prepare/sell a "Guys and Gals at City Hall" calendar. We have a good looking crew.
10. Explore options for managing/controlling costs and increasing revenue: Assess different staffing arrangements and use of personnel to reduce overtime. Utilize Reserve Firefighters and volunteers. Require paramedics and other public service personnel to pay for their own certification training to be reimbursed after two years of service. Evaluate contracting with Cochise County for dispatch service. Investigate joint service arrangements with Palominas Fire District and other entities. Adopt a fee schedule for fire services, i.e. required fire inspections, engine company response, brush truck, command vehicle, etc. Use fee schedule to file claims under auto and homeowner insurance policies to recover cost of responding to 911 calls, including highway accidents and CON responses. Most insurance policies contain such coverage. Increase charges for IFT's in line with neighboring communities. Evaluate possible cost cutting measures with their impact on response time and department effectiveness.
11. Renegotiate our CON to partner with neighboring fire departments. Utilize the new Cochise County Regional Communication Center to coordinate response to 911 calls within our CON service area (for better coordination of available equipment, quicker response time, and reduced cost). Can Bisbee afford its CON?
12. Pursue grants (FEMA, Homeland Security, etc.): It is unlikely that, with the recent grant received for purchase of new ambulance and fire truck, we will be in line for more. But to receive a grant you have to apply for it. Is there an opportunity to tap Howard Buffet who has funded other public safety needs in the county?
13. Sell city property: Close Fire Station #82 and sell it to a rich person looking for a unique residential property. The former fire station on Bisbee Road is not being used.
14. We have to work together—Mayor and City Council, city staff, public safety personnel and community residents. And, we are at a point where we need to get creative.

## Program/ Budget Priorities Fy 2019—City of Bisbee

Submitted by Douglas Dunn, City Councilman, Ward 2

1. Economic Development/Streets and Infrastructure: Redesign/repave Naco Road AZ 80 east entrance to Old Bisbee (.2 mile to Brewery Gulch intersection)—to include gateway signage, landscaping and expanded parking on both sides of AZ 80 right-of-way.
2. Complete Old Bisbee parking/circulation study. Expand parking availability and facilitate access to Post Office area.
3. Redesign/restripe AZ 80 to include bicycle/walking path around Lavender Pit.
4. Develop/promote walking, hiking, biking, and birding opportunities.
5. Schedule election to renew 1% bed tax increase for development and promotion of Bisbee as an overnight visitor destination—to include expansion/maintenance of “discoverbisbee” website.
6. Follow through on Warren Historic District designation/ placement on National Register .
7. Copper Queen Library: Establish donor-funded Parent Engagement Outreach Coordinator library position(s) to further (a) pre-kindergarten literacy (CQ Friends/TBF grant) and (b) kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading proficiency (Freeport grant).
8. Partner with Local First Arizona to strengthen local economy through growing, supporting and celebrating local businesses (buy at home).
9. Street Lights: Place a solar street light at corner of AZ 92 and Melody Lane. Reassess placement of street lights through-out the city to reduce cost.
10. Identify/pursue strategies to expand revenue and control costs to insure long-term sustainability of Bisbee Fire Department. See “Bisbee Fire Department Funding Alternatives.”
11. Initiate an “Adopt a Tree” program to plant and water trees at Evergreen Cemetery.
12. Code enforcement: Budget funds for staff /legal action . Support community efforts to rehab/clean-up/demolish deteriorating properties.. Establish mechanism to receive AZ Tax Credit 321 funds.
13. Speeding: Explore cost/effectiveness of different means to control speeding on city streets—sign in mid-street, radar sign, speed bumps, imprinter, police stops, etc.