

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BISBEE, COUNTY OF COCHISE, AND STATE OF ARIZONA, HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017, AT 5:01 PM IN THE BISBEE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 118 ARIZONA STREET, BISBEE, ARIZONA.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR SMITH AT 5:01.

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 Excused

STAFF

Richard J. Marsh Jr., City Manager
Nina Williams, Deputy City Clerk
Mark Burneleit, Fire Chief

CITY ATTORNEY

Britt Hanson

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED AND/OR CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING:

1. Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution R-17-06; Declaring a State of Emergency in the City of Bisbee Due to the Effects of the Bisbee Fire.

David M. Smith, Mayor

Mayor Smith explained that this meeting was called at his request; per the City Charter, Section 2.15, Special Meetings. He said that special meetings shall be noticed at least 24 hour in advance, and an exemption was present in the case of an emergency. He said that he called this meeting in the morning and notice had been posted. He explained that the purpose of this meeting was to request the Council pass Resolution R-17-06; Declaring a State of Emergency in the City of Bisbee due to the effects of the Bisbee Fire. He said that yesterday after 5:00PM a fire was discovered in Old Bisbee and this fire burned 8 structures. Luckily the State Land fire fighters were on their way to the Pena Fire and as they were driving down Highway 80 they looked over and saw the fire in Old Bisbee. They immediately responded and contacted their dispatchers who contacted our dispatchers, as some neighbors were calling into our department. The State Land department was the first on the scene. The actual location of the fire was Star Canyon and evacuations occurred in Star Canyon, Locklin Avenue and a portion of Moon Canyon. He said that people jumped in immediately to help. St. Patrick's Church set up their location for those that were evacuated. Mayor Smith said that he was able to contact Mr. Tom Woody at the Bisbee Unified School District and as a result the Warren Ballpark was opened up and there were two Hot Shot Crews of 20 people each who slept in the ballpark. He said that our Fire Department arrived along with Chief Burneleit who took command of the fire, that control was relinquished once the fire turned to a wild fire situation. Later this morning command was switched back to the Bisbee Chief. Members of the Palominas, Naco, San Jose, State Land and BLM Fire Departments all assisted. He said that the State

called in Air Drops. We had a total of 4 Air Drops with a 5th one that was aborted at the last minute. The Air Drops cut off the head of the fire that was heading toward Zacatecas Canyon. Much to the skill of the fire fighters this fire was completely contained. Our units were still on the scene to make sure there were no more hot spots. He said that the Police Departments did a great job also; the Sherriff Dept. and Border Patrol were also present. Mayor Smith said that on behalf of himself and the Council, congratulations to Chief Burneleit and his crew and Acting Deputy Chief Long and his crew. The citizens appreciate the efforts.

Mayor Smith said that the Resolution was brought about because the costs of the firefighting activities would be quite costly. All of this took place on Bisbee land so the City would be responsible for those costs; BLM, Air Drops, State Land etc. There were 80 fire fighters battling the fire at one point. Approval of this Resolution would allow the Mayor to request State aid through the government to government program in which they had emergency funds that we hope are available, that could assist us in paying all or some of the costs. The costs could run around \$100,000.00.

Mayor Smith read the resolution.

MOTION: Councilmember Dunn moved to approve Resolution R-17-06; Declaring a State of Emergency in the City of Bisbee due to the effects of the Bisbee Fire.

SECOND: Councilmember Hansen

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Councilmember Cline, Hansen, Davis, Higgins, Dunn and Mayor Smith

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED: AYES -6; NAYS -0

MOTION: Councilmember Higgins moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Councilmember Hansen

MOTION PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT: 5:13PM

David M. Smith, Mayor