

## MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BISBEE, COUNTY OF COCHISE, STATE OF ARIZONA, HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017, AT 5:30 PM IN THE BISBEE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 118 ARIZONA STREET, BISBEE, ARIZONA.

THE MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR SMITH AT 5:30PM.

### ROLL CALL

#### COUNCIL

Councilmember Anna Cline, Ward III	5:42PM
Councilmember Joan Hansen, Ward II	
Councilmember Frank Davis, Ward I	Excused
Mayor David M. Smith	
Councilmember Bill Higgins, Ward I	
Councilmember Douglas Dunn, Ward II , Mayor Pro Tempore	
Councilmember Gabe Lindstrom, Ward III	Absent

#### STAFF

Richard J. Marsh Jr., City Manager  
Nina Williams, Deputy City Clerk

#### CITY ATTORNEY

Britt Hanson

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC WILL BE ALLOWED AT THIS MEETING. A SIGNUP SHEET WILL BE AVAILABLE.**

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING:

1. Discussion Regarding the Use of Herbicides on the Roadways.  
David M. Smith, Mayor

Mayor Smith explained that how this came about it was the fact that we had been laying down road ways and we are having Bermuda grass growing up through the road way in several different locations. His discussion with Streets and Infrastructure was what are we going to do about it this. We have a one cent sales tax that went through to improve our road ways and we have put in a million dollars into the road ways so far. A recommendation was made regarding glyphosate. He requested the Community Sustainability Commission to meet with the Streets and Infrastructure to discuss this further.

Ross Ramiro, Chair for Streets and Infrastructure Committee, said that Mr. Dey had gone into great extent to make a very comprehensive approach to what a solution was. Based upon what they had gone through they were going to recommend to Mayor and Council that they go ahead and approve the application of glyphosate.

Mr. Stephen Dey, member of the Streets and Infrastructure Committee said that he was not here to over throw the herbicide ban.

Mayor Smith said that there was a misconception there was no ban there never has been a ban the fact was that the City had not been using it a prior council discussed at length the use of it and a study was done, but there wasn't even a resolution passed on that. It sat there and died for lack of further action.

Mr. Stephen Dey gave some background regarding the City of Bisbee and the roadways. In November 2014 citizens realized in order to build the infrastructure required, we would need more revenues as a community they overwhelmingly voted to increase city sales tax. One of the first orders of business was to reconvene the

Streets and Infrastructure Committee to act as watchdogs and to assure that the money was spent wisely and for its intended purposes. The basic criteria were to work with the plan that had actually been put together from an independent infrastructure condition report that was done. They then adjusted that report to allow for health and safety related emergencies, repairs and of course time and revenue saving practices. They purchased the necessary equipment and hired a mechanic to take care of and teach us how to use them correctly. Subsequently our paving has become some of the best of the quality in the state. The standard was about twenty (20) years of usable life.

The practices involved in the building and maintenance of the roads; the asphalt, equipment and materials used are designed and then modified as needed to achieve the minimum goal of the Maricopa Council Aggregate Government Standard. They have spent nearly 1.25 million dollars and want to give the community the best product. They would be maintaining the new service in top condition so that a minimum of twenty (20) years and possible up to fifty (50) years.

In little over a year they were starting to see a serious problem and it was causing a rapid and expensive deterioration of our road surfaces which was Bermuda grass. This was a serious and rapidly growing problem they weren't expecting it. It had been discussed since February with the Streets and Infrastructure on what to do about it. The Streets and Infrastructure Committee saw this as an unacceptable and actually preventable waste of tax payer's dollars.

Mr. Dey gave some personal background on himself; he had been involved in agriculture for most of his life, organic farming and where he went to school.

In order to provide an effective solution they needed to be based on the following criteria; effectiveness, environmental impact, and the cost. They only want to remove the Bermuda grass that was actually growing through the road surfaces.

He did understand introducing chemicals into the environment was a scary proposition to the public. Great care and caution must be used, but as was stated earlier by not doing anything at this time they will be effectively wasting millions of tax payer's dollars which was unacceptable.

There were not many chemicals that are effective on Bermuda grass which you literally have to kill the roots. We are restricted on what we could do. Some contain chemicals that have residual effects like Round-Up and some of them contain chemicals that are damaging to asphalt. Furthermore the chemical applied had to be completely effective to the plant.

They did research on a number of products natural and synthetic and they didn't work. The only chemical that will completely kill the plant root that he knew of was glyphosate. The toxicity was quiet low in glyphosate when applied properly. The side effects that have been attributed to exposure of glyphosate seem to occur when it was repetitively ingested. They will be using a low volume, low flow basically hand application method. They would be recommending a binder to that so once dried you can't wash it off with high pressure water it will stay where it was until it was swept up with the street sweeper. Also recommending that they put a dye into it to keep the exposure to animals and people when they add the dye to it will let everyone know that it had been applied in that area. When dealing with a toxic substance we want to be extremely careful with it as possible.

We have a serious problem here if we don't address it we are going to be wasting a serious amount of tax payer's dollars. The recommendations we were making was not to overthrow anything but to actually create something that was worded so specifically that it will only allow the use of this product on specific sites that they say and only within twelve (12) inches of the road.

Mayor Smith said that he had asked for this study because it was important to save as much money as possible and provide the services necessary to the community. We were spending this money to put out a good quality

product and it's being deteriorated very quickly because we were not able to fix it. He asked for the study so that he and the Council could make an informed decision.

Mayor Smith asked some questions that had come to him one was why can't we use vinegar. Mr. Dey said that vinegar was effective at killing the tops of the plants but he didn't believe it killed roots.

Mayor Smith asked about using Clorox. Mr. Dey said that Clorox was more carcinogenic.

Mr. Dey said that once it was stopped hopefully it wouldn't come back again.

Mayor Smith said that he had also heard why are we having this problem when no one else does. He invited people to check Highway 92, 80 and 90 because those problems do exist. This was not unique to us.

- Susan Blackford, Bisbee resident stated that actions have consequences and spoke in opposition of using Round-Up.
- Ryan Bruce, Bisbee resident encouraged the committees to re look at this and encouraged everyone to participate on some level to understand what was being talked about.
- Sharon Rock, Bisbee resident spoke in opposition to using glyphosate. She asked if they were going to propose an ordinance related to herbicides please propose one that bans herbicides.
- Richard Green, Bisbee resident spoke regarding Bermuda grass and the damages it can cause.
- Maggie Kohanek, Bisbee resident thanked Mr. Dey for his efforts. She spoke in opposition to using any pesticides. She asked Mr. Dey questions regarding pesticides talked about. Mr. Dey answered her questions. She stated that there were citizens that would participate in working with the Streets and Infrastructure Committee to find other solutions.

MOTION: Councilmember Higgins moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Councilmember Dunn

MOTION PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT: 6:27pm

---

David M. Smith, Mayor