

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BISBEE,
COUNTY OF COCHISE, AND STATE OF ARIZONA, HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026, AT 7:00 PM
AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 118 ARIZONA STREET, BISBEE, ARIZONA.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR BUDGE AT 7:01PM.

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL

Councilmember Karen Schumacher, Ward I

Councilmember Pete Skinner, Ward II

Councilmember Trish Damon, Ward III

Mayor Ken Budge

Councilmember Anna Cline, Ward III, Mayor Pro Tempore

Councilmember Mel Sowid, Ward II

Excused

Councilmember Cesilia C. Garcia, Ward I

STAFF

Ashlee Coronado, City Manager

Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk

Keri Bagley, Finance Director

Logan Dodd, Operations Manager

Tim Cox, Police Chief

Jay Ritchie, Deputy Police Chief

Jim Richardson, Fire Chief

Doug Graeme, Queen Mine Tour Manager

Jeremy Fricke, Executive Director Naco Heritage Alliance

ATTORNEY

Jessica Silva

INVOCATION: Mayor Budge called for a moment of silence for personal reflection.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mayor Budge noted there were no proclamations and shared updates on several active City projects.
 - The bikeways project contract has been signed with Granite Construction, with work expected to begin around the first of the following month.
 - The Main Street glass sidewalk has been removed and sent to Tucson for modifications before reinstallation, including added support and waterproofing improvements.
 - The project to relight the lights around the pit is moving forward through a public-private partnership with APS, which will install, wire, and activate the lights.
 - Bids have been received for the 30 Main project, and an award is expected soon based on the best value.
 - Recent rainstorms caused several privately owned retaining walls to fail; the city will clear debris from streets, and residents were encouraged to monitor their walls and direct water away from them.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Circles Robinson, Bisbee resident, urged reconsideration of the tabled resolution restricting ICE operations on City property.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Subject to availability of funds.

MOTION: Councilmember Cline moved to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$658,209.62.

SECOND: Councilmember Skinner

MOTION PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

2. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Session of Mayor and Council held on Tuesday, July 7, 2026.

Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk

- B. Approval of the Appointment of Debra Sampson to the Park and Recreation Committee.

Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk

- C. Approval of the Appointment of Chuck Sienbenthal to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk

- D. Approval of a Park, Facility and Right-of-Way Use permit for the use of City Park for the Maritime Market Place, Main Street for a Parade from the Iron Man Statue to end in Brewery Gulch and the City Pool for Mermaid Swim; events to be held from Friday, August 7, 2026, at 4:00pm through Sunday, August 9, 2026, until at 12:00pm (Noon).

Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk

- E. Approval of a Park, Facility and Right-of-Way Use permit for the Bisbee Fire Department for the use of Vista Park for the Bisbee Fire Local 2146 Horseshoe Tournament Fundraiser event to be held on Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 10:00am to 8:00pm with a possible waiver of fees.

Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk

- F. Approval of a Park, Facility and Right-of-Way Use permit for the use of Grassy Park for the Sum of All Parts event to be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk

- G. Approval of a Park, Facility and Right-of-Way Use permit for This Week in Bisbee for the use of City Park for the TWIB Fest 3 event to be held on Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 12:00pm (Noon) to 10:00pm.

Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk

- H. Approval of a Park, Facility, and Right-of-Way Use Permit submitted by Wick Communication for the use of various Parking Spaces in Old Bisbee for the Bisbee 1000 Stair Climb on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 5:00am to 2:00pm.

Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk

- I. Approval of a Park, Facility, and Right-of-Way Use Permit submitted by Wick Communication for the use of Higgins Hill Park for the Bisbee 1000 Stair Climb on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 5:00am to 2:00pm.
Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk
- J. Approval of a Park, Facility, and Right-of-Way Use Permit submitted by Wick Communications for the use of various City Streets and Stairs in Old Bisbee for the Bisbee 1000 Stair Climb on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 5:00am to 2:00pm.
Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk
- K. Approval of a Park, Facility, and Right-of-Way Use Permit submitted by Wick Communications for the use of Grassy Park for the Bisbee 1000 Stair Climb Event on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 5:00am to 2:00pm.
Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk
- L. Approval of a Park, Facility, and Right-of-Way Use Permit submitted by Wick Communications for the use of City Park for the Bisbee 1000 Stair Climb Event on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 5:00am to 2:00pm.
Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk
- M. Approval of a Special Event Liquor License Application submitted by Healthy Lunches Bisbee DBA Goar Park Lunches for the Pirates of the Sky Islands Ball event to be held at the Stock Exchange located at 15 Brewery Avenue, Bisbee, AZ on Friday, August 7, 2026, from 7:00pm to 10:00pm, Liza Kovach, Applicant.
Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk
- N. Approval of a Special Event Liquor License Application submitted by Bisbee Firefighters Local 2146 for an event to be held at Vista Park located at 500 W. Vista, Bisbee, AZ on Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 10:00am to 8:00pm, Brandon Hilderbrand, Applicant.
Nina Williams, Acting City Clerk

Mayor Budge asked if any items should be pulled; Councilmember Damon requested Item I for further discussion.

MOTION: Councilmember Cline moved to approve the consent agenda items A through H and J through N, with a waiver of fees for Item E.

SECOND: Councilmember Schumacher

MOTION PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

I. Approval of a Park, Facility, and Right-of-Way Use Permit submitted by Wick Communication for the use of Higgins Hill Park for the Bisbee 1000 Stair Climb on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 5:00am to 2:00pm.

Councilmember Damon requested clarification on the Higgins Hill Park closure hours for the Bisbee 1000, noting inconsistent permit times.

Cynthia Conroy, Bisbee Vogue Inc. explained that setup requires access from 6:00 AM Friday through 2:00 PM Saturday.

Mr. Dodd, Public Works Operation Manager, noted the closure was needed for vehicle and equipment safety, while pedestrian access may continue.

Councilmember Schumacher suggested amending the permit to reflect the accurate closure window.

MOTION: Councilmember Cline moved to approve consent agenda Item I with corrections to accurately reflect the full closure period for setup.

SECOND: Councilmember Skinner

MOTION PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

OLD BUSINESS

3. Discussion and Possible Approval of Ordinance O-26-18, Accepting the Transfer of Real Property from TIMO Holdings LLC, Located at 107 N. Taylor Avenue, Bisbee, AZ and adopting it as an Emergency.
Ashlee Coroando, City Manager

Ms. Coronado clarified that when this ordinance came before the Council at its first reading, no buyer had been secured for the property, and the emergency designation was not employed at that time. She indicated that a buyer had since been identified and was eager to proceed, making it appropriate to move forward without waiting the standard thirty-day period.

MOTION: Councilmember Damon moved to approve Ordinance O-26-18, accepting the transfer of real property from TIMO Holdings LLC located at 107 N. Taylor Avenue, Bisbee, AZ, and declaring an emergency.
SECOND: Councilmember Cline

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Councilmember Schumacher, Skinner, Damon, Garcia, Cline and Mayor Budge

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED: AYES-6 NAYS-0

NEW BUSINESS

4. Presentation and Discussion and Possible Approval of the Tourism Marketing Services Agreement between the City of Bisbee and Gordley Group Inc.
Ashlee Coronado, City Manager

Mayor Budge introduced the item and invited Doug Graeme, Copper Queen Mine Tour Manager and member of the six-person review committee, to present the committee's recommendation before turning the presentation over to the Gordley Group.

Mr. Graeme said the committee unanimously recommended the Gordley Group, citing its Tucson location, extensive experience working with government clients, clear and fixed pricing, inclusion of a complete tourism website redesign, and the addition of a Bisbee resident on the team to provide local insight.

Mr. Tom Baca, President of Gordley Group, said the firm views itself as an extension of the city's team rather than an outside consultant. He explained that Bisbee already has a strong identity, and the firm's goal was to tell the city's story in a way that attracts overnight visitors while preserving the community's character.

Mr. Baca outlined a four-phase approach: stakeholder engagement and strategic planning; brand and campaign development focused on increasing overnight stays; implementation of a redesigned, mobile-friendly tourism website and marketing campaign; and ongoing performance monitoring with regular reporting. He added that the firm's proposed fee for strategic marketing services would remain fixed, allowing any Arizona Office of Tourism matching funds to expand marketing efforts rather than increase costs. He also emphasized the firm's commitment to collaborating with local creatives and using artificial intelligence only as a research tool, with all creative work produced by staff to maintain authenticity.

Mayor Budge thanked Mr. Baca and expressed confidence that the city had selected the right firm.

Councilmembers Karen Schumacher, Anna Cline, Cesilia C. Garcia, and Pete Skinner each voiced support for the recommendation.

Councilmember Schumacher praised the firm's professional work and the committee's efforts, Councilmember Cline said the partnership felt like a good fit.

Councilmember Garcia appreciated the team's personal connections to Bisbee.

Councilmember Skinner offered his support with a lighthearted comment about one team member's Douglas roots.

Mayor Budge also announced plans to establish a Tourism Advisory Board following approval of the agreement. He said the board would include representatives from the hospitality industry and the public, with appointments reviewed by the full Council. He noted the city currently has approximately \$270,000 in tourism funds available to support future tourism initiatives.

MOTION: Councilmember Schumacher moved to approve the Tourism Marketing Services Agreement between the City of Bisbee and Gordley Group, Incorporated.

SECOND: Councilmember Damon

MOTION PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

5. Discussion and Possible Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Naco Heritage Alliance regarding Payment Processing for Camp Naco Projects.

Jeremy Fricke, Executive Director

Mayor Budge introduced Item 5 and noted that Jeremy Fricke, Executive Director of Camp Naco and the Naco Heritage Alliance, was participating via Zoom.

Mr. Fricke explained that the Naco Heritage Alliance, a nonprofit organization, works closely with the city on Camp Naco rehabilitation and improvement projects and regularly receives grant funding for construction, personnel, and related project costs. He stated that, in certain cases, it was more efficient for the nonprofit to transfer grant funds to the city so the city can administer expenditures through its established procurement and contracting processes, rather than the nonprofit creating separate contracts. As an example, he referenced a grant from Arizona State Parks for construction personnel and project implementation. He explained that the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was intended to establish a framework for this type of financial collaboration on future projects, not solely for the current grant.

Mayor Budge noted that the city has previously accepted and administered funds on behalf of partner organizations and that this arrangement is particularly appropriate because Camp Naco is City-owned property. He expressed support for formalizing the process through an MOU to clearly define the responsibilities of each party.

MOTION: Councilmember Schumacher moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Bisbee and Naco Heritage Alliance regarding payment processing for Camp Naco projects.

SECOND: Councilmember Cline

MOTION PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

6. Discussion and Possible Approval of Souder Miller's proposal for the redesign of Clawson Avenue and Opera Avenue retaining walls.

Matthew Gurney, Public Works Director

Logan Dodd, Operations Manager Public Works, presented this item and provided geographic context for the two retaining walls under discussion. He explained that the Clawson Avenue wall was located at the beginning

of Clawson Avenue near the high school, at the base of the hill where the roadway splits, with one route continuing up the hill and the other toward Opera Avenue. The Opera Avenue wall was located nearby, adjacent to a parking lot, in the area where a section of retaining wall failed during recent rainstorms.

Mr. Dodd explained that deterioration has continued beyond the portion of the wall previously addressed by city staff, requiring the project scope to be expanded to include the newly damaged section. He noted that movement in the area has also affected nearby utilities, making timely engineering evaluation and redesign necessary.

Councilmember Garcia asked why the selected engineering firm, Souder Miller, was based in New Mexico rather than a local or regional firm.

Mr. Dodd responded that the city solicits engineering proposals through a competitive procurement process and awards the work based on the best proposal received. He indicated that Souder Miller's proposal was likely the most cost-effective.

Mayor Budge commented that the important thing was that the firm was qualified to provide the required engineering seal and stated that the engineering contract amounts were identified as \$22,410 for one retaining wall and \$15,310 for the other.

MOTION: Councilmember Garcia moved to approve Souder Miller's proposal for the redesign of Clawson Avenue and Opera Avenue, retaining walls.

SECOND: Councilmember Damon

MOTION PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

7. Discussion and Possible Approval to purchase a 2026 Ford Transit T-150 Cargo Van with a double ladder rack from Peoria Ford for \$52,664.18.

Matthew Gurney, Public Works Director

Logan Dodd, Operations Manager Public Works, presented the request to purchase a cargo van for the city's building maintenance operations. He explained that the building maintenance employee currently uses a pickup truck, which has several limitations. An enclosed cargo van would allow tools and materials to remain dry, secure, and organized, while also reducing the safety risk associated with transporting unsecured items in the vehicle. Mr. Dodd noted that the building maintenance employee regularly works with Department of Corrections (DOC) crews, and the van would better accommodate those workers, improve efficiency and allow more work to be completed each day.

Mayor Budge emphasized the advantages of an enclosed cargo van, explaining that the building maintenance employee carries an extensive inventory of tools and specialized equipment that would be better protected in a lockable cargo area. He noted that storing equipment in a pickup truck bed leaves it vulnerable to weather and theft, whereas a cargo van provides secure, readily accessible storage.

Mayor Budge also clarified that the purchase would not be paid for in a lump sum. Instead, it would be financed through a five-year loan under Ford's governmental financing program.

8. City Manager's Report:

- Ms. Coronado noted that the Election results would begin posting shortly after 8:00 PM on the City's website, Facebook page, and the Cochise County website.
- Ms. Coronado encouraged Councilmembers to identify potential applicants for the future Tourism Advisory Committee, particularly from the hospitality, restaurant, and arts sectors.
- Ms. Coronado thanked city staff for their quick response to recent monsoon-related retaining wall collapses and noted the city received a resident's letter of appreciation.

- Ms. Coronado commented on the recent shooting behind Safeway occurred on County property and was investigated by the Cochise County Sheriff's Office. City officers responded to the initial call and assisted with the arrest. Councilmembers had previously received an email with incident details.

COUNCIL COMMENTS OR FUTURE AGENDA ITEM SUGGESTIONS: (Council members may suggest topics for future meeting agendas, but Council will not here discuss, deliberate, or take any action on these topics.):

Mayor Budge stated that with no further business before this Council this meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:54PM

Ken Budge, Mayor