



**TAYLOR TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES**
Thursday February 3, 2022 6:00 pm
Town Hall
425 Papermill Road
Taylor, Arizona

Mayor
David Smith
Vice-Mayor
Jason Brubaker
Council Members
Bill Baldwin
Sherry Cosper
Dustin Hancock
Kris Neff
Shawn Palmer

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Mayor Brubaker called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
COUNCIL PRESENT: Vice Mayor Jason Brubaker, and Council Members Sherry Cosper, Shawn Palmer, Bill Baldwin, and Kris Neff
COUNCIL ABSENT: Mayor David Smith and Councilman Dustin Hancock
STAFF PRESENT: Gus Lundberg, Joseph Jarvis, Sara Ramsay, and Geri Judd
VISITORS: See list

1. Discussion Concerning Agreement with the Taylor Rodeo Inc.

A. Facility Use and Operation Agreement

Vice Mayor Brubaker opened discussion regarding the draft agreement with Taylor Rodeo Inc. Gus said for the past few years the parks staff has been utilized to work weekend equine events; with Aaron Dunford leaving and changes in parks staffing there has been concern regarding time taken away from regular town duties; Gus approached Steve Frost and Tami Gibson regarding interest in broader use and management of the rodeo grounds. Gus said the current fees are losing funds; there is need to make it usable and affordable for users; the town will offer some money to help cover costs of operations.

Council and Gus reviewed the agreement; the town would grant a lease to Taylor Rodeo Inc. to manage the facility, which does not include the pavilion; fees will be charged to use the facility, trying to keep the fees low; the tractor, water truck and if needed, an additional tractor and grooming implement would be made available to Taylor Rodeo Inc. Taylor Rodeo Inc. will provide insurance, manage all reservations, and scheduling of events.

Jason Gibson said their time was offered because they want to make sure the facility remains in good operating condition. Vice Mayor Brubaker asked if Taylor Rodeo Inc. is comfortable with the agreement.

Councilman Palmer said improvements have been made utilizing volunteer hours; current fees do not cover expenses; other recreation activities are subsidized by the town.

Council discussed the proposed fee schedule. Gus said the town would match fees paid by users; Taylor Rodeo Inc. will invoice the town for the same amount paid by the users; Gus is in favor of the town continually subsidizing 50% until something changes.

Vice Mayor Brubaker asked for public input.

Patrick McGuire with the White Mountain Horseman's Association (WMHA) said the WMHA organization is small and does not bring in enough funds to pay the proposed fees. He said the fees will have an effect on small, non-profit clubs.

Leigh Barthen said gymkhana events have been offered for over ten years at the Taylor Rodeo Arena; WMHA offers affordable fees so many can attend and a place to come and enjoy; to lose the small clubs due to increased fees would hurt the community.

Councilman Palmer asked if the price increase would impact WMHA; Ms. Barthen replied yes, it would hurt them.

Mindy Funkhouser with WMHA said Payson has out priced themselves and only has three events per year because of high fees.

Councilman Palmer said he believes non-profits need subsidized more with the costs. Tami Gibson asked if the WHMA gets sponsorships; Ms. Barthen replied yes, but they are only permitted to collect \$1,000 per year from sponsorships.

Vice Mayor Brubaker asked those opposed to the fee increases to write letters voicing their concerns.

B. Master Plan Progress and Update

C. Prioritization of Capital Upgrades

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm

Certification of Minutes:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Taylor Town Council meeting held on the 3rd day of February 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 3rd day of February 2022

Geri Judd-Town Clerk