

**Bill Chisholm, Sedona City Council [wchisholm@sedonaaz.gov](mailto:wchisholm@sedonaaz.gov)**

Any opinions contained herein are my own, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the City of Sedona or the Sedona City Council. My highlights are not intended to be all inclusive - the public record is the final authority. If you have friends/neighbors that would like to get added to my newsletter send them to my campaign website ([chisholm4council.com](http://chisholm4council.com)) where they can signup. You can reference greater detail and supporting documentation related to the city council meetings items via the following;

- <http://www.sedonaaz.gov/your-government/council-commissions-committees-boards/meetings-video-audio>
- <http://www.sedonaaz.gov/your-government/council-commissions-committees-boards/meetings-documents>
- <http://www.sedonaaz.gov/your-government/departments/city-clerk/council-commissions-committees-boards/city-council/meetings-agendas-packets-minutes>

#### **Summary of Activities since the February 2019 Newsletter**

- Feb 21-23 snow event - the city manager has conducted a post mort with his staff and is preparing information for council review. Overall, I feel the city responded well to this significant event, the magnitude of which has not been seen here in a very long time. Having said that with 110 miles of streets to service there will almost always be room for improvement. I suspect the FY20 (starts July1) budget will reflect 'asks' related to improving our snow handling capability. More to come on this subject.
- February 26, 2019 City Council Regular Session
  - City Council unanimously (7-0) approved a 3-year Keller Electrical maintenance contract for up to \$100k each of the 3 years in support of the Waste Water Reclamation Plant. The city posted this opportunity following the Arizona requirements and only this provider submitted a bid. This is our current provider and I felt that the modest rate increases this time around were fair.
  - City Council unanimously (7-0) passed city code updates in support of the previously approved Land Development Code changes related to Urban Agriculture – specifically the new rules supporting bee and chicken keeping.
  - City Council was briefed on and reviewed a recent Sales & Bed Tax financial analysis. The key finding was that residents pay approximately 23% of the total (sales tax + bed tax) while visitors pay the remaining 77%. Of course, visitors are paying 100% of the bed tax component. The methodology used was an approximation as each individual transaction that is processed in our city is not tagged as 'visitor' or 'resident'. Note: FY18 (ended June 30, 2018) Sales and Bed Tax total was \$21,773,478 (excluding the half-cent sales tax (adapted in early 2018) dedicated to the transportation projects).
  - City Council unanimously (7-0) supported a resolution asking the Arizona legislature to hold hearings and approve the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution.
- March 12, 2019 City Council Regular Session
  - City Council approved (6-1) a construction contract with Skyline Builders & Restoration, Inc. for \$310,673. This investment supports the remodeling of the Wastewater Reclamation Plant Administration Building. I was the dissenting vote. My preference was that we finish the in-flight waste water rate study and understand any potential changes to current rates before authorizing additional non-critical spending. This remodel was approved by the previous council during the FY19 budget process for a total of \$263,300. The March 12 approval provided the necessary authority for the additional cost.
  - City Council unanimously approved (6-0, Councilor Martinez recused himself due to a financial interest) the Final Plat for Foothills South Unit 5, to allow for a nine (9) unit subdivision at 100 Racquet Road. This development will replace the existing racquet club use of the property.
  - City Council received a briefing from Bob Huggins (Ranger & Program Manager) regarding the great work done by our City of Sedona Volunteer Park Rangers during the 2018 calendar year.
  - City Council unanimously (7-0) supported allowing the City Manager to establish a pilot program with Enterprise Fleet Management regarding city vehicle replacement/maintenance (excludes Police department vehicles at this time).
  - By simple majority (4-3) the City Council was against the creation of a trash receptacle ordinance that would address +/- timeframes for having a trash receptacle at the curb and potentially address how visible it was at other times. I was one of the three minority opinion voices. My intent was to create an enforceable ordinance on the topic that almost everyone was already following voluntarily. An ordinance would have given our residents who feel negatively impacted as a result of trash receptacles brought out early and left out later something to reference when reaching out to city enforcement for assistance. Right now, there is virtually no recourse for this subset of our community. Some parts of our community seem to be more impacted than others by this topic. I considered this a resident quality of life issue and in keeping with our desire to keep Sedona beautiful. To me the community benefit seemed high and the drawback

(more regulation) seemed low. No additional enforcement resources would be required because we do not go out looking for violations - our code enforcement staff is primarily reactive to citizen observations. At the end of the discussion the majority felt the problem as described was not severe enough to warrant additional city-wide regulation.

#### **Did You Know**

- Charles Husted a 30-year veteran of the Sacramento Police Department is joining the team as Sedona's Chief of Police on or about April 29<sup>th</sup>. I was on one of the panels that interviewed Charles and he did well. I look forward to his arrival.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- This Monday - 3/18/2019 - Sedona residents are invited to attend an open house in advance of construction in Uptown as part of Sedona in Motion (SIM) transportation improvements. The open house will be held March 18, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., at the Sedona Heritage Museum located at 735 Jordan Rd. Residents are invited to look at project designs, which are now 90 percent complete, ask questions of city staff and the construction contractor's staff, and share thoughts on best days and hours for construction activity. I will be out of town so if you decide to attend, I would be interested in your feedback.
- Reminder for all 501(c) organizations interested in applying for this year's small grant cycle: the deadline for applications is noon, Apr. 30. Awards will be finalized by the Sedona City Council in July. City grants are available for programs, activities or events developed by 501(c) organizations that provide a public service or benefit and are consistent with the city's funding priorities. Individual grant amounts typically range from \$2,000 to \$20,000...Again this year, grant applications will be distributed by request only. To receive an application, fill out the request form located on the web page [sedonaaz.gov/grants](http://sedonaaz.gov/grants).

Have a great rest of the month. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns at [wchisholm@sedonaaz.gov](mailto:wchisholm@sedonaaz.gov)

Bill