

**CITY OF WILLCOX
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Airport Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee

ACTION MINUTES

Thursday, July 23, 2009

6:00 P.M.

City Council Chambers
300 W Rex Allen Drive
Willcox, Arizona

(Chairman or Designee will read only BOLD print of each agenda item,
except for Public Hearings, Petitions and Communications.)

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Keeling at **6:09PM**

ROLL CALL

Committee Present

Rod Keeling, Chairman
Louise Walden
Delcie Schultz
Pete Erickson
Richard Searle

Phil Stratton
Richard Frank
Kurt Edelman
Gene Moremen
David Walters

City Staff

Sherry Van Allen, Recording Sec.
Jeff Stoddard, Development Services

Absent Committee Members

Cynthia Stine – Excused
Robert Smith - Excused
Kathy Smith – Excused
Harley Smith – Excused
Walter Clark - Excused

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Committee Members declared no conflicts.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented - **CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION/DECISION REGARDING THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF
JULY 09, 09.**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on
July 09, 2009 as presented.- **CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ON QUESTIONS ASKED PRIOR TO AND AT JULY 09, 2009
MEETING**

A question was asked concerning the \$150K FAA Entitlement Money that was discussed at the Public Meeting by City Manager McCourt.

ADDITIONAL CALL TO PUBLIC FOR DISCUSSION/ OPINIONS/QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC TO COMMITTEE/CITY STAFF WHO WILL ANSWER ON CITY ACQUIRING THE AIRPORT FROM COCHISE COUNTY.

One comment was received from a member of the public stating the City acquiring the Airport is making an investment in our City and our children's future. Like putting money in the bank.

One comment was made by a Committee Member concerning the financial accounting.

DISCUSSION/OPINIONS AND/OR DECISION ON COMMITTEES RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL ON THE PROS AND CONS OF THE CITY ACQUIRING THE AIRPORT.

Chairman Keeling lead the discussion by using a pros and cons type matrix

PROS...

Economic Development to expand the City's tax base

City can better manage the airport **than the County and not miss opportunities because of management.**

Naming rights will be transferred to the City – Willcox Municipal Airport

The Airport is in fair to good shape and the city acquires all operational assets at no cost to the City.

Airport is equipped with an established FBO.

The operational deficit is small and could be offset with minor changes in current revenue streams.

The City Council will have the ability to establish a permanent Advisory Board to assist the staff with and advise the Council on aviation related needs.

The City is effectively landlocked and it makes it difficult to expand without annexation.

The Airport adds approximately 280 acres that could be developed. Adding a total of over 900 additional acres to City facilities.

The City has new management in lots of areas and things are being done now. The City is reflecting good leadership and can pass that on to the airport.

CONS...

Why would the City want or need the airport if the County will continue to run it and fund it?

The City will be looking at a loss of \$5,000.00 to \$15,000.00 per year in operating deficit.

The City is currently in a budget crunch. They do not have the capacity to manage the airport at this time. How can they do any better then the county.

The city spending additional money on the airport creates a conflict of priorities. Such as roads not getting paved and potholes not being filled in the city.

The Airport has attached to ownership a very large and long federal commitment.

What will the City do if the current FBO leaves, who would manage the day to day operations? Finding knowledgeable FBO's is very difficult and some Cities are currently having FBO staffing issues.

How can the City justify adding the expense of the Airport and not be able to give the employee's any type of cost of living allowance, yet expect them to pick up the additional work.

Conditions from County to be put in report to Council if so moved:

Transitional budget assistance for a determined amount of time.
County will continue to share cost of revising Master plan with the City.
The County will transfer title to all real and personal property to the City of Willcox.

Owning the Airport will:

**Establish a new pro-business and development reputation for the City.
Since the airport will have it's own dedicated revenue stream, City departments could add additional capacity to deliver services to the rest of the city.**

The City having the airport adds additional land availability to use for development purposes and expands the City's economic opportunities.

The airport could create potential educational opportunities to the community through aviation related training.

The following motion was moved and seconded:

The Ad-hoc Committee will recommend in a written report to the City Council that the City of Willcox should acquire the Airport from Cochise County.
No additional discussion was held and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the quorum in attendance.

DISCUSSION/DECISION ON IF THE COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.

Chairman Keeling stated he believes he can correspond to the entire Committee and City Manager via the Recording Secretary and have all members view the report prior to it being presented to Council.

If another meeting is necessary or requested everyone will be contacted and informed in advance.

Chairman Keeling requested the recording secretary to prepare a memo to all absent committee members first thing on the 24th of July 2009 requesting their written opinion on the vote made. The opinions will not change the recommendation but will be a part of permanent records.

COMMENTS ONLY, FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE/CITY STAFF, NOT FOR DISCUSSION.

Comments were made by several committee members and staff in attendance.

ADJOURN. Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM

NOTE: People with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations. Requests must be made 48 hours prior to the meeting by contacting Human Resources, at 384-4271 during regular business hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.