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**This Meeting Will Be Open To The Public in Limited Capacity**  
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**[clerk@townofparkeraz.us](mailto:clerk@townofparkeraz.us)**

## AGENDA

TOWN OF PARKER COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING/EXECUTIVE SESSION  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1314 11<sup>th</sup> STREET  
TUESDAY, May 18, 2021 6:00 P.M.

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT:** Please silence or mute your electronic devices during the Council Meetings

**CALL THE REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Bonds called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL:** Mayor Bonds, Vice Mayor Hooper, Council Member De Leon, Council Member Hartless, Council Member Lucas, Council Member Schontz, Council Member Savino

Staff Present: Town Manager Lori Wedemeyer, Town Clerk Amy Putnam, Director Of Public Works Steve Zeigler, Chief of Police Michael Bailey, Library Manager Tracy Mcconnell, Director of Community Development Nora Yackley, Lieutenant Johnny Ferris.

Others Present: John Gutekunst, Lydia Lara, Phil Lara, Lois Moore, Omero Blake, Linda Barcus, Darla Tilley, Emily(no last name listed on Zoom)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Given by all in attendance

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: There were 4 calls to public presented to the clerk

1. Lydia Lara: For those of you who don't know me I'm Lydia Lara. I was Darla's assistant and worked alongside her. I saw how hard she worked as the Director of the Senior Center. She created a beautiful place for seniors to congregate with other seniors. You'll see pastries in the morning, lunch in the afternoon, exercise, bingo and bunco. People come here to be retired, the weather and a full functioning senior center. Snowbirds return every year they looked forward to the great meals at the senior center and activities that it offers. Thanksgiving dinners with raffles, two fundraisers. Some on this Council know how much fun they were, most of you attended. Also trips to Laughlin, Yuma, baseball games, the zoo and so on. The center offered awareness for seniors and dementia classes and so on. That beautiful place is gone. No one person can jump right in and duplicate it. Darla would tell me how it was her calling, for her homebound seniors were her number one, because most of them are all alone. The person they see all day is most likely the driver who delivered their meals and the meal was maybe the only healthy meal they had all day. What was done to Darla was wrong. The way it was done was wrong. It was just the shame that affected Darla, her staff, volunteers and the Senior residents of Parker who enjoyed the center. It's not true, what was written in the Parker Pioneer, the senior center is not functioning smoothly it's a mess. Are you seeing a pattern with ex-employees who are 60 years and older. The town manager made it very hard for them to continue working for the town of Parker. Maybe I should contact the EEOC for seniors discrimination. The residents of Parker want to know what decision and action will be taken against the town manager. This council hired her, this council is voted by residents of Parker. Please do your job and a slap on the hand is not good enough.

2. Phil Lara: Hello and thank you for this time. I've been racking my brain wondering how does a employee of Parker for 21 years, 15 years as a department head, who never had a verbal or written up on anything in 21 years. Is the reward for putting down the Senior Center of Parker on the map. when you have another Senior Center Director calling Darla to ask her what she's doing to be so successful? This is her reward. I feel she was going to be terminated or pushed out on her say. She was never interviewed on what happened. Any good H.R. Director would have the 2 parties on the day of the incident and taking their statements of what happened. Darla did not get that. If it were me I would have lawyered up and gone after the accuser or accusers and open the books up about their record at work. You council members have the power to fix this here and now tonight. because what's next the library, little league, Parker Police Department? this is so idiotic I think that it make it train take a dirt road seriously. This is the tail wagging the dog. Its time to drain the swamp because if not we are going to drain the swamp at the ballot boxes. Its time to bring back honesty, integrity and intelligence back to Parker/

3. Lois Moore: I didn't make notes but first of all I certainly concur with what Phil and Lydia said they said it a little bit stronger than I. My first thing is I would sincerely like to have an agenda item on the senior center, we would favor that. Advertising for employees is giving me thought that there's not many employees left. It's strange to me that we have a well running business, she would try to break it up. Second point is, I would like to have an agenda item on how it's going, getting a new HR there. I can't see how there's only one place and the buck stops there. Where else can the employees go? It's not only Darla there are others. One that I know of who still doesn't know why she was terminated and there have been other instances. Which brings me to my third point, that you as a council need to really have a little bit more oversight of employees and the town manager. The Police Chief was in on these meetings with Darla when she was forced to resign. Was she expecting trouble? A punch or something like that? Shouldn't a council member have been in there? I certainly hope those will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

4. Melissa Newton: The Chamber is getting ready for the Tube Float on June 12. All the hotels in town have been filled up since early March and most of the RV resorts as well are booked solid. I am asking for volunteers so anyone wants to volunteer by land or by sea I will take as many as I can get. Make sure our boaters are safe. We also need help at registration and clean up so if you don't have a boat we can still use you. I do want to thank PD for being there and holding all of our safety meetings. Also the mixer is this Thursday at 5:30 at the Sand Bar which is the new place up at the light.

If you wish to address the Council during this meeting, please read and fill in the information on the "Call to the Public" form and hand it to the Town Clerk. Please limit your comments to a maximum of **3-minutes**.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

All items in the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine or have been previously reviewed by the Council, and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests. If requested, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion and action.

***Approve the following:***

- a. Parker High School Graduation Parade Route for Thursday May 27, 2021 beginning at 6:30 PM  
**MOTION:** To approve Parker High School Graduation Parade Route for Thursday May 27, 2021 beginning at 6:30 PM  
**BY:** VM Hooper  
**SECOND:** CM Shontz  
**VOTE:** With all others in favor, the motion passed;

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

***Discussion and possible action on the following item(s)***

- 1. Approve/Deny Town of Parker Police Department Gun Sales  
Michael Bailey, Chief of Police  
*Chief of police Michael Bailey is requesting approval to sell various guns at our department that have not been used. Specifically shotguns that we no longer use, we also have a Remington 700 rifle that was purchased 20 years ago and was some sort of sniper rifle. We also are looking at selling the two H&K MP5's. These guns are unique because they are full auto AR 3 stamped guns meaning they cant sell them to anybody, has to be someone specific. We've never used these guns; nobody is even trained to use these guns. They just sit in gun cases. The other eight were looking at selling the Smith and Wesson M4 rifles. The reason for selling these guns is to put this money towards purchasing better patrol rifles. We reached out and spoke with a fairly local gun dealer, out of bullhead, who has a class 3 license. He gave us a price quote for roughly \$6,600. The remainder of the for the balance of the purchase of the new rifles we will utilize the funds from the Public Safety account. Bailey notes again ght edela has the appropriate Tax ID and licensing and can purchase all of the guns at one time. CM Lucas asks if the guns were made available for purchase to officers first? No they were not. Chief Bailey feels it's cleaner to go through an authorized dealer. If they want to go and reach out to the dealer to see if they can purchase that way, they are more than welcome to do that but they will not be sold internally. CM Lucas notes that historically they have been able to purchase. Bailey notes we do offer to sell a duty weapon, the handgun, for a dollar when an officer retires, that's just a customary deal.*

**MOTION:** To approve Town of Parker Police Department Gun Sales  
**BY:** CM Savino  
**SECOND:** Cm Hartless  
**VOTE:** With all others in favor, the motion passed;

2. Approve/Deny Town of Parker Police Department Rifle Purchase

Michael Bailey, Chief of Police

*Chief of Police Michael Bailey is requesting mayor and council approval for the Town of Parker Police Department rifle purchase. The Parker Police Department wishes to upgrade our Patrol rifles by purchasing 8 Sionics Patrol 3 Short Barrel Rifles LE Edition. This rifle is a better rifle for patrol needs. The Sionics rifle is fully mil-spec. The barrel is constructed of much harder steel that makes it less susceptible to heat. The coating is more advanced, which will allow it to last longer. It has a universal handrail so that each officer can customize it to fit their needs. The weapon is ambidextrous which goes with our training of injured officer drills and being able to operate the weapon with either hand. By going with the short barrel rifle, it has easier Mobility when deploying in close quarters without sacrificing accuracy that you would give up by switching to a handgun. Sionics is the sole manufacturer for this weapon. We did receive a quote from Pro-force Law Enforcement; they are the only other dealer that sells specifically to law enforcement. By the time we add the extra upgrades to match what Sionics is doing for free we would be paying an additional \$1,000 for the same setup. The fiscal impact to the town for the purchase of the 8 Sionics Patrol 3 special edition rifles is \$8,186.35 funds for these rifles will be from the funds received from the sale of currently owned guns. The remainder balance of \$1,536 will be coming from the officer safety equipment City police fund. Mayor Bonds asks how they will be issued? Each officer will be trained with the weapons and issued one. Council member De Leon asks about the magazines and if we have to purchase those separately? No, we can use the magazines that we currently have. There are no further questions on this item*

**MOTION:** To approve Town of Parker Police Department Rifle Purchase  
**BY:** CM De Leon  
**SECOND:** CM Shontz  
**VOTE:** With all others in favor, the motion passed;

3. Approve/Deny NRA Grant Acceptance

Michael Bailey, Chief of Police

*Chief of Police Michael Bailey is requesting approval to accept the NRA Foundation Grant funds he notes that the Parker Police Department was awarded \$3,400 from the NRA Foundation to purchase 3 Sionics Patrol Edition Rifles and 2 Vortex Optics. In January 2021 Parker Police Department submitted a grant in the amount of \$3,550 for the purchase of 3 rifle rifles and red dot optics and we were awarded \$3,400 through the NRA Foundation. He provides council with a breakdown of the Vortex Optics and rifle prices and notes that the department will be responsible for the overage cost of \$98.76. He notes this is not a reimbursable grant; they issue a check directly to the town for payment. There are no questions regarding this item*

**MOTION:** To approve NRA Grant Acceptance  
**BY:** VM Hooper  
**SECOND:** CM Lucas  
**VOTE:** With all others in favor, the motion passed;

4. Approve/Deny Use Agreement Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce

Michael Bailey, Chief of Police

*Chief of Police Michael Bailey is requesting the Mayor and Council approve the use agreement between the Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Parker Police Department for the use of the radar trailer message board for the annual Parker tube float. Chief Bailey notes that the Chamber of Commerce would incur significant cost if they had to rent this item from another source. There are no questions regarding this item.*

**MOTION:** To approve Use Agreement Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce  
**BY:** CM Savino  
**SECOND:** CM Lucas  
**VOTE:** With all others in favor, the motion passed;

5. Approve/Deny Resolution 07-2021 Updated Cemetery Policies

Steve Ziegler, Public Works Director

*Director of Public Works Steve Zeigler respectfully requests Mayor and Council to adopt a resolution 07-2021 updating the cemetery policies at the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee. The Parks and Recreation committee over the last several months has been working to streamline and update the cemetery policies. The previous policies that were in place contain conflicting information, and were generally unhelpful to staff and customers. We have streamlined the language, condensed redundant statements, and aligned policies with Town procedures. Updated fees will take effect when the comprehensive fee schedule is completed and adopted. The incremental increases to fees will serve to cover rising costs associated with burials and Cemetery service. Council Member Savino asks about the opening and closing of graves and if that includes cremations. Steve notes that there is a fee for the opening and closing of a plot to bury cremated remains. The fee does not include the actual cremation. CM Hartless asks if there were any major changes, he notes there is no redline version that points everything out. We had a redline version of this and that was started back in late 2019 when we transferred over to Google we lost that version. Steve notes there's no major changes so far he notes we removed lots of redundant verbiage and that a lot was misleading. We actually looked at the lease to gather some of the information for this updated policy. He notes that for Vterean portion of it we've basically follow the same guidelines for burials in line with what the National Cemeteries do. I think the biggest change is the fee schedule format. There's some increases, however we have not had a fee increase on our fee schedule since 2009. CM Hartless notes that he takes Steve's word for it and it won't be necessary to provide a redline version to him. CM Lucas notes that the Parks and Rec Committee recommended some changes in paragraph 2 regarding tribal burials. Members of the Colorado River Indian tribes receive free burials, and that will continue. Town Clerk Putnam notes that at one point in time there was some confusion among staff regarding burial of spouses of Tribal Members, who were not tribal themselves. The cemetery lease specifically states Tribal members receive free burials, so if you are a spouse of a tribal member who is non-tribal you do not get the same benefit. This was also reviewed with the Town Attorney and she agreed on that policy. VM Hooper asks about reservations. I know we've had people reserve numerous pots. Steve notes under the new policy we're just allowing if you're a married couple you and your spouse can certainly inform your children that once they reach the age of 18 they can reserve one on their own and we don't want but they can't reserve for their entire family. Discussion continues about plot reservations. There are no further questions about this item.*

**MOTION:** To approve Resolution 07-2021 Updated Cemetery Policies  
**BY:** CM Lucas  
**SECOND:** Cm Shontz  
**VOTE:** With all others in favor, the motion passed;

6. Approve/Deny Parks and Recreation Department Summer Program

Amy Putnam, Town Clerk

*Town Clerk Amy Putnam requested Mayor and council approval of funding for the*

2021 summer Recreation program. On May 10th the Parks and Recreation committee met to consider a recommended recommendation to provide the parks and rec summer program. And you will leave the town of Parker providing the community with a summer Recreation program for youth grades 1 through 6. Parker High School will be providing the space for the program and the program would 1 for 4 weeks starting June 14th and ending July 16th. The Colorado River Indian tribes are also running their summer youth work experience program and we are hoping to utilize 2-3 youth to provide support services to the program coordinator. This is an excellent opportunity for youth to gain valuable work experience. The town has allotted \$5,000 for this program. CM Hartless asks if we will actually be polygraphing the candidate. It is noted that the Director has traditionally been a teacher and already had the necessary background clearance for this type of position. There are no further questions regarding this item.

**MOTION:** To approve Parks and Recreation Department Summer Program  
**BY:** VM Hooper  
**SECOND:** CM De Leon  
**VOTE:** With all others in favor, the motion passed;

**Financial Report~ 3rd Quarter FY 2020/2021**  
**Lori Wedemeyer, Town Manager**

*Town Manager Wedemeyer provides the council with an update of the various department budgets and the general health of the town's general fund.*

**COUNCIL MEMBER/LIAISONS REPORTS WITH POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- \*Chamber of Commerce-CM Savino + Manager Wedemeyer\*
- \* Tourism-CM Hartless \* Joint Venture-VM Hooper + CM Savino\* PAACE-CM Lucas\*
- \*Tribal Committee -Mayor Bonds + CM Savino \*
- \*Parks & Recreation- CM Lucas + VM Hooper\* Senior Center-CM De Leon+ CM Savino \*
- \*Streets & Traffic -VM Hooper + CM Savino\*
- \*Library Board-CM Shontz\* La Paz County Fair Board-Mayor Bonds\*
- \* WACOG-CM De Leon + CM Savino\*
- \*WAEDD- CM Hartless\*

*CM Shontz notes that she has attended the Library Board. She gives everyone an overview of the summer programs happening at the library.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Wednesday	May 19, 2021	Joint Venture Board	10:00 AM
Thursday	May 20, 2021	Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce Monthly Business Mixer @ The Sand Bar	5:30 PM

Monday	May 24, 2021	Streets and Traffic Committee Meeting	5:15 PM
Monday	May 24, 2021	Parker Public Library Baby and Me Story Time	6:00 PM
Monday	May 31, 2021	Memorial Day	All Town offices closed
Tuesday	June 1, 2021	Parks and Rec Committee Meeting	4:00 PM
Tuesday	June 1, 2021	Next Regular Council Meeting	6:00 PM

*Unless so noted, all meetings are held in the Council Chambers located at 1314 11<sup>th</sup> Street.*

**PURPOSE:**

1. Discussion and possible action to convene into an Executive Session pursuant to **A. R. S. § 38-431.03A (1)** for the purpose of:
  - a. Discussion or consideration of the employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of the Town Manager

*Mayor Bonds called the executive session order at 6:46 PM*

**Convene into Executive Session**

**“Note, Executive Sessions are not open to the public, Matters discussed while in Executive Session must be kept Confidential by those attending”**

**Adjourn the Executive Session and Re-Call the Meeting to Order**

**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Bonds called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM

**ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL:** Mayor Bonds, Vice Mayor Hooper, Council Member De Leon, Absent Council Member Hartless, Absent Council Member Lucas, Council Member Schontz, Council Member Savino,

Staff Present: Town Manager Lori Wedemeyer, Town Clerk Amy Putnam

***Discussion and possible action on the following item(s)***

1. Discussion and Consideration of any motions pertaining to the employment and compensation of the Town Manager

**MOTION:** To terminate the employment of Lori Wedemeyer, Town Manager  
**BY:** CM Hartless  
**SECOND:** None  
**VOTE:** The Motion dies to lack of a second

**MOTION:** To extend the Contract of Lori Wedemeyer, Town Manager, for 5 years.  
**BY:** VM Hooper  
**SECOND:** CM De Leon  
**VOTE:** By a show of hands the following votes were made. With Vice Mayor Hooper, Council Member De Leon and Council Member Savino voting in favor and Council Member Shontz, Council Member Lucas, Council Member Hartless and Mayor Bonds voting no the motion fails.

**MOTION:** To revisit issuing a new contract at the end of the investigation and pending the results of the investigation. The item will be brought back at the first meeting following the review of the report  
**BY:** CM Shontz  
**SECOND:** VM Hooper  
**VOTE:** By a show of hands the following votes were made. With Vice Mayor Hooper, Council Member De Leon, Council Member Shontz and Council Member Savino voting in favor and Council Member Lucas, Council Member Hartless and Mayor Bonds voting no; the motion passed.

Some members of the council or the town attorney may attend the meeting either in person or by telephone conference call. Persons with a disability may request reasonable accommodation by contacting, the town clerk, (928) 669-9265, at least (72) hours before the scheduled meeting. Facilities are handicapped accessible  
The council may vote to recess into an executive session which will not be open to the public, for the purpose of obtaining legal advice regarding any of the agenda items, pursuant to a.r.s. §38-431.03(a)(3).

Approve

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Bonds, Mayor

### **ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION**



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: May 18, 2021 6:00 PM Arizona

Join the Zoom Meeting from your computer with the address below. Follow the instructions on the Zoom website.  
(Available for Audio and Video)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81923373844?pwd=Z0NkVXNVU3FHS3cvLzBZ ZTM0UnRZdz09>

Meeting ID: 819 2337 3844

Passcode: 946737

Or

Dial one the numbers below. If one is busy try the next. Once you're connected follow the prompts.

346-248-7799

669-900-6833

253-215-8782

312-626-6799

646-558-8656

301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 819 2337 3844

Passcode: 946737