1. CALL TO ORDER—Mayor Wood called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL/THIS MEETING WILL HAVE PARTIAL REMOTE PARTICIPATION WITH LIMITED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING. Mayor Wood present, Vice-Mayor Stabile present, Council Members Finch and Claverie present and Council Member Reibslager present via zoom.

STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Robinson, Marshal Patterson

PUBLIC PRESENT: Keith Dennis, Philip Brister, Denise Bowden, Mary Tolena, Carolyn Shafer, Chuck Klingenstein, Robert Gay, Melanie Lawson, David Budd and Debbie Robinson

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE—Mayor Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance

4. CORRECTION AND OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM:

SPECIAL STUDY SESSION FEBRUARY 24, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M. AND

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M. HELD VIA ZOOM MEETING WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM MEETING

**MOTION:** Council Member Finch moved to approve the minutes from:

SPECIAL STUDY SESSION FEBRUARY 24, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M. AND

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M. HELD VIA ZOOM MEETING WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM MEETING

**SECOND:** Council Member Claverie

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 5-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

**AYES:** Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile, Council Members Reibslager, Finch & Claverie

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC A. R. S. §38-431-01(H): AT THIS TIME, THE PUBLIC WILL ONLY BE RECOGNIZED TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS LISTED FOR PUBLIC INPUT PURSUANT TO TOWN CODE SECTION 2-5-6. ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC IS ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE TOWN COUNCIL, SUBJECT TO A REASONABLE TIME SET BY THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE ARIZONA OPEN MEETING LAW. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CALL TO THE PUBLIC, INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL MAY RESPOND TO CRITICISM MADE BY THOSE WHO HAVE ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL, MAY ASK STAFF TO REVIEW THE MATTER, OR MAY ASK THE MATTER BE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA. HOWEVER, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BODY SHALL NOT DISCUSS OR TAKE LEGAL ACTION ON MATTERS RAISED DURING AN OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS THE MATTERS ARE PROPERLY NOTICED FOR DISCUSSION AND LEGAL ACTION. Carolyn Shafer asked to speak on Items 8 & 14.

6. MAYOR’S REPORT ON CURRENT EVENTS. AT THIS TIME THE MAYOR MAY WISH TO CALL UPON THE COUNCIL OR STAFF FOR CURRENT EVENTS OR MONTHLY REPORTS. Council Member Finch updated the public and Council on vaccines given in the County, 16-18 thousand vaccines have been given and 5000 have received both shots. The County is in good shape for having about 50,000 residents close to 20% have been vaccinated. Mayor Wood did some calculations and figured 34% of our zip code have had their shots.

7. STAFF REPORTS ON ONGOING ACTIVITIES WITH POSSIBLE DIRECTION BY COUNCIL:

1. POLICE REPORT—ACO Hilliard called Marshal Patterson and said she had passed her structural firefighter classes and is now certified. Marshal Patterson wanted her to be recognized for her achievements and mentioned a few cases have been opened and will brief the Town Manager.
2. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT—Mr. Budd said he would discuss issues at item 14.
3. PATAGONIA FIRE AND RESCUE MONTHLY REPORT

**NEW BUSINESS**

8. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CDBG GRANT FROM SEAGO ESTIMATED TO BE $412,840.00.

THESE FUNDS ARE FROM THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING REGIONAL ACCOUNT (RA) AND MUST BE USED TO BENEFIT LOW-INCOME PERSONS AND AREAS, ALLEVIATE SLUM AND BLIGHT OR ADDRESS AN URGENT NEED. THE LIST OF USES IS ATTACHED. Mayor Wood opened the Public Hearing at 7:12 P.M. Keith Dennis with SEAGO, showed a Power Point presentation for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program that discussed the history of 46 years helping the borderlands areas along the Southern Arizona border with Mexico. He fielded questions on the types of projects that could be submitted and what will be presented tonight will be the only projects considered for the grant. Keith said another hearing will be made to choose the project selected by the Council voted on and a Resolution submitted to SEAGO by the end of April. Carolyn Shafer suggested Wastewater Treatment Plant work, Library Salaries, Youth Center, Senior Center and Purchase of a fire Truck. Council Member Reibslager mentioned that we had a grant for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehab and Town Manager Robinson Confirmed. Council Member Claverie verified the timeline for submittal of the final project and Robert Gay mentioned the term blight because our Town has a mix of construction and storage types. Town Manager

Robinson presented a road project along McKeown Avenue between Third and Fourth Avenues and Fourth Avenue to SR82. He has a budget and a plan that outlines paved public parking cutting down of dust blowing through Town and the road is being patched on a regular basis because of potholes. Town Manager Robinson was asked by Council Member Finch if Quiroga Lane could be renovated and paved and Town Manager Robinson said he would look at including a 2” pavement in the budget. Mayor Wood suggested that we number the projects in relation to the amount of people that each project would help. Robert Gay suggested a small solar power operation for low to mid income families. Discussion ended with Keith Dennis leaving the hearing. Mayor Wood closed the hearing at 7:59 P.M.

9. DISSCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT SUSAN LANGE’S LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

**MOTION:** Mayor Wood moved to ACCEPT SUSAN LANGE’S LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

**SECOND:** Council Member Claverie

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 5-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

**AYES:** Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile, Council Members Reibslager, Finch & Claverie

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FOR REDUCTION IN LIBRARY STAFF FOR THE PURPOSE OF STABILIZING THE LIBRARY BUDGET, BY REMOVING THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT II POSITION FROM THE PAYROLL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE LIBRARY HAS BEEN CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FOR ALMOST 11 MONTHS AND WITH A REDUCTION IN REVENUES AND POSSIBLE FUTURE LOSS OF REVENUES, THIS IS RELUCTANTLY BEING SUBMITTED.

**MOTION:** Mayor Wood moved to ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FOR REDUCTION IN LIBRARY STAFF FOR THE PURPOSE OF STABILIZING THE LIBRARY BUDGET, BY REMOVING THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT II POSITION FROM THE PAYROLL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE LIBRARY HAS BEEN CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FOR ALMOST 11 MONTHS AND WITH A REDUCTION IN REVENUES AND POSSIBLE FUTURE LOSS OF REVENUES, THIS IS RELUCTANTLY BEING SUBMITTED.

**SECOND:** Vice-Mayor Stabile

**DISCUSSION:** Council Member Finch said that during the Library Advisory Committee meeting it was mentioned that when funding was available, this position could be reinstated. He would like to amend the motion to add this. Town Manager Robinson said that once it is eliminated that Laura could hire a part time Library Clerk similar to the position Caitlyn has now and build up her volunteer group. Town Manager Robinson checked with Laura the morning of the Council Meeting and she confirmed that was the plan. Town Manager Robinson mentioned that the future of Library operations is uncertain and don’t even know if a kids program will be offered this summer. Council Member Reibslager said we should leave the motion as is without an amendment based on the recommendation by the Library Advisory Committee and the motion was voted on as is.

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 4-1 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

**AYES:** Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile, Council Members Reibslager & Claverie

**NAYS:** Council Member Finch

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

11. CAROLYN SHAFER REPRESENTING PATAGONIA AREA RESOURCE ALLIANCE (PARA), WOULD LIKE TO UPDATE THE COUNCIL ON PARAS ACTIVITIES. ATTACHED IS THE MANUSCRIPT READ BY MS. SHAFER.

12. CAROLYN SHAFER REPRESENTING THE FLOOD & FLOW COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THE COUNCIL AN UPDATE ON (i) MEETINGS WITH THE FOREST SERVICE, (ii) UPCOMING PRESENTATION TO SANTA CRUZ RIVER RESEARCH DAYS, AND (iii) RECOMMENDATION TO THE TOWN TO FILE COMMENTS ON THE AZPEDS PERMIT FOR SOUTH32. ATTACHED IS THE MANAUSCRIPT READ BY MS. SHAFER.

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SEND A COMMENT LETTER TO ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (ADEQ) IN REGARDS TO THE MODIFICATION REQUEST OF THEIR CURRENT AZPEDS PERMIT BY ARIZONA MINERALS INC. LETTER ATTACHED.

**MOTION:** Council Member Finch moved to SEND A COMMENT LETTER TO ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (ADEQ) IN REGARDS TO THE MODIFICATION REQUEST OF THEIR CURRENT AZPEDS PERMIT BY ARIZONA MINERALS INC. LETTER ATTACHED.

**SECOND:** Council Member Claverie

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Shafer asked if the Council would reword the first sentence of the second paragraph to read “The Town of Patagonia request ADEQ require Arizona Minerals Inc (AMI), to seek a new permit for the proposed outfall 002 into Harshaw Creek”. Mayor Wood commented that made for more clarity and liked the change, so the motion is modified to amend with changes.

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 5-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

**AYES:** Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile, Council Members Reibslager, Finch & Claverie

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO FILL OUT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PRIORITY LIST TO SUBMIT TO SEAGO FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS). LIST ATTACHED.

This item is basically a discussion item and Chairperson Budd clarified the difference between the CDBG grant and the CEDS grant, CDBG is for infrastructure and housing and CEDS is for economic development. This program is led by Maria Porter who is a colleague of Keith Dennis with the Community Block Grant side of SEAGO. The form you have was submitted somewhere around the mid to late February time frame and SEAGO wanted the information back the first of March. Chairperson Budd explained to Ms. Porter that we are all volunteers here and could not meet the time frame so he asked for a 30 day extension. Ms. Porter said she would meet half way and March 15, 2021 would now be the deadline. The form that Council Members were given were 5 items that Chairperson Budd put together and circulated among the Planning and Development Committee, unfortunately, they did not have a quorum so they has a general discussion about the items and numbered them as 1. Visitors Center, 2. Road and Sidewalk Beautification, 3. Business Incubator, 4. Small-Town Industrial Park, 5. Rural Desert Ecological Museum. Chairperson Budd commented that Town Manager Robinson attended the Planning and Development meeting and had done his homework and what he had marked down coincided with most of the members. Mayor Wood asked if the Council had any comments and Vice-Mayor Stabile commented about the practicality of some items and Council Member Finch suggested road signage on SR82 informing people of eating establishments in Town with directions that would add to our sales tax revenue which helps keep the Town going. No other discussion.

15. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.

**MOTION:** Council Member Reibslager moved to approve payment of accounts payable

**SECOND:** Council Member Finch

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 5-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

**AYES:** Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile, Council Members Reibslager, Finch & Claverie

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

16. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

AT THIS TIME THE COUNCIL MAY BRING FORTH TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS, AND IF PREVIOUSLY REJECTED BY THE MAYOR, THE COUNCIL MAY VOTE ON WHETHER TO PLACE THOSE ITEMS ON A FUTURE AGENDA PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-5-5 OF THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA, ARIZONA CODE. THE COUNCIL MAY NOT DISCUSS, DELIBERATE OR TAKE ANY ACTION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TOPICS OTHER THAN TO VOTE TO INCLUDE THEM ON A FUTURE AGENDA. A. R. S. §38-431.02(H). None

17. **ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Mayor Wood moved to adjourn

**SECOND:** Vice-Mayor Stabile

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 5-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

**AYES:** Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile, Council Members Reibslager, Finch & Claverie

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

I hereby confirm the foregoing minutes are a true and accurate copy of the minutes of a Regular Council Meeting and Public Hearing held March 10, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. via zoom meeting with partial public participation. I further certify that this meeting was duly called, held and that a quorum was present.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2021

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Andrea Wood, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ron Robinson, Town Clerk/Manager

***Economic Development Planning, Patagonia, AZ***

Planning and Development Committee, March 2, 2021

A part of Economic Planning is envisioning, and prioritizing, means and programs to aid in developing local jobs and a local economy.

Below are some of the possibilities for future economic programs for the greater Patagonia area.

Based on their potential to aid the local economy, please prioritize with 1, 2, 3, etc, those possibilities you think have the most promise in the space provided. Comments would be helpful.

1. Small-town Industrial Park\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Designated land and possibly enclosed structures to be available for light manufacturing and similar entrepreneurial activity,

at the local scale, similar to the business size of Hi Desert Flutes.)

Comments?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Visitor Center\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(A free standing visitor center with sufficient space to showcase local history, recreational opportunities, business opportunities, as well as offer a small meeting/events space and possible business incubator space.) Comments?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Road and Sidewalk Beautification\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(A major investment to improve roads and add sidewalks within town limits, to improve both performance and enhance the community draw of tourists and new residents wishing to open businesses.)
3. Business Incubator\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(A dedicated physical space including office equipment, meeting space, and the like, available inexpensively to business start-ups, usually along with mentoring or other support for business. In small communities the businesses can be focused on rural or small-town projects.)
4. Rural Desert Ecological Museum\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(A building and program to show and explain the science of the high Southwestern Deserts, for use by tourists, and schools)
5. Other Economic Development Ideas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**REVISED LETTER**

March 10, 2021

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Attention: Devin McAllister

Environmental Scientist – Permit Writer

Water Quality Division

1110 West Washington Street

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Our comments below are in regard to the application of Arizona Minerals Inc. (AMI), for a major modification of AZPDES permit no. AZ0026387 in relation to the addition of outfall 002 to the Existing Permit for outfall 001.

The Town of Patagonia requests ADEQ require Arizona Minerals Inc. (AMI), to seek a new permit for the proposed outfall 002 into Harshaw Creek. We feel the modification of the current permit would not be as substantive in the review of water quality at the discharge point. The discharge point in our opinion, requires its own permit due to the higher quantity of discharge that affects the quality of the water. Harshaw Creek merges with Sonoita Creek which runs through our Town, may eventually affect the underground water quality that our Town Wells draw, in supplying water to our 874 citizens.

Thank you for consideration to our request,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Andrea Wood

Mayor, Town of Patagonia

**FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA, ARIZONA**

**Public Hearing Regarding Use of CDBG Funds**

The Town is expected to receive approximately $412,840.00 in FY2021 in federal CDBG funds from the Arizona Department of Housing Regional Account (RA). CDBG funds must be used to benefit low-income persons and areas, alleviate slum and blight or address urgent need. A public hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M. on March 10, 2021 at the Town Hall, 310 McKeown Ave. Patagonia, AZ to gather citizen input on the use of the CDBG funds. Examples of possible uses include the following:

* + 1. Public infrastructure (e.g., water, wastewater, street improvements);
    2. Community facilities (e.g., parks, health clinics, libraries, senior or youth centers);
    3. Housing (e.g., owner-occupied or multi-family rehab, utility connections on private property, new housing constructed by a non-profit);
    4. Public services (e.g., paying the salary of an additional staff person to expand a Head Start program, purchasing a van to transport persons with disabilities, equipment and rent to start a new job training program); and
    5. Economic development (e.g., a loan to a business for job creation, micro-enterprise development, acquisition of land for an existing business expansion).

For more information about the hearing, grievances, or the CDBG program; or to receive assistance in formulating prospective project ideas for presentation at the hearing contact the following:

Name, Title: Ron Robinson, Town Manager

Organization: Town of Patagonia

Address: 310 McKeown Avenue

City, State, Zip: Patagonia, Arizona 85624

Telephone: 520-394-2229

Fax: 520-394-2861

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations may contact Isabel Van Nest at the above location at least 48 hours before the hearing.

***Economic Development Planning For Patagonia, AZ***

A Part of Economic Planning is envisioning, prioritizing, means and programs to aid in developing local jobs and a local economy.

Below are some of the possibilities for future economic programs for the greater Patagonia area.

**REVISED FROM MEETING AND SENT TO SEAGO**

Based on their potential to aid the local economy, the ideas have been prioritized by one being the most important to five being the least. This is an average from the Town Council of Patagonia’s meeting on March 10, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

1) Visitor Center. A free standing visitor center with sufficient space to showcase local history, recreational opportunities, business opportunities, as well as offer a small meeting/events space and possible business incubator space.

2) Road and Sidewalk Beautification. A major investment to improve roads and add sidewalks with curbing to not only give pedestrians a safe place to walk, but also direct storm water to the creek and away from homes. This would enhance the Community and possibly draw more tourists and new residents wishing to open businesses.

3) Adequate and appropriate signage at the entrances to Patagonia on SR82 showing the eating establishments with directional.

4) Development of a 1 or 2 Mega Watt Solar power station to supply alternate power to the Town. This would benefit all residents possibly decreasing their electrical bill.

5) To add to the above, due to the increase in electric car purchases, provide charging stations at different points in Town to not only assist some locals, but attract visitors who prefer electric cars.

ITEM #11.

PATAGONIA AREA RESOURCE ALLIANCE a/k/a PARA

PARA is a grassroots organization working to protect the water and wildlife of the Patagonia Mountains from 21st century industrialized mining. Our mission is to hold the mining companies and the agencies to the highest level of existing regulations. One of the most important things that PARA has done over its 10 years of existence is to establish and foster relationships with many local, regional, state, and national organizations. At this time, two mining companies have four open comment periods. PARA is working with four lawyers representing three organizations as well as expert hydrologists and geochemists to prepare comments on the mining company proposals. In February and March, PARA took several actions:

* PARA requested and was granted an extend the comment period by ADEQ for an additional 30 days because of significant concerns about the application;
* PARA requested that the EPA intervene in South32’s AZDPES process;
* PARA requested that Congressman Raul Grijalva as Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee support PARA’s request to the EPA.

Last week, the EPA responded to the Congressman stating that the EPA is committed to discussions with ADEQ as they refine the draft permit.

Today, the EPA responded to PARA that the EPA has reviewed ADEQ’s draft permit modification and fact sheet to ensure conformance with Clean Water Act requirements. I will forward copies of both EPA letters to Town Manager Ron.

In February, I testified at the AZ House Natural Resources Committee with respect to the draft legislation by which AZ will assume clean water regulations from the federal government. During a long process of public hearings before the ADEQ as it drafted the legislation, several local organizations had asked that the Harshaw Creek be included as a protected water and the Forest Service had also asked that the

Harshaw Creek be included. Unfortunately, the Harshaw Creek was not included as a protected waterway under proposed state regulations. Today, I testified at the AZ Senate Natural Resources Committee. After my testimony, Senator Engle asked ADEQ why the Harshaw Creek was not protected.

ADEQ’s Water Quality Director then stated that the department added the Harshaw Creek following my testimony at the February House Natural Resources Committee. There are many significant problems with the draft bill moving through the state legislature, but at least we have

now added the Harshaw Creek to the list of protected waterways. Thank you. Carolyn Shafer

AGENDA ITEM #12.

FLOOD AND FLOW COMMITTEE:

Representing the Flood and Flow Committee, I will be presenting a brief update on the Sonoita Creek Watershed on March 25 as part of a two day Santa Cruz River Research Days program. The Sonoita Creek watershed is an important tributary to the Santa Cruz watershed. This is a sensitive biodiverse area imperiled by the mega drought, climate crisis, and proposed industrial activity. The goal is to raise awareness of the need for long term research in the Sonoita Creek watershed to protect the waters which are our most important resource.

Last month and again this month, the Committee has received updates from Forest Service representatives on activities in our watershed which is identified by the Forest Service as an official Forest Service municipal watershed.

Over the next several months, the Flood and Flow Committee will be working with the Forest Service to create Watershed Restoration Action Plans.

At its February meeting, the Committee members voted to recommend that the Town Council file documents with AZ Dept of Env Quality with respect to South32’s AZDPES permit application. The Nature Conservancy, Tucson Audubon, Friends of Sonoita Creek, and Patagonia Area Resource Alliance are represented on the Flood and Flow Committee, and all those organizations offered to share their comments with the Town when comments are available. Thank you, Carolyn Shafer.