1. CALL TO ORDER—Mayor Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL/THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM MEETING. Mayor Wood present, Council Members Reibslager, Finch & Claverie present & Vice-Mayor Stabile absent.

STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Robinson and Intern Summer Smith.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Debbie Robinson, Robert Gay, Mary Tolena, Heather Floyd

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

4. CORRECTION AND OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM:

A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 20, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M. IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM.

**MOTION:** Council Member Finch moved to approve the minutes from a Special Council Meeting held December 20, 2023, at 6:00 pm in person and via zoom.

**SECOND:** Council Member Claverie

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** Vice-Mayor Stabile

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. Robert Gay spoke to Item 9 requesting more detailed information be placed in the letter and more community awareness be publicized about the dangers of manganese and create more accountability from South32 towards our community.

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. Mayor Wood reported that she and Town Manager Ron met with Pat Risner & Sandra Moraga on Friday of last week to review the Town’s letter of request for funds from South32. South32 is crafting a response after a clearer understanding of what the Town requests.

7. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES ON ONGOING ACTIVITIES. In the books. Council Member Finch who is the Council Rep on the Planning & Development Committee reported no meeting for January due to a lack of business.

**OLD BUSINESS**

8. HEATHER FLOYD, PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST WITH VALLEY TELECOM GROUP, WILL UPDATE THE TOWN COUNCIL ON THE PROGRESS OF FIBER CONSTRUCTION IN THE TOWN. Heather Floyd updated the Council on the fiber network progress. Engineers were here in December. They determined the fiber network will be 60% underground and 40% overhead. End of February first of March the contracts should go to bid and by June work should begin. The hope is Valley Telecom will be signing people up for service in December of this year. Heather went over plans and pricing and answered various questions from Council Members. She also said they would continue updating the Council as they progress in their plans.

**NEW BUSINESS**

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVING THE TOWN COUNCIL SENDING A LETTER TO ADEQ OPPOSING AIR QUALITY CONTROL PERMIT NUMBER 96653 TO SOUTH32/HERMOSA INC. UNTIL ADEQ IN CONJUCTION WITH THE EPA CREATE AN AIR QUALITY STANDARD FOR MANGANESE POLLUTANT LIMITATIONS PRIOR TO PERMIT RELEASE.

**MOTION:** Council Member Claverie moved to approve THE TOWN COUNCIL SENDING A LETTER TO ADEQ OPPOSING AIR QUALITY CONTROL PERMIT NUMBER 96653 TO SOUTH32/HERMOSA INC. UNTIL ADEQ IN CONJUCTION WITH THE EPA CREATE AN AIR QUALITY STANDARD FOR MANGANESE POLLUTANT LIMITATIONS PRIOR TO PERMIT RELEASE.

**SECOND:** Council Member Finch

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** Vice-Mayor Stabile

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DECLARE A FINANCIAL EMERGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 2022-02 SUSPENDING THE 2022-2023 ALTERNATIVE EXPENDITURE LIMITATION. THE SUSPENSION OF THE ALTERNATIVE EXPENDITURE LIMITATION SHALL BE IN EFFECT FOR ONLY ONE FISCAL YEAR AT A TIME.

**MOTION:** Council Member Claverie moved to declare A FINANCIAL EMERGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 2022-02 SUSPENDING THE 2022-2023 ALTERNATIVE EXPENDITURE LIMITATION. THE SUSPENSION OF THE ALTERNATIVE EXPENDITURE LIMITATION SHALL BE IN EFFECT FOR ONLY ONE FISCAL YEAR AT A TIME.

**SECOND:** Council Member Reibslager

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** Vice-Mayor Stabile

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ALLOW TOWN MANAGER ROBINSON TO APPLY FOR THE $750,000.00 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT (CAP) PROVIDED BY NORTH AMERICAN

DEVELOPMENT BANK. THIS MONEY WOULD FUND A WATER SERVICE LINE REHAB ON SANTA RITA FROM THIRD TO COSTELLO. THE TOWN WOULD HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE 10%.

**MOTION:** Mayor Wood moved to allow TOWN MANAGER ROBINSON TO APPLY FOR THE $750,000.00 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT (CAP) PROVIDED BY NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. THIS MONEY WOULD FUND A WATER SERVICE LINE REHAB ON SANTA RITA FROM THIRD TO COSTELLO. THE TOWN WOULD HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE 10%.

**SECOND:** Council Member Claverie

**DISCUSSION:** Mayor Wood asked Town Manager Robinson if the Town had the 10% match and he said yes.

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** Vice-Mayor Stabile

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

**MOTION:** Council Member Reibslager moved to approve payment of Accounts Payable.

**SECOND:** Mayor Wood

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** Vice-Mayor Stabile

13. **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). No items.

14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO A. R. S. §38-431.03(A) (1), PERTAINING TO REVIEWING THE TOWN MANAGERS EVALUATION FOR THE PRIOR YEAR. THE TOWN COUNCIL WILL DETERMINE HIS CONTINUED SALARY, AND BENEFIT PACKAGE.

*IF AUTHORIZED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WILL BE HELD AFTER THE VOTE AND WILL NOT BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.*

**MOTION:** Council Member Finch moved to adjourn into Executive Session PURSUANT TO A. R. S. §38-431.03(A) (1), PERTAINING TO REVIEWING THE TOWN MANAGERS EVALUATION FOR THE PRIOR YEAR. THE TOWN COUNCIL WILL DETERMINE HIS CONTINUED SALARY, AND BENEFIT PACKAGE.

**SECOND:** Council Member Claverie

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** Vice-Mayor Stabile

THE TOWN COUNCIL ADJOURNED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:32 PM.

THE TOWN COUNCIL RECONVENED BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION AT 7:09 PM.

ES. INCREASE TOWN MANAGER ROBINSON’S SALARY BY 8.5%.

**MOTION:** MAYOR WOOD MOVED TO APPROVE AN INCREASE OF 8.5% TO TOWN MANAGER ROBINSON’S SALARY.

**SECOND:** Council Member Finch

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** Vice-Mayor Stabile

15. **ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Mayor Wood moved to adjourn.

**SECOND:** Council Member Finch

**VOTE:** The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAINERS:** None

**ABSENT:** Vice-Mayor Stabile

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:10 PM.

I hereby confirm the foregoing minutes are a true and accurate copy of the minutes from a Regular Council Meeting held January 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm. I further certify that the meeting was duly called, held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

APPROVED:

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

Andrea Wood, Mayor

ATTEST:

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

Ron Robinson, Town Clerk