



**TOWN OF PATAGONIA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.
ZOOM MEETING I.D. 957-511-4862 PASSWORD 338501**

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, Vice-Mayor Stabile present via zoom, Council Members Finch, Claverie & Retherford present.
STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Robinson & Library Clerk Debbie Robinson.
PUBLIC PRESENT: See sign in sheets.
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE—Mayor Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. CORRECTION AND OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM:
A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 14, 2026, AT 6:00 PM AND A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 21, 2026.
MOTION: Council Member Finch moved to approve the minutes from A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 14, 2026, AT 6:00 PM AND A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 21, 2026.
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 via zoom, Council Members Finch, Claverie & Retherford.
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. Anna Darian presented questions for South32 on Item 6. Gregg Gorton asked South32 if the water results for antimony will be made public in detail referencing Item #6. Chris Gardner asked questions on plant treatment and monitoring updates from South32 on Item #6. Chris Werkhoven asked questions on Item #6 and they are attached.
6. SOUTH32 WILL PRESENT WATER MONITORING RESULTS UPDATE. Pat Risner President of South32/Hermosa gave an update on their Water Treatment Plant #2 discharge and Plant modifications and answered questions from call to the public. His presentation is attached.
7. 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. The Eighth Grade Bake Sale date is moved from February 7th to February 13th same location.
8. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES ON ONGOING ACTIVITIES. In the books.



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NEW BUSINESS**

9. ZANDER AULT WILL PRESENT A REVIEW OF THE 2025 SPIRIT WORLD 100 GRAVEL BIKE RACE EVENT AND PRESENT THE PLAN FOR THE 2026 SPIRIT WORLD 100 TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 5-8, 2026. Zander gave an

update from the success of the November 2025 Spirit World 100 Gravel Bike Race and spoke about positive feedback from the participants and the visitors who attended. He then gave an overview of the upcoming November 2026 Spirit World 100 Gravel Bike Race and proposed to have the event back in Central Park with some modifications. He also had feedback from some local citizens remarking about how the event has really helped our Town.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 26-01, AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA ARIZONA, REPEALING TOWN CODE SECTION 2-6-3 TO ALLOW FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES IN ONE READING. SECOND READING.

MOTION: Council member Retherford moved to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 26-01, AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA ARIZONA, REPEALING TOWN CODE SECTION 2-6-3 TO ALLOW FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES IN ONE READING. SECOND READING.

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 via zoom, Council Members Finch, Claverie & Retherford.

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: None

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR LICENSE AND CONTROL A SPECIAL EVENT LIQUOR LICENSE FOR COMMUNITY HOMES OF PATAGONIA, INC'S BRUNCH AND CONCERT FUND RAISER TO BE HELD AT THE BENDERLY-KENDALL OPERA HOUSE LOCATED ON 344 NAUGLE AVENUE, PATAGONIA ARIZONA ON FEBRUARY 14, 2026 FROM 11:00 AM TILL 2:00 PM.

MOTION: Council Member Claverie moved to RECOMMEND TO THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR LICENSE AND CONTROL A SPECIAL EVENT LIQUOR LICENSE FOR COMMUNITY HOMES OF PATAGONIA, INC'S BRUNCH AND CONCERT FUND RAISER TO BE HELD AT THE BENDERLY-KENDALL OPERA HOUSE LOCATED ON 344 NAUGLE AVENUE, PATAGONIA ARIZONA ON FEBRUARY 14, 2026 FROM 11:00 AM TILL 2:00 PM

SECOND: Mayor Wood.

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

AYES: Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile via zoom, Council Members Finch, Claverie & Retherford.

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: None

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

MOTION: Council Member Finch moved to approve payment of accounts payable.

SECOND: Council Member Claverie.

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



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AYES: Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile via zoom, Council Members Finch, Claverie & Retherford.

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: None

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). Firebreaks Plan from PVFR, Item 11, MOU with the Friends FROM May 28th, Item 12 Forest Lane rename from May 28th Meeting.

14. **ADJOURN**

MOTION: Mayor Wood moved to adjourn.

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 via zoom, Council Members Finch, Claverie & Retherford.

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

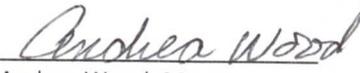
ABSENT: None

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:04 PM.

I hereby confirm the foregoing minutes are a true and accurate copy of the minutes from a Regular Council Meeting held January 28, 2026 at 6:00 pm. I further certify that the meeting was duly called, held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 11th Day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

APPROVED:


Andrea Wood, Mayor

ATTEST:


Ron Robinson, Town Clerk



Town of Patagonia

Sign in Sheet for Regular Council Meeting

January 28, 2026 6:00 p.m.



Print Name	Signature	Address
IN PERSON //	//	//
CHARIS WERKHOVEN Ernie Edwards		50 APACHE TR SON 35 Camino Los Dientes, Lake Patagonia
CHRIS GARDNER		5 SQUIRRELTAIL LN, 85624
JAN THOMPSON Jot KIRBY		Rio Rico AZ
Rob Colquhoun		Littleboy Canyon, Patagonia 85624
MARION VENTNOL		25 CAMINO DEL CORDAL E LGIN
BREGG GORTON		31 Cross Creek Rd.
Franklin		419 Sonolfa Ave
ALBERT RENO Victor RENO		413 MEMORIAL ALEX 239 Santa Rita
ROBERTS GAY		249 PUEBLO
Ralphs dmitt		357 Franklin
JOHN DILLON		49 San Antonio
Anna Darian		280 Naugle Ave
Zander Ault		62 Redwood Dr
Rebecca Meyers		360 Harshaw Creek Rd
Alexis Stark		239 2nd Ave
STEVEN WATTS		416 NAUGLE AV
Gregg Chance		719 Sonolfa
Mary Tolona		542 Harshaw
Hunter Williams		PO 1276 PAT 85624
Sharon Barefoot		PO BOX 253 Patagonia, AZ 85624
MARTA MONKA		21 EMILY LN
James Dennison		524 Costello Dr.
JESU WPEZ		111 E. Court. Nogales AZ



Chris Werkhoven, Patagonia Town Council Mtg,
Jan 28, 2026

Good evening Mayor and Council, my name is Chris Werkhoven and I have a residence in Sonoita.

First: Reality cannot be ignored except at a price.....the longer you ignore, the higher the price....and hiding lasts only so long

Here is my question to when it comes to the reality of our environment:

“Considering the not-anticipated (?) findings of antimony in ground - and surface water and the last-minute revelation in the 2025 DEIS that an underground plume of antimony will develop upon mine closure, the current APP has shown to be deficient in protecting the health of area residents in a trustworthy and transparent way. These observations are not new and to pro-actively avoid even more, and perhaps

irreversible dispersion, will the Town of Patagonia, as a CPBA signatory, demand the stay of mine operations, the re-opening of current permits and re-submission of adequately amended permits?”

Not anticipated antimony?Ignore at your own peril.....!

The AMI remediation program of 2016, 7 years earlier, shows clearly how antimony leached from waste rock into soil for decades, if not more than century...

Now we are sinking elevator shafts and will drill tunnels in the same material...

That is why the DEIS announced an antimony plume...but will it only form after mine closure and stay put forever?

Has the CPBA the objective and the authority to find out...? The Town of Patagonia has the moral

obligation...and should be known to our children
for answering that call

Thanks for your attention...



HERMOSA

Water Monitoring Results Update

BRIGHTER
FUTURES,
TOGETHER

PERMITS FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT



Permit	Purpose	Antimony Permit Limits	Sample Method
Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES)	Regulates the quality of surface water discharge from point sources.	491 parts per billion (monthly avg) 986 parts per billion (daily limit)	8-hour composite sample: multiple samples over a continuous 8-hour period averaged.
Aquifer Protection permit (APP)	Regulates quality of discharge for groundwater / aquifers.	4.8 parts per billion (alert level) 6.0 parts per billion (discharge limit)	Grab sample: single water sample collected at one specific time and location, providing a snapshot of the water's condition at that exact moment.

- 6.0 ppb is equal to 0.000006%
- AZPDES limit is an assessment level established to determine if pollutant has reasonable potential to be in discharge & if enforceable numeric limits need to be established.

TIMELINE



- **Late 2024:** observed increasing antimony levels (higher than baseline water quality) in 1 of 7 wells on site that feed the water treatment plant – naturally occurring groundwater
- **Feb 2025:** Shut down of the one well with increasing antimony levels through Sept 2025
 - **Feb-Aug:** Planning for solution to increase antimony removal in the water treatment plant (Avg 2.6ppb)
 - **Aug:** Solution to increase antimony treatment in the water treatment plant fully implemented
 - **Sept:** Well turned back on – monthly APP sample was 2.6 ppb
- **Nov 26:** Lab sends monthly compliance sampling results for both permits results. AZPDES (8-hr composite) = 5.73 ppb & APP result (grab sample) = 6.23 ppb, both collected on the same day
 - Immediately asked lab to retest APP sample as it was more than double the previous month's result & one sample was below the limit while one was slightly above the limit even though they were sampled on the same day
 - Multiple other samples / tests in October and early November were below the discharge limit
 - Two higher antimony wells were shut off and have remained off
- **Nov 29:** Reported 6.23 ppb APP lab result on ADEQ's online portal
- **Dec 3:** Retest results confirmed the APP sample was slightly above the 6.0 ppb discharge limit
- **Dec 4:** Confirmed the retest results with ADEQ
- **Dec 24:** Monthly antimony results for both permits were below discharge limit at 4.73 ppb and 4.57 ppb
- **Q1 2026:** Second phase of additional antimony treatment added to the plant

ADEQ SPOKESWOMAN ALMA SUAREZ:

"A permit exceedance is a regulatory trigger that requires investigation and corrective action, but it doesn't by itself quantify a health risk."

"The discharge to Harshaw Creek was significantly below the applicable surface water quality standards, which are established to protect human and wildlife interactions with the creek."



EXPERT TOXICOLOGY ANALYSIS



- APP discharge limit (6.0) = US EPA's drinking water standard for antimony developed based on risk if someone drank 2 liters of the water every day for their entire life.
- Recent statements that there is antimony in drinking water & increasing antimony is creating a health risk.
- Do not believe a single grab sample on a single day could create a drinking water or health risk.
- In December, an international environmental & risk sciences consulting firm, Gradient, analyzed all discharge water quality information to assess human health risk.
- Lead expert engaged is a toxicologist with >25 years experience in human health risk assessment with PhD from MIT & post-doctoral work at Harvard School of Public Health.
- Important observations & conclusion by external expert analysis:
 - Average antimony concentrations are most appropriate measurements for making comparisons to antimony drinking water standards because these standards were **developed from a long-term chronic toxicity study** to be **protective of long-term chronic exposures in humans.**
 - *Using a single sample to compare to standards derived to reflect long-term exposures would not be appropriate because a single sample provides only a snapshot of a specific time & location and does not reflect long-term exposure.*
 - Avg concentration of antimony in discharge water was 3.2 ppb from 22 samples collected in 2025.
 - Avg concentration of antimony in Harshaw Creek surface water was 2.5 ppb across 6 locations & 16 samples in 2025.
 - *Average antimony concentrations in discharge water & Harshaw Creek surface water are below the antimony drinking water standards, and, therefore, do not pose a risk to human health.*

FACTS TO ADDRESS RECENT STATEMENTS (1/2)

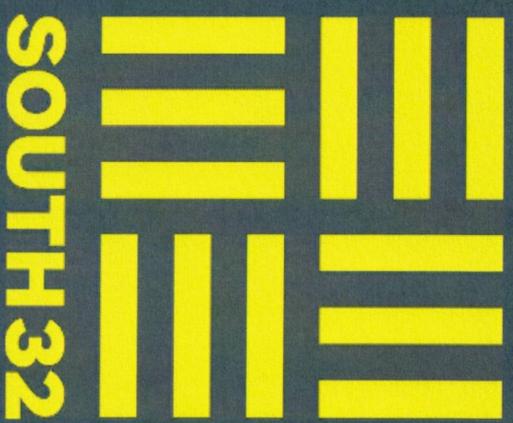


- South32's water treatment plant design is unique and has deficiencies to treat these metals.
 - The plant uses chemical precipitation through sand ballasted clarifiers to remove metals – this is the most common treatment technology for metals because it is effective and it is not unique at all.
 - Maximum antimony concentrations in the baseline water quality for plant design were 4 ppb.
 - The plant design is adaptable to achieve required treatment levels – not just for antimony / metals.
 - As planned, we manage variable water quality coming into the plant – naturally occurring groundwater
 - The plant and treatment process can be and have been adjusted to achieve higher removal rates of antimony.
 - There are multiple technologies to remove antimony and plant designs must be tailored to the input water chemistry at a site – this is never one sizes fits all.
 - External, expert process engineers design these systems - internal process engineering experts on staff too
 - These experts have effective solutions that we are implementing for our setting with this water chemistry
- When discharge / flow rates from the plant increase antimony concentrations.
 - The discharge limits & monitoring results are concentrations not total antimony.
 - Increasing concentrations are related to certain natural sources that have higher relative concentrations of antimony not volume of water through the plant.

FACTS TO ADDRESS RECENT STATEMENTS (2/2)



- Antimony levels are increasing in regional wells & Harshaw Creek and are above the drinking water standard.
 - Well sampling data downstream from the site utilized by the US Forest Service (USFS) in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) indicates antimony levels consistently less than 2 ppb (1/3 of the drinking water standard).
 - Well monitoring data has been included in the EIS. We are working with USFS and have committed to a water quality monitoring and mitigation plan that will be available for public review when the FEIS is published in March
 - Surface water monitoring data from Harshaw Creek downstream of the site utilized by USFS in EIS shows 1-3 ppb antimony concentrations consistently and more recent results have not increased.
 - **USFS analysis in the Draft EIS was that discharge is not expected to produce metals loading that could result in exceedance of Aquifer Quality Standards**, including analysis of mobilization of Harshaw Creek sediments.
 - The full 968-page report is always publicly available on the Forest Service website.
- There is a risk to cattle grazing or livestock from antimony levels or bioaccumulation in the Patagonia Mountains.
 - There is no established antimony standard for agricultural livestock watering in Arizona or other states.
 - ADEQ has set limits protective of aquatic organisms and wildlife in effluent dependent water for acute (short term) & chronic (long term) exposures at 1,000 & 600 ppb respectively.
 - The highest level in the South32 discharge was nearly 100 times lower than the chronic limit.



Questions: askhermosa@south32.net