

FEATURED

Camp Verde mayor meets with Gov. Hobbs; council green lights Sports Complex projects

By Tony Capobianco The Verde Independent
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Camp Verde Vice Mayor Wendy Escoffier, right, Mayor Marie Moore, center, and Councilmember Jesse Murdock listen during a town council meeting on Wednesday, May 7, in Camp Verde. (VVN/Tony Capobianco)

CAMP VERDE — During Wednesday’s Camp Verde Town Council meeting on May 21, Camp Verde Mayor Marie Moore updated the council on a meeting she and Town Manager Miranda Fisher had with Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs and eight other mayors and managers in Prescott.

In a meeting that included issues such as funding and water infrastructure, Moore said she told Hobbs that local governments should have more control over their towns rather than the state legislature.

“Collectively, we all agreed that the state Legislature needs to let local government remain in control of all of our towns,” Moore said, “and we asked that she continue to support that of us. They don’t need to be making our decisions for us. That needs to be left up to us and our citizens.”

In the meeting, Hobbs learned that the local governments and state departments face the same struggles. All in all, Moore found it to be “a productive meeting.”

"I honestly didn't go into it thinking it would be," Hobbs said. "I thought that we were just going to go do a kind of a political showdown and everybody was going to shake hands and kiss babies, but I was very pleasantly surprised. She was very interactive. She sat, she listened, we felt heard, and I look forward to seeing the outcome of that meeting."

During the meeting, Fisher mentioned meeting with Cottonwood Mayor Ann Shaw and former Camp Verde mayor and current board member of Friends of the Verde River Tony Gioia, who flew them on a small plane over the Verde River on Wednesday.

"The purpose of that is there's a desire to do Wild and Scenic River protection for the Upper Verde," Fisher said. "I think we all know that it's just a such a vital resource."

Among the many line items during the meeting, the council approved two projects for the sports complex. The first is an irrigation electrical improvements project for \$76,700. The second is for a lift station for \$45,400. Both projects are to be handled by Connolly Electric.

The council voted 5-0 to approve the resolution of Camp Verde's involvement in the National Fitness Campaign, which is offering a \$50,000 grant for a public 38×38 fitness court that could be used in the sports complex project. It also comes with a mural space in which the council mentioned their desire to have it painted by local artists.

Part of getting that grant would have the town needing to match the funding with \$120,000-\$150,000 of their own. The fitness court is projected to be built and unveiled by this November.

"We move forward, we get this done," Moore said. "Even if we use [Capital Improvement Project] funding, which that's OK, that we're seeing tangible things."

The council also voted 5-0 to approve the adoption of Ordinance 2025-A504, which establishes a policy of conducting criminal record checks for prospective town employees and volunteers.

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Editor