

## SIX STEPS TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY

**Publish the Agenda Packet** at the same time as it is made available to the members of the Council. Now I realize that giving the packet to the Council might have an administrative purpose – such as allowing for correction of inadvertent errors – but the earlier release would give members of the public additional time to read, study and ask questions or address issues to members of the Staff or the Council – all leading to a more open governmental process and a better informed Council and public.

**Review the Use of the Consent Agenda** with an eye toward restricting its use to true administrative issues and not use it for items which need to be open for questioning, discussion and debate – without having to be removed at the request of Council members.

**Change the Studio One Video Settings** to ensure videos are available both during and immediately after meetings and that they can be downloaded by viewers. Currently, the videos are not available until the following day and viewer download is not available. [We should also explore making these meetings interactive with teleconferencing].

**Reevaluate the Use of the Executive Sessions and Restrict Their Use** to only those issues prescribed by the applicable Arizona Revised Statutes. When a set of decisions are announced following an Executive Session and there have been no motions and no public discussion – transparency is not taking place.

**Require a More Robust Set of Analyses from Town Staff** – with realistic as opposed to proforma contingencies and consequences for any and all recommendations. As Thomas Sowell has shown in his writings, there are too many unintended consequences of government actions. We need more and stronger analyses to avoid the many “OOPSIES” that seem to take place after the vote.

**Require Competitive Bidding & Avoid Sole Source Specifications.** Finally, I think the taxpayers and citizens of Wickenburg will have greater confidence in our town government if we **never allow a vendor or their employees and associates to write or overly influence the specifications contained in an Invitation For Bid (IFB) or Request For Proposal (RFP).** I also think they [the Citizens] would greatly prefer the Use of Competitive Bidding whenever and wherever possible and the avoidance of Sole Source procurement and contracts.

This is a lot to consider – but these steps toward transparency could go a long way in creating greater trust in our local government.

Taken from Public Comments segment, Wickenburg Town Council Meeting 4 / 1 / 2024.