

**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SONORA  
APRIL 6, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Sonora was held this date in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 94 North Washington Street, at 5:00 p.m. The following members were present: Mayor Ronald Stearn, Mayor Pro-Tem Connie Williams, Councilmembers: Bill Canning, George Segarini and Jim Garaventa; City Administrator Tim Miller, City Clerk Marijane Cassinetto, Engineer Gerard Fuccillo, Attorney Byron Smith, Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg, Interim Finance Director Bijan Sadeghian, Police Chief Mark Stinson and Fire Chief Aimee New. Absent: None.

**REQUEST TO PLACE MATTER ON AGENDA.** Administrator Miller asked that consideration to send correspondence to the State Water Resources Control Board supporting the Mitigated Negative Declaration of PG&E's Pinecrest Lake Level Modification Project be added to the Agenda. Miller noted that the request came to the City after the Agenda was posted, and that a support letter would need to be provided prior to April 15, 2015. **MOTION by Councilmember Canning, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, and unanimously carried that said request be placed on tonight's Agenda.**

**PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS**

Administrator Miller introduced the City's new and first female Fire Chief, Aimee R. New. She was sworn in by City Clerk Cassinetto, and her badge was pinned by her husband, Kory New. Chief New thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the City, and thanked her family for all their support over the years.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Councilmember Segarini, and unanimously carried that the Consent Calendar be approved as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes for the Closed and Regular Council Meetings of March 16, 2015;
2. Approval of invoices for previously budgeted expenses to be paid on April 7, 2015, in the amount of \$145,539.67; and
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$149,130.30 on March 20, 2015, and the amount of \$146,939.21, on April 3, 2015, for payroll, inclusive of employee salaries, employer and employee taxes and retirement contributions, and miscellaneous voluntary employee deductions.

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA**

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at 11:34 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2015, the Agenda for the City of Sonora Council Meeting scheduled for this date was posted outside City Hall for public view.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

None.

## **PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Non-Agenda)**

**Elena Linehan** downtown property owner and downtown employee reviewed her history with the City as the Council-appointed Main Street Manager in 1986, and reported on successful programs she had administered including the establishment of the downtown Farmers Market. She noted that after she had left the City, the City and Sierra Conservation Center partnered together to build Santa's House, which was originally designated to be placed on Linoberg Street, and Linoberg Street was to be closed in order to do so. Santa's House was placed on Linoberg Street, and within two hours numerous complaints had been received that the Street had been blocked off. In response to the complaints, Santa's House was moved to Courthouse Park where it continues to be placed for the Christmas season. She stated that the business of downtown is business, and asked that Linoberg Street, both east and west, not be closed as proposed in the Vision Sonora Plan.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Special Event Permit for Sonora Gran Fondo.** The Council considered the request by Sonora Regional Medical Center to approve a Special Event Permit for the Sonora Gran Fondo, a long distance timed cycling ride scheduled for Sunday, April 26, 2015, from the Sonora Regional Medical Center to Cherry Lake and back. Recommending approval, Administrator Miller presented the request. **MOTION by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Councilmember Canning, that said request be granted as presented.** The Mayor asked for public comment; there was none, and said **MOTION passed unanimously.**

**Mono Way Widening Project Completion.** The Council considered accepting the Mono Way Widening Project Contract Improvements as complete. Recommending acceptance, Engineer Fuccillo presented the matter reviewing the change orders and final contract amount of \$3,734,665.00. Fuccillo noted that the Project, as contracted with George Reed, Inc., has been completed in accordance with the Plans and Specifications on March 30, 2015. **MOTION by Councilmember Canning, second by Councilmember Garaventa, that said Project be accepted as complete, and that the City Clerk be to authorized to file a Notice of Completion with the Tuolumne County Recorder;** there was no public comment, **and the Motion passed unanimously.** Councilmembers expressed their thanks to the City Engineer and Contractor for a job well done. At the suggestion of Councilmember Segarini and Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, and with Council consensus, a letter of thanks will be sent to George Reed, Inc., for a job well done, and appreciation for maintaining good traffic flow. Williams also thanked

Administrator Miller for the decision to eliminate the landscaping on the Project because of the drought, and asked about the progress for the painting project.

Administrator Miller reported that he has had preliminary discussions with representatives from the art community, and will solicit proposals for entry monumentation at the Fir Drive-Mono Way intersection, art work on the wall across from Timberhills Shopping Center and on the wall further down on Restano Way. Miller also noted that the City is obligated under the Fish and Wildlife Permit to do replacement planting along the creek corridor. Mayor Pro-Tem Williams asked if there was a time frame in regard to a signal light at Timberhills. Miller responded that when the Sonora Regional Hospital Medical Office Building at Greenley Road and Mono Way is fully built out, the signal is required to be in place.

**Matters Related to New Job Classification of Finance Assistant.** Said matters were continued to the Council's next Meeting at the request of Administrator Miller.

**Matters Related to Public Works Assistant and Public Works Specialist.** The Council considered the following actions:

- a. Adopt the Amended Job Description for the Classification of Public Works Assistant;
- b. Adopt the amended Job Description for the Classification of Public Works Specialist.

Administrator Miller reviewed the amended descriptions recommending approval.

**MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, second by Councilmember Canning that the above requested actions be approved as presented.** There was no public comment, and **said Motion passed unanimously.**

**Letter of Support for Assembly Bill 266, Establishing Framework for Marijuana Distribution.** The Council considered approval of a draft Letter of Support for AB 266 which establishes a responsible framework for marijuana distribution that upholds local control, squarely addresses public safety concerns, and creates uniform health and safety standards that ensure the lawful, safe distribution of medical marijuana in those cities and counties in which it is authorized. Administrator Miller reported that at the last Council Meeting, the Council requested that a letter be drafted in support of said AB 266, and presented said draft to the Council. Miller noted that he used the League of California Cities template to draft the letter, and noted that the letter can be sent as drafted if the Council wants to endorse said legislation, or that he can redraft pursuant to Council direction.

**MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, second by Councilmember Segarini that the letter be sent as drafted, and that the Mayor be authorized to sign the same on behalf of the City.**

Mayor Stearn asked for public comment. Copies of the draft letter were circulated to the public.

Bill McManus, Calaveras County Coordinator for CALM, *Citizens Against Legalizing Marijuana*, appeared in opposition to the legalization of marijuana, and to request that the Council not support AB 266. McManus stated that CALM's main priority is to protect those who are most vulnerable; the young people. McManus passed out informational papers developed by CALM providing information on issues they feel have not been considered in the drafting of AB 266. McManus noted that AB 266 will not take effect until 2017, and asked that the Council take some time to consider the concerns expressed in CALM's papers before taking action.

Councilmember Canning stated that he could not support the letter at this point, and he feels the Council should look further into the matter.

Don Nessler, County resident, appeared in favor of the Council submitting a letter of support for AB 266 stating his feeling that it is wise to consider regulatory framework for the management of medical marijuana.

Mayor Pro-Tem Williams stated the importance of the City having the ability to establish the regulations that are best for the City of Sonora, and wants to have local control over what happens with marijuana in the City.

Councilmember Canning asked for the City Attorney's opinion on AB 266. Attorney Smith stated that he would like to research it further as to the effect that AB 266 would have on the City's ability for more local control.

Mayor Stearn asked for any further comments from the public. Mr. McManus gave information on Supreme Court rulings to the Clerk to be copied for the City Attorney and the Councilmembers.

**The MOTION as stated above to approve sending the letter as drafted, passed four to one as follows: Ayes: Stearn, Williams, Segarini and Garaventa; No: Canning.**

**Letter of Support for Mitigated Negative Declaration of PG&E's Pinecrest Lake Level Modification Project.** This matter was placed on Council's Agenda pursuant to the unanimous vote of the Council at the beginning of this Meeting. The Council considered sending correspondence to the State Water Resources Control Board supporting the Mitigated Negative Declaration of PGE's Pinecrest Lake Level Modification Project that proposes that PG&E be allowed to lower the surface elevation of Pinecrest Lake, until and including Labor Day each year, from the current minimum elevation of 5,608 feet to a range of minimum elevations between 5,606 feet and 5,600 feet, depending on the water year type as defined in the existing certification.

**MOTION by Councilmember Segarini, second by Councilmember Garaventa that a letter be sent to the State Water Resources**

**Control Board supporting said PG&E's Mitigation Negative Declaration for the Pinecrest Lake Level Modification Project as described above. There was no public comment, and said MOTION passed unanimously.**

**WRITTEN STAFF REPORTS**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS** - Information Only

None.

**COUNCILMEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**Police Chief Stinson** reported that the Vets to Cops Grant has been extended and funds will continue through the next fiscal year. **Mayor Pro-Tem Williams** reported that the Board of Supervisors Solid Waste Committee has asked the Council to adopt a resolution to do with the temporary exemption of the City of Sonora for mandatory commercial organic recycling, which will exempt restaurants from having to collect its organic waste for recycling. **Williams** also noted that the Board of Supervisors will consider adoption of a Water Action Plan at its next Meeting, and asked if there was any action that needs to be taken by the City in regard to a Water Action Plan in conjunction with the County. **Administrator Miller** responded not at this time. **Williams** requested that the Council do a Proclamation honoring Levi Lowe's first place win at the 2015 State Poetry Out Loud Competition sponsored by the Tuolumne County Arts Alliance in partnership with the California Arts Council; it was Council consensus to do so. **Councilmember Canning** welcomed the new Fire Chief stating that she will be a great asset for the City. **Councilmember Garaventa** reported that he attended the Executive Speaker Series sponsored by the Tuolumne County Business Council and the Economic Development Department where they talked about bringing high speed internet through fibre optics to individual houses. **Councilmember Segarini** reported that he also attended the Executive Speaker Series, and sat in on the CABLE 8 Board Meeting, and attended the Water Policy Advisory Committee on March 26, 2015, which is expanding its voting block to five members; and he will continue to represent the Council on the Committee. He additionally reported on a PG&E update on the water releases from Lyons Dam and Pinecrest Lake. **Mayor Stearn** reported that at the recent fundraiser by the Sonora Rotary, \$4,000 was raised for the WATCH Program.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. to the Regular Meeting on Monday, April 20, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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Marijane Cassinetto, City Clerk

Date