

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
JUNE 15, 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 (present at 5:05 p.m.). Absent: None.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at 9:00 a.m. on the 11th day of June, 2015, the Agenda for the City of Sonora Council Meeting scheduled for this date was posted outside City Hall for public view.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

No changes.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC FORUM (Non-Agenda)

None.

REQUESTS TO APPEAR

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of Minutes for the Special, Closed and Regular Council Meetings of June 1, 2015;
2. Approval to pay invoices for previously budgeted expenses on June 16, 2015, in the amount of \$87,761.92; and
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$149,556.33 on June 12, 2015, for payroll, inclusive of employee salaries, employer and employee taxes and retirement contributions and miscellaneous voluntary employee deductions.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 06-15-2015-A; No Parking Areas for Mother Lode Fair. The Council considered adoption of Resolution No. 06-15-2015-A which establishes Temporary No Parking Zones for the Mother Lode Fair which will be held on Friday, July 10, 2015, through Sunday, July 12, 2015. Police Chief Stinson presented the Resolution recommending adoption. Stinson stated because of the large volume of pedestrian and vehicle traffic around the Fairgrounds, the City annually establishes said zones to assist with the flow of pedestrian traffic and to keep narrow streets open for emergency vehicles.

Councilmember Canning suggested doing the same for the Celtic festival that takes place at the Fairgrounds. There were no public comments. **MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, second by Councilmember Canning, and unanimously carried that Resolution No. 06-15-15-A establishing no parking zones as presented be approved and adopted.**

Introduce, Waive 1st Reading, Ordinance No. 829. The Council considered introducing by title and waiving the first reading of Ordinance No. 829 which establishes an expedited permit process for residential solar systems. Recommending approval, Community Development Director Kellogg presented the Ordinance, and also requested authorization for the City Building Official and/or City Building Inspector to develop, adopt and maintain the checklist of requirements. Council and Kellogg engaged in discussion regarding the Ordinance provisions.

There were no public comments. **MOTION by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Councilmember Segarini, and unanimously carried that said Ordinance No. 829 be introduced by title, and the first reading be waived, and that the City Building Official and/or City Building Inspector be authorized to develop, adopt and maintain the checklist of requirements which must be complied with for expedited review eligibility.**

Resolution No. 06-15-2015-B; Appropriation Limit for FY 2016. The Council considered adoption of Resolution No. 06-15-2015-B which establishes the Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2016. Reviewing background information and calculation options, Administrator Miller presented said Resolution. As proposed, to

establish the Appropriation Limit for FY 2016, the Resolution utilizes an increase of .08% for determination by the Department of Finance's annual population percent change for the City. There were no public comments. **MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, second by Councilmember Garaventa, and unanimously carried that said Resolution No. 06-15-2015-B be approved and adopted as presented.**

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget. The Council considered adoption of the City's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget. Administrator Miller recommended adoption of said Budget, including the one time expenditures funded out of the General Fund Reserve, Economic Development Fund Reserve and Deferred Revenue Account, as presented in the Budget packet and considered at the June 1 and June 15, 2015, Budget Study Sessions. Miller reported that the Budget is balanced and there have been small improvements. The Staff Reports and Budget summary pages are attached as Exhibits to the Special Meeting Minutes (Budget Study Sessions) held on June 1 and June 15, 2015, to which further reference is made.

MOTION by Councilmember Segarini to adopt said Budget as presented.

Council and Staff engaged in discussion. Mayor Stearn requested that the \$5,000 in the Economic Development Fund which has been designated for Vision Sonora Plan marketing be removed. **The above motion was seconded by Councilmember Canning.** The Mayor asked for public comment.

Elena Linehan, stating that she is a wage earner on Hwy 49 and a downtown supporter, reviewed her history with the City as the former Council-appointed Main Street Manager in 1986, wherein she had administered the establishment of the downtown Farmers Market along with the successful revitalization of downtown Sonora at the time the Bypass was constructed. She requested that funds be allocated annually for a traffic study on Linoberg, Theall and Dodge Streets; that the \$25,000 be removed from Economic Development Funds in the FY 2016 Budget for Vision Sonora as she believes that Vision Sonora will not generate economic revitalization. Linehan feels it is too early to consider the purchase of benches and trash cans for Vision Sonora as Vision Sonora is only a concept, is still fluid and "needs to be flushed". She stated "we understand the project perfectly; there is a lot of opposition to it".

Mayor Stearn reiterated his request that the \$5,000 in the Budget designated for Vision Sonora marketing be removed. He stated the tax payers have already spent \$237,000 on the Plan,

and that he will have to vote "No" on the Budget if not removed, and said he has never voted no on a budget in his past 51 years on the Council.

The Mayor asked for the vote on the above-stated Motion. **The Motion passed four to one by the following vote: Ayes: Williams, Canning, Segarini, Garaventa; No: Stearn.**

Council Rules and Procedures. The Council considered modifications to the Council Handbook of Rules and Procedures which govern the term of appointment for the Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tem; specifically those which would make the appointment of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem take place on an annual basis. City Attorney Smith researched the matter and stated his conclusion and recommendation: Because the City Council of Sonora has adopted a Policy providing for a two-year term for the Mayor without any language in its Policies addressing the conditions under which the Mayor or the Mayor Pro Tem may be removed during their respective appointed term of office, any change to the length of the term of the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem should take effect at the end of the current term of both individuals.

Councilmember Segarini stated his favor for a one-year term noting that the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors and every board he has experience with have one-year terms; he is not in favor of it going to the electorate, but continuing to have the Council make its appointments. Councilmember Garaventa does not want to change the term at this time in the middle of the term, but would support it in future. Mayor Pro Tem Williams would like to leave it as it is and continue with the two year term at this time. Mayor Stearn stated his feeling that it made no difference either way.

MOTION by Councilmember Segarini, seconded by Councilmember Canning that the Council Handbook of Rules and Procedures be amended to provide for one-year terms for the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem to take affect with the next term of office in July of 2016. The Mayor asked for public comment; there was none.

Councilmember Garaventa stated that he would vote "No", and would like to think about it for a few months, and would like to see the matter vetted more. Councilmember Canning withdrew his second. **The above MOTION died for lack of a second.**

MONTHLY REPORTS - May 2015

1. Communnity Development Department
2. Public Works Department
3. Police Department

4. Fire Department

COMMUNICATIONS - Information Only

None.

COUNCILMEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Fire Chief New reported that the next Fire Safe Council Meeting will take place at the Fire Station on June 30, 2015, at 11:30 a.m.; that on July 2, 2015, 80 to 90 leadership students will be helping to clear defensible space on the Southgate property; and that the defensible space inspections are completed for this year with 400 lots inspected and a 53% compliance. **Councilmember Garaventa** requested that the "Other" categories in the Fire and Police reports be more defined. **Community Development Director Kellogg** reported that the Public Works Department and the Baseline crew will be doing clearing on the Dragoon Gulch Trail the week of June 22, 2015; she reported that in regard to the Sonora Park & Ride program, the required paperwork is being submitted, and if accepted, the monies would provide for purchase of an existing parking lot which would provide parking for 26 vehicles downtown. **Chief Stinson** responded to Councilmember Garaventa's request to break down the "Other" categories in his monthly Reports. He stated that due to software limitations, he cannot accommodate the breakdowns, but he encouraged the Council to let Administrator Miller know what they would like to see broken out in the Annual Report. Stinson noted that the annual Tuolumne County Peace Officers Memorial will be held at the Fairgrounds on Wednesday, June 17, at Noon. **Councilmember Canning** reported that rocks are being rolled down Hope Lane, and requested extra Police patrol in the area. **Finance Director Sadeghian** thanked Administrator Miller and all staff and employees for their help in compilation the FY 2016 Budget. **Councilmember Garaventa** reported that he attended the Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting on June 8, he sat in for Councilmember Canning at the TCTC Meeting, he attended the TUD Water Forum Meeting at the Opera Hall on May 10, and the Chamber Town Hall Meeting on Vision Sonora at the Peppery Restaurant. **Councilmember Segarini** attended the TUD Water Forum at the Opera Hall. In regard to the South Washington Street Overlay Project, **Engineer Fuccillo** reported that the main paving preparation will begin Monday, June 22, and all work will be done at night. The traffic loops will be replaced at the Restano Way intersection. Paving will begin June 28, and go through July 2, and from July 6 through 9, utility boxes and manholes will be brought up to the paving grade, and striping will follow. **Mayor Pro-Tem Williams** asked if buddy parking is not put back in as it currently is between Church and Stockton Streets, could the City gain additional parking spaces. Fuccillo

answered that one space may be gained; he noted that buddy parking is intended to eliminate traffic congestion, and that Caltrans directives and requirements have resulted in the loss of many spaces downtown. Williams asked if the City can make the decision to not put in buddy parking from Stockton to Washington Street, would it result in providing more spaces; Fuccillo stated yes, but that it may not be worth the congestion it would cause. **Mayor Pro-Tem Williams** reported she attended the Law and Justice Center Ground Breaking on June 2; the TUD Community Water Forum Meeting on June 10; she was asked to participate on the Water Policy Committee; she attended the Tuolumne County Chamber Meeting on June 11 where she gave a presentation on Vision Sonora, and attended the Vision Sonora Design Committee Meeting on June 9, and Vision Sonora Marketing Committee Meeting on June 11. She thanked the Union Democrat for writing the article on the historic buildings downtown which are being painted. **Councilmember Canning** reported that Caltrans is proposing a round-about at the Highway 120 and 108 intersection (Yosemite Junction), and he asked Administrator Miller about the status with the TCTC in regard to cross walk striping at Restano and Mono Way; Miller responded that the TCTC Board has granted \$25,000 to look into feasibility. **Mayor Stearn** requested grinding and paving at the top of Gold Street at Barretta Street to remedy the ruts, and asked about the progress on getting brighter lights at crosswalks. Administrator Miller responded that retro-fit fixtures which cost \$400 each have been found, but that PG&E will need to install them.

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, July 6, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Marijane Cassinetto, City Clerk Date