

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
JULY 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, Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg, Interim Finance Director Bijan Sadeghian, Police Chief Mark Stinson and Fire Chief Aimee New. Absent: Attorney Byron Smith, City Engineer (position vacant).

CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd day of July, 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

Supervising Auto Mechanic Jason Morey introduced Aaron Hagadorn, the City's new Equipment Mechanic. Administrator Miller reviewed Hagadorn's history and qualifications. Hagadorn was welcomed by the Council.

Police Chief Stinson introduced and reviewed the history and qualifications of new Police Dispatcher April Dahlgren and new Police Dispatcher Wade Bentley. Both were welcomed by the Council.

PUBLIC FORUM (Non-Agenda)

Elena Linehan talked about how almost daily she gets stopped everywhere by citizens who have concerns and complaints about downtown issues, and that she encourages them to talk to the Councilmembers and come to Council Meetings to express their concerns. She said that she is hearing that "the City is worse to work with than the County on business issues". Mayor Stearn said that he never has heard this. She asked the Council to please take time with constituents to hear about their concerns. Councilmember Segarini asked if Linehan could share specifics. Linehan responded that all but one person wanted to remain anonymous, but that she would continue to tell the citizens to talk to Councilmembers and attend Meetings to voice their

concerns; and she will also ask them if she can have permission to speak on their behalf.

A member of the public stated that she has served the City with a notice of violation of the Brown Act which was given to the City Clerk prior to today's Regular Meeting.

REQUESTS TO APPEAR

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Councilmember Segarini, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, 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 15, 2015;
2. Approval to pay invoices for previously budgeted expenses on July 7, 2015, in the amount of \$159,422.41; and
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$150,806.48 on June 26, 2015, for payroll, inclusive of employee salaries, employer and employee taxes and retirement contributions and miscellaneous voluntary employee deductions.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 829. The Council considered waiving the second reading and adopting Ordinance No. 829 which establishes expedited permit processes for small residential rooftop solar energy systems. Recommending adoption, Community Development Director Kellogg noted that said action is a requirement by the State. **MOTION by Councilmember Segarini and seconded by Councilmember Canning that the second reading of Ordinance No. 829 be waived and the same be approved and adopted as presented.** Mayor Stearn asked for public comment; there was none, and said **MOTION waiving the second reading and adopting Ordinance No. 829 was unanimously approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

Amend Job Descriptions for Fire Engineer and Fire Captain. The Council considered amending the Job Descriptions for both the Fire Engineer and the Fire Captain. Recommending approval and reporting that the Department is losing two positions, Fire Chief New reported that the Descriptions were last updated in 2003 and 2005. The updated Descriptions will be used for the recruitment of the new Fire Engineer and Fire Captain positions. All portions of the Descriptions have been updated to reflect

State regulations. Due to the extent of the changes, Chief New provided copies with track changes and the final draft documents for ease of reading the proposed changes. There was no public comment. **MOTION by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, and unanimously carried that said Job Descriptions for Fire Engineer and Fire Captain be approved as presented.** Full copies of said Job Descriptions are on file in the Office of the City Administrator for further reference.

SAFER Grant Extension Amendment. The Council considered accepting the 2012 SAFER Grant Amendment to extend the period of performance (POP) from April 30, 2015, until September 30, 2015, and designating the Fire Chief as the City representative. Fire Chief New presented the matter recommending acceptance of the Amendment which will utilize the remaining Grant funds through September 30, 2015. There were no public comments. **MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, second by Councilmember Garaventa, and unanimously carried that said 2012 SAFER Grant Amendment be accepted as presented, and that the Fire Chief be authorized as the City's representative.**

Vision Sonora Committee Meeting Report. Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, as the Chair of the Vision Sonora Committee, reported on the history of the City's 1985 Downtown Revitalization Plan, and the application for State Main Street Project funds which was submitted in May of 1986 to fund said Plan. Williams' Report also included history of the current Vision Sonora Plan including funding, the public input process and Committee Meetings and actions along the way. For reference, a full copy of Williams Report is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and included herein and made a part hereof. The Mayor asked for public comment.

Elena Linehan reported that she was the Main Street Program Manager for the Downtown Revitalization Plan. She worked for four years; the business funding referred to is still in place which funds the City Special Events Coordinator position. At the commencement of her time as Manager, 27 business vacancies existed downtown, and when completed, only 2 vacancies remained. Linehan reported that the Farmers Market was launched during her time with the City, and a non-profit was created to continue the work of the Program. Regarding the traffic study, she stated that "it does feel a little bit like a shell game; we can't analyze this because it's only a concept, but once you've got the concept in mind then we'll analyze it." She feels a good traffic study has not been done on any of the proposals, and that her understanding of Vision Sonora is to improvement business and draw people to downtown. "If you want to spend taxpayers' dollars, you couldn't come up with a better plan than Vision Sonora; if you want to improve the downtown and make a

stronger, more vital place, you couldn't do worse." She feels that if businesses would stay open during evening hours and on Sundays, sales tax revenues would quickly increase. She reiterated that the business of downtown is business. Councilmember Segarini asked the status of a street study. Administrator Miller responded that a study has not been done yet, but the Plan did approve a comprehensive downtown traffic study. Segarini stated that the prior Downtown Revitalization Plan was very successful. He said that whether or not businesses stay open later or on Sundays is up to the merchants.

Report only, no action taken.

MONTHLY REPORTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS - Information Only

None.

COUNCILMEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Police Chief Stinson reported that there have been many car burglaries, and asked the public to always lock their cars. Stinson also reported that the Mother Lode Fair is this coming weekend, and that there are many posted non-parking areas in effect so be sure to park in allowed spots. Also, he noted that in the evenings the Explorers will be working the cross-walk on Stockton Street. **Community Development Director Kellogg** reported that \$15,000 in grant monies have been received for repair of the Opera Hall balcony. **Interim Finance Director Sadegian** reported that audit season has begun and auditors will be conducting the City's annual audit for the next two months. **Mayor Pro-Tem Williams** reported that she rode along with Police Officer Rogers, and it was an interesting day. Williams also reported that she attended the shoplifting symposium at the Opera Hall that was organized by the Tuolumne County Chamber and Sonora Chamber to help local merchants, and she thanked Chief Stinson and all who participated. **Councilmember Canning** asked when the free dump day will occur. **Administrator Miller** stated that there is no date set yet, but the annual contract with Waste Management will be coming to the Council on July 20, 2015, and it can be announced at that time. Miller acknowledged and thanked George Reed, Inc., for donating one of its light plants for use at the cross walk on Stockton Street during the Mother Lode Fair. **Councilmember Garaventa** reported that on June 26th, he attended and filmed the shoplifting symposium at the Opera Hall; he attended the Tuolumne County Business Council Leaders Luncheon on Friday, 26th at Black Oak Casino, and the guest speaker was from the State Water Resources Board who talked about water issues; Garaventa stated his disappointment that the City may have to perform some unfunded mandates with regard to

water. He attended and filmed Representative Tom McClintock's Town Hall Meeting on July 2nd. **Councilmember Segarini** attended the shoplifting symposium at the Opera Hall, the McClintock Town Hall Meeting and the Tuolumne County Business Council water issue meeting, and the Tuolumne County Chamber Governmental Affairs Council Meeting. He attended the Independence Day activities in Columbia with an estimated attendance of 2000 people, and stated his disappointment that Sonora had no Independence Day activities, and he would like to see the Sonora Chamber plan an event next year. **Councilmember Garaventa** agreed and said that Sonora had a tradition of Independence Day activities and would like to see celebration of the Fourth of July brought back to Sonora. **Mayor Stearn** reported that he spent the Fourth of July with his family in Pinecrest, and there were multitudes of people.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. to the Regular Meeting on Monday, July 20, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Marijane Cassinetto, City Clerk Date