

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
APRIL 20, 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 Rachele Kellogg, Interim Finance Director Bijan Sadeghian, Police Chief Mark Stinson and Fire Chief Aimee New. Absent: None.

The Mayor Reported that there was no Closed Session Meeting this date.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS

The Council Presented a Certificate of Honor to Levi Lowe as the Champion of the 2015 California Poetry Out Loud Competition, and the Tuolumne County Arts Alliance Poetry Out Loud 2015 Competition. In the absence of Mr. Lowe, the Certificate was accepted by his coach Rick Foster. Both Foster and Connie O'Conner, Executive Director of the Tuolumne County Arts Alliance, expressed accolades about Levi.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of Minutes for the Closed and Regular Council Meetings of April 6, 2015;
2. Approval of invoices for previously budgeted expenses to be paid on April 21, 2015, in the amount of \$132,219.57; and
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$154,742.82 on April 17, 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 12 Noon on the 16th 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

Ed Parsons, Owner of The Main Street Shop at 199A South Washington Street stated his disappointment with the Council's approval of the Vision Sonora concept plan which he expressed will take valuable parking from Washington Street, and be

replaced by transit stops and parklets; he was opposed to the closure of Theall and Linoberg Streets, and opposed to the Stockton Street portion of said plan. He felt that reduction of parking and street closures will put downtown merchants out of business, and that Sonora will become a ghost town. He asked the Council to review what the plan is really going to do, and come up with something better. He also had concerns about the water, during a time of drought, that will be required to support the landscaping, and felt that the proposed plans for Stockton Street are worse than those for Washington Street and are "way out in left field". Parsons presented petitions containing 392 signatures of City merchants and City and County residents "who care about downtown Sonora, object to the proposals of Vision Sonora, with concerns centering around the loss of access to parking and negative impact on traffic and congestion caused by street closures".

Mayor Pro-Tem Williams reviewed the Vision Sonora public input process. Councilmember Canning noted that there are plans for more parking than there currently is. Administrator Miller reported that the third floor of the Terzich Parking structure has been opened to the public, and the City parking lot on Green Street has been secured from the County; both of these actions have resulted in 43 additional spaces in the area of City Hall. The City will also consider the usage of spaces in parking lots that are not being fully utilized. Miller noted that to date, the Council has not closed any streets nor taken action to eliminate any parking.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Non-Agenda)

Bob Leslie, City Resident and Former City Councilmember, stated that he has gone through the Vision Sonora plan and feels that it will take away parking; it bothers him that the City is thinking along these lines, and asked the Council to reevaluate the plan, to see what it does do, and feels that the money it will take to effect the plan could be better spent to design and put into place a traffic circulation plan.

Elena Linehan downtown resident, 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 asked what the City's goal is in regard to Vision Sonora; she stated "if it's to spend taxpayers money, you won't find a better plan; if it's to revitalize downtown, you can't find a worse way". She expressed that the 43 parking spaces mentioned above, are not adding additional parking spaces; "if it's a parking space today, and a parking space tomorrow, that is not one additional parking space". "Vision Sonora will take parking from where it is needed the most". Linehan noted that she has been in contact with other towns effecting plans similar to Vision Sonora, with

the same sort of expenditure, and they have had terrible problems with business closures and traffic congestion. Linehan stated that "Sonora cannot afford this plan, the cost is too much and the loss is too great".

Laurie Lehmann downtown resident and member of two Sonora Vision Committees spoke in support of Vision Sonora. She noted that the Plan is a pro-active way to be ready for changes coming in the next 10 to 20 years. The Plan was designed with input from hundreds of local people who are invested in seeing the City be a viable economic and friendly place. Lehmann said there are misconceptions and that nothing is set in stone, and she invited everyone to attend the Vision Sonora meetings; she feels that compromises are possible and is sure some will happen along the way. She talked about the proposed landscaping and how it could be designed with plants that may not require much water. She spoke about positive aspects of the parklets. She believes that there are always parking spaces available downtown, and that there is not a parking problem; she is always able to park. She invited those complaining to come to the meetings.

Emily Dondero, a 4-year downtown City resident appeared in favor of Vision Sonora, in favor of making Sonora a more pedestrian friendly place, and supporting the addition of places outside to sit, visit and have coffee.

Jim Davis, City resident and owner of Jim's Body Shop, appeared in opposition to Vision Sonora stating it will cause traffic congestion and take parking spaces off Washington Street. He feels that City time and money are being wasted, and the City does not have the money to fund the plan. He said that a "rosey picture" is being painted, and that's what people believe, and they are not being told what the impact is going to be. He would like to see bigger pictures of the plan designs so they can more easily be seen.

Sarah Rogers Vesper member of one of the Vision Sonora Committees appeared in favor of Vision Sonora, and feels that there is a great amount of misinformation. She feels that the Committees have worked hard to make sure that people are well informed. She is excited that people have signed petitions because she feels that Committees need to hear more about what local people want. She does not believe there is a parking problem downtown, but would like to see monitoring for limited parking times.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Matters Relating to New Job Description for Finance Assistant. The Council considered the following:

1. Adoption of new Job Description for the Classification of Finance Assistant;
2. Retire the existing Administrative Assistant and Office Assistant-Accounting Technician Job Descriptions;
3. Establish the Sonora Employees' Association (SEA) as the bargaining unit for the represented employees in this new Classification; and
4. Assign this Classification to Salary Range 1841 (the existing salary range assigned to Administrative Assistant).

Administrator Miller recommended approval noting that the new position replaces two existing positions and merges them into one. **MOTION by Councilmember Segarini and second by Councilmember Garaventa that said actions be approved as presented.** There being no public comment, **said Motion passed unanimously.**

Ordinance No. 828 Re: Unlawful Open Burning. The Council considered introducing by title and waiving the first reading of Ordinance No. 828 which establishes regulations and penalties for unlawful open burning. Administrator Miller distributed the Ordinance to the Council with a revision from the one that came with the Agenda packet. He noted that said revision provides that a first offence would not be a misdemeanor, nor a second infraction, but the third infraction would constitute a misdemeanor. Fire Chief New presented the Ordinance recommending approval and reporting that the current severe drought brings increase of potential catastrophic fires, and the Ordinance will limit the types of opening burning to those adopted in the 2013 California Fire Code; and all other types of open burning will require prior approval by the Fire Chief. The Ordinance will not change the burn permit process.

MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, second by Councilmember Garaventa that Ordinance No. 828 be introduced by title with the first reading waived. There being no public comment, **said Motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution No.04-20-2015-A, Reimbursement Rates for Fire Department. The Council considered approval of Resolution No.04-02-2015-A which establishes reimbursement rates from the State of California Office of Emergency Services for Fire Department response away from the Official Duty Station and assignment to an emergency incident. Fire Chief New reviewed the provisions of the Resolution which supports compensation to be paid from portal to portal, for all hours assigned to an emergency incident, in support of an emergency incident, or

pre-positioned for an emergency incident. **MOTION** by Councilmember Segarini, second by Councilmember Canning that Resolution No. 04-20-2015-A be approved and adopted as presented. There being no public comment, the Motion passed unanimously.

South Washington Street Overlay Project 2015. The Council considered approving the Plans and authorizing the call for bids for the South Washington Street Overlay Project 2015. Engineer Fuccillo presented the Plans reporting that the Project consists of an asphalt concrete paving overlay and rehabilitation of approximately one mile of City streets, mainly on South Washington Street, and also including Restano Way, and connecting portions of Stewart Street and Mono Way. The Project will be bid in two schedules of work by area and two material alternates so that costs can be adjusted to available funding.

The Engineer's Estimate for Schedules A and B is \$575,000, and \$65,000 for Alternates 1 and 2, with a total estimate of \$640,000. Funding will be provided as follows: \$350,000 Tuolumne County Transportation Council RSTP exchange funds on a reimbursable basis; \$117,000 Local Transportation Funding; \$200,000 Reallocate all or portion of RSTP funding slated from the Local Street Overlay Project; and \$24,000 TUD contribution for deleted patchwork for last winter weather conditions.

Engineer Fuccillo recommended a bid date of May 21, 2015, which would anticipate an award date of June 1, 2015, with a Project start in July or August, 2015. Fuccillo anticipates three weeks to complete the job, and that it would be a night project.

MOTION by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Councilmember Canning that the paving Plan as presented be approved, and that the Project be authorized for bid with a bid date of May 21, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room.

Mayor Stearn asked for public comment. An unidentified woman stated that she could not hear the Councilmembers nor the Engineer and asked that they speak louder. There being no other public comments, **said Motion passed unanimously.**

Sonora Residential Fire Flow Improvement Project. The Council considered approval of the Plans for the Sonora Residential Fire Flow Improvement Project, and authorization to call for bids. Recommending approval, Community Development Director Kellogg gave background information and specifics reporting that the Project is complex. Kellogg noted that the Council has authorized the use of CDBG Program Income to fund the Project with the Project's purpose to provide acceptable levels of fire flow throughout the residential areas of Sonora. Said Project will replace 85 existing wet barrel fire hydrants

with dry barrel hydrants, the replacement of 67 existing hydrant lateral lines connecting the new hydrants to the water main, and the replacement of eight four-inch water main sections with eight-inch water mains. Kellogg noted that the City will partner with TUD, and TUD will inspect the Project during construction and serve as the Project's Engineer and has completed the engineered plans and design specifications. Kellogg will serve as the Project Manager and monitor contract compliance, and also be responsible for CDBG compliance.

TUD's Engineer's Estimate, including a 10% contingency, is \$1.2 Million. Kellogg reviewed the bid process, and bid date for Thursday, May 21, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. Kellogg estimates an award at the June 1, 2015, Council Meeting, with Project start by early July.

MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, second by Councilmember Garaventa that said Plans be approved as presented, and the bid date be set for May 21, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room.

Mayor Stearn asked for public comment. Laurie Lehmann asked if the hydrants would be dry for any length of time. Kellogg responded that the water main sections will take longer because they will take the main up, but the individual hydrant replacements will be replaced as they are pulled out.

There being no other comments, **the Motion passed unanimously.**

Update on Funding and Matters Related to Vision Sonora Projects. The Council considered giving Staff direction regarding Congestion Management Air Quality (CMAQ) funding for Vision Sonora Projects, possible application(s) for ATP Grant(s), and, the acquisition of property for a Park and Ride lot. Administrator Miller presented his Staff Report reporting that the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) will lose its eligibility to receive CMAQ Funds as a result of a change in the air quality attainment status. Said CMAQ funds were programmed for the environmental clearance, design/engineering, and construction of the Red Church Intersection Project and the Washington/Stockton Transit Project. The City can still receive funding for the environmental clearance and design/engineering portions, but construction funds will not be available. If the City initiates the project utilizing the CMAQ funds that would be available, the City is obligated to complete the projects within ten years.

Additionally, Miller reported that after meeting with TCTC staff, they have identified other funding that could be committed to the Washington/Stockton Transit Project along with the current CMAQ funds to complete this project; however, there are no other TCTC funds available for the Red Church

Intersection Project.

Miller discussed a possible alternate funding source for this project as follows: The City would need to disencumber and/or reprogram any of the CMAQ funds that will otherwise not be utilized as approved. There may be an opportunity to reprogram some of the disencumbered CMAQ funds for a Park and Ride lot. The TCTC staff has indicated there is a need for this type of facility to serve as a gathering spot for commuters as well as transit customers. While the bulk of the disencumbered funds will be utilized by the TCTC to acquire transit buses, there still is approximately \$250,000 available to acquire property for a Park and Ride. The City would need to submit, through the TCTC, a State Transportation Improvement Project (STIP) amendment request by May 1, 2015, and complete and have CalTrans approval of an environmental review by July 23, 2015.

In regard to filing an ATP for either the Red Church Intersection or Shaws Flat Road Intersection Projects, Miller reported that the ATP Grant Program cycle is now open and applications are due by June 1, 2015. The focus of this program is to improve the safety and mobility of bicyclists and pedestrians and achieve green house gas reductions. Based on a meeting with CalTrans, Miller noted that this funding program seems applicable and CalTrans staff have committed to assisting the City with information needed to complete the application.

Mayor Stearn asked for public comment. Elena Linehan suggested that if possible, available CMAQ funds be used for a very thorough traffic study, noting that the City Engineer had previously recommended that a traffic study be done.

Pete Kampa, downtown property owner and resident, asked for clarification on funding sources for the two intersection projects, and stated his support for the staff recommendations.

Darin Grossi, Executive Director of the Tuolumne County Transportation Council, discussed the TCTC's possibilities and limitations with regard to the two intersection projects and South Washington Street/Stockton Street transit project and Church Street plans, and also discussed CalTrans involvement. Grossi and Councilmembers discussed proposed intersection configurations.

There being no further comments, **MOTION by Councilmember Canning, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams that the following action/direction be taken:**

1. Disencumber current CMAQ funds not committed to projects;
2. Proceed with the Washington/Stockton Transit Project under the alternate funding scenario (including current CMAQ funds);
3. Authorize the filing of an ATP grant for either the Red Church Intersection Project or the Shaws Flat Road

- Intersection Project; and
4. Reprogram available current years CMAQ funds to acquire a Park and Ride lot.

The MOTION passed four to one as follows: Ayes: Williams, Canning, Segarini, Garaventa; No: Stearn.

2014 City of Sonora Annual Report. The Council considered accepting the 2014 City of Sonora Annual Report. Administrator Miller presented the Report noting its purpose to provide the Council and the community with information to acquaint them with the City's programs, activities, services and responsibilities. The Report is also used to provide information to various service clubs, organizations and community groups, as well as those who may be looking to relocate to our City to live and/or establish a business. Documentation for grant applications and forecasting City project and program activity needs are also other uses for the Report. Department Heads have submitted summary information, photos and narrative regarding their Department's prior year activities.

MOTION by Councilmember Segarini, second by Councilmember Canning that said Annual Report be accepted as presented. There being no public comment, said Motion passed unanimously.

The Report is made a part hereof by reference. Copies of the Report are available to the public in the Office of the City Administrator, and it will be posted on the City's website.

WRITTEN STAFF REPORTS - March, 2015

1. From Community Development Director Kellogg for the Planning/Building Department.
2. From Public Works Supervisor Bill Seldon for the Public Works Department.
3. From Police Chief Stinson for the Police Department.
4. From
5. From Fire Chief Aimee New for the Fire Department.

COMMUNICATIONS - Information Only

1. Business License Activity - 1st Quarter 2015

COUNCILMEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Community Development Director Kellogg reported that the City's Annual Spring Festival will be held downtown on Saturday, April 25, 2015. **Attorney Smith** reported that the Writ of Mandate Hearing on the WalMart expansion project will be held at 1:30 p.m. in Superior Court, Department 2. **Smith** also provided the Council with copies of information from the League of California Cities website in regard to AB266, the Medical Marijuana issue. **Administrator Miller** reported that the Gran Fondo bicycle event will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2015, and that CalTrans will

be doing some highway work on the Bypass on Sunday, May 3, 2015, and they will be rerouting traffic through town. **Councilmember Garaventa** reported that the Fire Museum will have a display at the Spring Festival, and Tri-Tip sandwiches will be sold; there will also be a line dance exhibition and a live band will be playing throughout the Festival. **Councilmember Segarini** corrected a prior statement that he had made at the last meeting in regard to the Watershed Advisory Committee: the voting members were increased to seven, not to five, and the City of Sonora **is** a part of the voting membership. **Segarini** attended the Central Sierra Development District Meeting on April 16, 2015; he reported that the Innovation Lab is holding an Innovation Challenge on May 7, 2015, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., for entrepreneurs with the award of \$1,500 to the winner to pursue their business; he attended the YES Partnership Meeting on April 9, 2015, with a presentation on the Mentoring Works Program by Elena Linehan; and reported that ICES will have its 31st annual Childrens and Infants Fair at the Fairgrounds on April 25, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. with free admission. **Councilmember Canning** reported that the water faucets in Mt. Shadow Cemetery had been turned on most likely by kids, and ran a lot of water; he turned off the faucets. He also suggested that a well for Mt. Shadow be looked into. **Mayor Pro-Tem Williams** agreed that looking into a water source for Mt. Shadow cemetery would be a very good idea, and possibly reestablish the Cemetery Committee so that improvements can be considered. She reported that Administrator Miller presented a water project at the Integrated Regional Water Management Meeting for a well to be put in at Rotary Park, and that another well for the Cemetery may be advantageous. **Williams** also reported that she and Special Projects Manager Wilkinson walked on Washington Street from the Red Church down to the Europa and talked to many of the merchants who gave a lot of feed back about Vision Sonora; she said that what she heard the most had to do with parking, that the merchants are abusing the privilege of the free parking and not honoring the two-hour limit; **Williams** said that the reason the City has free parking is to accommodate everyone, and she hopes that the next budget will provide for parking enforcement. **Administrator Miller** asked if there would be Council representation at the Historical Society Lamplight Dinner this coming Friday; **Williams** and **Garaventa** responded that they would attend. **Mayor Stearn** asked about the progress being made on getting brighter lights at the crosswalks; **Administrator Miller** responded that he is still working on it. **Stearn** also asked how people can become aware of the opened parking spaces in the parking lots; **Administrator Miller** responded that signs have been posted on Green Street; **Stearn** would like to have more visible signage so people can easily see where the open spaces are located. **Mayor Pro-Tem Williams** noted that there is an "App" on cell phones that can locate available parking; she also reported that the Vision Sonora Community Design Committee has come up with alternatives for the transit sites at Stockton Street and Church Street; and

