

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
MARCH 20, 2017**

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 5:01 p.m. The following members were present: Mayor Connie Williams, Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Garaventa, Councilmembers Matt Hawkins, Mark Plummer and George Segarini; City Administrator Tim Miller, City Clerk Marijane Cassinetto, Administrative Services Director Jennifer Callaway, City Attorney Douglas White, Fire Chief Aimee New, Police Lt. Turu VanderWeil. Absent: Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg, Interim Police Chief Michael Harden and Interim City Engineer Gerard Fuccillo.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at 11:45 a.m. on the 17th day of March, 2017, 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

The City Administrator requested that Item D.(4), Presentation of the City of Sonora Employee Service Awards, be continued to the next Council Meeting. Upon **MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa, second by Councilmember Hawkins, it was unanimously carried that the Agenda be approved with the continuance of the of Item D.(4) as requested.**

PRESENTATIONS

1. Retired Lieutenant Glenn Roberts swore in the following Police Explorers who successfully completed their probation periods: (a) Daniel Hamilton whose badge was pinned by his grandfather, and (b) Theodore Walker whose badge was pinned by his father; (c) Explorer Kennedy Brockett was not present and will be recognized at a future Council Meeting.
2. Fire Chief New presented the Firefighter of the Year Awards as follows: (a) Firefighter Trevor Mayo-Corallo, Intern category; (b) Firefighter Dustin Woodson, Voluntary category; (c) Fire Engineer Patrick Kerrigan, Part-time category was not present; and (d) Retired Fire Captain Craig Peterson presented the Career category Award to Fire Chief Aimee New.
3. Police Lt. Turu VanderWeil presented the Police Department Employee of the Year Awards as follows noting that the recipients' names will be placed on the plaque that hangs

at the Police Department: (a) Officer John Bowley for Officer of the Year was not present, and his Award was accepted by Sgt. Tim Wertz; (b) Officer Dennis Townsend for Reserve Officer of the Year was not present, and his Award was accepted by his daughter, Community Service Officer Ashley Brandow; (c) Community Service Officer Char Logan as Civilian Employee of the Year; (d) Community Service Volunteer Robby Roberts as Community Service Volunteer of the Year; and (e) Explorer Victor Battle as the Ronald Billings, II, Explorer of the Year. Lt. VanderWeil noted that the Explorer of the Year Award has been renamed the *Ronald Billings II Award* in honor and memory of Billings' who served three years of service as an Explorer; Billings died tragically during a work related accident at the SPI Lumber Mill in Tuolumne City. VanderWeil introduced Billings' parents who were present at the Meeting.

On behalf of the Council, Mayor Williams stated that they were very proud of each recipient, and thanked the recipients for their service to the City.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda)

Laurie Lehmann, member of the 2nd Saturday and 2nd Thursday Committees invited everyone to the Second Thursday Movie Night on April 13, 2017, when *The Royal Tennenbaums* will be shown, and on May 11, 2017, when *High Noon* will be shown. She also reported that a barbeque dinner will be served before the showing of *High Noon*. The Events are held at the Opera Hall.

Steve Stiles, resident at 160 and 160-1/2 Ash Street requested that the Council consider the abandonment of City-owned property at the end of Ash Street in Block 5 of Oliver Addition. Stiles stated that parking for his residence is steep, and it would be very helpful if the property could be sold to provide for additional parking; he would like to construct a parking structure to accommodate parking for his duplex. Administrator Miller recommended that Stiles submit a letter to the City stating his request so it can be brought forth for discussion. Mayor Williams confirmed to Stiles that he submit a letter request stating what he would like to do so his request can go through proper channels to see if can be done.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION by Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa, that the Consent Calendar be approved as follows:

- 1. Approval of the Council Minutes for the Closed and Regular Session Meetings of March 6, 2017;**

2. Approval to pay invoices for previously budgeted expenses on March 21, 2017, in the amount of \$134,312.51; and

3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$145,989.71 on March 17, 2017, for payroll, inclusive of employee salaries, employer and employee taxes and retirement contributions, and miscellaneous voluntary employee deductions.

There was no public comment, and the above **MOTION passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None. No public comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None. No public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

Request by Sonora Chamber of Commerce. The Council considered the request by the Sonora Chamber to authorize the temporary closure of Coffill Park between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. on June 10, August 12, September 9 and October 14, 2017, to accommodate the Chamber's Second Saturday Concert Series, and to allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages (limited to beer and wine). Administrator Miller recommended approval subject to the Chamber obtaining an ABC License, Police Department approval, providing the required liability insurance, executing an indemnification agreement, and providing staffing at entrance and exit locations for controlled access. Shirley Sarno, Executive Director of the Sonora Chamber, presented the request seeking approval. The Councilmembers volunteered their assistance at the events.

The Mayor asked for public comment. A member of the public requested that additional recycle bins be placed at the events. There was no further public comment. **MOTION by Councilmember Segarini, second by Councilmember Hawkins, and unanimously carried that subject to the conditions recommended by Administrator Miller, said request be approved as presented.** The Council thanked the Chamber for sponsoring these type events in the City.

Resolution No. 03-30-2017-A Regarding Mother Lode Parade and Roundup. The Council considered the request by the Tuolumne County Sheriffs Posse to give approval to hold the Annual Mother Lode Parade and authorize necessary Street closures and elimination of parking spaces for the Parade, and also for the Rodeo. Police Lieutenant VanderWeil presented the request recommending adoption of Resolution No. 03-20-2017-A which

authorizes the closure of State Route 49, Washington Street and Stockton Road, along with certain other City streets and elimination of parking spaces, for the Parade on Saturday, May 13, and the Rodeo on Saturday and on Sunday, May 14, 2017. The Parade begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at approximately 1 p.m. Jim Opie, Parade Chairman, appeared in favor of the requested action, and thanked the Council for its continued support. There was no further public comment. Mayor Williams thanked the Posse for 60 years of committed sponsorship of the Parade.

MOTION by Councilmember Hawkins, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa, and unanimously carried that Resolution No. 03-20-2017-A be approved and adopted as presented.

Vision Sonora Committee Recommendations for Coffill Park.

The Council considered the recommendations from the Vision Sonora Committee for improvements and modifications to Coffill Park. Recommending approval and noting that the changes will make the Park safer and more open and accessible, Administrator Miller presented the Committee's recommendations as follows:

1. Install ADA access at Green Street;
2. Remove the existing ADA ramp and replace it with fencing and a gate;
3. Remove the memorial monument/storage building/fountain and repurpose timbers, steel door and rock as appropriate;
4. Add lighting for the Coffill Park Sign and pergola on Washington Street; and
5. Repair fencing as needed and install safety fencing along Sonora Creek.

Miller noted that the Coffill family and Lyons Club have been contacted and support the changes. Most of the modifications will be done by the Public Works Department, but some assistance will be solicited. With Council approval, the design will be finalized by the Vision Sonora Community Design Committee and the City Park Recreation and Beautification Committee. Future design changes and/or improvements will still need Council approval.

Mayor Williams asked for public comment. Laurie Lehmann appeared in favor of the requested changes. **MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa, second by Councilmember Plummer, and unanimously carried that said improvements and modifications be approved as presented.**

Mayor Williams thanked Union Democrat Reporter Alex MacLean for the quite nice March 17, 2017, article he wrote on the plans for the improvements and modifications which will make the Park safe and more pleasurable.

Vision Sonora Committee, Its Tourism, Marketing and Public Outreach Committee and Branding Subcommittee (Vision Sonora Committees) Recommendations.

The Council considered the recommendations of the Vision Sonora Committees to allocate additional funds to hire a consultant to assist with the development of a "Brand" for downtown Sonora. Recommending approval, Administrator Miller reported that the Branding Subcommittee initially hoped to develop a Brand with the assistance of volunteers, but has now recognized the need for professional help. The Estimated total cost would not more than \$10,000, and funds are available from the previous \$5,000 allocation for marketing activities, and from unallocated funds currently remaining in Downtown Economic Development Fund 374. If the Council authorizes an additional allocation, Miller noted that he will work with the City Attorney to develop the most appropriate process for solicitation of the services to develop the Brand. Councilmember Plummer asked for clarification as to what branding does and what the City gets out of it.

George Falero, a member of the Vision Sonora Branding Committee, responded that branding is the identity of Sonora; after that identification is created, then it is delivered through a marketing plan to different consumers and demographics domestically and abroad. Falero expressed his vision to establish a five-word slogan that would work for the citizens of Sonora as well as a demographic that does not live in Sonora. Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa noted that Sonora already has a brand and slogan, *Queen of the Southern Mines*, and would like to see refreshed and renewed creative marketing come through the existing identity with the monies spent on this rather than looking to other brands. Councilmember Segarini said that there is a need to go beyond volunteers to create a new brand because Sonora is changing, and it is appropriate to spend monies for a professional to help Sonora along the way.

Laurie Lehmann, Member of the Vision Sonora Committee and Branding Subcommittee, said that the Subcommittee volunteers have been working for a very long time, have made progress and have come up with a lot of suggestions, have narrowed them down, and feels that they have really helped. She is not opposed to fresh eyes and professional experience, but she reminded the Council that monies are also needed for the bathroom project and suggested that not all the funds be allocated for the Branding.

Steve Stiles asked if the public has been informed of any of the Brands suggested, has the public been allowed to give input, has it been in the Union Democrat, and would there be opportunity for public input as the process continues. Administrator

Miller responded that there have been articles in the Union Democrat that people have responded to, a poll was taken on Facebook resulting in 140 suggestions, and there will continue to be articles in the media to keep the public informed. Mayor Williams confirmed that articles will continue in the Union Democrat, that all Meetings are open to the public, and input is welcomed.

A member of the public stated that the Council has been asked several times to open up the process to people who are not available during Regular Meeting times and has been asked to have town hall meetings. She said that has not happened, nor has it been on the Agenda for consideration. She thinks that Vision Sonora is the vision of a very small group of people, and people have been eliminated from the process that should be asked first for their input before spending any more of her money. She said that other things can be done to make our City better that do not cost extra money like cleaning downtown sidewalks, dump recycle and trash cans more frequently and have more recycling bins.

MOTION by Councilmember Segarini, second by Councilmember Hawkins that the recommendations of the Vision Sonora Committee, its Tourism, Marketing and Public Outreach Committee and Branding Subcommittee be approved to allocate additional funds to provide for a total not to exceed cost of \$10,000 for development of a "Brand" for downtown Sonora.

Councilmember Garaventa reiterated his comments that Sonora has a rich gold mining history, and feels the City should work with *Queen of the Southern Mines* to creatively refresh it and make it something new for marketing. Councilmember Segarini said that many of the merchants are looking forward to moving this forward to a generation of younger people, and they are excited about something new.

Laurie Lehmann said that the Committee has been very sensitive to the history of Sonora, and it makes her a little bit concerned talking about the young people and making it all "sparkly and gold"; she hopes that the Committee will still be a part, and said they will definitely be sensitive. Shirley Sarno asked what the next step is if approved. Administrator Miller responded that Staff will develop an appropriate solicitation of proposals for which there are some options, but a formal process for solicitation will be done, and then a recommendation will be brought back to the Council to hire someone.

There being no further public comments, the above **MOTION passed four to one by the following vote: Ayes: Williams, Hawkins, Segarini and Plummer; No: Garaventa.**

Employment Agreement Amendment. The Council considered approving a Fourth Amendment to Agreement between Timothy A. Miller and the City of Sonora for Employment of City Administrator. Administrator Miller presented the Amendment which would allow the cash out of additional vacation and/or administrative leave. Currently the Agreement allows that up to four weeks may be cashed out each calendar year; the modification would allow a cash out of up to two years of accrual (twelve weeks) each calendar year. Miller noted that there is presently over seventeen weeks of accrued leave, and a balance of at least one year of accrued leave (six weeks) needs to be maintained. Funding would come from the General Fund Reserves to the extent the additional costs could not be absorbed in the current administrative budget. Miller stated that with this Amendment, the City's future liability would be reduced.

For the public's information, Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa noted that historically there have been situations when employees have had huge payouts at the end of their employment which had large impacts on the budget, so this action will help take a large lump sum payout budget impact at the end of the Administrator's employment and spread it out over the remainder of his employment. There was no public comment.

MOTION by Councilmember Plummer, second by Councilmember Hawkins, and unanimously carried that said Fourth Amendment to the City Administrator's Employment Agreement be approved as presented.

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Community Development Department
2. Public Works Department
3. Police Department
4. Fire Department

No public comment.

VISION SONORA REPORT

Mayor Williams read her Vision Sonora Committee Report for the Meeting of March 9, 2017, which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" for reference. The next Vision Sonora Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. There was no public comment.

COMMUNICATIONS

None - No public comment.

COUNCILMEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Administrator Miller reported that the Special Council Meeting Workshop to discuss the marijuana issue will be held at 5:00 p.m. on March 30, 2017, in Council Chambers. **Councilmember Hawkins** thanked Public Works for how well it maintains the Dragoon Gulch Trail especially in light of all the heavy storms. **Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa** reported that he attended the Yes Partnership Meeting, the Celtic Faire and the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting. **Councilmember Segarini** reported that he attended the Tuolumne County Transportation Council Meeting, the Vision Sonora Committee Meeting, the Economic Development Authority Meeting, the Vision Sonora Marketing and Finance Committee Meetings, the Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting and the Merchant/Town Hall Meeting. **Mayor Williams** reported that she attended the Vision Sonora Design Committee Meeting, the Prison Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, the Tuolumne County Transportation Council Meeting, the Vision Sonora Committee Meeting, the 2nd Thursday Movie Night, the Tuolumne County Economic Development Authority Board Meeting, she was a celebrity waiter at the Sunrise Rotary event at Black Oak Casino, attended the Water Advisory Council Meeting, and the Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau Board Meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the Regular Session Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m. to the next Regular Council Meeting on Monday, April 3, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Marijane Cassinetto, City Clerk Date