CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
October 7, 2019

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 Jim Garaventa, Mayor Pro-Tem Matt Hawkins, Councilmembers Mark Plummer, Connie Williams, City Clerk Pro-Tem Colette Such; City Administrator Tim Miller, City Attorney Douglas White, Administrative Services Director Christopher Gorsky, Fire Chief Aimee New, Police Chief Turu VanderWiel, Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg. Absent: Interim Engineer Gerard Fuccillo, City Clerk Marijane Cassinetto.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Administrator Timothy Miller advised Council that at 12:00 p.m. on the 4th day of October 2019, 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 - Approved

PRESENTATIONS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Hoppe, owner of Downtown Shoes said that three years ago he worked with the City's Parking and Traffic Committee to open up the yellow zones for parking after hours and on the weekends for tourists, which was approved, however the board has taken no action. He would like to know how that could move forward. **Mayor Garaventa** said the Council will discuss at a future meeting.

Jeff Muzio, owner of Hazy Bulldog Medical Cannabis Dispensary, wanted to thank the Council for allowing him to have his business in Sonora. He also wanted to see if the Council was willing to discuss the possibility of expanding the cannabis business in town, with possible manufacturing and micro businesses.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Williams requested that Item 4 be considered separately.

MOTION by Councilmember Williams, second by Councilmember Hawkins, that the Consent Calendar be approved as follows:

1. Approval of the Minutes for the City Council Closed Session Meeting and Open Session Meeting of September 16, 2019, **however there were no minutes to approve;**
2. Approval to pay invoices for previously budgeted expenses on October 8, 2019; and
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of $184,904.48, on September 27, 2019 for payroll, inclusive of employee salaries, employer and employee taxes and retirement contributions, and miscellaneous voluntary employee deductions.

Council discussed item 4 - Adoption of Resolution No. 10-07-2019-A establishing a salary range and steps for the position of City Administrator. This salary range table was prepared for the Council to establish a range in which the City Administrator's salary could be established. Due to the questions the Council had regarding the salary table, Attorney Doug White suggested that the item be pulled for the next Council meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Plummer, seconded by Councilmember Williams to continue this item to the next regular council meeting of October 21, 2019.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Consideration to introduce and waive the first reading of Ordinance No. 861 amending and replacing Chapter 5.06 of the Sonora Municipal code relating to Food Vendors and Chapter 5.12 regarding Intermittent Vendors. Community Development Director Kellogg stated that this Ordinance is being revised based on new State law. In 2018, Senate Bill 946 - Safe Sidewalk Vending Act was enacted and required modification to our Municipal Code to regulate Sidewalk Vending in the City and comply with the state law. **Councilmember Plummer** asked how many vendors we currently have in the City. **Community Development Director Kellogg** said the City mostly has food truck vendors and some intermittent vendors that are associated with events in the City right now. **Councilmember Hawkins** said that Community Development Director Kellogg did a great job with revising the ordinance. **Councilmember Williams** asked if food trucks were included in the new law. **Community Development Director Kellogg** said that the new law covered only non-motorized vehicles.

MOTION by Mayor-Pro Tem Hawkins, second by Councilmember Williams. The **MOTION passed as follows: Ayes: Garaventa, Hawkins, Plummer, Williams, Such.**

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration to adopt Resolution No. 10-07-2019-B approving the temporary closure of Washington Street (State Route 49) and certain other City streets on Friday, November 29, 2019 for the Historic Downtown Christmas Parade. The Council considered adoption of Resolution No. 10-07-2019-B, which authorizes the temporary closure of Washington Street (State Route 49) and certain other City streets for the Historic Downtown Christmas Parade on Friday, November 29, 2019. Special Programs Coordinator Sheala Wilkinson presented the Resolution recommending approval.

MOTION by Councilmember Williams, second by Councilmember Plummer. The **MOTION passed as follows: Ayes: Garaventa, Hawkins, Plummer, Williams, Such.**

Consideration to adopt and waive the second reading of Ordinance No. 860 amending Chapter 17.32 of the Sonora Municipal Code relating to Design Review/Historic Zone and Chapters 17.75, 17.66,and 17.70 regarding the Demolition of Buildings, Administration and Enforcement and Penalty, respectively. Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg spoke regarding corrections that were made after the first reading of the Ordinance at the last meeting. She is now requesting consideration to adopt and waive the second reading and approve the Ordinance.

MOTION by Councilmember Williams, second by Councilmember Plummer. The **MOTION passed as follows: Ayes: Garaventa, Hawkins, Plummer, Williams, Such.**

Consideration to review and provide staff direction regarding the 65% complete construction drawings for the Stockton-Washington Corridor - Downtown Transit and Accessibility project and proceed to final design and a request for bids. Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg spoke regarding consideration to review and provide staff direction regarding the construction drawings for the Stockton-Washington Corridor - Downtown Transit and Accessibility project. She said that notices and a copy of the plans were delivered to everyone in the project area. **Daniel Carley from Kimley-Horn** presented the construction drawings submitted to Cal Trans. He spoke of design and environmental changes suggested by the Council from the previously reviewed plans, including shortening the north side bus stop to correct turning radius to and from Green St., the Hawk Signal system was removed and a pedestrian island inserted to allow 2-stage crossing to increase pedestrian safety, Stockton St was reduced from four lane to three, southbound traffic on Washington St shifted, allowing easier turning onto Stockton, there-by adding greater protection to the Sonora Inn and adding a loading zone on Washington St. in front of the Sonora Inn. **Councilmember Such** raised concerns regarding the project plans, including the width of the Washington St. sidewalk along the Sonora Inn, if the bulb outs are necessary and if so, could they be reduced in size, and asked that the ladder crossing in the north side Green St. crosswalk be removed to match the crosswalk on the south side of Green St. Ms. Such also mentioned concerns about the lack of a crosswalk at the east bound transit station, creating a pedestrian hazard and doubted pedestrians would make the effort to walk uphill to use the other crosswalk. **Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins,** though not a fan of bulb outs, asked that they be made more ramp-like. **Councilmember Plummer** raised concerns about the dangers of the ramp-like crosswalk on Elkin St. and repeated near-misses. **Barbara Dressler** read a statement from Gerry Fuccillo addressing his concerns regarding a full map of the project, an encroachment permit from Cal Trans, project funding, bulb-outs, traffic and ADA compliance (slope > 5%). **City Administrator Timothy Miller, Daniel Carley of Kimley-Horn, Community Development Rachelle Kellogg** and **TCTC Director Darin Grossi** addressed Mr. Fuccillo's concerns. **Rick Hoppe,** owner of Downtown Shoes likes that the bus stop will be moved

to Stockton Street where most of the services are. **Councilmember Williams** enquired about the shortening of the westbound transit stop and the overlap of YARTS, the ski bus, etc. utilizing the transit sop at the same time. Mr. Grossi said that would be handled with scheduling. **Councilmember Williams** asked about diagonal parking next to the Sonora Inn but was advised that CalTrans would not allow it. Additionally, **Councilmember Williams** asked that Council address the Coffil Parking Lot on Green St. (next to the Armory) at a future meeting and make the spaces public, instead of permit parking. **Sara Seibert** spoke for Doug Kennedy of Trado, Inc. advising that he is OK with current plans. She then stated that he is willing to sell the Trado lot to be used as the east-bound transit station. She also noted that there had been conversations with Mr. Miller about that possibility in the past. There was much interest from Council about the possibility of having transit stops across from each other. **Attorney White** counseled that we look at the change in placement of the east bound transit stop while simultaneously moving forward with the changes already discussed. **Mayor Garaventa** closed concurring with the previously stated comments that there be a bifurcated plan exploring the possibility of moving the eastbound transit station to the area in front of the Trado building, while moving forward with the current project including requests that the bulb outs on the southwest corner of Washington and Stockton Streets be minimized to the extent possible, and the ladder pattern be removed from the north Green Street crosswalk.

MOTION by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Plummer. The **MOTION passed as follows: Ayes: Garaventa, Plummer, Williams. Noes: Hawkins, Such**

Consideration to agendize for discussion and possible action a funding allocation for the Linoberg Street closure to resurface the street utilizing SB1 and/or gas tax funds. **City Administrator Timothy Miller** is requesting future discussion and possible action on allocating funds from SB1 or gas tax funds to resurface Linoberg Street. **Councilmember Williams** stated that Vision Sonora had raised over $13,000 and budgeted around $2,500 for the re-surfacing. **Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins** noted that he had an issue with using the SB1 and gas tax funds because the funds should be used for streets that cars drive on that are in disrepair. It was agreed to agendize the discussion examining all funding sources and not limit to just SB1 and gas tax funding.

MOTION by Councilmember Williams, second by Councilmember Plummer. The **MOTION passed as follows with the exception of finding additional resources for funding: Ayes: Garaventa, Plummer, Williams. Noes: Hawkins, Such**

Consideration to agendize for discussion and possible action a ballot measure for a TOT and/or sales tax increase to provide additional general fund revenues. **City Administrator Miller** noted that Tuolumne County is considering increasing the Transient

Occupancy Tax from 10 percent to 12% or 14% and the Sales Tax a half a cent to one cent. If the Council would like to increase the tax, a ballot measure must be in place by December 6, 2019. He is looking to Council for future discussion and possible action. **Jeff Michaels,** owner of the Sonora Inn and Rodeway Inn, believes that the Council should do a roundtable discussion with the hotel owners and discuss where the threshold is that is most beneficial to all of the businesses in Tuolumne County; he also wanted to know if there will be a real study done on behalf of the City.

MOTION by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Such. The **MOTION passed as follows: Ayes: Garaventa, Plummer, Such, Williams. Noes: Hawkins**

Consideration to agendize for discussion and possible action a ballot measure to change the City Clerk position from elected to appointed. **Councilmember Such** asked if it could be filled with current staff. **City Administrator Miller** concurred. **Councilmember Williams** asked what would happen if someone decided to run for the office in November. **City Administrator Miller** said that it could complicate when the Council could implement it.

MOTION by Councilmember Such, seconded by Councilmember Plummer. The **MOTION passed as follows: Ayes: Garaventa, Hawkins, Plummer, Such, Williams.**

MONTHLY REPORTS - None

VISION SONORA COMMITTEE REPORT - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

COUNCILMEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Fire Chief New stated that the Fire Department was successful in obtaining an AFG Grant for a new fire engine. They also were awarded a grant from the California Fire Foundation in the amount of $15,000 for educational materials for defensible space, new inspection forms and communication equipment for the new engine. They also received a grant from the Office of Traffic and Safety for a total of $35,000 for new extrication equipment. She wanted to give special thanks to Vic's Towing for allowing them to use different extrication equipment on their cars to determine which equipment they wanted to get. In addition, the Firefighter ball is coming up on November 2, 2019 at the Opera Hall from 5pm to 11pm and this year's theme is 1950's sock hop. The tickets are $30 per ticket, which includes dinner, dancing and a raffle. Ticket sales are final on October 26, 2019 and can be purchased at the fire station. **Community Development Director Kellogg** mentioned that this weekend is the last day of the Farmers market. She spoke about a ceremony that was held last Saturday for Dale Kuil who was one of the founding members of the farmers market. She also wanted to let

everyone know that next weekend is the trail building event at Dragoon Gulch. She wanted to thank all of the volunteers that got the sight ready including Councilmember Plummer. **City Attorney White** was thankful for the opportunity to work with Tim Miller. **City Administrator Timothy Miller** wanted to make sure that Council received the notice that he sent out today regarding the public safety power shutdown possibility by PG&E. He mentioned that there is generator equipment at the Police and Fire stations, so we can maintain these services. City Hall and Public Works do not have backup generators, so those employees will be working but there will be no services at City Hall. **Councilmember Williams** wanted to make sure that staff got direction from the Council on the Coffil parking lot. **Councilmember Such** reported that they organized a brush pickup of the homeless camp on Stockton Street and removed eight truckloads. She wanted to thank Barbara Dressler, Ryan Campbell, Colette's husband David, Maryann Schmidt and her husband Jim and their daughter. **Councilmember Hawkins** attended the Peter Frampton concert. **Councilmember Plummer** thanked Tim Miller for his service, for keeping the City in the black financially, for the hard work and dedication that he has offered and the dedicated assistance that he has provided to the Council. He also mentioned the Dragoon Gulch project, encouraged people to help, and thanked Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg for her work on the project. **Mayor Garaventa** mentioned that on Tuesday, September 7, 2019, he attended the Chamber mixer over at the Sugg House and that the Fire Safety and Community Resiliency meeting was cancelled. Saturday he attended the parade in Jamestown put on by the Arts Council and on Sunday, he attended the Peter Frampton concert as well. He would like to thank Mr. Miller for his years here at the City of Sonora. **City Administrator Miller** thanked the City for giving him the opportunity. He has enjoyed working a variety of Council members over the years and serving the citizens of Sonora.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Session Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. into a Closed Session at the City Hall first floor conference room.

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Garaventa reported that no action was taken but direction was provided to staff.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

The Closed Session meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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Colette Such, City Clerk Pro-Tem Date