

**SONORA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
NOVEMBER 4, 2019**

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Sonora was opened this date in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 94 North Washington Street, at 5:00 p.m. with the following Members present: Mayor, Jim Garaventa, Mayor Pro-Tem Matt Hawkins, Councilmembers Mark Plummer, Colette Such and Connie Williams; Acting City Administrator and Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg, City Attorney, Doug White, Administrative Services Director, Chris Gorsky, Fire Chief, Aimee New and Police Chief Turu VanderWiel.

REPORT ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Acting City Administrator, Rachelle Kellogg, advised the **Council** that at 9:40 a.m. on the 1st day of December 2019, the Agenda for the City of Sonora Council Meeting was posted outside City Hall for public view.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. No Changes.

PRESENTATIONS

1. School Resource Officer - **Mikale Bell** was introduced by **Chief VanderWiel**.

PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

1. **Laurie Lehman** spoke on behalf of the Sonora Chamber of Commerce to announce the Holiday Community Mixer on December 17th at the Opera Hall @ 6:00pm

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve the following meeting minutes for the City Council:
 - a. City Council Open Session Meeting of September 16, 2019
2. Approve to pay invoices of previously budgeted expenses on November 5, 2019
3. Approve disbursements in the amount of \$149,795.72 on October 25, 2019 for payroll, inclusive of employee salaries, employer and employee taxes and retirement contributions and miscellaneous voluntary employee deductions
4. Letter of Support of the County's CCI Grant Fire Fuels reduction plan for area schools

Motion by Councilmember Williams second by Councilmember Plummer, unanimously carried on a vote of 5-0 that items 1, 2 and 3 of the Consent Calendar be approved.

Item 4 was amended.

Motion by Councilmember Plummer second by Councilmember Such, carried on a vote of 5-0 Item 4 was approved as amended.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Linoberg Project Agreement Authorization**

Director Kellogg reviewed the agreement with the property owner of the buildings on either side of Linoberg Street Closure Project.

Councilmember Such asked a question about the need for permitting.

No Public Comment

Motion by Councilmember Williams second by Councilmember Plummer, unanimously carried on a vote of 5-0 to authorize the City Administrator to execute an agreement for the Linoberg Street Project as presented.

2. Consideration to agendaize for discussion and possible action a ballot measure for a TOT and/or Sales Tax increase to provide general fund revenues

City Attorney White discussed the possible ballot measure and the need for public outreach, including Hotel/Motel owners. The March deadline doesn't allow enough time. It is staff's recommendation to place the ballot measures on the November 2020 ballot.

Council discussed current tax rates and the effect of increased rates, i.e. additional services, needed votes for approval.

Public Comment: **Laurie Lehman** commented Airbnb rates not being fair in the City and to consider that when moving forward. **David Morgan** discussed waiting until after the March election to agendaize and to have further discussions with the community. **Cindy Zelinsky** discussed the Transient Occupancy Rates in the community and against raising the TOT to 14%. **Debi Bautista, Tuolumne County Clerk Auditor-Controller** commented that the County is proposing 12% and also applying the tax to Camp grounds and RV's.

Council discussed tax rates and the next steps

No Action Taken

3. Consideration to adopt **Resolution No. 11-04-2019-A** designating the City Administrator and the Administrative Services Director to be the Authorized agent to engage with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) regarding grants applied for by the City of Sonora.

Director Gorsky reviewed the status of the CalOES funding for the March 2019 storm damage and the need to update authorized signers.

Motion by Councilmember Williams second by Councilmember Plummer, unanimously carried on a vote of 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 11-04-2019-A as presented.

4. Consideration to adopt **Resolution No. 11-04-2019-B** calling for a general municipal election for the submission of a proposed ballot measure to change the position of the City Clerk/Treasurer from an elected position to an appointed position.

City Attorney White discussed the resolution to propose a ballot measure to change the City Clerk position from an elected position to an appointed position.

Council discussed how the position would be filled and potential costs. It was also discussed what would occur if there was a candidate elected before a ballot measure.

Director Gorsky commented that it would be difficult for existing staff to absorb additional responsibilities of the Clerk position and either direction would not result in any anticipated cost savings.

Debi Bautista, Tuolumne County Clerk Auditor-Controller commented on the costs of having a ballot measure on the ballot.

Council discussed health benefits for the Clerk position and that Health Benefits were eliminated from the City Council and the Clerk position once the position was vacated. Also, oversight of the work product was discussed.

Motion by Councilmember Plummer second by Councilmember Such, carried on a vote of 3-2 to adopt Resolution No. 11-04-2019-B as presented.

5. Consideration to adopt **Resolution No. 11-04-2019-C** accepting the Assistance to Firefighter Grant for a Type 1 Urban interface Fire Engine.

Chief New presented the resolution and discussed the Assistance to Firefighter Program Grant. Including options to fund the Matching component of the grant. **Director Gorsky** commented on the City Reserves and the opportunity to acquire a New Fire Engine. **Chief New** commented on the age of our current equipment and some of the limitations faced by the Fire Department.

Council asked if used equipment was considered as an alternative. **Chief New** commented that the 1972 Fire Vehicle would be surplus when the new vehicle is available.

Motion by Councilmember Williams second by Councilmember Plummer, unanimously carried on a vote of 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 11-04-2019-C as presented using staff option 2, utilizing \$100,000 from City reserves and the matching component from fund 399.

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. None

VISION SONORA COMMITTEE REPORT

1. None

COMMUNICATIONS

1. None

COUNCILMEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief New mentioned the 159th annual Firefighter Ball and thanked business owners that supported the event. **City Attorney White** updated schedules for future closed sessions. **Acting City Administrator Kellogg** gave an update on the Dragoon Gulch Trail work being done. **Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins** thanked the Sonora

Police Department volunteers and noted meetings attended. **Councilmember Williams** reported attending two meetings. **Councilmember Such** reported attending two meetings. **Mayor Garaventa** reported attending two meetings including the PG&E meeting regarding Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

ADJOUNED INTO CLOSED SESSION

1. Public Employee Appointment - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1): City Administrator

No Action Taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Colette Such, City Clerk Pro-Tem

Date