

**SONORA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
JANUARY 7, 2019**

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

There was no Closed Session Meeting.

REPORT ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Community Development Specialist, Kim Campbell, advised the Council that at 11:45 a.m. on the 4th day of January, 2019, the Agenda for the City of Sonora Council Meeting was posted outside City Hall for public view.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

No Changes

PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Laurie Lehmann, of the Sonora Chamber of Commerce discussed up-coming Chamber of Commerce sponsored events, including Friday Flix at the Opera Hall, 2nd Saturday Art Night, including celebrating their 100th consecutive Art Night and the Tuolumne County Arts new office location downtown.

Mary Lynn Ashburn invited the public to volunteer for the Annual Count of the Homeless Community on January 23, 2019. She advised that in order to volunteer, you would first attend the training session on January 19, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., at the County's Behavioral Center.

Member of the Public spoke about the recent City-sponsored Christmas events downtown and commended Sheala Wilkinson for her work on holiday related activities. She expressed her satisfaction on the City's debris clean-up efforts downtown and mentioned the need to organize a community clean-up day. She also asked about the progress of ordering the pet waste stations.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Councilmember Plummer, seconded by C. Williams, unanimously carried on a vote of 4-0, that the Consent Calendar be approved as follows:

1. Approval of the Minutes for the meeting of December 17, 2018;
2. Approval to pay invoices of previously budgeted expenses on January 8, 2019 and;
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$144,065.00 on December 21, 2018 and \$139,563.38 on January 4, 2019 for payroll, inclusive of employee salaries, employer and employee taxes and retirement contributions, and miscellaneous voluntary employee deductions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consideration to accept a donation of \$5,000 from the Sonora Chamber of Commerce and authorize the expenditure of an additional \$1,840 to purchase 200 new chairs for the Opera Hall.**

Community Development Director, Rachelle Kellogg, presented her staff report and recommended acceptance of the donation and authorize an additional \$1,840 for the purchase of 200 new chairs and a chair cart. She informed Council Members that the Sonora Chamber of Commerce approached the City about purchasing new padded chairs for the Opera Hall and would like to participate in replacement of the chairs. She related that the existing chairs are worn and do not have padding. She referred to the photo that was attached to her staff report and advised that the representative chair would be an acceptable replacement, as it also has a 10-year warranty. She recommended the chair be ordered in black due to the Opera Hall tables being grey.

Mayor Garaventa asked for public comment. Member of the Public asked if there is a timeline for purchase of the new chairs. City Administrator, Tim Miller stated that as soon as the Council authorized the request, the purchase can be made.

Sonora Chamber Member Bryan Adcox, addressed the Council about the Chamber-sponsored Friday Flix events that are held at the Opera Hall. He explained the need to provide more comfortable chairs to enjoy the movies they offer to the public. He stated

that throughout the year the Chamber holds numerous fundraisers and that this is one way that they can give back to the community.

Councilmember Williams thanked the Sonora Chamber of Commerce for their generous donation and praised them for being ambassadors for the City.

Motion by Councilmember C. Williams, seconded by M. Plummer, unanimously carried on a vote of 4-0, to accept the donation of \$5,000 and authorize an additional \$1,840 for the purchase of 200 chairs and a chair cart for the Sonora Opera Hall.

2. Review and possible direction to staff regarding the Red Church Pedestrian and Circulation Improvement Project thirty-five percent complete construction plans.

Community Development Director, Rachelle Kellogg, presented her staff report requesting that the Council provide staff direction for any revisions before the consultant prepares the 60% phase of the plans. She provided project background and reiterated that on October 15, 2018 the City Council awarded the consultant contract for the Red Church Pedestrian & Circulation Improvement Project to Willdan Engineering. She stated that City staff is presenting the final draft of the 35% plans for the Council's consideration, an opportunity for additional public comment, and direction from Council should any further revisions be warranted. She noted that staff included the comments and concerns from the public and of the public outreach that has been done to date.

Peter Rei, project manager, and Galen Gritz, project engineer, addressed the Council. Mr. Rei discussed the project goals being pedestrian safety, improving vehicular circulation and intersection function within the project area. Discussion continued related to the incremental changes, including shrinking the landscape area to accommodate buses leaving Snell Street, turning southbound on Washington Street. He also discussed the problem with current configurations. Mr. Rei felt that pushing out the current edge of the sidewalk in front of the Red Church, would provide extra area for the public to view and photograph the iconic Church. He informed Councilmembers that the truncated domes don't need to be yellow; Caltrans is entertaining the idea that they can be different colors, or use different materials such as steel to better compliment historic areas. One other change that is being proposed is to revise the parking garage entry/exit to one way in and one way out. The reason for the change is due to the bulb-out being proposed as it affects the turn movement coming out of the parking garage. Other major changes to this plan are the driveway to Suess Insurance Agency and the loss of one on-street parking space

located between the former Dorthea's Christmas and Sonora Insurance Agency. Mr. Rei explained that by moving the stop bar on Snell Street, there would be more room to control site distance and to allow the property owners additional room to exit the driveway safely at Sues Insurance.

Councilmember Such, asked about the stop bar, solar powered flashing beacons and why there were so many accidents at the crosswalks between Snell/Washington and Elkin/Washington. She also asked why the beacons were not being located on Elkin Street.

Councilmember Williams, concurs with Councilmember Such on the beacons for Elkin Street crosswalk and requested that it be brought up to Caltrans. Mr. Rei stated that those type of beacons are not typically used at stop signs. She asked if the solar-powered beacons are activated manually or automatically. Mr. Rei stated that they can be either way, however his preference is to activate manually due to the possibility of other interference setting them off. Discussion continued about parking spaces and the width of the sidewalk in front of Sonora Insurance. Project engineer, Galen Gritz, stated that the sidewalk is about 9 to 10 feet wide. He clarified that the sidewalk is not being proposed to be widened, but rather a replacement to extend to the front of City Hall. She asked about a sidewalk on N. Washington Street, which was not a part of this project. Mr. Rei agrees with the replacement, but it needs to be within the project area as the environmental document only covers the area shown on the project plan.

Councilmember Plummer, commented that his interest is especially focused for Elkin Street and pedestrian safety. He felt for southbound traffic on Washington Street turning onto Elkin to see pedestrians.

Rachelle Kellogg, addressed statistics given by Fire Chief, Aimee New, from 2010 forward related to pedestrian accidents that occurred between Stockton Street and Elkin Street. There were over 21 accidents; more than a third of those accidents occurred at the crosswalk on Elkin Street. Rachelle felt that traffic speeds increased just past City Hall, for northbound Washington Street traffic; to narrow that area of the roadway would help slow traffic. The other consideration is to move the existing Fire Museum sign to assist in site distance for vehicles turning left on southbound Washington Street.

Councilmember Such, asked about in-ground solar powered beacons. Peter Rei advised that these type of beacons are very expensive to maintain. He also encouraged the use of a standard yellow-diamond shaped sign with LED lights around the sign that are pedestrian activated. He added theoretically the sign should

only be activated when there is a pedestrian. He stated that traffic engineers favor this type of sign over others but Caltrans would have to approve them. Councilmember Such also asked about the sidewalk in front of the Fire Museum and whether it was scheduled to be replaced. Peter Rei stated that that was not in the original discussion that he had with staff, however he agreed it should be replaced.

Councilmember Williams, clarified next steps moving forward. Mr. Rei stated that they need to have permission to construct. He expects the plan will be revised throughout the process, including adding elevations and grades and will need to be approved by Caltrans.

Councilmember Plummer, expressed his concern for pedestrian safety with southbound Washington Street traffic making the left turn onto Elkin Street.

Councilmember Such, asked about the brick design and whether it will be similar to the materials proposed for the Stockton Road improvements.

City Administrator, Tim Miller, stated that Caltrans provided examples of paver treated crosswalks. The Vision Sonora Design Committee will present design elements, once selected material is approved.

Mayor Garaventa asked for public comment.

Jerry Fuccillo, speaking as a City resident, provided written comments to Councilmembers. His concerns were for revisions to the plan including deleting the landscape area in front of Dorthea's Christmas, maintain the curb line, delete bulb-outs, eliminate decorative treatments as maintenance for this type of material is expensive to maintain when Caltrans applies annual road treatments. He expressed that any work beyond curb lines is subject to a Caltrans encroachment permit and that the applicant is responsible to maintain work within this area. He also requested to add a safety improvement on the west side of S. Washington to include a depressed sidewalk from the crosswalk at Snell Street to Washington Street. He was in favor of signing at crosswalks, not in the pavement, as this is also expensive to maintain. Mr. Fuccillo asked that the sign be moved back so pedestrians can be more visible. He also agreed that the sidewalk from City Hall to the old Morgan Mansion needed replacing.

Sharon Marovich of the Tuolumne Heritage Committee, stated that she felt the area is an iconic intersection, as the Red Church was built in 1860 and said it is the most photographed location in Sonora. She asked for subtle changes and to omit decorative

treatments to crosswalks, construct ADA ramps so that they are un-obtrusive and to keep traditional colors. She also expressed her approval of the proposed landscape area, except that it doesn't need benches.

Stephanie Suess, thanked staff and consultants for their work on the project as well as for the plan changes. She informed Councilmembers that she had more than 30 years of experience in Planning and raised concerns about the public notification process for projects such as this. She felt that the City could do a better job in notifying those affected in advance and by being a good neighbor.

Member of the public, said Mr. Rei's presentation was the best she has seen. She described her knowledge of accidents in the project area.

Mayor Garaventa closed public comments at 6:15 p.m.

Councilmember Such, agreed with Mr. Fuccillo as well as Mrs. Suess and thanked each of them and Sharon Marovich for their comments.

City Administrator, Tim Miller, clarified that the action before them was to decide the elements desired in the project and that the Vision Sonora Committee can work with materials.

There was consensus of the Council to accept the draft plans presented to them, subject to the following:

1. Use white lines over deco treatments in crosswalks
2. Keep bulb-outs until after Caltrans reviews
3. Prefer to use cast iron material for truncated domes
4. Keep proposed landscape area for now
5. Install flashing pedestrian crossing warning beacon On Washington Street and Snell Street and keep the solar-powered pedestrian flashing beacons as shown in the plan

3. Consideration to approve Resolution No. 01-07-2019-A, adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Linoberg Street Closure/ Public Space Project.

Planner, Paula Daneluk, presented her written report and recommendation. She discussed the required 30-day advisory agency noticing requirement and provided information on the three responses received, adding that none of those raised any environmental issues that CEQA requires to be addressed.

Mayor Garaventa asked for public comment.

City resident Jerry Fuccillo, advised that he received a call from Tuolumne Utilities District regarding the ten-inch sewer line on Linoberg Street. Mayor Garaventa clarified the subject on the agenda and determined that if the discussion is not directly related to the Mitigated Negative Declaration, his comment cannot be taken at this time.

There were no further public comments and the public comment period closed at 6:56 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember C. Williams, seconded by Councilmember M. Plummer, approved on a vote of 4-0, to approve Resolution No. 01-07-2019-A be approved and adopted which incorporates the appropriate funding and adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation and Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Linoberg Street Closure/Public Space Project.

4. Consideration to approve Resolution No. 01-07-2019-B, electing to appoint a qualified officer to fill the position of Interim City Clerk for the remainder of the outgoing City Clerk's term.

Robin Baral, Attorney for Churchwell White, acting on behalf of City Attorney Douglas White, summarized two options that the Council has:

- 1) Approve by appointment of a qualified officer of the City of Sonora to take over the remainder of the City Clerk's term or;
- 2) Call a special election

Because this is the second half of the Clerk's term a special election would have significant costs associated with it, and would require those costs to be paid for by the City. Attorney Baral recommended going through the appointment process. Mr. Baral explained that a City Council Member could also be appointed to fill the position, if the Council so desires.

Mayor Garaventa opened the public comment period. Member of the public expressed concern that a City Council Member can also be Interim City Clerk as they will be holding two offices. Mr. Baral clarified that under Government Code Section 36804, it was allowed.

The public comment period closed at 7:04 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember C. Williams, seconded by Councilmember C. Such, approved on a vote of 4-0, to approve Resolution No. 01-07-2019-B electing to fill the vacancy in the position of City Clerk/treasurer by appointment.

MONTHLY REPORTS

None

VISION SONORA COMMITTEE REPORT

None

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Business License Activity - 2nd Quarter FY 2018

COUNCILMEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Councilmembers reported on participation in a number of holiday activities and events throughout the Community as well as their attendance at several meetings. Councilmember C. Williams advised that she had received a postcard from our Sister City Kirishima, Japan. She also noted that the new downtown guides have been nicely done. There were no reports from department heads.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Tim Miller, Interim City Clerk??

Date

BY:

Kim Campbell, Community Development Specialist