

CITY OF SONORA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 19th, 2008

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 Hank Russell, Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald E. Stearn, Councilmembers Gary Anderson, Bill Canning and David Sheppard; City Administrator Greg Applegate, City Clerk Marijane Cassinetto, Community Development Director Edward J. Wyllie, Finance Director Karen Stark, Police Chief Mace McIntosh, Fire Chief Mike Barrows. Absent: Engineer Gerard Fuccillo, Attorney Richard Matranga and Grants/Redevelopment Program Manager Rachelle Kellogg.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS

Tuolumne County Supervisor Liz Bass appeared before the Council to give her monthly report. Bass noted that at today's Board Meeting, it continued in consideration of a County-wide inclusive housing ordinance with no final action taken. Bass introduced County Human Services Agency Director Ann Connolly who introduced its newest Environmental Health Department employee Ken Stewart. Stewart reviewed several programs and services provided by the Department.

Presentation Update by the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) on the Proposed North/South Connector Project. Administrator Applegate noted that this presentation was scheduled at the request of Mayor Russell and Mayor Pro-Tem Ron Stearn. TCTC Consultant David Melis presented the Feasibility Study for said North-South Connector Project outlining progress, proposed routes, concerns and questions, traffic analysis, right-of-way/environmental impacts, estimated costs, conclusions and recommendation to carry Scenario II and VI forward with the inclusion of the Greenley Road Extension. County Public Works Director Peter Rei stated the TCTC's desire to receive significant input from the Council, and his support for the Consultant's recommendation including the Greenley Road Extension as the first phase. In the absence of Engineer Fuccillo, Fuccillo submitted written comments on the draft Feasibility Study noting previous scenarios which contained modifications. Councilmember Sheppard requested that the prior modifications and study by Fuccillo be considered.

The Council briefly recessed at 5:35 p.m. to allow breakdown of the media projector, and reconvened at 5:39 p.m.

Mayor Russell asked for Council consensus to support the plan as presented or to refer the draft to Committee. Councilmember Sheppard requested that more specificity be provided on the routes, and that the previous modifications be incorporated. Rei stated that the consultant prepared the scope of work as directed, and that any site specific work would be included in the next phase. Sheppard noted that much of the information has been included in the City Engineer's prior work in regard to the Greenley Road Extension, and that the Council could not give tentative approval without the guarantee that the modifications would be included in the Project. Administrator Applegate stated that the City Engineer is the City's point person, and that his report has gone on record with the County. Rei noted that the City Engineer's work would be included in the information provided to the Board of Supervisors at its meeting on the Project in late March.

A copy of the Consultant's presentation is attached hereto as Exhibit "A", and incorporated herein and made a part hereof by reference.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Stearn, second by Councilmember Anderson, and unanimously carried that the Consent Calendar be approved as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting of February 4th, 2008;
2. Approval of invoices for previously budgeted expenses to be paid on February 21st, 2008, in the amount of \$39,496.64; and
3. Approval to set a Public Hearing on Monday, March 3rd, 2008, shortly after 5:00 p.m. to consider the Cuesta Oaks Subdivision Project.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at 3:10 p.m. on the 14th day of February, 2008, the Agenda for the City of Sonora's Council Meeting scheduled for this date was posted outside City Hall for public view.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Non-Agenda)

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Request for Funding for Operational Expenses for Tuolumne County Community Cable 8 Access, Inc. (TCCCA). The Council engaged in reconsideration of a request by TCCCA to help fund its operational expenses in regard to its Public Education, Government (PEG) Public Access Channel 8 services. Administrator Applegate presented his Staff Report reviewing TCCCA's prior request and recommendation by the City's Finance Committee of February 7th, 2007, to not allocate funding stating that due to the 1,594 subscribers at the time, it would not be fair to non-cable subscribers, and recommending that other financing avenues be pursued. In consideration of the Committee's recommendations, the Council denied allocation at its meeting of February 20th, 2007. Applegate reiterated that the Cable Franchise Agreement provides \$0.27 per cable subscriber per month to Cable 8 which is to be used solely for capital equipment expenses. Rod Garside, President of TCCCA, and Board Member Marguerite Johnson were present.

Mayor Russell inquired whether anything had changed regarding its finances since the February 7th, 2007, Council Meeting. Garside responded that the user fees had been increased. He reported that Tuolumne County had just today allocated 18% of its 5% Franchise Fee to TCCCA, resulting in approximately \$36,000 in annual funding. Garside requested that the City consider approving a similar allocation of its 3% Franchise Fee to TCCCA, reiterating that the \$0.27 fee received by TCCCA from each subscriber is only allowed to be used for capital purchases which provides no money for operation of the equipment. Mayor Russell noted that said 3% Franchise Fee is used by the City for maintenance of the streets in regard to cable installations and was based on what the actual costs to the City would be for such maintenance. Councilmember Anderson felt it would be an unfair precedent to allow an allocation of funds unless more residents were served. Garside suggested that a more accurate count for Sonora residents that benefit from cable television should be based on the number of residents per household. The prior recommendation of the Finance Committee based their action on one benefit per household. TCCCA Board Member Johnson reviewed a number of programs that could be aired on Channel 8 which would benefit the City and provide positive publicity for the community. Councilmember Sheppard felt that an 18% allocation would be a small token to authorize for the value of public relations.

MOTION by Councilmember Anderson, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Stearn, and unanimously carried that said request be referred to the Finance Committee for further consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Succession Plan for the City of Sonora. The Council engaged in consideration of adopting a Succession Plan in regard to employment of personnel. Administrator Applegate presented his Staff Report reviewing the history leading to preparation of a Succession Plan. After numerous Staff discussions, a Department Head Retreat and presentation at the Council Retreat on November 5th, 2007, Applegate was directed to write the proposed Plan. Applegate explained that the Plan identifies 10 specific goals that the City will strive to meet over the next several years based upon the City's identified liabilities and assets. Some of these goals are already being implemented based upon Council action, while others are in the pipeline or remain to be implemented dependent upon future funding. Implemented goals will help with securing and maintaining the City's future key personnel needs. Having a Plan in place will better equip the City to manage its specific workforce needs. The Plan considers two scenarios

that the City will need to carefully consider; the raising of general fund revenues in order to remain competitive in attracting and retaining personnel, and the possible need for personnel reorganization options should revenues not be increased. Mayor Pro-Tem Stearn suggested a personal working relationship with Columbia College so that they could aid in providing qualified potential employees as the need arises. Applegate noted that there are numerous target groups working with the College for job placement, but that a number of the positions in the City will require more than a two-year degree.

MOTION by Councilmember Anderson, second by Councilmember Sheppard, and unanimously carried that said Succession Plan as presented and prepared by the City Administrator, dated February 19, 2008, be approved and adopted. A full copy of said Plan is available for review in the Office of the City Administrator, and made a part hereof by reference.

Appointment to Tuolumne County Blueprint Committee. The Council engaged in confirming the Mayor's appointment of two City Council Representatives to the Tuolumne County Blueprint Committee. Administrator Applegate reported that the Tuolumne County Transportation Office has formally requested said appointments. The Tuolumne County Blueprint Policy effort is being done with the purpose to develop a vision for the County/City that is long term and shared by its residents. The chief goal is more effective land use patterns which support improved mobility and reduce dependency on single-occupant vehicle trips, accommodate an adequate supply of housing for all incomes, to reduce impacts on habitat, productive farmland and air quality and reduce infrastructure cost by increasing resources use efficiency resulting in safe, healthy and vibrant neighborhoods. **With unanimous consent of the Council, Mayor Russell, appointed Mayor Pro-Tem Stearn and himself to represent the City Council on the Tuolumne County Blueprint Committee effective this date.**

WRITTEN STAFF REPORTS - January 2008

1. From Community Development Director Wyllie for the Planning/Building Department and the Public Works Departments.
2. From Police Chief McIntosh for the Police Department.
3. From Fire Chief Barrows for the Fire Department.
4. From Grants/Redevelopment Program Manager Kellogg.

COMMUNICATIONS - Information Only

None.

COUNCILMEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Fire Chief Barrows asked the public to use caution when burning. **Finance Director Stark** reported that late notices for Business Licenses are in the process of being sent out. **Administrator Applegate** read a letter received from Shuuji Maeda, the Mayor of Kirishima City, Japan, informing the City that Sonora resident Thomas Durston, who has visited Kirishima four times, has been asked to be an international exchange ambassador for Kirishima City. He will relay information about Sonora and help with the Homestay Program. **Councilmember Anderson** asked the public to notify the police if they witness anyone spraying graffiti at any location in the community. **Councilmember Sheppard** requested that Dragoon Trail maps be made available when the Trail is opened, and requested that Caltrans be contacted and asked to change the timing on the stop light at Washington and Stockton Streets. **Administrator Applegate** responded that Caltrans was aware of the timing problem. **Mayor Pro-Tem Stearn** requested Council consensus to direct the Administrator to write a letter to the Public Utilities Commission requesting that it designate the control of the land at Kennedy Meadows to be placed under the authority of the Resource Conservation District rather than the U. S. Forest Service. It was the consensus to do so.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. to the Regular Meeting on Monday, March 3rd, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Marijane Cassinotto, City Clerk

CITY OF SONORA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - CLOSED SESSION FEBRUARY 19th, 2008

A 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 4:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Hank Russell, Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald Stearn, Councilmembers Gary Anderson, Bill Canning and David Sheppard; City Administrator Greg Applegate, City Attorney Richard Matranga and City Clerk Marijane Cassinetto. Absent: None.

CITY CLERK'S POSTING OF THE AGENDA

City Clerk Cassinetto advised the Council that at 3:10 p.m. on the 14th day of February, 2008, the Agenda for the City of Sonora Council Meeting (Closed Session) was posted outside City Hall for public view.

ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION

The City Clerk was excused from Closed Session. The Council adjourned into Closed Session for consideration of the following matters:

1. Personnel (Authority: G.C. Sections 54957 and 54957.6), Labor Negotiations - Sonora Employees' Association Memorandum of Understanding for July 1st, 2008 through June 30th, 2011; negotiators: Administrator Applegate, Mayor Russell and Councilmember Sheppard;
2. Real Property Transactions (Authority: G.C. Section 54956.8), None; and
3. Pending Litigation (Authority: G.C. Section 54956.8), (A) Citizens for Responsible Growth, Inc., vs. the City, Challenging California Gold/Lowes Design and Site Plan Review.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Council reconvened into Open Session at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Russell reported that the following action had been taken in Closed Session: **Approved to ratify an Agreement beginning July 1st, 2008, through June 30th, 2011, to the Sonora Miscellaneous Employees' Association Memorandum of Understanding and authorized the Mayor to sign on the City's behalf.**

Marijane Cassinetto, City Clerk