

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF SONORA
APRIL 7th, 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 Cassinetta, Engineer Gerard Fuccillo, Attorney Richard Matranga, Community Development Director Edward J. Wyllie, Finance Director Karen Stark, Police Chief Mace McIntosh, Fire Chief Mike Barrows and Grants/Redevelopment Program Manager Rachelle Kellogg. Absent: None.

Mayor Russell announced that there was no Closed Session Meeting this date.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS

Fire Chief Barrows introduced Fire Fighter Interns Joseph Hall and Mark Ziesel who were welcomed by the Council.

New League of California Cities Regional Representative Stephen Qualls was introduced to the Council by Administrator Applegate. Qualls gave brief background information about himself and a summary of recent State legislation including the Governor's recent declaration of a 3.3 Million Dollar State fiscal emergency which has resulted in pushing the sunset of the triple flip revenue receipts to 2012, and suspended the highway users tax benefits of \$40,000 until September, 2008. Administrator Applegate noted that Sonora had already applied for and received backfill Proposition 1B funding for use for road and highway projects. Qualls noted legislative proposals which would stop Prop 172 sales tax payments to counties, eliminate the COPS Program, take away booking fees and suspend the Williamson Act, all resulting in a loss to the City of \$132,000. Councilmember Sheppard stated his lack of appreciation for the League's previous attitudes and actions which do not support small cities particularly in regard to the raid of local revenues, and also its stance on the use of the eminent domain process to condemn private lands. Qualls encouraged Sheppard and others to voice their concerns to him so that he can represent the City's concerns to the League. Presentation only, no action taken.

Mayor Russell read a Proclamation declaring April 25th, 2008, as *Arbor Day* in the City of Sonora.

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 March 17th, 2008, and approval of Minutes for the Sonora Redevelopment Agency Meeting of March 17th, 2008; and
2. Approval of invoices for previously budgeted expenses to be paid on April 8th, 2008, in the amount of \$86,013.22.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Cassinetta advised Council that at 1:03 p.m. on the 1st day of April, 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

Elsie Sheldon, Founder of Sonora Cat Rescue, appeared to inform the Council that she is starting a campaign to promote the establishment of free spay and neuter clinics in every county in California. Sheldon is providing information and seeking help from numerous boards and organizations in the hopes of finding funding and ideas for said clinics. Sheldon stated statistics on the current costs incurred by Tuolumne County Animal Control to hold cats until they are destroyed, and believes that in the long run, it would be more cost effective to provide spay and neuter clinics to deal with the feral cat problem. Sheldon also noted that, even though some of the local veterinarians give small discounts, trapping and spaying is expensive, and that a number of problematic issues arise with the trapping and releasing. No action taken.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Non-Agenda)

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Conceptual Approval of Economic Development Joint Powers Authority and Funding Plan. The Council engaged in consideration of granting conceptual approval of an Economic Development Joint Powers Authority (JPA), and a funding plan utilizing City Redevelopment Funds. Administrator Applegate presented the Staff Report recommending that the Council grant conceptual approval. Said Staff Report including background, discussion, funding, and summary aspects of said JPA is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" (exclusive of Attachments A - *Professional Advisory Service Report*, and B - *City/County Economic Development Joint Powers Authority*) and made a part hereof by reference. Complete copies of said Attachments A and B are on file and available for review in the Office of the City Administrator. Councilmember Sheppard asked for clarification of the Council's input process if permission is granted to proceed, and noted his concerns regarding the proposed seven member board, suggesting that the number be increased to nine to allow broader community input. Administrator Applegate responded that Council input can be given as the Agreement is in the process of development. Applegate encouraged that Council not get mired down with details, but unanimously support the concept. Mayor Russell noted that at this point, it would only be a broad, conceptual approval which represents a decision to be optimistic and to proceed.

MOTION by Councilmember Sheppard, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Stearn, and unanimously carried that the Council grant conceptual approval of an Economic Development Joint Powers Authority (JPA), and a funding plan utilizing City Redevelopment Funds.

George Segarini, President of the Tuolumne County Economic Development Company, reported that although downsized, the Economic Development Company is open for business. He noted that a new manufacturing business is locating to the area and opening in July, and one other business is in the process to relocate to the area. Craig Pedro, Tuolumne County Administrative Officer, thanked the Council for its support, noting the good example of City and County cooperation.

Memorandum of Understanding for Local Agency Formation Commission Payment. The Council engaged in consideration of approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Sonora and the County of Tuolumne for Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) payment. Administrator Applegate, recommending approval, reviewed inequitable legislative provisions related to funding for LAFCOs, and noted that the provisions of said MOU would provide an equitable funding formula to determine the City's share of the approved LAFCO budget. **MOTION by Councilmember Anderson, second by Councilmember Canning, and unanimously carried that said MOU for LAFCO Payment between the City of Sonora and the County of**

Tuolumne be approved as presented, and that the Mayor be authorized and directed to sign the same on behalf of the City.

Renewal of Cooperative Personnel Services/Human Resources for Public Agencies Test Security Agreement.

The Council engaged in consideration of approving renewal of the Cooperative Personnel Services/Human Resources for Public Agencies Test Security Agreement (TSA). Administrator Applegate noted that said TSA is an annual agreement with Cooperative Personnel Services, DBA, CPS Human Resource Services, which the City has utilized for the past 17 years. The basis for said services is to ensure that the City provides a precise testing instrument which formats questions are standardized for certain specialized classifications. Under the provisions of said TSA, the City only pays for the services when actually needed. **MOTION by Councilmember Anderson, second by Councilmember Canning, and unanimously carried that said TSA be approved as presented, and that the City Administrator be authorized and directed to sign the same on behalf of the City.**

WRITTEN STAFF REPORTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS - Information Only

1. Correspondence from US House Representative George Radanovich congratulating the City on receipt of its Tree City USA designation by the National Arbor Day Foundation.
2. February 2008 Bond Market Review from Chandler Asset Management.

COUNCILMEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Fire Chief Barrows reported that burn permit activity was high. **Rachelle Kellogg** reported that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Dragoon Gulch Trail will be held May 2nd, 2008, at 11 a.m. **Councilmember Anderson** suggested that a policy be established regarding the posting of posters on City property. **Administrator Applegate** responded that he will ask Staff to look at existing ordinances and pursue “filling the holes” to accomplish Anderson’s request. **Councilmember Sheppard** noted a safety problem at East Bald Mountain Road and Park Street, and suggested that an additional stop sign be installed. Sheppard will fill out an Agenda Request Form to place the matter on the Parking and Traffic Commission Agenda. Sheppard also encouraged the public to carefully read the Primary Election Official Voter Information Guide in reference to Propositions 98 and 99 which seem to be saying the same thing, but which are not, and resulting in confusion.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. to the Regular Meeting on Monday, April 21st, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Marijane Cassinotto, City Clerk