

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF SONORA
APRIL 21st, 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.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS

Tuolumne County District 1 Supervisor Liz Bass appeared before the Council to give her monthly report. Bass stated that she had invited Tuolumne County Animal Control Officer Jennifer Clarke to give a brief report, but that she was unable to attend. Bass reported that there is a County program in place to help low income people provide spay/neuter services for their pets. Bass also noted that Vicki Helmer had been hired as the County's new Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Weights & Measures/Air Pollution Control Officer/Animal Control Director. Bass announced that a "Thinking Green In Tuolumne County" public seminar will be held on May 7th, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to Noon at the Sonora Opera Hall, that the Tuolumne County Flag project had been accomplished, and that the Public Hearing on the Supplemental EIR for Mountain Springs will begin on June 23rd, 2008, at Faith Hall in Columbia, and continue for successive days until finished.

Fire Chief Barrows awarded the Perpetual Firefighter of the Year Awards for 2006 and 2007 as follows, and each was congratulated by the Council:

1. Fire Engineer Grant Miller, Career; 2006
2. Office Assistant Cheryl Broughton, Part-time; 2006
3. Firefighter Chad Harris, Trainee; 2006
4. Firefighter Kevin Tidwell, Volunteer; 2006
5. Fire Captain Todd McNeal, Career; 2007
6. Fire Prevention Officer John DeMello, Part-time; 2007
7. Firefighter Caitlin Jones, Firefighter Intern; 2007
8. Firefighter Miguel Browne, Volunteer; 2007.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting of April 3rd, 2008; and
2. Approval of invoices for previously budgeted expenses to be paid on April 22nd, 2008, in the amount of \$103,205.54.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Cassinetta advised Council that at 7:43 a.m. on the 17th 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

None.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Non-Agenda)

City Historian Pat Perry introduced local historical videographer Frank Diggle. Diggle presented three vintage framed photographs of the Dr. Bromley Family to the City. Diggle recently purchased the photographs at an estate sale knowing that they would be of historical interest to the City. The Bromley Family was an early City pioneer family. The large photo portraits portray (1) the three Bromley children May, Enis and Fanny c. 1907, (2) Fanny Mansfield Bromley c. 1902, and (3) Mrs. Bromley pictured in a class photo of her at San Jose Normal (State) University in 1891. The Council thanked Diggle for his generous and thoughtful donations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation by Sonora Police Department on School Incident Response Disk. Police Chief McIntosh reviewed the history behind the development of the School Incident Response Program/Disk, and introduced and thanked Sgt. Kevin Johnson who was the point man in the disk development, and who presented the computer program to the Council. The Incident Response Disk provides tactical response for each school in Tuolumne County, and includes blueprints, maps, photographs, shut-off locations, containment, evacuation, EMS response, triage and parent rally areas, and contact phone numbers. The Program will be in place by the beginning of the next school year, with disks being distributed to all schools and law enforcement. Johnson noted that the Project will be on-going and updated annually. Presentation only.

“Year In Review” Presentation by Fire Department. Captain Todd McNeal gave a computer “Year In Review 2007” presentation which is designed to attract new recruits for the City’s Volunteer, Firefighter Intern and Career Track Programs. The presentation is utilized at all career day and recruiting events. Council thanked Captain McNeal for compilation of the presentation. Presentation only, no action.

Finance Committee Recommendation Regarding Forty Niner Taxi Cab Request for Reduction of Liability Insurance. The Council engaged in consideration of the City Finance Committee’s recommendation to deny the request by Ronald Pickern of Forty Niner Taxi Cab to reduce the \$1 Million liability insurance requirement for Taxi Cab operators. Administrator Applegate presented the Staff Report recommending approval of the Committee’s recommendation for denial. Applegate noted that Pickern appeared at the March 3rd, 2008, Council Meeting requesting reduction of said insurance wherein the matter was referred to the Finance Committee. At its meeting of April 3rd, 2008, the Finance Committee agreed that the \$1 Million liability insurance requirement was reasonable and protected the City from “deep pocket” liability claims by transferring risk. Applegate reported that the Central San Joaquin Valley Risk Management Authority had noted that the \$1 Million policy was appropriate. Mr. Pickern was not present at the Finance Committee Meeting, nor present at today’s meeting; was sent notice of both Meetings. Mayor Russell, who sits on the Finance Committee, reiterated that the Committee felt that the limit was appropriate.

MOTION by Councilmember Anderson, second by Councilmember Canning, that said request by Forty Niner Taxi Cab be denied as recommended by the Finance Committee. Councilmember Sheppard asked if the City deregulated the taxi cab business, would the insurance become a mute issue. Administrator Applegate responded that under the provisions for City Business License Ordinance that liability insurance would still be required to protect the City, and Applegate clarified that the coverage was for liability only. **The MOTION as stated was unanimously carried.**

Presentation by Cal-Sierra Waste Management Regarding Proposed Green Waste Resident Collection Program. Administrator Applegate noted that at the request of Council, Cal-Sierra Waste Management (Waste Management) had prepared a presentation to provide information regarding a Green Waste Residence Collection Program. Waste Management Manager Dan Peterson, noted that the Program has been compiled as an aid, and as a cooperative effort, for the management of defensible space for fire prevention. The program would include only clean green material. Peterson reviewed the parameters of the proposed

Green Waste Service which would utilize a semi-automated service and “toters”, 96 gallon wheeled carts. Service options and rates was reviewed based on 1,607 single family homes, with pricing to be adjusted based on operating costs. Peterson also noted that currently there is a challenge in finding cost-effective destinations for the material. Councilmember Sheppard inquired as to whether such a program would be viable as a stand alone program, suggesting that a complete three-cart program be developed to include green waste, all types of refuse and all types of recyclables. Peterson responded that to make the Green Waste Program viable, mandatory participation by all City residents would be required. Tom Sanchez, Waste Management Director of Business Development, noted that tonight’s presentation only included the Green Waste Program. He reported that Tuolumne County is currently considering a two-cart proposal for refuse and recycling. If the County makes a decision to adopt a semi-automated system, it would be more economically feasible for the City to give input at the County level, possibly resulting in a cooperative effort effecting financial savings for what ever program is eventually decided upon. The economics were discussed by Council and Waste Management noting that the program would need to be presented to the public to see how the residents feel about participation. Fire Chief Barrows requested that Waste Management compile additional and more specific information on the options of a two-cart system and a three-cart system, each including the pricing for weekly, monthly and seasonal pickup. It was Council and Staff consensus that it was important to ascertain what direction the County is considering, and that specific information is needed on all options for green waste, refuse and recycle collection. It was noted that Councilmember Anderson is the City’s representative on the County Solid Waste Committee. Mayor Russell directed that the matter be referred to the County Solid Waste Committee. In addition to City Representative Anderson, Councilmember Sheppard also indicated an interest to attend said Committee Meetings. The Mayor so directed that Councilmember Sheppard attend with City Representative Anderson. Mayor Pro-Tem Stearn noted that he could foresee problems with the storage of three large carts at numerous residences due to the terrain and size of lots, and also concern that the program be mandatory.

WRITTEN STAFF REPORTS - March 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.
5. Quarterly Staff Report from Finance Director Stark.

COMMUNICATIONS - Information Only

None.

COUNCILMEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Fire Chief Barrows cautioned regarding dry conditions and care with burning debris. **Rachelle Kellogg** noted that the Annual Spring Festival will be held Saturday, April 26th, 2008, downtown from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and that the opening ceremony for the Dragoon Gulch Trail will be held Friday, May 2nd, 2008, at 11 a.m. **Community Development Director Wyllie** reported that on Friday, April 25th, 2008, the City will plant four trees on the landscaping area at Greenley Road South and Mono Way in honor of Arbor Day. **Engineer Fuccillo** reported that the City Street Inventory had been updated and annual report filed with the State. He noted that the streets are now listed as “urban”, a change from “rural”. **Councilmember Anderson** thanked City Staff for the installation of historical fencing at Rothers Corner.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. to the Regular Meeting on Monday, May 5th, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Marijane Cassinetta, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - CLOSED SESSION
CITY OF SONORA
APRIL 21st, 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, Finance Director Karen Stark and City Clerk Marijane Cassineto. Absent: None.

CITY CLERK'S POSTING OF THE AGENDA

City Clerk Cassineto advised the Council that at 7:43 a.m. on the 17th day of April, 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), None;
- (2) Real Property Transactions/Property Acquisition (Authority: G.C. Section 54956.8), None; and
- (3) Pending Litigation (Authority: G.C. Section 54956.8), (A) Potential Litigation, City of Sonora vs. Sonora Days Inn.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

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

Mayor Russell reported that no action had been taken in Closed Session.

Marijane Cassineto, City Clerk