

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF SONORA  
OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

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

Mayor Stearn announced that there was no Closed Session this date.

**PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS**

**Police Chief Stinson** introduced, gave a summary of background and swore in the Department's newest employee Officer Andrew Theodore who was welcomed by the Council.

**Police Chief Stinson** introduced, gave a summary of background and swore in the Department's newest volunteer Reserve Police Officer Brandon Norris.

**Mayor Stearn presented a Proclamation** to Rebecca Mackover, representing the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, designating the month of November 2009 as ***Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month***.

**Tuolumne County District 1 Supervisor Liz Bass** introduced Vicki Helmar and Marian Chambers from the Tuolumne County Department of Agricultural Commissioner, Sealer Weights & Measures - Air Pollution Control District. Helmar stated that the purpose of the Sealer of Weights & Measures was to make sure that a fair and equitable market place exists for all consumers. Helmar stated that it is her experience when meters are tested, they generally error in favor of the customer. Her Department does not test public utilities meters. At the prior request of the Council, Helmar reported on PG&E's recent installation of Smart Meters which have taken the place of the old meters. She noted that the Smart Meters measure time use plus kilowatts based on wattage for use of time. She read from a printout from PG&E's website giving examples of how electricity is measured for various household items, and gave her opinion that the Smart Meters are accurate.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

1. Approval of Minutes for the Closed and Regular Council Meetings of October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009, and for the Sonora Redevelopment Agency Meeting of October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009; and
2. Approval of invoices for previously budgeted expenses to be paid on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in the amount of \$103,171.25.

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA**

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at 7:49 a.m. on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009, the Agenda for the City of Sonora's Council Meeting scheduled for this date was posted outside City Hall for public view.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Public Hearing for the following items:**

- a. **Consideration of an application to Summarily Vacate a certain portion of excess right-of-way located**

- along Old Wards Ferry Road, north of State Highway 108 for Ray A. Sanguinetti Land Company; and**
- b. Consideration of conceptual approval of a Land Exchange between the City of Sonora and Ray A. Sanguinetti Land Company, to exchange vacated right-of-way for right-of-way necessary for the Old Wards Ferry Realignment Project.**

Engineer Fuccillo presented said matters recommending approval. The vacation proceedings being considered are being conducted pursuant to Streets and Highway Code Section 8334. The right-of-way to be summarily vacated, by proposed Resolution No. 10-19-2009-A, consists of a triangular wedge of excess right-of-way along the west side of Old Wards Ferry Road, northerly of State Highway 108, and having an area of approximately .624 acres. It is intended that the vacated area be exchanged with the applicant property owner for approximately 1.17 acres of new right-of-way northerly of the vacated area, said new right-of-way being necessary to realign Old Wards Ferry Road. Both actions are subsequent actions necessary for implementation of the Sonora Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse and the Old Ward's Ferry Realignment Projects.

Mayor Stearn opened the Public Hearing at 5:38 p.m. Jim Todd representing Sonora Developers and California Gold was present, along with the Applicant, in favor of the proposed actions. The Public Hearing was closed at 5:39 p.m. Mayor Stearn called for action on New Business Item #1.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Consideration of an application to Summarily Vacate a certain portion of excess right-of-way located along Old Wards Ferry Road, north of State Highway 108 for Ray A. Sanguinetti Land Company;**
- b. Consideration of conceptual approval of a Land Exchange between the City of Sonora and Ray A. Sanguinetti Land Company, to exchange vacated right-of-way for right-of-way necessary for the Old Wards Ferry Realignment Project; and**
- c. Consideration of adopting Resolution No. 10-19-2009-A which authorizes the City of Sonora to summarily vacate a certain portion of excess right-of-way along Old Wards Ferry Road.**

In consideration of the information provided at the above Public Hearing, **MOTION by Councilmember Canning, second by Councilmember Sheppard, and unanimously carried that the foregoing three actions be approved as presented.**\_

#### **PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

None.

#### **PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Non-Agenda)**

None.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Presentation of Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau Annual Report.** Nanci Sikes, Executive Director of the Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau, presented the Bureau's Annual Report. Noting the economic downturn this past year for all areas of business, Sikes stated that it was a year full of challenge, but that the tourism industry has optimism for the future. Sikes outlined the Bureau's scope of work. She also reported that a Geo-Tourism program to map the entire Sierras has been launched this year with the ultimate goal to have printed maps available for all aspects of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The program is a joint venture between the Sonora Business Council Yosemite Gateway Partners and National Geographic. Sikes also reported that as a result of a collaborated effort

between the Economic Development Agency, the Chamber of Commerce and the Visitors Bureau, that the California Senior Winter Games will be held locally.

#### **WRITTEN STAFF REPORTS - September 2009**

1. From Community Development Director Wyllie for the Planning/Building Department and the Public Works Departments.
2. From Police Chief Stinson 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**

**Grants/Redevelopment Program Manger Kellogg** noted that the City sponsored “Trick or Treat Street” event will be held Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in downtown Sonora. **Finance Director Stark** reported that she and Rachelle Kellogg had attended a California Redevelopment Association (CRA) meeting at which the hot topic was the lawsuit which will be filed against the State of California on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009, by the CRA regarding the legislated 2.4 Billion Dollar taking of Redevelopment Agency Tax Increment fees. **Administrator Applegate** noted the excellent cooperation and efforts between the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments during the heavy storm this past week. **Councilmember Sheppard** commended Engineer Fuccillo for his excellent planning system for the paving of City streets. Sheppard also encouraged strict law enforcement for speeders on Lyons Bald Mountain Road between Hope Lane and Greenley Road.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m. to the Annual Council Mini Retreat on Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, at 7:45 a.m. at the Sonora Fire Station Conference Room (the Regular Council Meeting for Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, has been cancelled).

*Marijane Cassinetta, City Clerk*