

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
JANUARY 19, 2016**

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 Stearn, Mayor Pro-Tem Connie Williams, Councilmembers Bill Canning, George Segarini and Jim Garaventa; City Administrator Tim Miller, City Clerk Marijane Cassinetto, Interim Finance Director Bijan Sadeghian, Contract City Attorney Byron Smith, Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg, Police Chief Mark Stinson, Fire Chief Aimee New. Absent: Interim City Engineer Gerard Fuccillo.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at 11:00 a.m. on the 14th day of January 2016, the Agenda for the City of Sonora Council Meeting scheduled for this date was posted outside City Hall for public view.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

No changes.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC FORUM (Non-Agenda)

Karl Rodefer, Tuolumne County Supervisor, requested that the Council change its regulations in public parking lots to allow backing into spaces which is currently not allowed. Rodefer handed out an informational article from the Auto Association of America (AAA) recommending that drivers reverse into parking spaces whenever possible to increase safety and visibility.

Elena Linehan, Director of the Mentoring Works Program at ATCAA, along with Tavis Pool, informed the Council that this month is National Mentoring Month, and encouraged the Council and the public to participate by sending a "Thank You" to special people who were mentors who made a difference in their lives. Linehan provided Thank You postcards for the Council, and also encouraged use of the internet to make their thanks known.

A member of the public stated that after she had taken a survey of the businesses downtown, she learned that about half of them do not have water saving toilets; she reported that recently a person crossing the street at Washington and Stockton Streets had been hit; she said that the yellow replacement street lights are dim, and make it difficult to see pedestrians; and that the yellow paint lines on the streets are wearing which also makes it difficult for drivers.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of Minutes for the Closed and Regular Council Meetings of December 21, 2015;
2. Approval to pay invoices for previously budgeted expenses on January 20, 2016, in the amount of \$467,908.63; and
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$134,981.04 on December 23, 2015, for payroll, inclusive of employee salaries, employer and employee taxes and retirement contributions and miscellaneous voluntary employee deductions.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 835 Establishing Fire Regulations. The Council considered introducing by title and waiving the first reading of Ordinance No. 835 which repeals and replaces Title 8, Chapter 8, Sections 8.12.010 through 12.080 of the Sonora Municipal Code, and establishes regulations for defensible space and requirements for fuel reduction around structures and on vacant lots. Fire Chief New presented the Ordinance recommending approval, and reviewing its provisions. New noted that Section 8.12.014, Hazardous Material Disposal, was erroneously left out, and she will include it prior to adoption.

Mayor Stearn asked for public comment. Sharon Marovich, representing the Tuolumne Heritage Committee, spoke to numerous provisions asking for clarification. She said that the Committee is not opposed to the Ordinance, but is concerned that some of the regulations would interfere with the City's historic beauty and charm, especially historical homes and neighborhoods with vintage landscaping. Amy Augustine, City business owner and resident, also requested clarifications and numerous changes. Some of the changes include that the Ordinance be reasonable because each situation is unique, that exemption be made for manzanita, and that vegetation not be required to be taken down to bare earth as that is onerous because of erosion problems and esthetic issues. Augustine noted that the published Cal Fire guidelines specifically discourage removal to bare land. Augustine recommended using the following language as a preface which is what Tuolumne County has done: "This shall not be construed to require the removal of any ornamental trees, shrubs, plants, lawns . . .". Additionally, Augustine suggested that vouchers be issued for use at any time for Green Waste Disposal Days instead of a set date for disposal. Robert DeSalles, City resident, stated that bare earth will cause erosion

issues, and runoff and drainage problems, especially due to the fact that the geography of the City is not level. There were no further public comments.

Councilmember Canning agreed with the public's concerns, and suggested that more time be taken to develop the Ordinance. Mayor Pro-Tem Williams suggested it be referred back to the Fire Chief and Staff, and would like to have a public hearing. Councilmember Garaventa agreed with Williams and wanted to see more discussion to address concerns. It was Council consensus to refer the matter to the appropriate Council subcommittee, and the matter be calendared for the Council in a public input format.

Administrator Miller will set up a meeting with the appropriate Council subcommittee and with the public who have concerns, and it will be calendared on the Council Agenda for public input.

Ordinance No. 836 Adding Parking Zone N. The Council considered introducing by title and waiving the first reading of Ordinance No. 836 which adds Parking Zone N to the City Municipal Code establishing a two hour parking prohibition on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, except holidays. Recommending approval, Police Chief Stinson presented the Ordinance and reviewed its provisions noting that the addition was unanimously approved by the Traffic Commission at its Meeting of December 2, 2015. There is currently no designated Parking Zone for prohibited parking between 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. Stinson stated that establishment of this Zone will provide for a smaller fine than that in the California Vehicle Code which would be the governing law for the fine if the City does not establish said Zone and the restricted hours.

There was no public comment. **MOTION by Councilmember Segarini, second by Councilmember Garaventa, and unanimously carried that said Ordinance be introduced by title, and the first reading be waived.**

Ordinance No. 837 Adopting Public Educational Governmental (PEG) Fee for Cable 8. The Council considered introducing by title and waiving the first reading of Ordinance No. 837 which adds Title 4, Chapter 4.12, Section 4.12.010, to the Sonora Municipal Code providing for a one percent PEG Fee for Tuolumne County Community Cable Access, Inc., Cable 8. Councilmember Garaventa recused himself due to his integral work with Cable 8. Administrator Miller presented the Ordinance which will establish a one percent fee to be paid by cable/video subscribers. As adoption of said Ordinance would result in an additional cost to the residents of the City who subscribe to cable/video services, Miller suggested a public hearing be scheduled prior to its enactment.

Mayor Pro-Tem Williams stated that the estimated total amount of fees to be collected is \$12,000, and noted that said monies can only be used to purchase equipment which will greatly benefit Cable 8. Cable 8 President Connie O'Connor stated that approving the fee is a

positive which will provide for the purchase of updated equipment, and among other things, will benefit the community, and will facilitate on-line streaming. There was no further public comment. Consideration of said Ordinance will be set as a public hearing.

Discussion on Changing Term of Office for Mayor. The Council discussed changing the term of office for Mayor from two years to one year which was placed on the Agenda at the request of Councilmember Segarini. Administrator Miller provided a copy of Resolution No. 3-9-1976-B which initially established the two year term for the Mayor, and an excerpt from the Council's Handbook of Rules and Procedures which was adopted by Resolution in March of 2007, confirming said two year term. Councilmember Segarini reiterated his desire to change to a one year term, stating that all of the previous boards that he has been on have always had a one year term for the chairman or president of the board. Mayor Stearn asked about how procedurally or economically it would affect the City, and remarked that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". Administrator Miller responded that the Mayor's committee appointments and assignments would need to be made each year with follow up paperwork, some additional administrative work and staff time, and business card expense. Mayor Pro-Tem Williams gave examples of the variety in terms and cycles for Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem in other cities, and summarized how one or two year terms will affect current Councilmembers and those seats elected in the next few years. Councilmember Canning stated that he does not see a need to change the term, and that it is good for committee assignments, and that two years is not really a long time. Mayor Stearn said that two year terms for Mayor and committee appointees allows time to get broken in. Councilmember Segarini stated that change is good, and it is an honor to serve as Mayor, and would like to see that he and Councilmember Garaventa have the opportunity to serve within their terms of office. Mayor Pro-Tem Williams suggested that a new resolution be formulated setting it up for future Councils so it is as fair and equitable as possible to each member; or, leaving it the way it is, is fine too. Administrator Miller stated that he did not see a consensus on direction at this point.

Mayor Stearn asked for any public comment. A member of the public stated that she is in favor of the opportunity to have everyone serve as Mayor and in favor of a one year term. Elena Linehan spoke in favor of a two year term for the Mayor and for committee appointments so that there is time to learn about their respective committees.

Councilmember Garaventa stated that he agrees with Mayor Stearn in regard to the two year term for Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem, that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it", and he is not sure it is broke, and, that a two year term for committees is good to catch up to speed.

Vision Sonora Committee Report. Mayor Pro-Tem Williams stated that there is no report tonight, that the report for the last

Meeting was given at the December 21, 2015, Council Meeting; the next Vision Sonora Committee Meeting will be on January 28, 2015, at 9 a.m. at City Hall. Councilmember Garaventa asked that a copy of the Committee Report be distributed prior to the Council Meetings.

MONTHLY REPORTS - December, 2015

1. Community Development Department
2. Public Works Department
3. Police Department
4. Fire Department

COMMUNICATIONS - Information Only
None.

COUNCILMEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Councilmember Segarini reported the following: he attended the YES Partnership Meeting on January 14, 2016, and that there is going to be a Black & White Tri-Tip Dinner Fundraiser to benefit the Jamestown Elementary School on January 30, 2016, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Fairgrounds; he reported that the Amador Tuolumne County Action Agency is offering to prepare taxes free of charge for Seniors, and to call (209) 533-1397 if interested; he attended the Tuolumne County Economic Development Authority Meeting on January 15, 2016; he attended the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors Meeting this morning, and a Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Kim Baker for her 12 years of service at Columbia State Historic Park and at Railtown, and stated that it was a pleasure to work with her. Segarini said that there are a number of store vacancies downtown, and it is a great concern to him, and he would like to see the City explore this with the involvement of the merchants. **Mayor Pro-Tem Williams** suggested the matter be scheduled on the Agenda for the Council to discuss with the Economic Development Executive Director present. **Councilmember Segarini** suggested that establishment of a committee be discussed at that time. **Administrator Miller** noted that it would be nice if the Town Hall Meetings that were held a few years ago could be rekindled because it provides a good link with downtown merchants, Economic Development and others. **Mayor Stearn** asked that a letter be sent to the Yosemite Park Service opposing the proposed name change of The Ahwahnee Hotel to the The Magestic Yosemite Hotel, and opposing the other multiple name changes in the Park as well. Stearn also noted that the molding on the façade of the Barretta Building needs attention. **Mayor Pro-Tem Williams** asked that Karl Roderfer's suggestion to allow backing into parking spots in public lots be referred to the Parking and Traffic Committee; she reported that there is no handicapped parking in the Green Street Parking Lot and that it be referred to the Parking and Traffic Committee; she asked that a special meeting be set to discuss the spreadsheet that was prepared by Administrator Miller and distributed at the Special Meeting Retreat in November, 2015. **Administrator Miller** suggested

that the matter be set for a Special Meeting before a regularly scheduled Council Meeting. **Williams** also reported that she has been appointed by the League of California Cities to its Administrative Policy Committee to represent the City as an individual Councilmember.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. to the next Regular Council Meeting on Monday, February 1, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Marijane Cassinetto, City Clerk Date