

**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SONORA  
MAY 2, 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, Administrative Services Director Jennifer Callaway, Contract City Attorney Byron Smith, Fire Chief Amiee New, Police Chief Mark Stinson, Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg. Absent: Interim City Engineer Gerard Fuccillo.

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

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at 8:00 a.m. on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 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**

**Erin Cohn**, representing Foothill Leadership Academy Public Charter School, presented the City with its donation of \$4,000 raised by the School at its *Dragoon Gulch Annual 5K Fun Run and Hike* which takes place each last Sunday of February every year. Numerous students and teachers from the School were present. Cohn gave special thanks to Community Development Director Kellogg and Special Events Coordinator Wilkinson, and to Mayor Stearn for his "pre-run pep talk". The Council thanked the School for its donation.

**30-Year Service Award**. Administrator Miller acknowledged with high accolades the 30 years plus 989 hours of service by Howard Glenn Roberts, Jr., as Police Officer/Sergeant/Reserve Sergeant. Police Chief Stinson presented the Service Award to Roberts summarizing his multiple achievements and accomplishments. Roberts said that it was his privilege and pleasure to serve the City, and thanked his wife and family, the Police Chief, and City Staff for all of their support over the years.

**Special Olympics Torch Run**. Administrator Miller stated that a request was received from California Highway Patrol Officer Nick Norton for permission to hold the annual Special Olympics Torch Run. Officer Norton appeared in support and noted that the Run will begin on Washington Street at St. James

Episcopal Church and onto Stockton Street down to the Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 4, 2016, at 10 a.m. CalTrans has approved it with no permits or resolutions necessary. Last year's event raised over \$3,000. **MOTION by Councilmember Canning, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, that permission be granted to hold said Torch Run as requested subject to receipt of the Certificate of Insurance.** There was no public comment. **MOTION was unanimously adopted.**

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

**Elena Linehan**, owner of the historical Burnam home on Linoberg Street, downtown employee and former Downtown Revitalization Manager who brought the Farmers Market to Sonora, and turned 27 vacancies to 2 vacancies in a two to three year period, referred to a 1989 article in The Union Democrat. The article stated that a traffic count had been done on Bradford, Theall, Linoberg and Dodge Streets. She was pleased to see that the City Council had voted to not close Linoberg Street as the study indicated that 600 vehicles travelled on Linoberg each day. She stated that she was also pleased to see that at that time, Police Chief Hamilton was quoted to say, "The traffic study has convinced me that Linoberg is a necessary street." Linehan said that the population has changed, and that new housing has been built since that time. She reminded the Council that there are signatures of 400 people who are opposed to the closure of Linoberg Street.

**Larry Coombes, City Resident**, noted that his family owns one of the last ranches in the Sonora City limits. The property is adjacent to the City Police Department Gun Range, at which there is rapid fire target shooting on Wednesdays, and the fire and blasts of others than the City Police using the range. He would like the Council to consider a range and facility upgrade; that a building be built which would eliminate noise problems and which would make the range work better for the Police as well as for citizens, and to be proactive for the future as more entities may need to use the site. Councilmember Canning asked Staff to look into the request and the use by others. Administrator Miller stated that there is no authority for other groups to use the Range; he will look into matter and report back. Mayor Pro-Tem Williams stated that Coombes had contacted her, and she suggested that he bring his suggestions and concerns to the Council.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Councilmember Segarini, that the Consent Calendar be approved as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes for the Closed and Regular Council Meetings of April 18, 2016;

2. Approval to pay invoices for previously budgeted expenses on May 3, 2016, in the amount of \$307,921.20; and
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$146,448.43 on April 29, 2016, for payroll, inclusive of employee salaries, employer and employee taxes and retirement contributions, miscellaneous voluntary employee deductions.

There was no public comment, and the above **MOTION passed unanimously.**

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Ordinance No. 835 Regarding Defensible Space Criteria.** The Council considered waiving the second reading and adopting Ordinance No. 835, Defensible Space, which approves the adoption of Sections 8.12.010 - 8.12.090 into the Sonora Municipal Code. Recommending approval, Fire Chief New reported that typographical errors and sentence structure changes have been made which were noted at the last Meeting. New reported that there was an error in the local radio broadcast that resulted in a number of people having concerns. The correction to the error has been made, and the broadcast is now correct.

Councilmembers and Chief New engaged in discussion in regard to clarification of Ordinance provisions. Chief New reiterated that identifying life safety hazards is the priority. New noted that there are some very large acre parcels in the City, and she would work with those owners to identify the life safety hazards first, and start working on those; it is not the intent for those owners "to have to take out a second on their property". New said that it may take a little longer, but it is not the intent of the Ordinance to penalize someone who is moving forward."

The Mayor asked for any public comment. Larry Coombs said that his family owns a 150 year old ranch in the Sonora city limits that is in excess of 100 acres. There are 14 parcels with 10 of the 14 not having any residences. He said that it makes no sense, both monetarily and due to steepness, on his property to have a 10' clearance around each parcel line. He stated that they have personal fire hydrants on the property. Chief New stated that if the parcels are contiguous and have the same property owner, the intent would be to put the 10' clearance around the perimeter of the whole property. New said that a report is done at the time of inspection containing information and the requirements which will provide a record for future reference.

Council and Staff discussed possible addition of language to the Ordinance which would help to clarify intent in regard to clearance for contiguous parcels with the same owner, and owners who are moving ahead with a clearance plan. Attorney Smith noted that with any substantive change, the Ordinance could not be voted on at this time; there could be changes made, but it would need to be brought forth for action at a future meeting.

City resident Linda Durnall suggested that for firetruck access and public safety, clearance over roads should also be looked at, and in particular, the Hope Lane access to her property. Administrator Miller noted that under the current Ordinance, the City has the right to remove trees on public roadways.

Stating that changes can be made later, **Councilmember Segarini moved that the second reading be waived, and the Ordinance be adopted as is.** The Motion died for lack of a second. **MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams that Section 8.12.012B(3) be amended to add "except in cases where said property owner owns contiguous pieces of property, in which case fuels reduction will be at the discretion of the Fire Chief"**. Attorney Smith stated that said amendment would constitute a substantive change than what was presented to the public, and the Ordinance would have to come back at a future meeting for action. The Motion was withdrawn. Direction was given to Fire Chief New to add the language suggested above to the Ordinance, and come back for a second reading at the next Meeting. There were no further public comments. Mayor Pro-Tem Williams asked that an update be given at the next Council Meeting on the public safety tree overhang issue on Hope Lane.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution No. 05-02-2016-A Regarding South Sonora Lighting District (SSLD).** The Council considered approving Resolution No. 05-02-1016-A which requests the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors to dissolve and transfer the assets and liabilities of the South Sonora Lighting District to the City for future operation and maintenance. Recommending approval, Administrator Miller reviewed background information and the City's duties. He reported that the Tuolumne County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), during its Municipal Service Review for lighting districts in the County, concluded that the SSLD which was formed on November 3, 1952, under the Improvement Act of 1911, and is located within the Sonora City limits, should be dissolved and its services provided by the City. The maintenance fund reserve balance as of December 31, 2015, was \$156,478.74.

Mayor Stearn asked for any public comment. Larry Coombs, City resident, supported the Resolution. There was no further

comment. **MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, second by Councilmember Canning, and unanimously carried that said Resolution be approved and adopted as presented.**

**Vision Sonora Committee Report.** Mayor Pro-Tem Williams presented the Vision Sonora Committee Report for April 28, 2016, inclusive of Sub-Committee Meetings. A copy of said Report is attached hereto as Exhibit "A", and made a part hereof by reference. Mayor Stearn noted that the tops have been removed from several of the trash cans. Administrator Miller replied that they have been taken off to be powder coated. The Mayor asked for public comment. Elena Linehan, former City Main Street Manager in 1986, in regard to the Building Recognition Program, said that the City already did that as part of the Main Street Program, and she questions whether the new proposed Building Recognition Program is a waste of time and tax dollars. There was no further public comment.

#### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

None

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Police Chief Stinson** reminded the public that the Mother Lode Parade is this coming Saturday, and that there are a number of street closures; Stinson referred the public to the City's website for full information on closures, and for bus schedules as well. **Fire Chief New** thanked the public for coming out to the Spring Festival; she reported that the defensible space inspections were beginning, and the Captain's exam will be given on Thursday May 10, 2016. **Community Development Director Kellogg** reported a great Spring Festival and thanked Special Events Coordinator Wilkinson for a great job in its organization. In addition, she said there will be a meeting on May 5, 2016, from 5 to 7 p.m. for owners of properties that might like to be considered for the Historic Inventory Report; the Farmers Market will begin May 14, 2016; the Opera Hall Project is moving ahead; Public Works will begin the signage and striping for the newly completed ADA access to City Hall; and the Fire Flow Project will be completed on May 18, 2016. **Administrator Miller** reported that the Gran Fondo Ride got off to a good start downtown. **Councilmember Canning** noted that there was a great turnout for the Gran Fondo. **Councilmember Garaventa** reported that he attended the Community Development Meeting on April 21; attended the Lamplight Dinner on April 22; reported that the annual 4<sup>th</sup> grade tours will be held on May 10, 12 and 17, and from now on the tours will be held in the Fall. He attended the Merchants/Town Hall Meeting on April 27, as well as attending the Fair Board Meeting that evening. He thanked

Fire Chief New and her mother for their help at the Fire Museum tri-tip booth at the Spring Festival. **Councilmember Segarini** attended the Merchants/Town Hall Meeting on April 27 which is open to the public, and noted that the next Meeting will be held on May 25, 2016, at 8 a.m. in Council Chambers and the merchants' perspective of Sonora's future will be discussed. He attended the Vision Sonora Committee Meeting on April 28; attended the Water Policy Advisory Committee Meeting on April 28; attended the Tuolumne County Chamber Governmental Affairs Meeting, and reported that a Candidates' Night will be held on May 12, 2016, at 6 p.m. in the Board of Supervisor Chambers. **Mayor Pro-Tem Williams** reported that she attended the Crime Victims Advocates Luncheon on April 20, where the District Attorney recognized all first responders including Sonora Police Department Detective Ibrahim Kahil for his work with victims of sexual assault. **Councilmember Canning** reported on the very nice Commemoration of the Aviation Country Club of California's historic flight to Sonora on May 30, 1936, event at the Episcopal Church earlier this afternoon at which a DVD was shown of the original flight. **Mayor Stearn** also commented on the event saying that it was really great, and also said that the Spring Festival was just great and very well attended.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the Meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m. to the next Regular Council Meeting on Monday, May 16, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

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Marijane Cassinetto, City Clerk      Date