

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
MAY 16, 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 Lt. Turu Vanderwiell, Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg. Absent: Interim City Engineer Gerard Fuccillo, Police Chief Mark Stinson.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at 1 p.m. on the 12th day of May, 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

The **Civil Aviation Appreciation Day Proclamation** was removed from the Agenda.

PUBLIC FORUM (Non-Agenda)

BZ Smith, not present, submitted correspondence to the Council which was read into the record by City Clerk Cassinetto. Said correspondence is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof by reference. Smith has public safety concern issues for the roadway along North Shepard Street between East Cowen and Elkin Streets, and requested that the "Traffic Commission investigate putting new rules and signage in that stretch".

Laurie Lehmann, Second Saturday Art Night Committee Member, thanked Special Events Coordinator Sheala Wilkinson for her hard work in promoting and coordinating downtown Sonora events. Lehmann also thanked each Member of the Vision Sonora Sub-Committees, participants and stakeholders, and Tuolumne County Transportation Commission Director Darin Grossi for the work being done in conjunction with the Vision Sonora Plan.

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, requested that the City review and revise the composition of the Vision Sonora Committee. She read her request into the record; said request is attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and made a part hereof by reference.

A Member of the Public stated that the Vision Sonora Transportation Committee has met twice; that the Vision Sonora Finance Committee will be meeting this coming Thursday; that there have been stakeholders present at the Vision Sonora meetings; that the new trash cans are out; that she is sad to see the removal of the flowering plum trees at WalMart; that the Odd Fellows had a cemetery clean up at the Odd Fellows Cemetery, and a first history tour will be held in June, and volunteers are needed to help keep the Cemetery maintained.

John Williams, City resident, stated that he had done a parking survey at noon time on Washington Street from Church Street up to the Red Church and on Stewart Street between Gold and Jackson Streets, and reported that there were from 51 to 79 vacant parking spaces.

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 May 2, 2016;
2. Approval to pay invoices for previously budgeted expenses on May 17, 2016, in the amount of \$287,549.73; and
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$142,630.69, on May 13, 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

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor's Appointment to City Planning Commission. Community Development Director Kellogg reported that the term for Gary Anderson as Planning Commissioner will expire on July 1, 2016.

The Notice of Pending Vacancy was published as required by law, and Gary Anderson was the only application received, and therefore, Staff recommends the Mayor's reappointment of Anderson to the Commission. Mayor Stearn appointed Anderson for the four year term. **MOTION by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams that the Council confirms the Mayor's appointment of Gary Anderson to the City Planning Commission for the four year term expiring on July 1, 2020.**

Mayor Stearn asked for public comment. A member of the public appeared in opposition to said appointment requesting that appointment be delayed until the new Mayor is seated. **The above MOTION passed unanimously.**

Introduction, Waive First Reading, Ordinance No. 835. The Council considered introducing by title Ordinance No. 835 and waiving the first reading. Said Ordinance establishes defensible space criteria for buildings, structures or dwellings and vacant parcels. Recommending approval, Fire Chief New presented the Ordinance reviewing the changes made which were discussed at the last Council Meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Williams had concerns regarding the penalty provisions, and conflicting wording between the Ordinance and Article 11 of the Sonora Municipal Code. Council and Staff engaged in discussion. Councilmember Segarini felt that a good Ordinance has been put forth and needs to be in place. **MOTION by Councilmember Segarini, second by Councilmember Canning that said Ordinance be introduced by title with the first reading waived.**

Mayor Stearn called for public comment. City resident and property owner Kate Segerstrom stated that she does not understand what the Ordinance means for a landowner with many trees. Powell said that the Ordinance has conflicting definitions making the provisions unclear, and contains clearance and penalty requirements that may prevent the Code from being enforceable; is it wise to enact a statute that cannot be enforced? Segerstrom also commented on the expense involved in tree removal, and possible wait times for tree companies to do the work for compliance. City resident Mark Plummer stated his support for having the tools it takes to support the Fire Chief for public safety, but the imposition of one year in jail is not really fixing it, and the expense involved for some property owners could be extremely difficult to afford. City resident and property owner Mary Ann Coombes, in describing her property of numerous acres and steep slopes, stated the difficulty in finding a competent "weed eater"; she hopes the Council will take a more supportive approach with property owners who want to comply. A member of the public commented that this is the third Council Meeting where the Ordinance has been discussed, and it is clearly not ready to be passed; she said to use the Committee system with the public to

work out the provisions and make a recommendation with everyone on the same page. Councilmember Segarini noted there was a Committee public process, but other issues have come up.

The Fire Chief reviewed definitions and explained provisions in regard to concerns. Councilmember Segarini said that the public and committee process was done, and it is time to get through the process; this is a dangerous fire season. **Councilmember Canning withdrew his second** noting his not being able to support the Ordinance the way it is; he wants to get further public input and allow time for the Fire Chief to visit the properties to see the concerns, and "get it right one time and do it right". He said that he would go with the Fire Chief to visit the properties. Mayor Pro-Tem Williams said that it is important to consider all the comments made, and to develop an Ordinance acceptable to the community, and one that is enforceable. Administrator Miller recommended that Staff spend time working on the comments and going through the proposed changes to bring to the Committee, and then set a Committee meeting for public input so that changes can be brought back to the Council. **Councilmember Segarini withdrew his Motion.** It was agreed that Staff and Committee will work on the Ordinance and take it to Committee for public input.

Matters Related to the Red Church Pedestrian & Traffic Improvement Project. The Council considered the following actions in regard to the Red Church Pedestrian & Traffic Improvement Project:

1. Approve Kimley-Horn & Associates ATP grant application proposal and authorize submission of an Active Transportation Program Grant Application for the Red Church Pedestrian & Traffic Improvement Project;
2. Authorize the City Administrator to execute the Professional Services Agreement with Kimley-Horn & Associates and any associated documents; and
3. Authorize the City Administrator to execute the ATP grant application for the Project and any associated documents.

Recommending approval, Community Development Director Kellogg reviewed the proposed conceptual only Plan for the Project and background information. Mayor Stearn stated his concern that as presented the alignment may not provide adequate space for maneuvering long school buses. **MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, second by Councilmember Canning that the Council approves and authorizes the above referenced actions as recommended.** Mayor Stearn asked for public comment. Elena Linehan, downtown property owner and former Downtown Revitalization Manager, spoke against the requested actions. A copy of Linehan's comments is attached hereto as Exhibit "C", and made a part hereof by reference. Community Development

Director Kellogg noted that the conceptual plan has been a part of the public input process, and explained the design process. Elena Linehan asked about the timeline. Kellogg responded that construction needs to be completed within ten years from the time that the grant is funded.

The above MOTION was unanimously approved.

Amended Job Description - Office Assistant-Accounting Technician (Part Time). The Council considered approving the Amended Job Description for Office Assistant-Accounting Technician. Recommending approval, Administrative Services Director Callaway presented background information and reviewed position duties. **MOTION by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Councilmember Segarini, and unanimously carried that said Amended Job Description be approved as presented.**

MONTHLY REPORTS

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

COMMUNICATIONS

None

COUNCIL MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Administrator Miller reported that he will be on vacation for the next week and a half and will be available by phone. **Councilmember Segarini** attended the TUD Meeting on May 10, 2016; attended the Tuolumne County Economic Development Authority Meeting on May 13, 2016, with a tour of Kinematic; attended the YES Partnership on May 12, 2016, with a presentation on making fellow students aware of the problems associated with marijuana; noted that 4H is seeking volunteers and informational meetings will be held on May 17, 2016, at 5 p.m. and June 6, 2016, at 6 p.m.; attended the Tuolumne County Chamber Governmental Affairs Meeting where it was announced that AB 2395 will enact legislation requiring the elimination of telephone land lines in California by the year 2020; reported that the next Merchants/Town Hall Meeting will be held in Council Chambers on May 25, 2016, at 8 a.m. **Mayor Pro-Tem Williams** reported that she attended the Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau Tourism Summit on May 4, 2016, with presentations on social media; she complimented the City of Sonora on the Mother Lode Parade and thanked employees for all the work that goes into preparation, and the Explorers for expedient clean-up; she participated in the 4th Grade Walking Tour which was very good and interesting; reported that the opening day for the Farmers Market was very busy, and thanked Staff and employees for all that is done to make it so successful, and she thanked the Chamber for its

efforts on the Second Saturday event. **Councilmember Canning** reported that the Economic Development tour of Kinematic was great; Kinematic has been in the County for 35 years, and it is an amazing and interesting company that creates machines for all kinds of products. **Canning** also reported that lifeguards are needed for the pools in the County, and to contact the Tuolumne County Recreation Department if interested. **Mayor Stearn** noted that he visited the Columbia Airport and saw a \$14 Million airplane made in Switzerland which flew in 14 people who came to the area in regard to the timber industry.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. to the next Regular Council Meeting on Monday, June 6, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Marijane Cassinetto, City Clerk Date