

**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SONORA  
JULY 5, 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, Interim Engineer Gerard Fuccillo, Police Lt. Turu Vanderwiell, Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg. Absent: Contract City Attorney Byron Smith, Fire Chief Aimee New, Police Chief Mark Stinson.

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

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at Noon on the 30th day of June, 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.

**CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION**

**Resolution No. 07-05-2016-A Certifying Election Results.**

The Council considered adopting Resolution No. 07-05-2016-A which certifies the results and declares the City Officers elected at the 2016 General Municipal Election held on June 7, 2016. The City Clerk reported that the Certification of County Clerk/Registrar of Voters of the Results of the Canvass of said Election was received, and that, pursuant to the Elections Code, the City Clerk has certified the same. Clerk Cassinetto recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-05-2016-A in which the Council resolves the Certification and declares the following persons elected to the Office of City Council: Connie Williams, Mark Plummer and Matt Hawkins; and Marijane Cassinetto elected to the office of City Clerk/Treasurer, effective July 5, 2016, for four year terms. **MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Williams, second by Councilmember Canning, and unanimously carried that Resolution No. 07-05-2016-A be approved and adopted as presented.**

**Administration of Oaths of Office.** Noting that the Oath of Office had been previously administered to her by the County Clerk, City Clerk Cassinetto administrated the Oaths of Office to reelected Councilmember Connie Williams, and newly elected Councilmembers Mark Plummer and Matt Hawkins who assumed their

seats on the Council as outgoing Members Stearn and Canning stepped down.

**Selection of Mayor.** The Council considered selecting a new Mayor for a two-year term. Councilmember Segarini nominated Councilmember Williams. **MOTION by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Councilmember Plummer that the nominations be closed.** There was no public comment, and Williams called for the vote which was unanimously approved thereby seating her as the new Mayor for a two-year term.

**Selection of Mayor Pro-Tem.** Mayor Williams recommended selection of Councilmember Jim Garaventa as Mayor Pro Tem for a two-year term. There was no public comment, and upon **MOTION by Councilmember Plummer, second by Councilmember Hawkins, it was unanimously carried that the Council confirm the Mayor's selection of Jim Garaventa to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for a two-year term.**

#### **ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Cassinetta called the Roll for the Council as seated:  
Present: Mayor Connie Williams, Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Garaventa, Councilmembers George Segarini, Mark Plummer and Matt Hawkins.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

1. Acclaiming him as a great friend to the City and beloved member of the community, and thanking him for his dedicated and devoted service commencing April 21, 1964, through July 5, 2016, Mayor Williams presented the Certificate of Recognition to Ronald E. Stearn honoring his service of 52 years as Mayor and Councilmember to the City of Sonora. Stearn was grateful and full of thanks.
2. Thanking him, and stating her appreciation for his dedicated service as Councilmember from September 6, 2005, through July 5, 2016, Mayor Williams presented the Certificate of Recognition to William B. Canning honoring his 10 years of service to the City of Sonora.

#### **RECESS AND RECONVENE**

The Council recessed at 5:20 p.m. for a Reception for outgoing Councilmembers Stearn and Canning, and reconvened into its Regular Session at 5:45 p.m.

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

**Elena Linehan** downtown property owner, employee and former Downtown Revitalization Manager who brought the Farmers Market to Sonora, and reduced 27 business vacancies in downtown Sonora to 2 vacancies, noted that the monthly Vision Sonora Committee

Meeting Report was not on the Agenda, and it was decided by the Council to place it on the Agenda once a month at the beginning of the month. Mayor Williams stated that it will get back on the Agenda.

A Member of the Public congratulated the new Councilmembers; she stated that downtown Sonora is still dirty and needs to be cleaned up, and that trash cans are not in place on every block; that she invited some homeless to the Council Meeting to make comments, but they did not show; that there were seven phone calls to the Police Department about the dog in the car; that she is in favor of the Town Hall Meetings; she thanked Administrative Services Director Callaway for putting together the elegant reception for outgoing Councilmembers; that Shames Construction purchased a bench under the Vision Sonora Sponsor a Bench Program, and that Shames and Wal Mart are building an official covered transit stop.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of Minutes for the Closed and Regular Council Meetings of June 20, 2016;
2. Approval to pay invoices for previously budgeted expenses on July 6, 2016, in the amount of \$113,443.20; and
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$152,417.30, on June 24, 2016, for payroll, inclusive of employee salaries, employer and employee taxes and retirement contributions, and miscellaneous voluntary employee deductions.

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

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Community Development Block Grant Projects. The Council considered possible projects to include in the pending Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application. Reviewing history regarding CDBG funding, Community Development Director Kellogg presented the requirements to be an eligible activity, funding limits, and her recommendations on projects for submission. Kellogg recommended the following: the TUD Water/Sewer Project, the First Time Home Buyers Assistance Program, and the Planning and Technical Assistance grant to offset City costs associated with the State required Housing Element Update due in 2018. The

deadline for submission is July 27, 2016, and Kellogg noted that she will deliver the application to the State on July 26, 2016. The State Department of Housing and Community Development will announce the award in October, 2016. Council and Staff had general discussion, and in regard to the interest percentage charged for those who qualify for the Home Buyer's Assistance Program, there was Council consensus to charge 0% to 3%.

The Mayor asked for public comment. Jim Phelan asked that funding be requested for the Tree Mortality Removal Program stating that the dead tree problem is getting worse, and the more it is ignored, the worse it will get. Representing Tuolumne Utilities District, Eric Johnson supported inclusion of the Water Main Replacement Project that TUD submitted for consideration, and stated that he is confident that TUD can deliver the Project.

There was additional discussion regarding tree mortality and fire fuels. By Council consensus, Administrator Miller will place the matter on an upcoming agenda for discussion.

**Matters Re: Mother Lode Fair Board.** The Council considered authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter on behalf of the City requesting the Governor to work with elected City and County leaders to implement a management process and structure that ensures local accountability of the County Fair and Fairgrounds management with the goal to provide the best Tuolumne County Fair in the best Fairgrounds venue. A copy of the letter with amendments from the one included in the Agenda packet was distributed to the Council and copies made available to the public. Williams read the letter. Williams stated that she attended the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors Meeting this morning, a letter was approved which will be sent to the Governor. Councilmember Hawkins said that he could not support sending a letter; that it is a day late and dollar short; with the two new Board Member appointments, he would like to let the process work.

Mayor Williams asked for any public comment. A member of the public said that she is opposed to sending a letter as it is not the City's business and not within the City's jurisdiction, and at its last Meeting, the Council voted not to send a letter.

Albert Barreno, Fair Board Member appointed in May, 2016, had numerous concerns about the letter, seemingly opposing it, and stated that if the present Fair Board can work with the Board of Supervisors and the City Council, he feels all the problems can be overcome. After some discussion with the Council, Barreno commented that the amended letter could work only if it is an opening to dialogue with the community, the City, the County, the State, for a viable solution that is sustainable, but,

although the letter has been "cleaned up", it still carries the original intentions; the emotions and anger are still there. He wants the Council to respect the current process to allow the current Fair Board to do what it needs to do.

Councilmember Segarini said that three or four years ago he sat in a round table discussion with the Fair Board and many others at which good public input was brought forth, and encouraged Barreno to look into what was discussed at the time which would be helpful.

Mayor Williams said that the letter is meant to be a support to the Fair Board and the Fairgrounds, to let them know the Council is behind them if they need us, and she has the hope for real synergy with the Fair and City in the future.

Laurie Lehmann stated that she does not know what the letter is asking for as the Fair Board is currently in daily dialogue with the Governor's office and is aware of the issues.

Administrator Miller noted that the letter before the Council is an amended version and not the letter that was included in the Agenda packets; that the letter be agendaized for the next Council Meeting if the Council desires. Councilmember Segarini said that he would like to see the new Fair Board have a chance to operate and to move forward. **Councilmember Segarini moved to not agendaize the letter for the next Meeting, and it was seconded by Councilmember Hawkins.**

Karl Rodefer, District 5 Supervisor, said the issue for him is how does the City, County, business community and agricultural community work with the State to get local accountability with the Fair Board and the Fairgrounds; that it is not an issue of trying to do the Fair Board's work.

A member of the public said that "if you want accountability, then show up for a meeting", and reiterated her opposition to the letter and her opinion that it is not the City's responsibility to tell the Governor how to do his job. She said if the City wants to show support, then write a letter to the Fair Board, or, send a letter to John Kiros who is the head of the Department of Food and Agriculture for State Fairs and Exhibitions.

Mayor Williams clarified that the Motion by Councilmember Segarini was to not agendaize the matter. Councilmember Plummer said that he will vote against the Motion because he would like to learn more about it, and would like to canvass people to get more knowledge. Councilmember Segarini suggested that he get involved in Fair Board activities and talk to prior and present Board Members which will provide him with more information.

Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa said that he does not see how writing a letter will solve the situation; that two weeks from now things may change again. Supervisor Rodefer said that he was hopeful that the Board and the State are going to have a good dialogue, and that there will be a positive response.

Mayor Williams called for action on the **Motion to not agendaize for the next Meeting.** A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hawkins and Segarini; Noes: Plummer, Williams, Garaventa. **MOTION failed.**

**MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa, second by Councilmember Plummer that discussion of a Fair Board, City and County possible partnership be agendaized for the next Council Meeting.** The Motion passed four to one as follows; Ayes: Williams, Garaventa, Segarini, Plummer; No: Hawkins.

#### MONTHLY REPORTS

None

#### COMMUNICATIONS

None

#### COUNCIL MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

**Community Development Director Kellogg** reported that the ADA portion of the Dragoon Gulch Trail has been graveled and overlaid by George Reed, Inc., as a donation to the City; and reported that her family has entered a steer, a pig and 14 goats in the Mother Lode Fair. **Clerk Cassinetto** thanked Administrative Services Director Callaway for the amazing job with the food and the décor for the reception honoring outgoing Councilmembers. **Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa** reported that he attended the Town Hall/Merchants Meeting on June 22; attended the Commemorative Tree Ceremony in remembrance of former Sonora High School Superintendent Milton Baker who started a redwood tree on his desk and planted approximately 50 years ago, and it is quite large and flourishing. **Councilmember Segarini** reported that he attended the Town Hall/Merchants Meeting on June 22, and that the next Meeting will be held on July 27 at 8:00 a.m., and the public is welcome; he attended the Vision Sonora Committee Meeting on June 22nd. **Councilmember Hawkins** thanked his family and all the constituents for their support, and he said that he is very happy to be back on the Council; he reported that within the next two weeks he will have a plan in regard to moving forward with the homeless; he looks forward to working with all City Departments and agencies; and complimented Mayor Williams for a great job in conducting her first meeting as Mayor. **Councilmember Plummer** said that he is very honored to have been elected, and thanked the public for the trust they have placed in him. **Mayor Williams** reported that she attended the Board of Supervisors Meeting on June 21; attended the Town Hall/Merchants

Meeting and the Fair Board Meeting on June 22; attended the Vision Sonora Meeting on June 23; attended the Home Ownership Expo at the Opera Hall on June 25; attended the Fire Safe Council Meeting on June 28, and attended the Cable 8 Board Meeting on June 30.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m. to the next Regular Council Meeting on Monday, July 18, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

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Marijane Cassinetto, City Clerk      Date