

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
AUGUST 1, 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 Connie Williams, Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Garaventa, Councilmembers Mark Plummer (present at 5:15 p.m.) and George Segarini; City Administrator Tim Miller, City Clerk Marijane Cassinetto, City Attorney Byron Smith, Administrative Services Director Jennifer Callaway, Fire Chief Aimee New, Police Chief Mark Stinson. Absent: Councilmember Matt Hawkins, Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg and Interim Engineer Gerard Fuccillo.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at 8:00 a.m. on the 27th day of July, 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

Police Chief Stinson introduced new Police Officer Scott Mallon. Mallon's wife pinned on his badge, and he was welcomed by the Council.

PUBLIC FORUM (Non-Agenda)

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Segarini noted a correction to his verbal report in the Regular Session Minutes which should read that he attended the Tuolumne County Chamber Governmental Affairs Meeting, and not the Tuolumne County Transportation Committee Meeting. **MOTION** by Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa, and second by Councilmember Segarini, that the Consent Calendar be approved as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes for the Closed Council Meeting of July 18, 2016, and approval of Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting of July 18, 2016, as amended above;
2. Approval to pay invoices for previously budgeted expenses on August 2, 2016, in the amount of \$508,485.75; and
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$202,514.45, on July 26, 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 by a 3-0 vote as follows: Ayes: Williams, Garaventa, Segarini; Noes: None; Absent: Plummer, Hawkins.**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Letter in Response to Civil Grand Jury Report. The Council considered authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter on behalf of the City in response to the Tuolumne County 2015-2016 Civil Grand Jury Report regarding Brown Act compliance and complaints filed against the City of Sonora. Administrator Miller reviewed the Report in regard to three recommendations from the Grand Jury concerning Brown Act complaints and compliance, and presented the response letter which he prepared in consultation with the City Attorney. The Grand Jury recommendations were (1) for the City to add a link to its website providing information regarding the Brown Act to enable citizens to post concerns about possible infractions, (2) add a link to an organization, such as The First Amendment Coalition for both Cure and Correct and Cease and Desist Letters, with instructions; and (3) that the City have annual training in the Brown Act for council members and support staff. Miller noted that the letter affirms that the City will do the three Grand Jury recommendations.

The Mayor asked for public comment. A member of the public said that she did not feel that the Grand Jury addressed the issues in the Complaint, and she is not impressed with its Report. She said that the City Attorney should be required to attend the Brown Act training; that the Grand Jury's recommendation of a website to comply with Recommendation 2, The First Amendment Coalition website, is incomplete; and, she asked who will do the Brown Act training.

MOTION by Councilmember Segarini, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa, that the Mayor be authorized to sign the letter as presented. Staff and Council discussed the link for Cure and Correct and Cease and Desist Letters with Administrator Miller noting that a different website link could be utilized; he will look into it, and that the member of the public could recommend one if she would like to. **MOTION passed unanimously by a 3-0 vote as follows: Ayes: Williams, Garaventa, Segarini; Noes: None; Absent: Plummer and Hawkins.**

Resolution No. 08-01-2016-A Accepting 2016 Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Grant. The Council considered approving Resolution No. 08-01-2016-A which accepts the 2016 Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Grant, for up to and no more than, the amount of \$14,844.00, and authorizes the Fire Chief to sign the same on behalf of the City. Fire Chief New presented the Resolution recommending approval and reporting that said Grant will allow the Fire Department to purchase Structural and Wildland personal safety and communications equipment.

The Mayor asked for public comment. A member of the public asked for clarification of the funds, and Chief New responded.

MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa, second by Councilmember Segarini, to approve said Resolution as presented; it was unanimously passed by a 4 to 0 vote as follows: Ayes: Williams, Garaventa, Segarini, Plummer; Noes: None; Absent: Hawkins.

MONTHLY REPORTS

None

VISION SONORA COMMITTEE REPORT

Mayor Williams noted that the Report was not included in the Agenda Packet, but was given to the Council this evening, and that copies are available on the front chair for the public. Williams read the Vision Sonora Committee Report for its Meeting held on July 28, 2016. A copy of the same is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof for reference. Mayor Williams asked for public comment. A member of the public said she appreciates that the Report contains the dates for the Subcommittee Meetings, that Baldwin Construction did a great job on the Opera Hall, and something should be done for them, and said they also did a great job on the exterior of the Candy Vault building at the Bradford and Washington Street intersection.

PUBLIC FORUM - Non Agenda (Re-opened)

At the request of a member of the public, the Public Forum was reopened by the Mayor. A member of the public stated that she has been at two Meetings where Councilmember Plummer talked about wanting to know more about the Mother Lode Fair, and wanted to be supportive of the Supervisors, and there has been discussion about what a valuable asset the Fairgrounds are, and he went on the radio and again said how interested he was in getting information on the Fair. She said her question to him is "Where the hell were you? 'Cuz there were four Committee Meetings, there was a Board Meeting, and I didn't see you at any of them". The City Attorney stated to Councilmember Plummer that he was under no obligation to respond. Stating that he thought it was only fair to the public, Councilmember Plummer

responded, "Until just about two Meetings ago, the Fair wasn't really on my horizon at all, and I was working at the last Meeting. I'm compelled to earn a living, and while I regret having missed that Meeting, I have no alternative. Prior to that, you say there were many Meetings, and I know this is true. Until it came up here (referring to the Council Meeting on July 5, 2016), I had no idea the Fair was in such dire straits, but thank you for bringing that to my attention."

COMMUNICATIONS

None

COUNCIL MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Police Chief Stinson reported that there was an error in last month's Police Department Report; there were 12 DUI arrests and not 23. He reported that great progress had been made on the drug house on Stewart Street; they were able to serve the search warrant last Wednesday which resulted in four arrests and an eviction notice served. **Stinson** also reported that the Police Department and the Sheriff Department are sponsoring *National Night Out*, a public safety event, at 6 p.m. on August 2, 2016, at the Opera Hall, and there will be special speakers and an ice cream social with ice cream served by both the Police Officers and the Sheriff Deputies. **Mayor Williams** complimented and thanked Officer Bowley in regard to arresting a person for several thefts in the Sonora Hills Subdivision, and thanked all those in the Police Department for serving our community well. **Fire Chief New** reported that Fire Fighter Slusher returned safely from the Sombreas Fire, and that there was a fire near Sullivan Creek at 2:45 a.m. last night where no homes were threatened, but there was one fatality. **Councilmember Segarini** asked about the status of the defensible space ordinance; Chief New responded that it is still in revision and will be sent back to Committee for review and recommendation. **Administrator Miller** reported that underground utility work has begun today on Lyons Street at Hope and Palomone Lanes which will result in restricting traffic to one lane, and work will continue for one week. **Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa** cautioned drivers to avoid the area if possible, and reported that he attended the Sonora Chamber Mixer at Black Oak Casino on July 19th, he attended the Town Hall/Merchants Meeting in the morning on July 27th and attended the Mother Lode Fair Board Meeting in the evening on July 27th, which Meeting was filmed and is available for viewing on Cable 8 and also available on YouTube. **Councilmember Segarini** reported that he also attended the Sonora Chamber Mixer at Black Oak Casino; he attended the Central Sierra Economic Development District Board Meeting on July 20th, where there was information on local polling which is being done by California State University Chico on economic development, and a link for information to take part in the survey can be found on TCEDA.net; he attended the Vision Sonora Finance Committee

Meeting on July 20th; he attended a branding meeting on July 26th, he attended the Town Hall/Merchants Meeting on July 27, 2016, and branding was discussed which resulted in stimulating conversation; he attended the Vision Sonora Committee Meeting on July 28th, and also on July 28th attended the Water Agency Meeting for Tuolumne County at which there was a very interesting presentation by TUD on the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan. **Mayor Williams** reported that the City's *Magic of the Night* event will be held this Friday, August 5th from 6 to 9 p.m., and invited everyone to come and enjoy a fun evening. She also reported that the event to honor First Responders held at the Fairgrounds on July 30th, which was put on by Ron Hamilton and friends, was a great event with 500 in attendance, and Williams publically thanked all those who serve this community so well.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. to the next Regular Council Meeting on Monday, August 15, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Marijane Cassinetto, City Clerk Date