

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
NOVEMBER 7, 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 5:02 p.m. The following members were present: Mayor Connie Williams, Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Garaventa, Councilmembers Matt Hawkins, Mark Plummer and George Segarini; City Administrator Tim Miller, City Clerk Marijane Cassinetto, Administrative Services Director Jennifer Callaway, City Attorney Douglas White, Fire Chief Aimee New, Police Chief Mark Stinson, Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg. Absent: Interim Engineer Gerard Fuccillo.

Mayor Williams introduced new City Attorney Douglas White to the public.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at 9:20 a.m. on the 4th day of November, 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)

Elena Linehan, City resident, presented two photographs of the bulb outs on Highway 49 next to Sonora High School showing numerous weeds, and one photograph of the bulb out in Jamestown also with numerous weeds. Said photos are attached hereto as Exhibit "A-1, 2 and 3", and made a part hereof for reference. Linehan stated that it seems the City is unable to maintain the landscaping it currently has, which is not uncommon in other cities. She said that the City is embarking on one of the largest landscaping projects in its history, and said, "Before you squander tax dollars on landscaping for Vision Sonora, consider whether you have the wherewithal to maintain what you have got. . .".

Christina Wilkinson thanked Staff and the Council for its helpful cooperation with the Itsa Film Festival which will be

held for its seventh year at the Sonora Opera Hall on November 11 through 13, 2016. Wilkinson reviewed the event activities and special guests noting that the Friday night activities, which will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., are free, but tickets do need to be reserved which can be done on line at itzafilmfestival.com. Tickets are not necessary for the events on Saturday and Sunday which are also free. Wilkinson handed out informational brochures to the Council, and welcomed everyone to attend.

Shirley Sarno appeared on behalf of the Sonora Chamber and the Visitors Bureau to thank Administrator Miller, the Council and the City for its assistance to enable them to host the Holiday Mixer at the Opera Hall which will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, between 5 and 6 p.m. Sarno also noted that the 8th annual holiday window display contest will be held which brings a lot of enthusiasm to merchants and holiday shoppers.

A member of the public stated her appreciation for the improvements to the sound system in the Council Chambers.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION by Councilmember Segarini, second by Councilmember Hawkins, that the Consent Calendar be approved as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes for the Closed and Regular Council Meetings of October 17, 2016;
2. Approval to pay invoices for previously budgeted expenses on November 8, 2016, in the amount of \$189,727.02; and
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$159,325.01, on October 28, 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

Public Comment regarding whether the City Council should consider consolidation of the City of Sonora Police Department with the Tuolumne County Sheriff Department. Mayor Williams asked for public comment.

Ted Michaud, City resident, said that his comments are in no way a criticism of the Sonora Police Department, City Staff or City Council, but it occurs to him that a discussion of possible consolidation is timely and a worthwhile topic to be taken up in the public square. Michaud submitted a copy of his comments for the record which is attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and made a part hereof for reference. Richard Nutting appeared in favor of consolidation stating that 29% of California cities currently contract with the Sheriff in their counties, and the reason is an economy of scale. Nutting said that consolidation creates the opportunity for more services for citizens. Gary Anderson, City resident, appeared in opposition to consolidation noting that this matter came up a few years ago, and to keep our City Police Department (PD) in place, the Measure I initiative was presented to City voters which was approved and established a special tax to be used solely for police, fire, and public works personnel and services. Anderson said that it is not the time to be reducing the PD. Daryl Sarina said that he has been an administrator for a number of businesses both in the City and in the County, and relies on law enforcement. Noting that his experience with PD response time has been 3 to 5 minutes, and that County response time is 45 minutes to 1 hour, Sarina said that the City would suffer greatly with delayed response within the City limits; he is against consolidation.

James Smith, a local business owner, said that "Consolidation is a step in the right direction". He suggested that a community survey should be taken. Hank Russell, City resident, appeared in opposition to consolidation. He said that he does not see that the City has a problem and cannot see the need for consolidation, and that the Measure I initiative provides tax monies to support the PD. He said that the tax should be rescinded if there is consolidation. Randy Selesia, owner of his family's 72 year-old business, said that his business has been on the rotation tow list for the PD, and his business has served the City for 50 years. He said he deals with the Sonora PD every day, and the PD is outstanding. He additionally commented, "We are still a small town and we're a very close knit community, and it's nice to know the officer you're dealing with". Selesia also noted that the PD interact really well with the students on the High School campus; "It would be a horrible mistake to change the way we do business in Sonora". He supports the PD and hopes the Council will too.

Micki Rucker, downtown merchant, said that she thinks it is important to take a look at a proposal; she hopes there is a proposal, and if there is not a proposal, there will be. She said she has heard that there may be four officers leaving when the Chief retires; she also said that consolidation may save money for the City. She proposed that a study group be formed to see if consolidation is the right thing; she supports

consolidation if it goes that direction; she does not feel it would hurt the Police Department if there is a consolidation program. Sherri Brennan, District 1 County Supervisor, thanked the Council for having this discussion. She stated that the Council has "a lot of capability to put some thoughtful energy into looking at what consolidation would or would not mean"; additionally, that if the City decides to have that conversation, the County will be open to participating. Brennan also noted that "it doesn't make sense if the service can't be elevated to a higher place, but we cannot know that if there is no conversation". A member of the public said that she is not for one way or the other, but that "we need to have the conversation". Bill Atkins spoke against consolidation noting that the City has great response times compared to those in the County, and those should be kept. Atkins also talked about the advantage of the PD being able to really know the "turf" due to its small area; he urged the Council to think about these things when making their decision.

Mayor Williams brought the matter back to the Council for discussion. Attorney White advised that the Council can have discussion and give general direction, but that no formal action could be taken. Councilmember Segarini asked if Measure I would be nullified if there were to be a consolidation, and also that he would be in favor of forming a committee to look into the matter. Attorney White commented that he was not able to give legal input at this time due to it being his second day on the job, but that he would research the matter and provide that information if it is Council's direction. Councilmember Hawkins stated that he did a lot of door to door campaigning from 2010 through 2014, and he got favorable reports on the PD response time; he said he stands behind the PD because they are doing a great job, and show top notch professionalism. Councilmember Plummer said that the Council supports, appreciates and stands behind the PD; his experience has shown him that the PD response times are lifesaving, and he wants the people to know that the Council stands behind the PD 100%. He said that the Council has the obligation to look at any proposal, but that no proposal has been brought to the Council. Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa agreed with Plummer's comments; he thinks the proof is in guaranteeing the response times; he wants to know about any Measure I implications. He said the Council has heard there is a proposal out there, and if there is a proposal out there, it should be submitted. Mayor Williams said that based upon the public and Council comments, she agrees that if there is a proposal, bring it to the Council to have a conversation so that the Council makes the right decision for the City. She proposed a small group review and possibly placement on the next Agenda to keep conversation going, and asked for Staff and City Attorney recommendations. Administrator Miller suggested that if Council would like to entertain further discussion, any proposal should

be provided to his Office to schedule the matter for review by the Public Safety Committee, and to allow time for Staff review and critique; and then it could be placed on the Council Agenda for consideration.

Councilmember Segarini said that, "We are trying to put the cart before the horse here in regards to the proposal". He said he wanted to get feedback from the community to see if there was interest in pursuing a consolidation, which is not a proposal. But, he said if there is a proposal, the Council will look at it.

Councilmember Hawkins said that there are reasons why cities become cities, and this is one of them -- a localized police department, and fire department and public works. He reiterated his support for the PD, and stated that the City needs these three localized departments. Mayor Williams reiterated that the Council agrees that the City has a great PD.

Administrator Miller suggested that he confer with the City Attorney to find the best way to re-Agendaize the matter for public comment and for any action should the Council want to proceed; also Attorney White will provide a legal analysis on Measure I. Council directed the same.

Agreement for Web Site Services. The Council considered approving a Professional Services Agreement with Level One Web Design for website design services for the Website Design & Replacement Project, and authorizing the City Administrator to execute the same on behalf of the City. Community Development Director Kellogg reviewed the Request for Proposals which was issued on June 15, 2016, applications received, and the applicant evaluation process. Kellogg reported that Staff recommendation is Level One Web Design and noted numerous reasons therefor, including its providing a fully custom web site, update of current content, some local photography, addition of new content, and changing forms to allow them to be completed on line. Kellogg reported the cost of the proposal is \$13,950, which is under the budgeted amount of \$15,000.

A member of the public stated that from his experience he highly recommends Level One. There was no other public comment.

MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa, second by Councilmember Hawkins, and unanimously carried that the Council approves Level One Web Design as the firm to provide web site design services for the Website Design & Replacement Project, and authorizes the City Administator to finalize and execute a Professional Services Agreement on behalf of the City.

Agreement for Citywide Compensation and Classification Study. The Council considered approving a Professional Services Agreement with Koff and Associates to conduct a Citywide Comprehensive Compensation and Classification Study, and authorizing the City Administrator to execute the same on behalf of the City. Administrative Services Director Callaway reviewed the Request for Proposal process, applications received, and selection process. She noted that the Study consists of two components; the classification study, and the compensation study, and will take 20 weeks to complete. Callaway reported that both the Classification and Compensation Committee and the Finance Committee recommended Koff and Associates to complete the Study which is also the recommendation of Staff. Callaway also requested that the Council authorize a budget adjustment in the amount of \$38,800 from General Fund Reserves to fund the Services Agreement.

There was no public comment. **MOTION by Councilmember Segarini, second by Councilmember Hawkins, and unanimously carried that the Services Agreement with Koff and Associates be approved as recommended, that the City Administrator be authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City, and that a budget adjustment be authorized in the amount of \$38,800 from General Fund Reserves to fund the Agreement.**

Transportation Funding Bills. The Council considered authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter on behalf of the City in support of transportation funding Bills SB X11 and AB X126 which have come out of the Special Legislative session. Administrator Miller presented the draft letter highlighting its contents, and asking for any revisions. Miller also noted that it is not likely that action will be taken on the Bills, but this is still an opportunity to submit the Council's opinion.

Mayor Williams asked for public comment. A member of the public suggested that, in light of the General Election occurring tomorrow (November 8, 2016), the Council may want to wait to see what happens before sending the letter and table the matter to the next Meeting. There were no other public comments.

Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa had concerns that proceeds from proposed increases in taxes and fees will not filter down to the City, and he suggested a change in the wording of the first sentence in Paragraph 3 as follows: Change . . . "we do not support" to "we have concerns with" provisions that increase taxes and fees. Additionally, Garaventa said that it may be a good idea to wait on sending the letter until after the General Election. Councilmember Plummer felt it would be better for the City to run its own initiative for local transportation monies rather than having the funds filter through Sacramento, and leave the letter as is. Councilmember Hawkins agreed that the

matter be tabled to the next Meeting; he also agreed with the recommended change in wording.

City Attorney White reminded the Council that his contracted services include free lobbying, which provides for direct contact, and suggested that the Council consider this. Mayor Williams and Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa offered to go to Sacramento when the lobbying takes place. Council direction was given to place the matter on the next Council Agenda.

MONTHLY REPORTS

None

VISION SONORA REPORT

Mayor Williams read the Vision Sonora Committee Report for its Meeting of October 27, 2016. A copy of said Report is attached hereto as Exhibit "C", and made a part hereof for reference. The next Meeting will be held on January 26, 2017, due to the upcoming holidays.

The Mayor asked for any public comment. Elena Linehan, owner of the historic Burnam home on Linoberg Street, said that the recommendation of Vision Sonora for a study of the proposed one block closure of Linoberg Street is premature. She said the closure will result in over 1,000 feet of travel before vehicles can cross over to Stewart Street, and that will have a negative impact on business. Linehan reported that a traffic study done in 1989 indicated that 600 cars a day used that portion of Linoberg Street, and said there must be more this many years later. She commented that Linoberg Street is used all hours of the day and knows this because her home overlooks Linoberg. Linehan gave her personal and prior study statistics of vehicle usage noting that it is a busy street all hours of the day, and commented that the outside firm hired is not familiar with directional travel during commute hours and, therefore, their numbers may not be accurate. Linehan also said it has been rumored that businesses on or bordering Linoberg want to utilize the Street for their businesses, and she feels the City has no business taking a public street and giving it to private business, and if this is done, those businesses should cover the cost of a survey. She also asked, "What is Vision Sonora going to do that can't be done in Coffill Park", and reminded Council that the previous study done on Theall, Linoberg, Bradford and Dodge Streets did not cost a penny.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Business License Activity Report for the 3rd Quarter 2016.

COUNCILMEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

A member of the public asked if the Council received a letter from the Mother Lode Fair regarding its Community Meeting

scheduled for November 29, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Williams responded that they had received individual e-mails, but that there was not a letter sent to the Council. **Community Development Director Kellogg** reported that the City did not receive the ATP funding grant from CalTrans for the Red Church Intersection Project. **Fire Chief New** thanked all who attended the 156th Annual Firefighters Ball which was a great event, and that she is looking forward to next year's event. **Attorney White** said that he is scheduling an Ethics and Sexual Harassment Training, and sought available dates from the Council. **Administrator Miller** noted that there would be two 2 two-hour sessions, and that the training would include Department Heads and Management Staff and all elected and appointed officials. **Mayor Williams** suggested that the trainings be scheduled before Council Meetings. **Councilmember Plummer** stated that our poor forest is suffering, and in ten years it will be such a different forest. **Mayor Pro-Tem Garaventa** reported that the Annual 4th Grade Tours which went really well are now concluded until next year. He reported that handed out candy at Trick or Treat Street, he helped out at the beer booth at the All Hallows Faire at the Fairgrounds, attended the Townhall/Merchants Meeting, the Fair Board Meeting, the Personnel Committee Meeting, the Transformative Justice Panel, and the Firefighters Ball which included dinner. **Councilmember Segarini** reported that he attended the Townhall/Merchants Meeting, and that the next Meeting will be in January after the holidays; he attended the Fair Board Meeting, the Vision Sonora Finance Committee Meeting, the Vision Sonora Committee Meeting, the County Water Advisory Meeting, and the Tuolumne County Chamber Governmental Affairs Council Meeting. **Mayor Williams** reported that she attended the Tuolumne Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Meeting, participated in the webinar on marijuana presented by the League of California Cities, attended the Townhall/Merchants Meeting, the Vision Sonora Committee Meeting, the County Water Advisory Meeting, the Cable 8 Meeting, the Mother Lode Art Association Art Show at which she chose the Mayor's Choice Award, the Firefighters Ball and the Tuolumne County Chamber Governmental Affairs Council Meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the Regular Session Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m. to the next Regular Council Meeting on Monday, November 21, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Marijane Cassinetto, City Clerk Date