

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
July 16, 2018**

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 Jim Garaventa, Mayor Pro-Tem Matt Hawkins, Councilmembers Mark Plummer, Collette Such and Connie Williams; City Administrator Tim Miller, City Clerk Marijane Cassinetta, City Attorney Nubia Goldstein, Fire Chief Aimee New, Police Chief Turu VanderWiel, Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg; Absent: Interim Engineer Gerard Fuccillo.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City employee Tracy Skelley advised Council that at Noon on the 13th day of July, 2018, 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 Mayor and Councilmember Williams presented the Vision Sonora Award of Excellence to Ray and Ginger Agah for their business at 342 West Stockton Street which is awarded to those who care to improve the outside appearance of their building. Three other three award recipients were not present: Franklin and Loida Jacinto, Sarah Gordon, and Dennis and Marie Overholtzer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Stiles, Ash Street resident, reiterated his desire and attempt to purchase property owned by the City on Ash Street between Jackson and Yaney Streets to build a garage to house his vehicles which are now parked on the Street, and he says the 72-hour parking limit makes parking difficult. He asked how his request is moving forward. Administrator Miller said that he has spoken to Stiles in regard to the citation he received for parking on the street; he will be scheduling a Public Works Committee Meeting soon, and he will notify Stiles of the date and time.

Barbara Dressler made comments and asked questions in regard to the recent Grand Jury Report on the Tuolumne County Economic Development Authority, and in regard to the lawsuit that has been filed by Ken Perkins. Dressler submitted her comments and questions to the Clerk, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" for reference.

Ken Perkins said the purpose for his appearance at this Meeting is to follow up with information over the past 30 days since the Grand Jury Report was issued. He said there were a number of

allegations in the paper by individuals who felt they were being treated unfairly with no explanations in regard to Innovation Lab, and he had experienced a similar situation where he provided an application and was sent down a pathway that no individual could comply with, and he eventually gave up. Perkins commented that he visited the Lab and did not see equipment which was said to have been purchased for the Lab, and he found offices occupied by some people who were not a part of the organization and some of them not paying. He submitted a California Public Records Act request to the TCEDA and the County Counsel, and just today received a reply stating that they will comply going back to 2015. Perkins also noted that there was a guest opinion in the paper from a member of the TCEDA saying that Perkins was invited by TCEDA members to give his complaints; he will be writing a Letter to the Editor asking that this member provide him with a copy of that invitation letter which he said he did not receive. He commented, "When is enough going to be enough?" Perkins asked the Council to set up a process to talk about leaving the TCEDA and to seek the truth and to determine whether the City has received enough information. He concluded, "Now is the time to look forward to the future and be done with the past".

Councilmember Williams asked if it was the appropriate time to ask that the Grand Jury Report be placed on the Council Agenda. Administrator Miller responded that Staff will bring forth the Grand Jury Report at the next Council Meeting, and that there will also be an item placed on the Agenda to discuss whether there is community support for a tax measure for road improvements; at said Meeting, Staff will ask for Council direction on whether to provide for tax measure public input on a future Agenda. City Attorney Goldstein commented that the Grand Jury Report can be placed on the Agenda for either the next Meeting or later.

CONSENT CALENDAR

As Councilmember Such was not yet seated on the Council at the June 25, 2018, Meeting, she recused herself from voting on the Consent Calendar.

MOTION by Councilmember Plummer, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins, that the Consent Calendar be approved as follows:

1. Approval of the Minutes for the City Council Closed and Regular Session Meetings of June 25 and July 2, 2018;
2. Approval to pay invoices for previously budgeted expenses on July 17, 2018, in the amount of \$113,058.72; and
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$142,998.49, on July 6, 2018, 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 MOTION was approved four to one by the following vote: Ayes: Garaventa, Hawkins, Plummer, Williams, Noes: None; Abstain: Councilmember Such.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor's Appointments to City, Community and Government Committees. Mayor Garaventa reported that he has been working on his appointments but does not want to put them forward at this Meeting without everyone being able to review them, so he will present them at the next Meeting on August 6, 2018, and until then, he will fill in at any City, Community or Government meetings that former Councilmember Segarini was assigned to. At his request, all appointments were continued to the next Council Meeting on August 6, 2018; in the meantime, the other assignments remain as previously assigned. There was no public comment.

Designation of Voting Delegates. The Council considered designating the voting delegate(s) and alternate(s) to the League of California Cities Annual Conference (Conference). Administrator Miller reported that this year's Conference will be held in Long Beach from September 12 through 14, 2018, for which applications are due by August 31, 2018. Councilmember Williams noted that the fee to attend the full Conference is \$525.00, and to attend one day is \$300.00. Administrator Miller commented that there are no funds specifically set forth in the Budget for this, and an allocation would be necessary although there is approximately \$500 budgeted for travel and training expenses. Williams volunteered to be the City's voting representative if the Council allocates the necessary funds, and she also suggested that in the future the Council consider budgeting for this specific purpose. As the deadline is not until August 31, 2018, it was Council consensus to continue the matter until the Regular Council Meeting of August 20, 2018. There was no public comment. Mayor Garaventa said that it would be helpful to the Council if Steve Qualls, League of California Cities representative, was invited to attend the Council Meeting. Administrator Miller said that he will invite him.

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Community Development Department; Councilmember Hawkins commended Community Development Director Kellogg on the Dragoon Extension Project.
 2. Fire Department
 3. Police Department
 4. Public Works Department
- No public comment.

VISION SONORA COMMITTEE REPORT

None

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Business License Activity for April - June, 2018.
No public comment.

COUNCILMEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Fire Chief New reported that the Governor has called for U.S. Flags to be flown at half-mast in honor of the fire fighter who recently lost his life fighting the Ferguson Fire in Mariposa County. She reported that there was a small quarter-acre vegetation fire started by the homeless at the former dump site which was successfully put out, and that the Fire Department would again be selling its famous tri-trip sandwiches during the *Magic of the Night* annual City sponsored event on August 3, 2018. **Councilmember Williams** reported that she attended the Vision Sonora Design and Marketing Committee Meeting, the Tuolumne County Transportation Council Meeting, and the Cable 8 Meeting. She noted that the Energy Action Plan is actively being worked on, that there will be a public input meeting on the Stockton/Washington Corridor Downtown Transit & Accessibility Project from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on July 23, 2018, in the City Council Chambers, and she asked when the next *Coffee with a Cop* will take place. **Police Chief VanderWiel** responded that the date has not been set, but it will take place sometime in the beginning of August. **Mayor Garaventa** reported that he attended the Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting, and the informal working group meeting which is dealing with the homeless situation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the Regular Session Meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m. to the to the next Regular Meeting on Monday, August 6, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

**Minutes
Subject To
Council Approval**

Marijane Cassinetto, City Clerk Date

July 16, 2018

To: Sonora City Council

From: Barbara Dresslar

Since the last City Council meeting June 2nd, everyone I've talked to for information about Larry Cope and the TCEDA, including Connie Williams, Sherri Brennan, and TCEDA Chair John Gray, has said they can't say anything about TCEDA due to Ken Perkins' lawsuit. I was directed to ask City Counsel, the attorney for the City of Sonora. Because Counsel is here today I am asking these questions now.

The Grand Jury determined there were improper and/or illegal business practices during Larry Cope's work with TCEDA. Has the City Council now directed Larry Cope to provide documentation of his work to meet the Grand Jury's recommendations? Do I understand his excuse for refusing to provide documentation is 'trade secrets'?

Is it a trade secret for Larry Cope to document hours worked, meetings attended with businesses, issues discussed, and specific actions taken? Until Larry Cope provides this proof we are paying for allegations.

Would anyone here pay for services if they had no documentation what services had been done?

Can Counsel or any member of City Council or City Administration tell the public what attorney fees or hours have accumulated thus far to contest Ken Perkins' lawsuit? Why should we pay to contest a lawsuit to protect Larry Cope if he's guilty of misconduct? If Larry Cope won't tell us what he's done, how and why do we defend him?

The Grand Jury report was released June 25. Board Chair John Gray tells me there will be a 'special meeting of the TCEDA Board in late July or early August to discuss the lawsuit and Grand Jury responses'. The TCEDA Board exhibits no urgency to address these issues.

Will the public be invited to that special meeting? Will it be another closed meeting where the TCEDA Board privately discusses TCEDA issues?

The taxpayers of Sonora and Tuolumne County have been excluded from this decision entirely, and no member of City Council or Board of Supervisors seems willing to take responsibility for resolving this issue immediately.

EXHIBIT "A"

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