

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SONORA
September 17, 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 and Councilmember Connie Williams; City Administrator Tim Miller, City Clerk Marijane Cassinetto, City Attorney Douglas White, Administrative Services Director Christopher Gorsky, Fire Chief Aimee New, Police Chief Turu VanderWiel, Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg; Absent: Councilmember Colette Such and Councilmember Mark Plummer (present at 5:10 p.m.), Interim Engineer Gerard Fuccillo.

There was no Closed Session Meeting.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Cassinetto advised Council that at 1:15 p.m. on the 14th day of September, 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

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION by Councilmember Williams, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins, and unanimously carried that the Consent Calendar be approved as follows:

1. Approval of the Minutes for the City Council Closed and Regular Session Meetings of September 4, 2018;
2. Approval to pay invoices for previously budgeted expenses on September 18, 2018, in the amount of \$80,390.17 and
3. Approval of disbursements in the amount of \$135,915.04, on September 14, 2018, for payroll, inclusive of employee salaries, employer and employee taxes and retirement contributions, and miscellaneous voluntary employee deductions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 09-17-2018-A Regarding Homecoming Parade Road Closures. The Council considered approving Resolution No. 09-17-2018-A which authorizes the closure of State Route 49 (Washington Street) and certain other City Streets on October 12, 2018, for the Sonora High School Homecoming Parade. Recommending approval, and reviewing the closures and parade route, Police Chief Vanderwiel presented the matter. School High School conducts its Homecoming Parade through downtown Sonora each year, and the Parade this year will be held on Friday, October 12, 2018, between 2:15 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. with staging on School Street between 1:15 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.

Sonora High School representatives reviewed several Homecoming activities and noted that the theme for the floats is *Super Heroes*. There was no public comment.

MOTION by Mayor Pro-Tem Hawkins, second by Councilmember Williams, and unanimously carried that said Resolution be approved and adopted as presented.

Presentation of Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau 2017-18 Annual Report. Lisa Mayo, Executive Director of the Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau, began her presentation noting that in 2017 Tuolumne County saw an increase in visitor spending of 13% over 2016; she reported that total direct travel spending increased to \$253.3 Million. Mayo reviewed the Bureau's strategic planning assessment including strategic partnerships. Jennifer Lopez, Marketing Manager, reviewed marketing aspects, and Katie Kirkland, Communications and Tourism Marketing Manager, reviewed travel, trade and media activities. Mayo reviewed ongoing and upcoming film projects and concluded the presentation with a review of its *Summer 2.0 Project* and its *#Yosemite Now Project* which have been developed to bring tourism back to Tuolumne County and Yosemite due to the impact of the Ferguson and Donnell Fires which resulted in an estimated \$28,000,000 loss in travel and tourism spending. Mayo thanked the Council for its continued support. Councilmembers applauded the Bureau's work.

There was no public comment. No action necessary

Discussion and Direction to Staff Regarding location of Santa's Workshop for the 2018 Christmas Season. Soliciting Staff direction in regard to the location for Santa's Workshop, Administrator Miller noted that historically the location for Santa's Workshop has been in Courthouse Park. Due to the County's landscape project and placement of new sod in Courthouse Park, two years ago the Workshop was moved to Linoberg Street and last year moved to Coffill Park. Due to interest on the part of downtown merchants and other community members, the request has been made to move it back to its traditional location of Courthouse Park. The County has indicated

that this would be allowed provided any damaged turf be replaced, and a preliminary estimate to replace the turf is \$3,500 for an area of approximately 900 square feet; there is no money available in the Special Programs for this cost. Miller noted that Jackson Street, adjacent to Courthouse Park, has been suggested as an alternative; to accommodate this, the transit buses and stops would need to be relocated to Washington Street in front of the Veterans' Hall and the Park. Coffill Park also remains a possibility, but its drawbacks are lack of visibility and remoteness from the original location.

Mayor Garaventa asked for public comment. Ritchie Grant, a long-time County resident, stated that she favors Courthouse Park. She noted that Greenview Landscaping has offered to replace any damaged turf at no cost to the County or the City; she also suggested a donation box be placed at the site, and that possibly prisoners from the Conservation Center be utilized to lay the new turf. She would like to provide information on the square footage and cost of the turf to Greenview Landscaping. Tracy Hoyle, downtown merchant, equally supported the Courthouse Park and Jackson Street locations stating that Jackson Street is very close to the traditional Courthouse Park location and easily visible. Nancy White representing the Sonora Chamber of Commerce supported using Jackson Street, and she stated that she has talked to Tuolumne County Transportation Commission Executive Director Darin Grossi who indicated that he did not have a problem with temporary placement of the transit bus stops for buses on Washington Street, but that it would be necessary to remove two parking spaces per stop from the Street. White also noted that a recent *MyMotherLode.com* on-line survey indicated that 74% of responders support the Courthouse square location.

Councilmember Williams commented that Santa is for all of Tuolumne County and not just for those living in Sonora, and she is disappointed that the County is not more of a partner in this. Her first choice is Courthouse Park and having Staff talk to the landscaper, and her second choice is Jackson Street. She also indicated that she would like to have Santa present at his workshop after the annual Christmas Parade. Councilmember Hawkins stated that bringing it back to Courthouse Park is best, but if it cannot be done, then Jackson Street is fine. Councilmember Plummer commented that Coffill Park is ideal, but it has bad visibility; he would like it in Courthouse Park. He stated that he is a little uncomfortable relying on the generosity of a few patrons to make it work, and he feels in the long-term making Jackson Street the venue is the best solution. Mayor Garaventa asked that Staff contact Darin Grossi regarding the possibility of moving the transit system to Washington Street; due to the reoccurring cost each year, he said that Jackson Street is a good compromise and reasonable alternative, but also, that it could be placed in Courthouse Park and see what the damage would be. There was Council consensus to direct Staff to discuss the location of Jackson Street with Darin Grossi, and also

to talk to Greenview Landscaping and bring back information for the Council at its next Meeting for further action.

MONTHLY REPORTS

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

No public comment.

VISION SONORA COMMITTEE REPORT

None - No public comment

COMMUNICATIONS

None - No public comment.

COUNCILMEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Councilmember Williams thanked the Union Democrat for its very nice article on the Police Department and its Explorers and thanked the Police Chief and Explorers for placement of the flags along Washington Street in commemoration of 9/11. **Fire Chief New** said that she was thankful for the cooler weather which will help hinder the fires and noted that the 158th Annual Fire Fighter Ball will be held on November 3, 2018, at the Opera Hall with the theme being *The Wild West*. She invited attendees to wear costumes and said that Alma Maters from the Department will be honored for their volunteerism on that evening. **New** also reported that a fire on Stockton Street just outside of the City limits occurred last Thursday, and that it was put out before spreading more than one acre in size. **Community Development Director Kellogg** reported that the City is working in partnership with the Tuolumne County Transportation Council and the 4H Cooperative Extension on the Dragoon Healthy Trail Days event which will be held on November 4, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the field by the Trail; this event is a spinoff of the *Get Up, Get Going, Get Healthy Sonora* Program which encourages eating healthy and active living. **Kellogg** also noted that the Historic Walking Tours for 4th Graders will be held on October 2, 4, 9 and 11 with five schools participating, and plans are underway for the 3rd Annual Historic Walking Tour that will be held on the last day of the Farmers Market on October 20th at 11:30 p.m. **Police Chief Vanderwiell** reported that the City has been awarded the Communities Facilities Grant which monies will be used to replace old and aging vehicles. **City Clerk Cassinetta** commented on her recent convalescence from achilles tendon surgery, and that it was good to "be back in the saddle again". **Councilmember Williams** reported that she attended the following: The *Energy Action Plan Back to School Nights* held for Sonora High School and Sonora Elementary School, the Tuolumne County Economic Development (TCEDA) Special Meeting, the Vision Sonora Design and Marketing Meeting, the Tuolumne County Transportation Council Meeting, the Tuolumne County Water Policy Meeting, the Tuolumne Utilities District Policy Meeting, the Tuolumne Utilities District Special Meeting, the ATCAA

Board Meeting, and the Tuolumne County Chamber Government Affairs Council Meeting. **Councilmember Plummer** reported that he attended the TCEDA Special Meeting and would like to see the public trust restored to that Agency. **Mayor Garaventa** reported that he attended the following: Worked with the downtown merchants at the concert at the Black Oak Pavilion, the TCEDA Special Meeting, the Solid Waste Committee Meeting, the Transportation Council Meeting and the Tuolumne County Chamber Governmental Affairs Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the Regular Session Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. to the to the next Regular Meeting on Monday, October 1, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Marijane Cassinetta, City Clerk Date

**Minutes
Subject To
Council Approval**