



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
CITY COUNCIL

October 1, 2014

City Council Chambers
2820 Clark Avenue, Norco, CA 92860



Berwin Hanna, Mayor
Herb Higgins, Mayor Pro Tem
Kathy Azevedo, Council Member
Kevin Bash, Council Member
Greg Newton, Council Member

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Berwin Hanna, Mayor, **Present**
Herb Higgins, Mayor Pro Tem, **Present**
Kathy Azevedo, Council Member, **Present**
Kevin Bash, Council Member, **Present**
Greg Newton, Council Member, **Present**

§54956.9(c) – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation:
One Potential Case

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION: 7:05 p.m.

REPORT OF ACTION(S) TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION (§54957.1): (City Attorney)

The City Attorney stated that there was no reportable action from Closed Session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Berwin Hanna

INVOCATION: Norco Foursquare Church, *Pastor Jared Vieyra*

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS AS FOLLOWS:

1. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS ON REGIONAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Council Member Bash:

- Attended the monthly senior meeting today. Commented on the great senior programs scheduled for rest of the year and thanked staff. Informed the seniors that the Oversight Board approved the creation of the Successor Housing Agency, which will reinstate senior and low-income programs.
- Commented on his visit to Ingalls Equestrian Center today to view the pillars being raised at the Veteran's Memorial and expressed that reality has exceeded expectations for the memorial. Also commented on Vietnam Veterans who died of Agent Orange are eligible to have their names on the wall.

Mayor Pro Tem Higgins:

- No report given.

Council Member Newton:

- No report given.

Council Member Azevedo:

- Attended the State of Riverside County event last week in Temecula regarding tourism and shared some tips she learned to make Norco a destination point.
- Attended the Boy Scouts of America 2014 Distinguished Citizen awards ceremony on September 30th. Corona-Norco Unified School District Board Member Cathy Sciortino and Council Member Kevin Bash were honored.

Mayor Hanna:

- Met with the Mayors of Corona, Eastvale, and Jurupa Valley regarding local issues. The group of local Mayors will be setting up a meeting with the Riverside County Transportation Commission to discuss the lack of toll lanes/interchange from the I-15 to the 91 freeway.

2. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT ITEMS:

Council Member Newton pulled Consent Calendar Items 2.C. and 2.D. Mayor Pro Tem Higgins stated he would abstain from voting on Consent Calendar Item 2.A.

M/S AZEVEDO/BASH to adopt the remaining items as recommended on the Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: HIGGINS (Item 2.A. only)

- A. City Council Minutes:
Regular Meeting of August 20, 2014
Regular Meeting of September 17, 2014
Action: Approved the City Council Minutes

- B. Procedural Step to Approve Ordinance after Reading of Title Only. **Action: Approved**
 - C. Acceptance of Bids and Award of Contract for the Purchase of Two ADA Electric Shuttle Vehicles with Solar Recovery Power. **PULLED FOR DISCUSSION.**
 - D. Award of Annual Service Maintenance Agreements for As-Needed Potable Water and Wastewater System Repairs and Installations. **PULLED FOR DISCUSSION.**
 - E. Approval to Declare Various City Assets as Surplus Property. **Action: Declared various City assets as surplus and authorized the City Manager to dispose of surplus assets through auction, donation to charitable organizations, or electronic recycling (e-cycle).**
3. ITEM(S) PULLED FROM CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:
- 2.C. Acceptance of Bids and Award of Contract for the Purchase of Two ADA Electric Shuttle Vehicles with Solar Recovery Power.

Council Member Newton pulled the item due to concerns from residents and requested that Director Brian Petree provide the public with some information about the shuttles. Director Petree stated that the City received funding from the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) to purchase energy efficient vehicles. The shuttles have a three-year warranty and although CitEcar Electric Vehicles is located out-of-state, the vendors providing service maintenance are located within 30 minutes of the City. City Manager Okoro indicated that if the funds are not used, AQMD will allocate them to another city.

M/S NEWTON/BASH to accept bids and award contract to CitEcar Electric Vehicles of Gainseville, Florida in the amount of \$47,393.12 for the purchase of two ADA electric shuttle vehicles with solar recovery power. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

- C. Award of Annual Service Maintenance Agreements for As-Needed Potable Water and Wastewater System Repairs and Installations.

Council Member Newton inquired whether or not the City should go out to bid since the recommendation is to accept a bid that is not the apparent low bidder from the City of Corona bid process. Director Askew stated that even though the City of Norco is piggybacking on the City of Corona's bid process, the City of Norco can choose any of the bidders. By piggybacking on the City of Corona's bids, the City of Norco is saving

approximately two-months time. Staff recommended piggybacking at the direction of Council to move forward quickly with the repairs and installations. Council Member Newton suggested going out to bid.

M/S NEWTON/HIGGINS to direct staff to prepare and proceed with a Notice Inviting Bids for the As-Needed Potable Water and Wastewater System Repairs and Installations maintenance agreement. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

4. CITY COUNCIL CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. **Ordinance No. 980, First Reading.** Code Change 2014-05 (City of Norco): A City-Initiated Code Amendment to Add Chapter 5.56 "Hookah and Smoking Lounges" Prohibiting Hookah and Smoking Lounges in All Zoning Districts within the City.

Prior to presenting information on the ordinance, Planning Director Steve King noted to the Council that another continuance was being requested by the owner of a restaurant affected by this ordinance.

In response to Council Member Azevedo, Director King stated that currently hookah lounges are not a permitted use.

Council Member Newton stated that this is a city-wide ordinance and therefore the Council should move forward with the hearing since the restaurant owner has already been given the courtesy of one continuance. Mayor Hanna concurred.

M/S HIGGINS/AZEVEDO to continue the public hearing for Ordinance 980, first reading, to October 15, 2014. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS

NOES: HANNA, NEWTON

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ted Hoffman commented that under the current contract with Waste Management, the City is supposed to receive quarterly progress reports regarding waste to energy projects. Mr. Hoffman commented on the Silverlakes Equestrian Sports Park and requested that the Council actively create a plan with or without RJ Brandes. He suggested that perhaps the City could form a committee comprised of Mr. Brandes, local business leaders, residents,

and City staff to find alternative solutions to Silverlakes. The committee could provide new ideas and the process could diminish resentment within the community.

JD Hill and Joseph Grunebach both spoke regarding the trail encroachments on Corona Avenue as their properties are adjacent. Mr. Hill stated he and his neighbor Mr. Grunebach could not attend the previous Council meeting in which the encroachments were discussed. Mr. Hill stated that his home was built in 1969 and he shares his driveway with Mr. Grunebach. Mr. Grunebach's driveways, on his two properties, were constructed before the City's incorporation. Mr. Hill indicated that since 1986, there have been no reports of injuries as a result of the driveways. Mr. Hill commented that engineers are having difficulty finding a safe alternative due to the steepness of the trail. Mr. Hill recommended that the trail be closed from Willow to Third Street due to the dangerous conditions. Mr. Grunebach concurred that he has not had issues on the trail sections fronting his properties. He indicated that if the encroachment is removed, there will be problems resulting from erosion.

Denise Sutherland commented on the tumbleweeds on the property behind hers. Ms. Sutherland will be submitting a report with the City regarding this issue.

Vern Showalter spoke about the trail encroachments on Corona Avenue. Mr. Showalter stated that the Streets, Trails, and Utilities Commission sent reports and recommendations to the City Council within the last three to four years regarding unsafe trails on Corona Avenue. Mr. Showalter commented that the Streets, Trails, and Utilities Commission was put in a position of not being able to use alternative trail materials as the City Council directed the use of decomposed granite only. The Commission has also sent reports regarding Crestview Avenue being unsafe and to-date, action has not been taken.

6. CITY COUNCIL / CITY MANAGER / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Hanna commented on a letter he received from a resident on Reservoir Drive. Mayor Hanna requested to agendaize the discussion of rezoning the properties on Reservoir Drive to allow animal keeping.

M/S HANNA/HIGGINS to agendaize discussion allowing animal keeping on the properties on Reservoir Drive that are currently zoned Residential (R-1-10). The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Council Member Newton noted that at the previous Council Meeting, he requested to receive a status report and strategy plan for the encroachments on Corona Avenue. In response, Director of Public Works Lori Askew stated that letters were mailed to residents in that affected area indicating that they have until October 10th to remove the encroachments. Encroachments still in place after October 10th will be removed by the

City. Ms. Askew stated that decomposed granite will be used on the trails and for steeper graded trails, alternative materials will be considered.

Council Member Newton requested a status on the direction given for full trails for cul-de-sacs. In response, Planning Director Steve King indicated that the review of this issue will go before the Streets, Trails, and Utilities Commission on October 6, 2014. The recommendation from the Commission will go directly to the City Council.

Council Member Azevedo suggested that the Streets, Trails, and Utilities Commission could address encroachments on a street-by-street basis and recommend a plan of action.

Council Member Azevedo suggested creating a "Did You Know?"- type notice for residents which would be included in water billing mailings to notify residents of trail maintenance responsibility, clarification of City-owned trees, signs not permitted on utility poles, and other notifications. She also suggested putting the information on the website. City Manager Andy Okoro indicated that flyers with some of the information, such as the noise ordinance and trail maintenance responsibility have already been mailed. Mr. Okoro stated he will look into the distributing information on the other suggested items.

Mayor Hanna commented on the Council appropriating \$100,000 for trail encroachment removal on Crestview Avenue; however, the list was not completed.

Council Member Newton suggested better communication with residents by having Town Hall meetings on a quarterly basis as the meetings would be beneficial for everyone.

Council Member Bash stated that the Ad-Hoc Committee on Infrastructure Needs has been discussing trails at length. Council Member Bash requested to receive the Streets, Trails, and Utilities reports after every meeting. Council Member Bash also expressed his concurrence with Council Member Newton regarding Town Hall meetings.

Council Member Azevedo commented that Waste Management suggested discussing the quarterly reports in a Town Hall-type meeting. Council Member Azevedo suggested incorporating the Town Hall meeting regarding Waste Management with discussion on trail issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hanna adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.