



**MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO**

**CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

February 18, 2015

**City Council Chambers
2820 Clark Avenue, Norco, CA 92860**

CALL TO ORDER:	7:04 p.m.
ROLL CALL:	Herb Higgins, Mayor, Present Kevin Bash, Mayor Pro Tem, Present Kathy Azevedo, Council Member, Present Berwin Hanna, Council Member, Present Greg Newton, Council Member, Present
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:	Council Member Kathy Azevedo
INVOCATION:	Pastor Rene Parish, Beacon Hill Assembly of God
RECOGNITIONS:	Rick and Sharon Wagner, Norco Animal Rescue Team (NART) Volunteers

Council Member Hanna presented certificates of appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Wagner for their support and service on the Norco Animal Rescue Team.

California Rehabilitation Center's Participation in the Wheelchair Basketball Exhibition October 2014

Mayor Pro Tem Bash presented certificates of appreciation to Warden Tampkins, California Rehabilitation Center, and Kenneth Steward, California Correctional Peace Officer's Association.

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mayor Pro Tem Bash:

- Attended the annual legislative update meeting with Congressman Calvert and City staff.

Council Member Hanna:

- Attended Riverside County Transportation Commission meeting.
- Commented on an upcoming Vector Control meeting in which a remote control mosquito will be a discussion item.

Council Member Newton:

- No report given.

Council Member Azevedo:

- Commented on the many contributions made by the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC), including donations to Sierra Vista Elementary, Norco High School, and Roosevelt High School. CRC has also been instrumental with the U.N.L.O.A.D. meetings.
- Attended the Western Riverside Council of Governments meeting. At the meeting, it was announced that former Texas Governor Rick Perry will be the keynote speaker for the WRCOG meeting on June 11, 2015.

Mayor Higgins:

- Attended the League of California Cities Riverside County Division Mayor's Meeting on February 6. The meeting included discussions on police services and the advantages and disadvantages of City services versus County services.
- Commented on the League of California Cities Employees Relations Committee. The Committee met in Sacramento last month. Topics included state budget and issues briefing, state legislative update, and discussion of committee policies.

2. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT ITEMS:

Council Member Newton requested to pull Item 2.C.

Item 2.D. was pulled to allow for public comment.

M/S BASH/NEWTON to approve the remaining items as recommended. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

- A. City Council Minutes: Regular Meeting of February 4, 2015. **Approved the regular meeting minutes.** (City Clerk)
- B. Procedural Step to Approve Ordinance after Reading of Title Only. **Action: Approved.** (City Clerk)
- C. Recap of Actions Taken by the Planning Commission at its Meeting Held on February 11, 2015. (Planning Director) **Pulled for discussion.**
- D. Reject All Bids for LMD #4 Equestrian Trail Fence Replacement Years 1 & 2. (Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director) **Pulled for discussion.**
- E. Fiscal Year 2015 Second Quarter Budget Performance Report. **Received and filed.** (City Manager)

3. ITEM(S) PULLED FROM CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

2.C. Recap of Actions Taken by the Planning Commission at its Meeting Held on February 11, 2015. (Planning Director)

Council Member Newton pulled this item to appeal Item 4.A., Conditional Use Permit 2014-024 (Yandoc), from the Planning Commission Agenda of February 11, 2015. Council Member Newton appealed this item due to concerns such as how a contractor storage building enhances the Horsetown USA lifestyle and development of Sixth Street. He also commented on unfinished buildings on Sixth Street. Council Member Newton would like to discuss the possibility of requiring a performance completion bond as well as discuss the possibility of a moratorium on storage yards on Sixth Street.

M/S BASH/HANNA to receive and file the remaining items on the Recap of Actions Taken by the Planning Commission at its Meeting Held on February 11, 2015. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

F. Reject All Bids for LMD #4 Equestrian Trail Fence Replacement Years 1 & 2
Action: Rejected all bids for the LMD #4 Equestrian Trail Fence Replacement Years 1 & 2. (Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director)

Ted Hoffman requested a meeting allowing residents in LMD 4 the opportunity to provide input on this project before it goes out for re-bid.

Director Brian Petree indicated that this project has been combined with another fencing project from Public Works. The combination of the projects will allow the City to get better pricing. Director Petree noted that a public meeting for LMD 4 residents will delay the bid process up to two months. Mayor Higgins commented to proceed with the combined bid process but inform the public of the fencing material being installed. Council Member Azevedo suggested putting the information on the website as well.

M/S AZEVEDO/BASH to reject all bids for the LMD #4 Equestrian Trail Fence Replacement Years 1 & 2. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Richard Hallam commented on the building on Fourth Street and Sierra Avenue. Mr. Hallam suggested the use of a performance completion bond and asked the Council to consider a moratorium on contractor yards on Sixth Street.

Kathy Walker commented that Sons of Liberty Aleworks is the featured brewery for Horsetown Brew 'n Que event in May. Ms. Walker indicated that a commercial shot at Sons of Liberty Aleworks has been featured on the Food Channel. The commercial is available for viewing at www.brewnquefestival.com.

Ted Hoffman thanked staff for the City Hall Weekly Highlights newsletter distributed via the e-mail subscription.

Glen Hedges commented on the Norco Horsemen's Association Tumbleweed Party on February 21, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. at the end of Third Street to clean up the tumbleweeds from the backyard trails.

5. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Reinstatement of Affordable Housing Programs. (Economic Development Consultant)

Economic Development Consultant Roger Grody reported that for many years, the City of Norco—through the now-defunct Norco Redevelopment Agency—administered housing programs addressing the needs of lower income homeowners, particularly seniors on fixed incomes. California Redevelopment Law mandated that 20 percent of Agency revenues be expended on affordable housing projects or programs, so funding for such purposes was plentiful. The dissolution of the Agency in February 2012 brought those programs to a sudden halt. But with the City recently becoming the Housing Successor to the Norco Redevelopment Agency, funding for these programs has been renewed. Mr. Grody presented a summary of the programs, which include an emergency repair grant, home improvement grant, deferred payment loan, lead and asbestos remediation grant, first-time homebuyer program, and utility bill assistance program.

Council Member Berwin asked if these programs are the same as the previous programs in which the City furnished a list of contractors that would do the repair work under these programs. In response, Mr. Grody stated that these are the same programs.

In response to Mayor Higgins, Mr. Grody stated that information about these programs will be on the City's website. Mr. Grody added that information will be distributed via flyers in the water billing, and staff will conduct informational meetings at the Senior Center. Mayor Higgins commented on the high demand for these programs and asked about staffing levels to assist residents. Mr. Grody indicated that Housing Specialist Michael Neal of PMC is at City Hall on Wednesdays and as needed, and available by phone all other times. Mr. Grody added that he is available as well to assist the public.

M/S BASH/HANNA to approve the reinstatement of affordable housing programs, including Emergency Grants, Zero-Percent Interest Deferred Payment Loans, First-Time Homebuyer Loans, and Utility Bill Assistance. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

- B. Approval of Sixth Street Electronic Gateway Sign Design. (Economic Development Consultant)

City Manager Okoro requested that this item be continued to the next regular meeting.

M/S BASH/NEWTON to continue this item to the March 4, 2015 meeting. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

- C. Approval of Mid-Year Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Annual Operating Budget. (City Manager)

City Manager Okoro reported that the recommended mid-year budget revisions increase estimated General Fund revenues by a net amount of \$293,395 due to projected increases in various revenues categories. General Fund adopted expenditures are recommended to be reduced by \$108,850 due to reductions associated with the Wee-People Program and general liability insurance premium. The staff report provides detailed recommended mid-year budget adjustments by major revenue and expenditure categories. The staff report also provides a recapitulation of estimated fund balance in the General Fund including the effects of these recommended budget adjustments. The mid-year budget amendment also includes recommended revenue and expenditure adjustments to Gas Tax, Water and Sewer Funds. The proposed mid-year adjustments also include recommended changes to some job titles.

Council Member Newton referenced the proposed water fund expenditures and asked what the City's backflow program is. In response, Director Askew indicated that every commercial business is required to have a backflow preventor to protect the City's infrastructure. The preventors are tested on an annual basis and the tests are submitted to the State.

Council Member Newton referenced Attachment A Gas Tax Expenditures which notes a \$50,000 additional budget request for costs related to Corona Avenue encroachments removal and reconstruction. City Manager Okoro stated that the removal and reconstruction has been paid for but the budget adjustment has not been made. Director Askew added that the costs were approximately \$9,000 for removal and approximately \$30,000 for installation of the wax-coated aggregate trail material. Council Member Newton requested to see the invoicing.

M/S BASH/HANNA to adopt Resolution No. 2015-04, approving various mid-year amendments to the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 annual Operating Budget and authorizing changes in appropriations and revenues thereto. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

6. PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. Amendments to the Five Year Capital Improvement Program (FY 2015-2019).
(City Manager)

City Manager Okoro indicated that the City Council is requested to approve amendments to the five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to add projects that were not included at the time the CIP was approved on June 4, 2014. The requested amendment includes funding for the Hamner Avenue Bridge Project and the Norco Hills Lift Station improvement project.

Council Member Hanna commented on the possibility of the City of Eastvale not wanting to pay their fair share of the Hamner Avenue Bridge project. In response, City Manager Okoro indicated that he met with Eastvale officials approximately a month ago and they committed to pay this fiscal year's requirement, as well as the next four fiscal years. Then, at which time they will review their budget for future commitments. Council Member Hanna commented on the completion date for the project being in the year 2024. There was some discussion regarding the environmental studies for the project. Director Askew stated that the City is currently working with the County on an agreement regarding funding commitments.

In response to Council Member Hanna's questions about the length of time to complete the bridge, Director Askew indicated that the County has not reached a sufficiency rating yet of less than 60 in order for it to be considered a total replacement. The County has federal funding for rehabilitation of the bridge, which would just repair the existing bridge. The County's goal is for a total replacement, which would raise and extend the length of the bridge.

Council Member Azevedo suggested that the City send a letter to Patty Romo, Deputy Director of Transportation at Riverside County Transportation Commission stressing the urgency of a complete reconstruction of the bridge as a matter of public safety and due to increased traffic with the near future completion of Silverlakes. Council Member Azevedo also commented that WRCOG's TUMF program for the northwest zone, which includes Norco and Eastvale, is a priority, although it is a small component of funding for the project.

Mayor Higgins opened the public hearing indicating that proper notification had been made and asked for the appearance of those wishing to speak. With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Higgins closed the public hearing bringing the discussion back to Council Members.

Council Member Newton referenced the sewer lift station and asked if the Norco Hills Landscape Maintenance District is responsible for a portion of the costs. In response, Director Askew stated that the LMD is not responsible. There was some discussion about the age of the pump, which is about ten years, and that there is no backup pump. Council Member Newton expressed his concerns about backups and inquired about the need for more funding. Director Askew noted that backup pumps fail when not in use, but that she will follow up on the issue.

M/S HANNA/BASH to Adopt Resolution No. 2015-05, amending the Capital Improvement Program for the Fiscal Years 2015-2019. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

7. CITY COUNCIL / CITY MANAGER / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Council Member Hanna commented on a meeting next week for the Day of the Cowboy. This first meeting will be with the Australian Lighthorse group, who will be spending a week here providing demonstrations to the committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Bash commented on the 2nd Annual Film Festival on February 28, 2015 and noted that special guests will be Mary Eisen Cramer, daughter of Hilda Eisen, who was a Jewish Freedom Fighter, and Mal Middlesworth, a Pearl Harbor survivor.

Council Member Azevedo welcomed Waste Management Representative Carolyn Anderson who was in attendance in the audience. Council Member Azevedo congratulated the City for being nominated for a Business Retention and Expansion Award by Inland Empire Economic Partnership. The winner will be announced at the 2nd Annual Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet Event on February 26. Ms. Azevedo also commented on the American Cancer Society ride on March 8, 2015. The proceeds of the ride will benefit breast cancer research.

City Manager Okoro commented on the meeting today between staff and Congressman Ken Calvert. The meeting included discussion of the Hamner Avenue Bridge project, which the Congressman stated he is committed to working with the City to obtain funding. Other topics discussed were grants for water projects, Silverlakes, and preservation of historical resources on the Navy base.

Mayor Higgins congratulated Brian Petree for his appointment as Deputy City Manager.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Higgins adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Cheryl L. Link, CMC, City Clerk