



**CITY OF NORCO
CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE NORCO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, July 15, 2015
City Council Chambers, 2820 Clark Avenue, Norco, CA 92860**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 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**

The City Council recessed to Closed Session (Section 54954) to consider the following matter:

CLOSED SESSION:

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

§54957 – Public Employee Performance Evaluation:
Title: City Manager

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION: 7:06 p.m.

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

City Attorney John Harper reported that the one potential case was regarding J & S Striping and that the City Manager Performance evaluation is being continued to August 5, 2015.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Bash

INVOCATION: St. Mel's Catholic Church, Father Toan Pham

PROCLAMATION: Norco Public Library – 85th Anniversary

Mayor Pro Tem Bash presented an overview of Norco Public Library's history. Mayor Pro Tem Bash presented library staff with a proclamation honoring the Norco Public Library's value for the past 85 years. Other dignitaries were in attendance as well to present the Norco Public Library with proclamations and certificates, including Congressman Calvert's Office, Corona-Norco Unified School District, Supervisor Tavaglione's Office, and Senator Roth's Office.

PRESENTATION: Pastor Rene Parish of Beacon Hill Church -
Donation to Party Partners

Pastor Rene Parish presented the Mayor and City Council with a donation of \$20,000 for the Party Partners Program.

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS AS FOLLOWS:

1. A. WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES UPDATE (Carolyn Corrao, Public Sector Solutions Manager)

Public Sector Solutions Manager Carolyn Corrao presented information about bulky item collection. Residents are allotted three bulky pick-ups per year. She also talked about the sharps collection mail back program. Ms. Corrao touched on the senior and low income discounted rate program. Ms. Corrao commented on Waste Management's commitment to the City and noted that over \$45,000 has been donated for community programs and events. Lastly, Ms. Corrao applauded the City of Norco for its high diversion rate of 64%.

Council Member Hanna commented on the large green waste bins at Ingalls Park. Deputy City Manager Brian Petree stated that the bins are picked up once a week but that he would look into more frequent visits or an extra bin during the summer months or when pruning is taking place so that Ingalls Park looks presentable during events.

In response to Council Member Newton, Ms. Corrao indicated that she will provide a tonnage report and breakdown of what the city has for two-yard bins and residential carts for manure services to the City Manager for distribution to the City Council.

B. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS ON REGIONAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Mayor Pro Tem Bash:

- Attended Supervisor Tavaglione's birthday party in which Mr. Tavaglione announced that he is not seeking re-election.
- Did not attend the STAR meeting but expressed concerns about the staff hours cut for that division.
- Met with City of Eastvale, County of Riverside and WRCOG regarding the Hamner Avenue Bridge project.

Council Member Hanna:

- Attended a Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) meeting and commented that RCTC's website has construction updates for the public.
- Attended a Vector Control meeting.
- Commented on the Day of the American Cowboy Event July 25, 2015.

Council Member Newton:

- Attended Chino Basin Desalter Authority Board of Directors meeting in which a project status overview was provided.
- Met with Waste Management regarding manure to energy alternatives.

Council Member Azevedo:

- Attended a Western Riverside Council of Governments meeting in which the TUMF reimbursement agreement, HERO Program, and water conservation were among the many topics discussed. Council Member Azevedo requested a meeting with City Manager Okoro, Director of Public Works Lori Askew, Council Member Berwin Hanna, and herself to discuss the TUMF reimbursement agreement nexus study comment period, which ends August 6.
- Commented that Norco College will be celebrating its 25th anniversary soon.
- Commented on U.N.L.O.A.D. and working with students from UCR regarding e-cigarettes legislation.

Mayor Higgins:

- Attended Waste Management meeting regarding manure to energy and would still like the City to consider a partnership with CR&R for use of the their anaerobic digester.
- Met with WRCOG, County Transportation, and the City of Eastvale regarding local matching funds for the Hamner Avenue Bridge Project.
- Commented on the upcoming Norco Community Town Hall meeting scheduled for July 27, 2015.

2. CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY CONSENT ITEMS:

Consent Calendar Items 2.C., 2.D., 2.H., and 2.I. were pulled to allow for public comment. Council Member Azevedo also requested to pull Items 2.E. and 2.I.

M/S BASH/HANNA to approve the remaining Consent Calendar 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 Special Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2015 and June 3, 2015; and Regular Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2015 and June 17, 2015. **Action: Approved the City Council special and regular meeting minutes.** (City Clerk)
- B. Procedural Step to Approve Ordinance after Reading of Title Only. **Action: Approval** (City Clerk)
- C. Recap of Actions Taken by the Planning Commission at its Meeting held on July 8, 2015. **Pulled for discussion.** (Planning Director)
- D. Approval of a Service Agreement with Roger J. Grody, LLC to Provide Economic Development Consulting Services. **Pulled for discussion.** (City Manager)

- E. Adoption of Sixth Street Gateway Sign Policies and Procedures. **Pulled for discussion.** (Economic Development Consultant)
 - F. Short Sale Authorization Affecting Repayment of a Home Improvement Loan at 5020 Trail Street. **Action: Ratified the action taken by the City Manager, authorizing a short sale of the property at 5020 Trail Street and recovering \$12,000 of a Norco Redevelopment Agency Home Improvement Loan.** (Economic Development Consultant)
 - G. Recognizing the Friends of Prado Dam's Efforts to Restore and Save the Prado Dam Bicentennial Mural. **Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2015-45, recognizing the Friends of Prado Dam's efforts to restore and save the Prado Dam Bicentennial Mural.** (Deputy City Manager/Director of Parks and Recreation)
 - H. Approval of Additional Appropriation for the Contract with C.P. Construction Co., Inc. for the Vine Street and Sagetree Lane Waterline Improvement Project. **Pulled for discussion.** (Director of Public Works)
 - I. Approval of First Amendment to the Agreement with Kosmont Realty Corporation for Real Estate Services to Sell Successor Agency Properties APNs 122-070-023, 122-070-026, and 126-120-038. **Pulled for discussion.** (Executive Director)
 - J. Quarterly Investment Report for Quarter Ended June 30, 2015. **Action: Received and filed the Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2015.** (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 July 8, 2015. (Planning Director)

Planning Director Steve King indicated that for Planning Commission Item 7.B (Architectural Review 2015-03 of Conditional Use Permit 2008-09), he provided a memorandum the Council's review. Director King explained that the memorandum is regarding exemptions and findings for the Architectural Review. The exemption category given to the Planning Commission was incorrect; however, the City Attorney has stated that this is only a clerical error and can be corrected with the adoption of the Consent Agenda. If it is adopted as part of the Consent Agenda, the Notice of Exemption will be posted with the County Clerk within five days and it will have the correct exemption status in Finding E.

Council Member Newton commented that he does not have issue with the architectural review but does with the process. He said that part of the decision making aspect of the Planning Commission is determination of the findings. Council Member Newton recommended that this item be sent back to the Planning Commission with the proper findings.

In reference to Planning Commission Item 6.C. (Variance 2015-02), Council Member Newton noted that the Commission asked that the improvements be completed at the point of construction and not cash in lieu. Director King indicated that the Planning Commission does not have the authority to change the clause; only the City Engineer is the one to determine whether the street improvements are made or cash-in-lieu is accepted. This matter will go back to the Planning Commission.

Ted Hoffman commented on Planning Commission Item 7.B. and said that during the Planning Commission meeting on July 8, 2015, the Commission took a ten minute recess to allow the public to review the architectural review plans.

Karen Leonard commented on Planning Commission Item 7.B. and asked that the approval be reconsidered as the Architectural Review is not consistent with western lifestyle and what is required of other businesses.

A motion was made by Council Member Newton motion to send back Item 7.B., Architectural Review 2015-03 of Conditional Use Permit 2008-09, to the Planning Commission for reconsideration of the appropriate exemption category. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

M/S BASH/HANNA to approve the Planning Commission Recap of July 8, 2015 as presented. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS

NOES: NEWTON

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

2.D. Approval of a Service Agreement with Roger J. Grody, LLC to Provide Economic Development Consulting Services. (City Manager)

Mayor Pro Tem Bash said that since Mr. Grody has been consulting for the City, the City has seen growth. Mayor Pro Tem Bash stated that Mr. Grody will continue to serve the city well.

Lance Gregory commented that he reviewed the contract and did not see a performance clause. Mr. Gregory expressed that the Economic Development Advisory Council is important to the City's future economic growth and sales tax revenue. Mr. Gregory also commented that he reviewed the City's website under the Economic Development Department and suggested updating portions of the site. Mr. Gregory also suggested that the City hire a part-time staff member in Code Compliance to help with the appearance of the City in order to attract business.

M/S BASH/NEWTON to approve a Service Agreement with Roger J. Grody, LLC to serve as the City's Economic Development Consultant. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

- 2.E. Adoption of Sixth Street Gateway Sign Policies and Procedures. (Economic Development Consultant)

Council Member Azevedo suggested that staff review the policies and fees in three months to ensure that the procedures are working well and consider any needed adjustments.

M/S AZEVEDO/BASH to adopt the Sixth Street Gateway Sign Policies and Procedures as recommended by the Economic Development Advisory Council and to review the Policies and Procedures three months after the sign has been operational for any needed changes in procedures and/or fees. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

- 2.H. Approval of Additional Appropriation for the Contract with C.P. Construction Co., Inc. for the Vine Street and Sagetree Lane Waterline Improvement Project. (Director of Public Works)

Director Askew reported that C.P. Construction Co., Inc. was awarded contract on February 4, 2015 in the amount of \$538,495 to construct the Vine Street and Sagetree Lane Waterline Improvement Project. The City desires to have them do additional emergency work which consists of replacing a 10" waterline on Corydon. This waterline which has had two breaks in the past eight months connects to the waterline that has just been replaced on Vine Street.

Ted Hoffman expressed that he is glad to see the project getting done. Mr. Hoffman asked if the \$72,555 is coming out of the current fiscal year Capital Improvement budget. In response, City Manager Okoro indicated that funding is coming from existing bond proceeds that have not been committed.

M/S BASH/AZEVEDO to adopt Resolution No. 2015-46, appropriating funds in the amount of \$72,555 for additional work associated with the Vine Street and Sagetree Lane Waterline Improvement Project. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

- 2.I. Approval of First Amendment to the Agreement with Kosmont Realty Corporation for Real Estate Services to Sell Successor Agency Properties APNs 122-070-023, 122-070-026, and 126-120-038. (Executive Director)

Executive Director Okoro presented that on June 4, 2014, the Successor Agency (SA) to the former Norco Community Redevelopment Agency entered into agreement for real estate services with Kosmont Realty Corporation (KRC) for disposition of SA owned real properties through the Department of Finance (DOF) approved Auction.com. Due to the

unimproved nature of the properties to be sold, Auction.com did not accept the properties for placement and disposition through the electronic auction process. Staff is recommending that the SA approve the first amendment to the agreement for real estate services designating KRC as the City's broker and authorize KRC to sell the properties through the use of traditional real estate brokerage services consistent with the City's Long-Range Property Management Plan (PMP) and the applicable provisions of AB 1484 and DOF regulations.

In response to Council Member Newton, Mr. Okoro indicated that a local traditional real estate broker could be used; however, there is an extensive process with the Department of Finance that traditional realtors may not be familiar with.

Council Member Azevedo commented that she has worked with Kosmont over the years and Kosmont brings a great reputation and experience. Ms. Azevedo asked about the fiscal impact and if after the parcels are sold, what percentage of the proceeds comes back to the City. In response, Mr. Okoro stated that the proceeds of the sale go to the County Auditor/Controller who then distributes the money to the affecting taxing entities. The City's share is approximately 14% which goes to the General Fund.

Lance Gregory suggested a performance clause for Kosmont that if the properties are not sold within a specified time, to then put out a Request for Proposals for local realtors. Mr. Gregory also suggested lifting the restriction for the Auto Mall property.

M/S AZEVEDO/BASH to approve the First Amendment to the Agreement with Kosmont Realty Corporation for real estate services to sell Successor Agency Properties. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS

NOES: NEWTON

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lance Gregory commented on a notice he received from the City of Eastvale on July 14 regarding a grant from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and asked if the City of Norco is participating. Mr. Gregory also commented on the number of complaints regarding pan handlers at the 76 gas station at Hidden Valley Parkway.

Sandie MacQuarrie commented that the Silverlakes Master Plan currently listed on the City's website is from 2008 and that a new plan has been approved since then. Ms. MacQuarrie asked how the retail and hotel information on the Master Plan meets the deed restriction requirements.

Geoff Kahan commented on Concerts in the Park series at Pikes Peak Park.

Bill Schwab commented on the street striping contract and said that the \$26,000 over budget is equivalent to one year's income. He expressed that this should be a lesson on how to write better contracts.

Mayor Higgins recessed the meeting at 8:49 p.m. and reconvened at 8:58 p.m.

Mayor Higgins made a motion to continue Items 6.A., 6.B., and 6.C. to the August 5, 2015 regular City Council meeting.

Under discussion:

Jodie Webber commented that there are new residents in the audience and to give them due consideration. Ms. Webber suggested that the Council postpone other items instead of the Prop 218 process.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Azevedo to change the order of the agenda to hear the Public Hearing items prior to the Discussion Items. Council Member Newton seconded the motion. The substitute motion did not carry as a result of the following roll call vote:

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

The original motion made by Mayor Higgins to continue items 6.A., 6.B., and 6.C. to the August 5, 2015 regular City Council meeting was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bash and was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

City Engineer Dominic Milano indicated that the City Clerk's Office will continue receiving Prop 218 ballots for Landscape Maintenance District No. 2 until the close of the Public Hearing on August 5, 2015.

5. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Renaming the Norco Animal Control Shelter in Honor of Charles D. Hemmings. (Deputy City Manager/Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services)

Deputy City Manager/Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Brian Petree reported that a request was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Bash to rename the Norco Animal Control Shelter after the long-time employee, recently deceased, Charles D. Hemmings.

Ted Hoffman expressed his support for this item.

Sandy MacQuarrie suggested memorializing Mr. Hemmings in another way rather than changing the name of the shelter.

Mayor Pro Tem Bash spoke about Mr. Hemmings and his work at the shelter. Mr. Bash expressed his support for renaming the shelter. Council Member Hanna and Newton concurred.

Council Member Azevedo concurred about what her colleagues have said about Mr. Hemmings but indicated that Mr. Hemmings is not a Norco resident and supports other ways to memorialize him.

M/S BASH/HANNA to authorize the renaming of the Norco Animal Control Shelter in honor of Charles D. Hemmings, selecting the official name to be adopted as the Charles D. Hemmings Animal Control Shelter. The motion did not carry as a result of the following roll call vote:

AYES: BASH, HANNA

NOES: AZEVEDO, HIGGINS, NEWTON

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

- B. Discussion on Removal of Traffic Signal at Corona Avenue and Hidden Valley Parkway. (Director of Public Works)

Director of Public Works Lori Askew reported that at the May 6, 2015 Council meeting, Mayor Higgins requested a status update on the removal of the street improvements on Corona Avenue at Hidden Valley Parkway. On August 20, 2014, City Council voted 4-1 (Mayor Hanna voted no) to have the traffic signal at Corona Avenue and Hidden Valley Parkway removed. The signal is currently in operation pending the completion of design and construction of a traffic signal at the intersection of Via Blairo and Hidden Valley Parkway, by the City of Corona. Corona is currently out to bid with the new signal. On November 5, 2014, the City Council approved moving forward with the permanent closure of Corona Avenue. On June 3, 2015, staff and Mayor Pro Tem Bash met with the property owner of the parcel the road easement traverses. The property owner indicated his desire to develop the property commercially and requesting keeping the signal at Corona Avenue and Hidden Valley Parkway.

In response to Mayor Higgins, Director Askew indicated that staff has not proceeded with removal of the Corona Avenue improvements. In response to Mayor Higgins, Director King stated that the zoning of that property is Norco Hills Specific Plan Residential District, which requires a super majority of the City Council to change it to commercial zoning. Mayor Higgins expressed his concerns about where access for this property will be from – Corona Avenue or Hidden Valley Parkway. Director Askew stated that there would be no vehicular access from Corona Avenue.

In an effort to save costs, Mayor Pro Tem Bash commented that he and Economic Development Consultant Roger Grody contacted the property owner about the possibility of not removing the traffic signal and using it as an entrance way to a retail/commercial development on the property. Council Member Newton stated that no project has been brought forward. Mr. Grody commented that the property owner has a very serious potential buyer for a food service use. Council Member Azevedo requested placing a timeframe on the property owner to submit plans for development on the property. Mayor Higgins suggested giving the property owner 90 days to file plans with the City.

Lance Gregory commented that there is no need to remove infrastructure and would like to see commercial development.

Jodie Webber commented that the City of Corona has gone out to bid for the traffic signal at Via Blairo. Ms. Webber asked if the City of Corona has completed any aspect of a safety study. Ms. Webber expressed her concerns and possible impacts on the City of Norco regarding traffic safety on Hidden Valley Parkway.

Sandy MacQuarrie said that prior to Ms. Webber's comments, she was going to suggest to keep the signal due to costs.

Bill Schwab referred to the various staff reports which do not indicate the costs for removal of the traffic signal.

In response to Council Member Newton, Ms. Askew stated that she has spoken with the City of Corona and if the traffic signal remains, Norco staff will sync the City's signal with Corona's signal.

M/S AZEVEDO/HIGGINS to table discussion for 90 days to allow the property owner time to file plans with the Building Department. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

- C. Discussion of Riverside County Public Library Services Notice to Discontinue Lease and Vacate the City-Owned Building Located at 3954 Old Hamner Road. (Deputy City Manager/Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services)

Deputy City Manager/Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Brian Petree reported that the City has received notice from the Riverside County Public Library Services stating their intent to vacate the building they are currently using located at 3954 Old Hamner Road, Norco. The County's intention is to move into a larger facility located within the city limits of Norco some time before the end of the calendar year.

Ted Hoffman suggested sending this topic to the Economic Development Advisory Council and the Planning Commission for discussion on developing the area from Hamner Avenue to Detroit Street as a commercial/hospitality zone.

Diane Collins suggested the concept of a visitors center, history room, and space for the Norco Area Chamber of Commerce.

Library Staff spoke and reported that the County has issued a Request for Proposals for potential sites, which is due August 3. If there are no desirable proposals, then the Norco Library will stay in its current building.

Council Member Azevedo said that based on the comments made by the library, the City cannot move ahead until the City gets a definite answer from the Library.

M/S AZEVEDO/BASH to table discussion until the City receives information on the Library's final plans, but to move ahead with consideration of rezoning the area from Detroit Street to Hamner Avenue for retail use. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

- D. Review of the Addendum to the Final Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Infrastructure Needs and Funding Options. (City Manager)

Ad-Hoc Committee Chair Jodie Webber reported that pursuant to Council's direction, the Ad-Hoc Committee held an additional series of meetings to look at infrastructure needs and costs. Staff was given direction to consider a 35% reduction in the costs that were previously proposed in the original report in March 2015. As a result, the Ad-Hoc Committee was confident in achieving identifiable goals for streets, trails, parks, and buildings. The Ad-Hoc Committee came to the realization that with the 35% reduction that the infrastructure needs identified in the addendum report could be met with the consideration of a ½-cent sales tax and achieves maintenance for a 20-year plan. Chair Webber also indicated that the Ad-Hoc Committee could meet to review and discuss additional areas such as Sheriff contract, Fire contract, CalPERS, etc, which could potentially save the City in future costs and expenses.

Council Member Azevedo suggested having this topic at the next town meeting in order to educate residents. Council Member Azevedo thanked the Ad-Hoc Committee for their work.

Council Members Newton, Hanna, and Bash also thanked Ad-Hoc Committee for their work and the residents that attended and participated in the meetings.

Lance Gregory expressed that he understands the urgency of addressing infrastructure issues. Mr. Gregory said that if taxation is the direction, he suggests a one-cent sales tax as ½-cent will not be enough money to fund all infrastructures. Mr. Gregory also suggested a specific use tax versus a general use tax and placing it on the November 2015 ballot with a five-year sunset clause. Mr. Gregory also offered other suggestions such as cutting future employee benefits, aggressive economic development marketing, public/private partnerships, and more.

Bill Schwab, Ad-Hoc Committee Member, commented that the Committee concentrated on determining the needs and costs of capital improvements. The Committee determined that there is a definite need. Mr. Schwab commented on educating the public through town hall meetings, information in water bills, website, etc. Mr. Schwab said it is an easy sell because Norco is quickly moving towards being a destination City.

Ted Hoffman said he attended all Ad-Hoc Committee meetings. He said that the City does not have an income problem, but an overreaching state problem as the state takes 6.5% of the City's sales tax. Mr. Hoffman commented on the sales tax and noted that a ½-cent would only patch needs and suggested a one-cent tax. He also suggested public education.

Linda Dixon, Ad-Hoc Committee Member, commented that the Committee examined all aspects of the Capital Improvement Program budget. Ms. Dixon suggested another meeting to discuss this addendum report as the public needs detail and education.

Sandy MacQuarrie suggested a sales tax with specific use and a five-year sunset clause.

Geoff Kahan commented that \$88 million is needed over 20 years and therefore a sunset clause is not plausible. Mr. Kahan presented statistics to the Council and suggested a one-cent sales tax.

Council Member Azevedo commented that a one-cent general purpose sales tax makes sense. Ms. Azevedo also commented that placing it on the November 2015 ballot is not enough time and noted the need for public education. Council Member Azevedo suggested moving forward with a one-cent tax but allowing sufficient time for public education and discussion.

Council Member Newton commented that a lot of time has been spent evaluating needs and it has been known that this was coming but does not want to rush into it. Council Member Newton said that Council should be establishing certain goals and present operational efficiencies. Council and managers need to take first step in becoming more efficient in order to gain public trust. Council Member Newton said that the right thing to do is for residents to make the decision on a tax.

Council Member Hanna suggested having another meeting to discuss this topic. Council Member Hanna said that there is not enough time to put on the November 2015 ballot. Mr. Hanna said he supports a one-cent specific use tax.

Mayor Pro Tem Bash stated he supports a one-cent tax and that it should be up for consideration of the voters during this November 2015 election.

Mayor Higgins said he reviewed the Ad-Hoc Committee information at length. He commented on how the trail fund lacks funding when the City has millions in reserves. Mayor Higgins said that in order to justify a tax, he needs to be sure that everything possible has been done and considered, such as cuts and selling-off assets, which has not been done. Mayor Higgins said that the Ad-Hoc Committee's report does not solve the problem of spending. He commented that citizens should not pay for amenities they did not ask for such as parks. Mayor Higgins suggested revenue generators such as arena sponsorships and a banner program.

City Attorney Harper presented the options for a ballot measure. He indicated that the deadline to submit a measure to the County Registrar of Voter's Office for the November 3, 2015 election is August 7, 2015 and a resolution, therefore, would need to be adopted at the August 5, 2015 City Council meeting. A general or specific use tax would require a 4/5th vote of the Council to place it on the November ballot.

There was some discussion about possibly scheduling a special meeting of the City Council to further discuss this topic.

Mayor Pro Tem Bash stated that he looks at the 50% reduction of City employees and other cuts that have taken place. He asked where the additional 35% cut that the Mayor spoke of will come from. He said that if parks are closed, it will cost more to reopen them in the future. Mayor Pro Tem Bash disagreed with Mayor Higgins' comments about residents not asking for parks. He also disagreed with postponing placing the measure on the November 2015 ballot. Mayor Pro Tem Bash said that residents like where they live and the City has created community. The City provides a considerable amount of services on a \$17,000,000 budget.

Council Member Newton commented that what the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem said is correct. Council Member Newton said that austerity measures can be enacted but they will shrink the economy. Staffing levels, salaries, benefits, etc. can be cut but there needs to be a balance. Council Member Newton suggested scheduling a special meeting to discuss this in detail.

Council Member Azevedo commented that if the Council is not unanimous, the measure will not succeed. She suggested starting process of further discussion and public education for another election, possibly the June 2016 election.

M/S AZEVEDO/HIGGINS to postpone discussion on this matter until the new City Council is seated after the November 2015 election. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: BASH

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Higgins made a motion to continue Items 6.A., 6.B., and 6.C. to the August 5, 2015 regular City Council meeting.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Azevedo to change the order of the agenda to hear the Public Hearing items prior to the Discussion Items. Council Member Newton seconded the motion. The substitute motion did not carry as a result of the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, NEWTON

NOES: BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

The original motion made by Mayor Higgins to continue items 6.A., 6.B., and 6.C. to the August 5, 2015 regular City Council meeting was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bash and was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

- A. A Proposition 218 Majority Protest Vote Hearing to Increase the Assessments and if the Majority Protest Does Not Exist, Order the Continuation of Landscape Maintenance District and Confirming a Diagram and Assessment Providing for an Annual Assessment Levy for Landscape Maintenance District No. 2 (Western Pacific), Tract No. 25779. (City Engineer) **Continued to August 5, 2015.**
- B. Public Hearing Ordering the Continuation of Landscape Maintenance District No. 2 (Western Pacific), Tract 25779, and Confirming a Diagram and Assessment and Providing for an Annual Assessment Levy. (City Engineer) **Continued to August 5, 2015**
- C. Public Hearing Ordering the Continuation of Landscape Maintenance Districts and Confirming a Diagram and Assessment and Providing for an Annual Assessment Levy for Districts No. 1 - Beazer, Tract 28765; No. 3 – Centex, Tract 28626; No. 4 – Norco Ridge Ranch, Tracts 29588 and 29589; and No. 5 – Hawk’s Crest, Tract 30230. (City Engineer) **Continued to August 5, 2015**
- D. Public Hearing Confirming the Report of Costs for Abatement of Spring Weeds and Hazardous Vegetation as a Public Nuisance and Imposing Special Assessment Liens and Vacant Parcels Within the City. (Fire Battalion Chief)

Fire Battalion Chief Richard Owens reported that the 2015 Spring Weed Abatement Report of Costs lists property owners whose vacant parcels were abated by the Fire Department’s weed abatement contractor for the 2015 Spring Weed Abatement Program. After Council adopts the Resolution, property owners will be invoiced for payment of the abatement.

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.

M/S AZEVEDO/BASH to adopt Resolution No. 2015-54, confirming the report of costs for abatement of weeds and hazardous vegetation as a public nuisance and imposing special assessment liens on vacant parcels within the City. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

- E. Amendments to the City’s General fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. (City Manager)

M/S HIGGINS/BASH to continue the item to the August 5, 2015 City Council regular meeting. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

- F. **Ordinance No. 992, First Reading. Code Change 2015-03.** Amendment to Chapters 1.05 and 3.28 of the Norco Municipal Code Regarding Administrative Citation Procedures and Fees. (Planning Director)

M/S HIGGINS/BASH to continue the item to the August 5, 2015 City Council regular meeting. 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 Newton requested a tickler file of the investment account for cash-in-lieu detailed by address and date. City Manager Okoro would provide a report of accounting to the City Council.

Mayor Higgins asked to have the Planning Commission look at and take up review on an exemption for animal units on every property at 50 gallons per day per animal. Council Member Azevedo expressed her concerns of raising a red flag in the region about how much water the City uses. Mayor Higgins clarified that what he is requesting is an exemption on the allotment on how much water residents can use for the purposes of establishing a conservation target. Council Member Azevedo suggested waiting as the water agencies are already looking in to items such as this.

Council Member Newton suggested having the Streets, Trails and Utilities Commission discuss it as well.

M/S HIGGINS/NEWTON to have the Streets, Trails and Utilities Commission and the Planning Commission discuss the topic of a water exemption for animal units. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Higgins adjourned the meeting at 11:18 p.m.