



**CITY OF NORCO  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, September 2, 2015  
City Council Chambers, 2820 Clark Avenue, Norco, CA 92860**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 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**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Kathy Azevedo

**INVOCATION:** Pastor Louie Monteith, Calvary Chapel - Norco

**RECOGNITIONS:** Sarah Stark and Wayne Rutherford for their Life-Saving Actions during a Residential Fire Incident

Mayor Higgins presented certificates of meritorious service to Ms. Stark and Mr. Rutherford for their life-saving actions.

**PRESENTATION:** Chris Fowler, Boy Scout Troop 999, Eagle Scout Presentation – Senior Center Garden

Eagle Scout Chris Fowler gave a brief presentation about his project at the Senior Center. Mayor Pro Tem Bash presented Mr. Fowler with a certificate for his completion of his Eagle Scout project.

**CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS AS FOLLOWS:**

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

Mayor Pro Tem Bash:

- Is a member of the CNUSD Measure GG Committee and commented on bond funding and projects for Norco schools. All schools will be outfitted with new technology and perimeter fencing. Commented that the Corona-Norco Unified School District will not be changing its name. Indicated that he continues to lobby to bring money to the schools.

Council Member Hanna:

- No report given.

Council Member Newton:

- Met with WS Invest Consulting from Austria regarding manure-to-energy options.
- Toured Silverlakes on September 2, 2015 along with fellow Council Members and the Press-Enterprise.

Council Member Azevedo:

- Advocated in Sacramento as part of UNLOAD for tobacco legislation relating to e-cigarettes and other tobacco laws.
- Attended Beautification Committee meeting. The Committee determined the winners. The awards will be presented during the opening ceremonies of the Norco Fair.
- Attended Silverlakes tour on September 2, 2015 along with fellow Council Members and the Press-Enterprise.

Mayor Higgins:

- Met with WS Invest Consulting regarding manure-to-energy options. WS Invest Consulting funds projects that are beneficial to society.
- Toured Silverlakes on September 2, 2015 along with fellow Council Members and the Press-Enterprise.

2. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT ITEMS:

Consent Calendar Item 2.A. was pulled to allow for public comment.

**M/S AZEVEDO/BASH to approve the remaining Consent Calendar item 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 Regular Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2015. **PULLED FOR DISCUSSION.** (City Clerk)
- B. Procedural Step to Approve Ordinance after Reading of Title Only. **Action: Approved** (City Clerk)

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

- 2.A. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2015. **Action: Approved the City Council regular meeting minutes.** (City Clerk)

Harvey Sullivan indicated that at the August 19<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, he spoke under Public Comments regarding the permit process as well as comments he had about some of the Council Members. Mr. Sullivan expressed that not all of what he said was reflected in the minutes. He asked the Council if Code Enforcement has followed-up on his comments. Mayor Higgins explained that the minutes of meetings are a summary of the actions taken and comments made and that the public can see the City Clerk for additional information and/or copies of the audio recordings of the City Council meetings.

**M/S BASH/HIGGINS to approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2015. 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:

Ted Hoffman thanked staff for the Silverlakes tour. Mr. Hoffman also thanked Mayor Pro Tem Bash and Council Member Newton for their assistance with the Challenged Children's Rodeo. Finally, Mr. Hoffman thanked the Public Works Department for cleaning up Sixth Street in time for the Norco Fair.

Richard Hallam talked about how 14 years ago he approached then Mayor Hal Clark and the Norco Horseweek Committee about a new organization called the California Junior Bull Riders Association, hence Norco became involved. The Professional Bull Riders Association held a contest in which the top ten would be sent to Texas for bull riders bootcamp. Mr. Hallam commented that his son received over 20,000 votes and thanked Norco residents for their support.

Lou Paltza complimented two Sheriff's Officers for their assistance with an incident at a neighbor's house. Mr. Paltza thanked the officers for their speedy arrival to assess the situation.

Harvey Sullivan asked Mr. Harper if he or staff had knowledge that in 2009 the Coroner's office picked up a deceased person from a Council Member's home. Mr. Harper indicated that he did not have any knowledge and that the District Attorney and/or the Sheriff's Department would not inform the City Attorney. In response to another question from Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Harper indicated that he does not receive copies of all records requests.

5. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:

- A. **Ordinance No. 992, Second Reading. Code Change 2015-03.** Amendment to Chapters 1.05 and 3.28 of the Norco Municipal Code Regarding Administrative Citation Procedures and Fees. (City Clerk)

**M/S AZEVEDO/BASH to adopt Ordinance No. 992 for second reading. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: NONE**

**ABSTAIN: NONE**

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM:

A. Crestview Drive Temporary Flooding Remediation (Director of Public Works)

City Engineer Dominic Milano said that he and Water and Sewer Consultant Bill Thompson were just recently assigned this task of assessing the issues on Crestview Drive. Mr. Milano indicated that he does not have a full understanding of all the issues just yet but has reviewed the records on file and looked at the temporary measures being proposed. The flooding is coming from the Crestlawn Memorial Park property going towards Mt. Rushmore through a number of different private properties and Crestview Drive. The Riverside County Flood Control District has a project on file which they are working on. The project is delayed due to right-of-way issues. City Engineer Milano said that he and Mr. Thompson had a conference call today with Crestlawn Memorial Park and discussed the right-of-way issues. Staff will be preparing a Memorandum of Understanding in the next two to three weeks with Crestlawn Cemetery with bullet points and what they are asking for in exchange for giving property either to the Riverside Flood Control District or the City. The second phase of the project is a temporary measure to protect private properties until a permanent flood control structure is constructed. Staff previously proposed sandbags on Mt. Rushmore and Crestview Drive as well as k-rails. Mr. Milano indicated that he concurs with the sandbags but has not yet concurred with the k-rails until further studies are made because of his concern regarding access to some of the driveways as well as potentially pushing the problem to other properties.

Water and Sewer Consultant Bill Thompson reported that Riverside County Flood Control finished the grading design and effectively submitted some of the environmental reports for the project. The initial response from the Regional Water Quality Board was that the tributaries are considered waters of the U.S., which means that more than the typical amount of environmental assessments will be required. Mr. Thompson stated that he and Mr. Milano will be meeting with Riverside County Flood Control next Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> to review their preliminary project.

Mayor Pro Tem Bash said he understood there to be two projects – one project that could be completed by this season and the other being a more permanent fix. Mr. Thompson said that he does not have specifics regarding the interim project but is in discussion with Flood Control for details. Mayor Pro Tem Bash commented on the two homes on Mt. Rushmore that are severely impacted and asked if the project will go as high as those homes. In response, Mr. Thompson said that it was and that he and Mr. Milano are reviewing with Flood Control to make sure it will be considered.

Council Member Newton commented that the City will need to stay proactive on this issue, even on the temporary measures. Council Member Newton asked if best management practices (BMPs) could be applied to these issues through this immediate rainy season. City Engineer Milano said for sand bagging on Mt. Rushmore, it is done in a chevron-type pattern and is similar to what is done with BMPs. In regards to k-rails, that is three to four steps higher than any BMPs because most BMPs done use bales of straw and fencing. In this case, the City is looking to stop the impact and hold back several feet of mud. Council Member Newton commented on k-rails and asked if there is a creative way the City can do storm water mitigation and traffic calming at the same time. In response, Mr. Thompson said that the suggestion will be reviewed. Council Member Newton also noted the estimated cost to rent k-rails for a six-month period versus the cost to purchase and expressed his support to purchase

due to the small difference in cost.

Council Member Azevedo concurred to purchase the k-rails. She also expressed concerns for other areas in the City prone to flooding such as Corona Avenue and asked if staff would be looking at additional parts of town. City Manager Okoro stated that staff will be looking at other potential areas as well. Mr. Okoro also mentioned that a flyer will be sent out in the water bill mailings to all residents regarding sand bags and how residents can begin taking a proactive approach in protecting their homes.

In response to Council Member Hanna, City Engineer Milano indicated that staff is looking at parking options for residents if k-rails are installed.

Ted Hoffman said that he hopes the City will get some reimbursement from Riverside County Flood Control for purchases related to addressing temporary measures. Mr. Hoffman expressed his concern of the ability of Public Works to move k-rail without purchasing additional equipment as well as where the k-rail will be stored.

Richard Hallam commented that Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is meeting with Cal Fire next Monday night regarding training for sand bag distribution and flood control assistance. Mr. Hallam also expressed his concern for residents on Crestview Drive and asked that the Council move forward promptly.

Tony Mauro said that he has lived on Crestview Drive for 40 years and said that the flood problems have been ongoing for 25 years. Mr. Mauro said that he has been analyzing the soil and that the City is ignoring a health issue with the soil. He said that it is not just mud coming down from the hillsides, but contamination as well. Mr. Mauro suggested the City having the soil tested.

Christie Sandidge asked the Council and staff to keep the residents up to date and keep an open line of communication. Ms. Sandidge said that residents need to know the plans and the timeline and that progress on remediation measures needs to happen quickly.

Mahlon Brackett lives on Mt. Shasta and Crestview Drive. Mr. Brackett said he and his neighbors periodically clean out four storm drains near his home. He commented that clean up and weed abatement needs to occur because it is bringing property values down. He thanked staff for rerouting the Norco Fair parade route. Mr. Brackett also suggested that the City landscape the corner of Ingalls Park.

Bob Galishaw lives on Crestview Drive at the base of the funnel. He said that his neighbor still has a three foot berm of mud in front of his property. Mr. Galishaw said that he has spent thousands of dollars cleaning his property four times in the past three years. He mentioned that neighbors have sold their homes directly relating to the flooding issues. Mr. Galishaw said that progress has not been made since the presentation given by Riverside County Flood Control earlier this year.

Julie Lapierre said that her mother lives on Mt. Shasta. Her mother, and a neighbor, are low income senior citizens and asked if anything can be done to help. Ms. Lapierre expressed concerned about a utility pole than appears to be unstable due to the continued flooding and debris issues.

Teresa Olden commented that the flooding is not well addressed with the use of sandbags; larger mitigation measures are needed such as k-rails. She said that the environmental reports may take many years to process, therefore suggested k-rails be put in place. She also said that Mr. Mauro raised serious issues and asked the City Council to make a motion to agree to address the issue.

There were comments made by Council Members regarding the change in management as well as Crestlawn Memorial Park working on an easement agreement, which they are confident will help address the issues more promptly.

Mayor Higgins indicated that the public may submit their e-mail addresses to the City Clerk in order to receive updates. Mayor Higgins also requested that an update be brought before the Council at the next meeting of September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Azevedo asked if staff could send a letter to the Department of Toxic Substances Control regarding soil testing.

**M/S BASH/AZEVEDO to receive and file. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: NONE**

**ABSTAIN: NONE**

7. PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. **Ordinance No. 993. Zone Code Amendment 2015-03:** An amendment to Chapter 18.15 – R-1 (Residential-Single Family) Zone of the Norco Municipal Code, to establish animal-keeping standards. (Planning Director)

Planning Director Steve King reported that Zone Code Amendment 2015-03 would add animal-keeping for large animals as a permitted use in certain lots zoned R-1 (Residential-Single Family) to the same standards and regulations as exist in the A-1 (Agricultural-Low Density) zone. The Zone Code Amendment would also add animal-keeping for small animals and fowl as a permitted use on all properties in the R-1 zone with the exception of roosters. The amendment also proposes to allow the keeping of miniature pigs as a permitted use as opposed to requiring the approval of a conditional use permit as is the case currently.

Council Member Newton referenced Page 3, Item 15 regarding miniature pigs. In response, Director King indicated that keeping miniature pigs is a permitted use but limited to that number of animals per square foot. In response to Council Member Newton regarding reports by Animal Control, Director King indicated that if the criteria listed is met, a review by Animal Control is not required. Lastly, Council Member Newton commented that the Ordinance is supportive of the City's lifestyle. He expressed his concern for residents in the R-1 zone that support the City's animal-keeping lifestyle but chose not to live in an animal-keeping area and asked if there is a remedy. Director King referred to the exhibit attached to the staff report and noted that most R-1 lots would not be confronted with large animals nearby; for lots in the perimeter, there is no remedy.

**Mayor Higgins opened the public hearing indicating that proper notification had been made and asked for the appearance of those wishing to speak.**

Mike Thompson expressed concern about who will make sure the animals have enough access on the property. In response, Mayor Higgins said Code Enforcement is responsible.

**With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Higgins closed the public hearing bringing the discussion back to Council Members.**

Council Member Azevedo commented on a past case in which a pig resided on an R-1 lot. She said that pigs are mild-mannered and noted that several cities allow pot-bellied pigs.

**M/S BASH/HANNA to adopt Ordinance No. 993 for first reading. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

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

8. CITY COUNCIL / CITY MANAGER / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Council Member Hanna commented on flooding on First Street and Temescal Avenue and asked staff to follow up.

Lt. Briddick invited the Council and the public to attend the Patriot Day event on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at Fire Station 47 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Deputy City Manager/Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Brian Petree commented that the Norco Fair starts Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and concludes on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Petree also indicated that the flyer regarding sand bag distribution will be sent out to all residents with their water bills.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Higgins adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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Cheryl L. Link, CMC, City Clerk