



MINUTES CITY OF NORCO

CITY COUNCIL/COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 2820 CLARK AVENUE
APRIL 1, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Azevedo called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Kathy Azevedo, **Present**
Mayor Pro Tem Malcolm Miller, **Present**
Council Member Frank Hall, **Present**
Council Member Berwin Hanna, **Present**
Council Member Richard L. MacGregor, **Present**

Staff Present -- Allred, Cooper, Frye, Jacobs, King, Milano, Okoro, Oulman, Paakkonen, Petree and Thompson

Deputy City Attorney Colin Burns– **Present**

The City Manager recommended that the Agenda be amended to add Item 10.D. -- Letter in Support of SB 214 (Benoit). This item was added at this late notice due to time sensitivity.

M/S Hall/Miller to add Item 10.D. to the Agenda. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, HALL, HANNA, MACGREGOR, MILLER
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

THE CITY COUNCIL/CRA RECESSED TO CLOSED SESSION (SECTION 54954) TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

Section 54956.8 – Conference with Real Property Negotiator

Street Address or Parcel Number: APN 125-100-036

Negotiating Parties: Norco Redevelopment Agency, City Engineer Milano, Economic Development Director Oulman, Executive Director Allred; and Property Owner James Ro, et. al.

Points Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment for Acquisition of Right-of-Way

Section 54957.6 – Conference with Labor Negotiator

Negotiating Parties: City Manager Allred, Director of Fiscal & Support Services Okoro and Human Resources Analyst Paakkonen

Employee Organization: Norco General Employees Association
Norco Public Works & Parks Maintenance Workers Association

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION: With no Closed Session Items to report, Mayor Azevedo reconvened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Hanna

INVOCATION: Pastor Vernie Fletcher
Grace Fellowship Church

INTRODUCTION: Lt. Cooper introduced Sgt. Justin Rowan who transferred to Norco from the Jurupa Sheriff Station

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Azevedo presented a proclamation to Jessica Hodgeson, representing the Corona-Norco Unified School District, and proclaimed April 2009 as Child Abuse Prevention Month

REGULAR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA) AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:

M/S Hall/Miller to approve the item as recommended on the CRA Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, HALL, HANNA, MACGREGOR, MILLER
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

1. CRA CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:
 - A. CRA Minutes, Regular Meeting of March 18, 2009. **Recommended Action: Approve the CRA Minutes** (City Clerk)

2. CRA CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. Amendment to the Fiscal Years 2009-2013 Norco Redevelopment Agency Capital Improvement Program Budget for Right-of-Way Acquisition and Public Improvements in Connection with a 2005 Purchase and Sale Agreement with Dennis D. Jacobsen Family Holdings, LLC and Realty Bancorp Equities TLG, LLC

Recommended Action: Continue the Public Hearing to April 15, 2009.
(Director of Economic Development)

M/S Miller/Hanna to continue the public hearing to April 15, 2009. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, HALL, HANNA, MACGREGOR, MILLER
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

3. CRA PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. Owner Participation Agreement With the Daniel W. Hinson Family Trust, as part of the Norco Façade Improvement Program

The Daniel W. Hinson Family Trust, the owner of the building located at 1809 Lampton Lane, has submitted a request to participate in the Façade Improvement Program. The proposed Owner Participation Agreement funds the project for an amount not-to-exceed \$60,000 and will be used for the renovation and updating of the existing building to serve as the professional offices for HC&D Architects. The Façade Improvement Program will help the City/Agency meet strategic objectives and promote the Western theme of Horsetown USA.

Recommended Action: Adopt CRA Resolution No. 2009-___, approving an Owner Participation Agreement by and between the Norco Redevelopment Agency and the Daniel W. Hinson Family Trust for a building located at 1809 Lampton Lane. (Director of Economic Development)

Economic Development Director Oulman presented the CRA item. Director Oulman noted that when the design is submitted, it will be required to have a western design.

Chairman Azevedo OPENED the public hearing, indicating that proper notification had been made and asking for the appearance of those wishing to speak. With no public comments, Chairman Azevedo CLOSED the public hearing.

M/S Hall/MacGregor to Adopt CRA Resolution No. 2009-05, approving an Owner Participation Agreement by and between the Norco Redevelopment Agency and the Daniel W. Hinson Family Trust for a building located at 1809 Lampton Lane. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, HALL, HANNA, MACGREGOR & MILLER
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

4. OTHER CRA MATTERS: **No Other CRA Matters**

ADJOURNMENT OF CRA: 7:17 p.m.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:

Mayor Pro Tem Miller pulled item 5.G. and Mayor Azevedo pulled Item 5.A. for discussion.

M/S Miller/Hanna to approve the items as recommended on the Amended City Council Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, HALL, HANNA, MACGREGOR, MILLER
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

5. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

- A. City Council Minutes, Regular Meeting of March 18, 2009. **Recommended Action: Pulled for Discussion.** (City Clerk)
- B. Procedural Step to Approve Ordinance after Reading of Title Only. **Recommended Action: Approval.** (City Clerk)
- C. **Ordinance No. 908, Second Reading.** A City-Initiated Proposal to Amend Title 14 of the Norco Municipal Code by Amending Section 14.04.320 of Title 14 (Water and Sewers) -- Code Amendment 2009-03. **Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance No. 908.** (City Clerk)
- D. **Ordinance No. 909, Second Reading.** A City-Initiated Proposal to Amend Chapter 10.12.030 of the Norco Municipal Code to increase the Speed Limit to 45 MPH on Hidden Valley Parkway from Lonesome Dove to El Paso Drive -- Code Amendment 2009-04. **Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance No. 909.** (City Clerk)

- E. Acceptance of the Pedley Booster Station Project, as Complete and the Appropriation of Additional Funds for the Pedley Booster Station Project. **Recommended Action: Accept the Pedley Booster Station Project as complete, instruct the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion with the County Recorder's Office; and Adopt Resolution No. 2009-15, appropriating additional funds in the amount of \$31,000 for the Pedley Booster Station Project.** (City Engineer)
 - F. Acceptance of Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant of \$41,687 to Fund Sworn Officer Time in Fiscal Year 2010. **Recommended Action: Authorize staff to apply for and accept the grant.** (Lt. Cooper)
 - G. Request for Qualifications and Proposals (RFQ/P) for Animal Control and Shelter Operations Services. **Recommended Action: Pulled for Discussion.** (Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services)
 - H. Action Minutes for Planning Commission Meeting of March 25, 2009. **Recommended Action: Receive and File** (Planning Manager)
6. CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING:
- A. City-Initiated Proposal to Add Title 20, Cultural Resources, to the Norco Municipal Code (Code Amendment 2009-05)

A goal of the City's 2008-2009 Strategic Plan is to attain Certified Local Government (CLG) status for its historic preservation program. Among other benefits, CLG status qualifies the City to seek federal historic preservation grants administered by the State of California. A critical prerequisite to obtaining CLG status is a Cultural Resources Ordinance that conforms to state guidelines.

Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance No. ____ for first reading.
(Director of Economic Development)

Economic Development Director Oulman presented the Council item. Director Oulman emphasized the importance of the Mills Act. Director Oulman also noted that a correction will be made in Section 20.10.010, paragraph M, as follows: "historic district or neighborhood conservation area" will be replaced with "historic resource area."

The City's Historic Preservation Consultant, Mr. Bill Wilkman, was introduced and complimented by Mayor Azevedo.

Mayor Azevedo OPENED the public hearing, indicating that proper notification had been made and asking for the appearance of those wishing to speak.

Su Bacon, 111 Buckskin. Ms. Bacon stated that she is proud to be on the Historic Preservation Commission. She noted that the City will experience positive results following its receipt of CLG Status. Ms. Bacon thanked the Council for its support and she further noted that she supports this ordinance.

Gini Austerman, 1425 Hillrise. Ms. Austerman thanked the Council for its support and she further noted that she supports this ordinance.

Mayor Azevedo CLOSED the public hearing.

M/S Miller/MacGregor to Adopt Ordinance No. 910 for first reading. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, HALL, HANNA, MACGREGOR & MILLER
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

7. CITY COUNCIL ITEMS FOR ACTION:

- A. Conceptual Discussion of an Amendment to the Fee Resolution to Add a Grounds Fee for the Permit Users of the George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center

Currently, the City incurs significant "grounds costs" (site supervision, arena grooming, utilities, equipment and infrastructure maintenance, etc.) to facilitate weekend events sponsored by private organizations at the Ingalls Equestrian Events Center. As a result, the City's General Fund regularly subsidizes private "permit user" events that often involve a high percentage of participants who are not Norco residents. In an effort to partially cover the City's costs, all sponsoring "permit users" of the show arena could be required to collect a \$10 City "grounds fee" from participants.

Recommended Action: No City Council action is required at this time. Direction for future consideration is requested. (Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services)

Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services Petree presented the Council item.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller stressed difference between income (\$71,000) and expenditures (\$424,000) at Ingalls. He further noted that it is relevant that people be mindful of this as this issue is discussed.

Council Member Hanna confirmed with Director Petree that this Grounds Fee is for permit users at Ingalls and would not include riders at Open Arena Night.

Director Petree noted the grounds fees charged by some other cities and facilities and added that this is a very common user-charge.

Jerri Lewis, 2399 Mountain. Ms. Lewis had concerns regarding how the fee would be charged to the local horse clubs. She also had concerns regarding how the City would cover the costs for a second arena.

Beverly Dennis, 5173 Trail. Ms. Dennis stated that the fee would be a hardship for quite a few people involved in weekend events.

Director of Fiscal & Support Services Okoro explained how the City's property taxes are spent and noted that as it stands right now, property taxes for this fiscal year represent only 10% of General Fund revenues. Information was shown as provide by Hdl Companies stating that the Norco General Fund share of property taxes paid is \$0.099 on the dollar due to a mandated \$.06 shift to schools.

Pat Overstreet, 1231 Corona. Ms. Overstreet was not sure where the Council was going to go with this but wanted to make sure that all was going to be considered.

Harvey Sullivan, 4561 Hillside. Mr. Sullivan would like to see the Redevelopment Project Area amended to remove part of the City. He noted that this would bring a lot more money into the General Fund. Mr. Sullivan also encouraged a utility tax to cover the budget deficit.

Denise Shoemaker, 1439 Detroit. Ms. Shoemaker is opposed to the fee and was concerned that there will be fees imposed for all the parks in Norco. She is in favor of a tax across board.

Robert Leonard, 4475. Mr. Leonard would like to see all athletic facility users in the City charged a fee as well.

Tom Willison, 641 Bridle. Mr. Willison is concerned that the fee is only directed at horse people and would like to see it directed across the board. He would like to see the City look at every avenue possible to close the gap and not single out horse groups.

Greg Newton, 1140 Man O' War. Mr. Newton questioned the logic of the fee and also noted that employee benefits and salaries are part of the City's budget problem.

Jeanine Adams, 3452 Broken Twig. Ms. Adams is pleased that the fee is not proposed for the free arena times available. She also noted that the reason it seems that this fee is directed towards horse people is probably because that is what Norco stands for. Ms. Adams is happy to carry this expense until we get through this difficult time together.

Raelyn Turnley. Ms. Turnley is in favor of non-residents paying the fee and believes Norco would lose people if these fees were charged to residents. She would like to see the City look at other options.

Pat Hedges, 4061 Temescal. Ms. Hedges recommended creating a task force, perhaps with citizens and the Council, in order to receive public input.

Joyce Chase, 3501 Bluff. Ms. Chase supports the philosophy and is more than willing to pay the \$10 before having her utility bill raised.

Roy Hungerford, 3201 Cutting Horse. Mr. Hungerford is concerned about the amount of taxes he pays per year and does not want to see his tax bill raised.

Pat Gesler, 1400 Fourth. Ms. Gesler does not want utility bills raised. She would like to see people who use the arena involved in this decision.

Su Bacon, 111 Buckskin. Ms. Bacon would like to see an across-the-board fee for all recreation users.

Linda Dixon, 3200 Rocking Rm. Ms. Dixon stated that this fee needs to be considered very carefully.

Council Member Hanna stated that he has had 40 years of experience in the horse business and almost 30 of those years were spent operating a public horse track. He noted that for each horse participating in the race, a \$15 grounds fee was paid and passed on to the owner. He also stated that he also operated and lived on a race track, where the same amount was charged and that is the only way the track could operate. He stated that Norco is the first place he lived at that did not charge grounds fees for horses. He further noted that the City needs to generate income some way to fill the gap at the Arena.

Council Member MacGregor stated that it is the Council's duty to look at every possibility to balance the budget. He also noted that the Council cannot impose a utility tax, but that it is brought to the vote of the people. He stated that the City needs to do something to close the gap in the General Fund and that the Council is looking at every way possible to do that. He further confirmed that the Council is required to conduct business in public, as Mayor Azevedo stated, and that is what the Council is doing.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller stated that there is no question that all of us want to preserve Horsetown USA and that if the City goes bankrupt, there will be nothing left. He would like to see Norco's equestrian heritage preserved. He further stated that the issue is serious and this is not the only way we are looking to balance the budget. He stated that if we lose our equestrian heritage, we become "any town USA." He added that the Council is not trying to destroy, but preserve the City.

Council Member Hall went over the history of Ingalls Park. He noted that it is worth discussing the grounds fee versus raising the fees for the clubs. He is in support of creating a task force to discuss a fee structure at Ingalls Park.

Mayor Azevedo stated that she loves this town and will fight to the bitter end to keep this town up and running, but noted that the Council needs to look at every possible way to continue to sustain Horsetown USA. She noted that she had first considered the option for Norco to impose a non-resident fee, but understands that there are some concerns with how that would work. She would like to see a task force formed to discuss this fee.

M/S Hall/MacGregor to form a Mayor-appointed task force to study the fee structure for Ingalls Park and bring back a recommendation to the City Council by the budget workshop. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, HALL, HANNA, MACGREGOR & MILLER
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

Mayor Azevedo recessed the Council Meeting at 8:50 p.m. and reconvened the Meeting at 9:12 p.m.

8. ITEMS PULLED FROM CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 5.G.** Request for Qualifications and Proposals (RFQ/P) for Animal Control and Shelter Operations Services. **Recommended Action: Authorize the distribution of an RFQ/P to qualified agencies for animal control and shelter operations services.** (Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services)

Director Petree presented the Council item.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller stated that he was offended by a widely-circulated email in which Mr. Sullivan accused him of being "led" by the City Manager. He reminded Mr. Sullivan that he would much rather debate issues on their merits than engage in smear campaigns. With regard to the Animal Shelter, Mayor Pro Tem Miller felt that we needed to explore options to reduce the gap between the revenues and expenditures while maintaining the level of service to the residents. These could be achieved either through internal reorganization, or possible outsourcing. The construction of the new Animal Shelter is a perfect opportunity to explore these options.

Jerri Lewis, 2399 Mountain. Ms. Lewis stated that she is very passionate about Animal Control and has requested numerous responses from them. She is not in favor of contracting with Riverside County.

Greg Newton, 1140 Man O' War. Mr. Newton commented on the newspaper article regarding Renee Power retiring and would like to see the City hire someone to fill her position now so that they can work with her before she retires. He submitted a Grand Jury file regarding the Riverside County Animal Control.

Pat Overstreet, 1231 Corona. Ms. Overstreet is concerned about the personal attention expected from the current Animal Control. She supports Mr. Newton's suggestion to bring on someone now to work under Renee. She also stated that she would not mind paying money to support the Animal Shelter and that citizens should step forth and pay a set amount for the Animal shelter.

Harvey Sullivan, 4561 Hillside. Mr. Sullivan stated he is concerned about staffing issues at Animal Control and commends Renee for the tremendous job she is doing. He noted that the City will lose volunteers if Animal Control is privately run. He also stated that he does not think it is a big deal to add \$20 a month on everybody's utility bill.

William Anderson. Mr. Anderson is the Administrator for the Hope Wildlife Rescue and stated that all animal shelters are not created equal. He also stated that the facilities in Norco and Corona are excellent and that the Friends of the Valley and Riverside are not well run. He noted that Renee and her people have established a culture in the Animal Shelter.

Sharon Meyer. Ms. Meyer is against contracting out Animal Control.

Dawn Stallmo, 2810 Bronco Lane. Ms. Stallmo stated that she had asked Animal Control if she could volunteer, but was turned down because of a lack of restroom facilities. She currently volunteers at the Riverside Animal Control facility, where they take very good care of their animals. She suggested that Norco look at other avenues, such as seeking donations and holding fund raisers.

Vern Showalter, 2345 Corona. Mr. Showalter stated that subsidizing animal control is not a good idea because of Norco's uniqueness. He noted that if we subsidize out, it will never be brought back to the City and the quality will not be the same. He also supports Renee training someone to do her job.

Dave Henderson, 3010 Corona. Mr. Henderson appreciates the problems and supports the efforts to look at alternatives. He would "opt in" on \$2 to \$3 added to his water bill.

Robin Grundmeyer, 3826 Chaparral. Ms. Grundmeyer spoke regarding the services provided to the Ag Department at Norco High School. Animal Control has provided a place where students can go and give back to the community. She stated that the petting pen area is an educational opportunity for students. She further noted that education is also facing severe cuts and she took a 10% cut in her department at Norco High School.

Tyler Mitchell, 3262 Center. Mr. Mitchell stated that Norco is so unique due to livestock.

Beverly Dennis. Ms. Dennis advocated doing what ever we need to do to keep the Norco Animal Control.

Linda Mitchell. Ms. Mitchell stated that Renee helped her son through an interview process for a college project. She further stated that the City needs to keep control of the Norco Animal Control.

Linda Lockwood. Ms. Lockwood stated that she has a professional relationship with the City. She also stated that she does not know of any animal shelter that does not work on a deficit. She added that Renee and her staff have been behind Norco for 28 years and that she has volunteered her time and her business. She stated that the City could do a donation program for Animal Control similar to the VEMS program for the Fire Department. She stated that if Norco farms out Animal Control to an outside agency, Norco will suffer.

Additional comments in support for Animal Control and its staff were stated with no names to reference.

Council Member Hall was concerned when he read the proposal at first, but then noted that the Council could stop the process at any time. He stated that this process is similar to the RFQ/P sent out for the Fire Department. He further noted that the Council would be shirking its duties if they did not go out and evaluate all the proposals. He supports sending out the proposal.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller asked Director Okoro about the volunteer donation program to the Animal Shelter. Director Okoro stated that the program has been in place for about two years and generates approximately \$7,500 a year. Mayor Pro Tem Miller stated that the sentiment gathered is that people would be willing to donate more. He would like to see attempts at greater public awareness of this program.

Council Member MacGregor stated that the Request for Proposals is very specific and he is not sure that any of the organizations will be able to provide what Norco needs. He noted that it behooves us to request proposals from non-profit agencies for comparison purposes and that the City needs to further explore better publicity regarding the donation program.

Council Member Hanna stated that it is time to send out the RFQ/P to see what the costs would be, not that we would accept any of them. He thinks that adding \$2 on the water bill should be a volunteer program and not mandatory. He would like to see a volunteer program implemented to help save the City some money.

Mayor Azevedo stated that after hearing the public comments and with some consideration, she cannot support this RFQ/P because it is too black and white. She stated that she learned tonight that this RFP/Q does not make it strong enough what the needs in Norco are in Animal Control and these needs should be added before it goes out.

M/S Azevedo/Hall to table the RFQ/P for at least 30 days to make modifications to the document before bringing it back for Council consideration. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, HALL, HANNA
NOES: MACGREGOR, MILLER
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

- 5.A.** City Council Minutes, Regular Meeting of March 18, 2009. **Recommended Action: Approve the City Council Minutes.** (City Clerk)

Mayor Azevedo recommended that the Minutes be amended with the following changes on Page 7:

Mayor Azevedo noted her concerns about the safety of the horse trail. Following the explanations by staff, she believes that they would not be impacted. She further noted that this modification to the speed limit is the best thing for the citizens of Norco.

Pat Overstreet, 1231 Corona Ave. Ms. Overstreet stated her support regarding the 45 mph speed limit.

M/S Azevedo/MacGregor to approve the amended minutes. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, HALL, HANNA, MACGREGOR, MILLER
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:

Harvey Sullivan, 4561 Hillside. Mr. Sullivan stated that the City is facing tough decisions and some of them will not be popular. He further stated that the City should not continue to balance the budget on the backs of the citizens of Norco. Mr. Sullivan suggested cutting numerous staff positions in order to help balance the budget. He also stated that a utility tax should be considered and brought to the people.

Pat Overstreet, 1231 Corona. Ms. Overstreet announced the Fourth Annual Ranch Tour which will be held on May 30th.

Su Bacon, 111 Buckskin. Ms. Bacon announced that Casino Night will be held on Saturday Night and that tickets are now available for \$10 and will be \$15 at the door. She also announced that the Founders Day celebration will be held on May 9 and will include a trail ride on and around the Lake Norconian property.

Jeanine Adams, 3452 Broken Twig Dr. Ms. Adams stated that the Lake Norconian Club Foundation web site is amazing and that registration for the Founder's Day trail ride can be completed on that web site, which is *lakenorconianclub.org*.

10. OTHER MATTERS - COUNCIL OR STAFF:

- A.** Mayor Azevedo reported that Norco Intermediate School 50th Anniversary was celebrated on March 31, 2009 and thanked Council Members for attending.

- B. Mayor Azevedo invited everyone to view the Horsetown Hall of Fame display located in the City Hall Lobby and noted how beautiful the plaques look.
- C. Public Works Director Bill Thompson reported that the City is working closely with the Corona-Norco Unified School District during its fiber optics installation throughout the City. He also reported that the District has been asked to relieve the City from all responsibilities to relocate the fiber optic cables during the Hamner Avenue bridge construction and that they would do so at their own cost.
- D. Mayor Pro Tem Miller reported that the UNLOAD Committee recommends that the City Council send a letter of support for SB 214, sponsored by Senator Benoit, regarding sober living group homes.

M/S Miller/MacGregor to approve sending the letter of support to Senator Benoit regarding SB 214. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, HALL, HANNA, MACGREGOR, MILLER
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

11. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Azevedo adjourned the meeting at 10:33 p.m.

BRENDA K. JACOBS
CITY CLERK