



**MINUTES  
CITY OF NORCO**

CITY COUNCIL/COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 2820 CLARK AVENUE  
MARCH 3, 2010

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

ROLL CALL: Mayor Malcolm Miller, **Present**  
Mayor Pro Tem Berwin Hanna, **Present**  
Council Member Kathy Azevedo, **Present**  
Council Member Kevin Bash, **Present**  
Council Member Harvey C. Sullivan, **Present**

**Staff Present:** Carlson, Cooper, Groves, Jacobs, King, Okoro, Oulman, Petree and Thompson

City Attorney Harper – **Present**

**APPROVED 5-0 to add one (1) Anticipated Litigation to Closed Session.**

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

**Section 54956.9(b)(2)(A) – Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation**

Number of Potential Cases: 1

**Section 54957.6 – Conference with Labor Negotiator**

Negotiating Parties: City Manager Groves and Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro

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

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION: With nothing to report from Closed Session, Mayor Miller reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Pro Tem Hanna

INVOCATION: Pastor Vernie Fletcher

PRESENTATION: Norco Bengals Jr. Pee Wee Div. 1 -- SCJAAF  
2009 Superbowl Champions

**Mayor Miller presented all of the Team participants present with a Certificate of Recognition of Outstanding Performance and Contributions to their Team.**

**REGULAR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA) AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:**

**M/S Hanna/Bash to approve the items as recommended on the CRA Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, MILLER, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: NONE**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

1. CRA CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

- A. CRA Minutes:  
Regular Meeting of February 17, 2010  
**Recommended Action: Approve the CRA Minutes (City Clerk)**

2. OTHER CRA MATTERS: No Other CRA Matters

ADJOURNMENT OF CRA: 7:13 p.m.

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:**

**Mayor Pro Tem Hanna Pulled Item 3.G.**

**M/S Azevedo/Sullivan to approve the remaining items as recommended on the City Council Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, MILLER, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: NONE**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

3. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

- A. City Council Minutes:  
Special Meeting – Study Session of February 10, 2010  
Regular Meeting of February 17, 2010  
**Recommended Action: Approve the CRA Minutes (City Clerk)**
- B. Planning Commission Action Minutes, Regular Meeting of February 24, 2010. **Recommended Action: Receive and File (Planning Director)**

- C. Procedural Step to Approve Ordinance after Reading of Title Only. **Recommended Action: Approval** (City Clerk)
  - D. Resolution Supporting the United States Census – Make Yourself Count Month March 2010. **Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2010-09.** (City Clerk)
  - E. 2010 Vacant Parcel Spring Weed Abatement Program. **Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2010-10, setting the Public Hearing for May 5, 2010.** (Fire Chief)
  - F. Approval of a Change Order for the Senior Center Renovation Project. **Recommended Action: Approve a Change Order in the Amount of \$26,983.07, and authorize the City Manager to sign the Change Order.** (Housing Manager)
  - G. Accept Bids, Award Contract and Appropriate Additional Funds for the Community Center Parking Lot Expansion and Hamner Avenue Improvements Project. **Recommended Action: Award the contract for the Community Center Parking Lot Expansion and Hamner Avenue Improvements Project to Hardy & Harper, Inc. in the amount of \$1,974,034; authorize the City Manager to approve contract change orders up to 10 percent of the contract amount; and Adopt Resolution No. 2010-11, appropriating additional funds in the amount of \$671,000 to complete the project.** (Director of Public Works)
  - H. Request for a Twelve-Month Extension of Time for Tentative Parcel Map 33317 (McMillan) at 3538 Center Avenue. **Recommended Action: Approve the extension of time for recording a final map for Tentative Parcel Map 33317 with a new expiration date of February 1, 2011.** (Planning Director)
4. ITEM PULLED FROM CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:
- 3.G. Accept Bids, Award Contract and Appropriate Additional Funds for the Community Center Parking Lot Expansion and Hamner Avenue Improvements Project. **Recommended Action: Award the contract for the Community Center Parking Lot Expansion and Hamner Avenue Improvements Project to Hardy & Harper, Inc. in the amount of \$1,974,034; authorize the City Manager to approve contract change orders up to 10 percent of the contract amount; and Adopt Resolution No. 2010-11, appropriating additional funds in the amount of \$671,000 to complete the project.** (Director of Public Works)

**Mayor Pro Tem Hanna** requested information from Director Thompson regarding the turn lanes designed for this project and stated concerns about the businesses that could possibly be affected. **Director Thompson** stated that a median will be put in from Sixth Street to Alhambra, as well as a three-way signal. He noted that the access to

businesses and the horse trail were designed in a safe manner. Director Thompson also commented on the fact that there are currently no agreements made with Caltrans on the Park and Ride site.

**Council Member Bash** stated he met with a business property owner located on Sixth and Hamner as he was concerned about the entrance into his business.

**Council Member Azevedo** commented on the medians as they help slow down the traffic and allow for horses to safely cross traffic. She also noted that sometimes slowing down the traffic will attract people to the local businesses.

**Council Member Sullivan** stated that that he is in favor of the layout of the project.

**Rob Koziel.** Mr. Koziel stated concerns he had regarding the modifications on Hamner Avenue that have not been addressed. He noted the bottleneck that forms on both the south and north ends of the Hamner Bridge. He further noted that this project was premature at this time until the other Hamner Avenue improvements are completed. Mr. Koziel stated concerns that no consideration was made for businesses on the east side of Hamner Avenue. He also commented that he is concerned about the safety of a staging area on the new Community Center Parking Lot so close to Hamner Avenue.

**Shari Maney.** Ms. Maney stated that she was present at this meeting to hear information regarding this project and that no paving agreements have been made with her. Director Thompson noted that every piece of property along Hamner Avenue included in this project will have improvements completed, which will result in an attractive entrance into the City.

**Council Member Azevedo** asked for clarification on the landscaping at the Community Center Parking Lot. **Director Thompson** stated that included in this project is a negotiated decrease from the original bid package. He noted that the sprinklers are included and only bark will be used for ground cover initially. He also noted negotiations are still in process and if this item is approved tonight, staff will try to get a street lamp that meets Norco's décor.

**M/S Sullivan/Bash to award the contract for the Community Center Parking Lot Expansion and Hamner Avenue Improvements Project to Hardy & Harper, Inc. in the amount of \$1,974,034; authorize the City Manager to approve contract change orders up to 10 percent of the contract amount; and Adopt Resolution No. 2010-11, appropriating additional funds in the amount of \$671,000 to complete the project. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, MILLER, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: NONE**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

5. CITY COUNCIL ITEM FOR ACTION:

A. Sheriff's Department Annual Report for 2009

*The City Council's actions to increase law enforcement staffing in 2005 significantly improved the safety and the quality of life in Norco. More criminals were arrested in 2006 and 2007 than in any other two-year period. As a result, crime was down significantly in 2008; it was reduced even further in 2009. Crime has not been this low at any time in the last 20 years. Since 2005:*

- *Crime decreased 37%;*
- *Arrests increased 34%;*
- *Traffic safety significantly increased; there were no fatal and fewer injury and non-injury collisions in 2009 than in any of the prior 10 years. Grant funding has been used to target alcohol and drug impaired drivers. Although traffic enforcement staffing was decreased in 2009 from four to three motor officers, the number of citations issued remained relatively unchanged compared to 2008.*
- *City Council's goal to reduce emergency response times has been achieved. In 2009, deputies arrived at high-priority calls for service in less than 5 minutes; 14% more quickly than they did in 2005.*

*Citizens in Norco are less likely to be crime victims or traffic accident victims than at any other time in recent history.*

**Recommended Action: Receive and File** (Lt. Cooper)

**Lt. Cooper** summarized the Sheriff's Department Annual Report for 2009 and presented the details from the Report as noted in the summary. Lt. Cooper commented on the Sheriff's Station Improvement Project, grant funds requested/received, focus on enhanced traffic safety/DUI enforcement, work with the UNLOAD Committee, and critical issues/challenges/opportunities/solutions. Lt. Cooper responded to the question from Mayor Miller that the DMV is in the process of identifying who the repeat DUI offenders are in the City of Norco and will present that to the Sheriff's Department.

**The City Council Members** all commented positively on the report and commended Lt. Cooper for his work and the service to the City from the Sheriff's Department

**Vern Showalter.** Mr. Showalter thanked Cooper for the excellent job. He noted that last year, the Streets, Trails and Utilities Commission requested data from the Sheriff's Department on certain traffic areas. **Lt. Cooper** noted that with the hand written tickets issued, those statistics are difficult to compile and that when automated citations are used, that data could be done. Mr. Showalter also noted concerns about cut-through traffic.

**Mayor Miller** stated that this report will be received and filed.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:

**Tommy Vaughan.** Mr. Vaughan commented on his displeasure with the Council chastising the Norco Chamber.

**Lois Loock.** Ms. Loock read her own personal comments relating to the City and the Council and noted her displeasure with Mayor Miller.

**Jeanine Adams.** Ms. Adams commented on the criticisms made and noted her support for the current Council Members.

**Joy Kline.** Ms. Kline noted her support for Mayor Miller and his wife.

**Danny Azevedo.** Mr. Azevedo commented on the criticisms made against the Council and noted his support for the Council Members.

7. OTHER MATTERS – COUNCIL:

A. Report from UNLOAD Committee Meeting.

✚ **Council Member Azevedo, as Chairman of UNLOAD,** commented on the awareness brought to the UNLOAD Committee from the Norco High School Friday Night Live group regarding smoke-free parks in the City of Norco. The Norco High School Friday Night Live group spent 2 hours in the City's parks and collected 1,617 cigarette butts. They requested that an ordinance be prepared addressing smoke-free parks in the City of Norco. Director Petree noted that a discussion regarding this issue has previously been addressed through the Parks and Recreation Commission and a draft ordinance has been prepared for their review and discussion at the next Commission meeting.

✚ **Donna Newton.** Ms. Newton stated that she works with the Friday Night Live group at Norco High School. She commented on the need to adopt an ordinance mandating smoke-free parks and added that over 90 cities or counties have already adopted policies at the local level. Ms. Newton stated that there is a State-wide ordinance in place that prohibits smoking within 25 feet of tot lots in parks, but the big issue is enforcement. Ms. Newton provided educational materials to the Council for their review. She noted that the City of Roseville has the best ordinance that she has seen and added that if the Council adopts an ordinance, her agency can assist with the necessary signage.

✚ **Council Member Bash** stated that he supports the adoption of an ordinance.

✚ **Mayor Miller** stated that he very strongly supports this idea of making Norco's parks smoke-free and noted that it is not only harmful to the person that smokes, but also to the persons that do not smoke. He stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission, along with the UNLOAD Committee, will bring forward the ordinance for Council approval.

B. City of Norco General Municipal Election Cycle.

- # **City Manager Groves** stated that the information provided to the Council was in preparation for this policy discussion amongst the Council Members. She added that additional information was provided to the Council noting that in 2005, an Advisory Vote was brought to the people of Norco and was voted down, followed by no action taken by the Council.
- # **Council Member Bash** stated that he supports realigning the election cycle and noted that his sole intent in initiating this discussion was his concern in having a Norco representative serving on the Corona Norco Unified School Board.
- # **Council Member Sullivan** stated that he is not in favor of switching the election to even years and noted that he agrees that he would like to see some Norco representation on the School Board.
- # **Council Member Bash** stated that he was interested in the creation of a ward system for the School District.
- # **Council Member Sullivan** noted that we could send a letter to the State Superintendent stating the City's non-representation on the School Board.
- # **Council Member Azevedo** noted that ward idea was hers and that she has already discussed this with the City Manager. She added that this matter will be added to the next Corona-Norco School's Committee Agenda for discussion. Council Member Azevedo commented on the need for one representative from Norco and one representative from Eastvale to serve on the School Board and added that research needs to be done regarding how this can be achieved.
- # **Mayor Pro Tem Hanna** noted that he is not in favor of extending Council terms, as the citizens elected them for 4-year terms. He added that he agrees with the need to be represented on the School Board.
- # **Vern Showalter.** Mr. Showalter stated that he voted against changing the election cycle in 2004 and is still against this now. He further noted that Council terms should be shortened instead of extending them. Mr. Showalter commented that Norco's representation on the School Board has been an ongoing problem.
- # **Mayor Miller** stated for the record that the option for shortening the Council terms is a complex procedure.
- # **Richard Hallam.** Mr. Hallam commented on the most recent election and noted that the number of votes cast was an embarrassment.
- # **Frank Hall.** Mr. Hall noted that it is important that the history is noted regarding why Norco is on the odd-year cycle. He further stated that it is important to be on the cycle with the bigger elections and this needs to be addressed. Mr. Hall

commented on his confidence in this City Council in making this decision.

- ✚ Following further Council discussion, **City Attorney Harper** noted that the change in the election cycle from odd to even years does not need to be placed on the ballot, but simply requires the adoption of an ordinance by the Council.
- ✚ **Mayor Miller** noted his support for representation on the School Board and is also in favor of changing the election cycle at a time when the Council terms would not be extended.

**Council Member Azevedo:**

- ✚ Highlighted the upcoming Census and a short video was shown.

**Mayor Miller:**

- ✚ Stated that there will be a celebration held on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Nellie Weaver Hall for Norco College commemorating the initial accreditation of them becoming California's 112<sup>th</sup> Community College.

**Council Member Sullivan:**

- ✚ Inquired about the traffic signal at North Street and received confirmation from Director Thompson that the project is very close to completion.

**Council Member Bash:**

- ✚ Requested that letters be sent to Norco High School students from the Council congratulating them on their athletic and academic achievements. The City Manager received confirmation from all of the Council Members that a draft letter will be prepared and presented to the Council for approval.
- ✚ Commented on the ten-year anniversary of the Pedley Field picture and noted that there will be a celebration held at the Navy Base.
- ✚ Stated that the Lake Norconian Club Foundation will be hosting an event on May 21<sup>st</sup> in remembrance of the Norco Bank Robbery.
- ✚ Noted that he did not realize that we are perceived as the Norco Chamber of Commerce and stated that we need to be impeccable in how we deal with our local businesses.

**Mayor Pro Tem Hanna:**

- ✚ Commented that if we are going to make Norco a destination point, an ideal would be to put up a digital sign above Sixth Street advertising events.

8. OTHER MATTERS – STAFF:

**City Manager Groves:**

- ✚ Confirmed that she would put together information relating to the “ward” discussion for the Council’s review and will also follow up on the banner program.
9. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Miller adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

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BRENDA K. JACOBS  
CITY CLERK