



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
SPECIAL MEETING – STUDY SESSION
CITY COUNCIL
CONFERENCE ROOMS “A” & “B”
NORCO CITY HALL – 2870 CLARK AVENUE
June 29, 2010

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1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
 2. 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**
 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Pro Tem Hanna
 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments received.
 5. CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEMS:
 - A. Overview from the City Manager
 - B. Report on Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) regional route planning by WRCOG - presented by Paul Rodriguez of Urban Crossroads

Paul Rodriguez, representing Urban Crossroads, Inc., gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV). Mr. Rodriguez stated that this is an exciting project for the entire region, noting that he drove a reporter from the *Press Enterprise* through some of the designated roads in a NEV, commenting to them that we have an opportunity to create this tool. The following information was presented regarding the NEV:

- Federally-approved street-legal vehicle classification.
- Four-wheeled motor vehicles.
- Top speed at least 20 mph, no more than 25 mph.
- Well defined safety features.
- In California, they are legal to drive on streets with speed limits 35 mph and under.
- The operator must have a drivers license.
- May be operated in designated lanes on higher speed roadways, subject to legislative action.
- Relatively inexpensive travel option (to own and operate) for students, seniors, parents, and workforce.
- Particularly well suited to trip lengths of 10 miles or less.
- NEV's do not contribute to the air pollution caused by the cold-starts and operation of typical high speed autos.
- NEV's achieve an “energy equivalent” of 150 mpg (based upon 2002 California Energy Commission report).

- By using solar or wind power to generate the electricity for these vehicles, they have the potential to run fossil fuel free.
- NEVs are a street legal, low cost, energy efficient, zero emissions mode of local travel that is here to stay – but impediments to widespread usage.
- Lack of interconnected low speed routes – NEV plans are needed to overcome connection issues and identify safe routes.
- Driver confusion – NEV plans enable clear communication about which routes to take.
- These problems can be solved in established cities and contiguous groups of cities by the implementation of integrated local NEV plans.
- Cities have jurisdiction over local NEV/bike lanes and will make independent determination regarding NEV Plan.
- WRCOG exploring regional legislation to enable NEV usage.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the City must adopt an ordinance stating where it is legal and/or not legal, otherwise it would be status quo and allowed per the law. He also noted that one of the proposed routes in Norco, located on Mountain Avenue between First and Second Streets, would need to be reviewed and discussed by the City Council for future consideration. City Manager Groves stated that there would need to be road improvements completed and designated lanes added to this section for it to be access-ready. Council Member Azevedo noted that residents living in this section of the City have complained about speeding problems and she added that the biggest threat throughout Norco is speeding traffic. Council Member Azevedo asked who pays for the charging stations and added that it would be great to include a route from Sixth Street to the Silverlakes development. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the charging stations need a standard outlet and in some cities is paid for by the local retailers. In response to Mayor Pro Tem Hanna, Mr. Rodriguez stated that the NEVs do not have air bags, but are set up with the required safety features. He added that no safety gear, other than what is required in a registered vehicle, is required. It was noted that SCAG is the funding agency for the NEV Project, with WRCOG serving as the lead agency. Mr. Rodriguez commented that this is an exciting and efficient project, adding that the NEV costs anywhere from \$8 – \$13 thousand and Federal tax Incentives are currently available. Mayor Miller noted that Norco College is planning on installing a small solar plant on its property and will be using it for their golf carts. Following the presentation the Council agreed to add the blue dots to the Mountain connection as a future designated route.

C. Captain Mayman was present and stated that she is being transferred to the Regional Gang Task Force and stated that it has been a pleasure for her to serve. She noted that Dan Feltenberger has been appointed to serve as Captain. Mayor Miller congratulated Captain Mayman on this transfer. Lt. Cooper stated that she will be missed.

D. Discussion of City's sign ordinance related to special event signs

City Manager Groves stated that there has always been a problem with special event signs throughout the City and the Council will need to make a decision if they want to stay within the

guidelines set in the current Municipal Code and the City's current practice, or make revisions. She noted that staff is looking at a more formal weekly process to clean up the signs and added that staffing and consistency have been the problem in the past. A proposed flyer was put together and distributed to the Council for their review that could be distributed in the City's water bills to provide community awareness.

Pictures of signs placed in the public right-of-way were shown and Code Compliance Officer Ken Swank stated that proper communication with the persons that place the signs is important. He noted that the City is not trying to clamp down on businesses and will push back some from taking those signs down and added that special event permits could be used for permitted signs and communication with City staff is important regarding the placement and timing of the signs. Beginning the week of July 12th, Mr. Swank will be completing sign sweeps every Monday morning and is looking for some trained volunteers to assist with that sweep.

City Manager Groves stated that the most pressing issue is that there is a need for areas throughout the City to promote events and we need a community kiosk to post this information. Council Member Azevedo stated that she feels sympathetic to community events signs that are posted. City Manager Groves responded that we cannot discriminate on the content and the City needs to look at designated areas for signs. Council Member Sullivan commented on the possibility of allowing the signs on the weekends. In response, City Manager Groves noted that there are models for that program, along with an education process for the community. Council Member Bash stated that he is hoping that eventually there will be one site to post all activities and added that the Economic Development Advisory Council is discussing designated areas to post community events. He added that we need to discuss how to help businesses through tough economic times and noted that some businesses post temporary signs in the right-of-way for advertising purposes.

City Manager Groves stated that we usually get complaints regarding garage sales after the fact. She noted that the City does require a permit for garage sales and there is a penalty fee for a non-permitted sale. The process that Code Compliance Officer Swank will follow is when he finds a garage sale in process without a paid permit; he will collect the permit fee, along with the penalty fee.

Pat Hedges. Ms. Hedges noted that we need a few permanent places in the entrances of the City to post signs.

Glenn Hedges. Mr. Hedges stated that we need one place in City Hall to go to for a sign permit and commented on his past experience in requesting a permit, which did not go well and he was sent all over City Hall.

Council Member Sullivan again stated that he would like to see signs that include a telephone number and address for contact on signs allowed in the public right-of-ways on weekends. It was noted that a provision in the Norco Municipal Code could be added stating penalty fees for that policy. Code Compliance Officer Swank stated that there needs to be a policy that will be followed.

Following the discussion, City Manager Groves stated that what she is hearing is that we are not ready to send out the flyer and a more formal policy will be prepared to bring to the Council for review. In closing, she stated that the hope is to come up with a more refined policy and begin communication with the community groups.

- E. City Manager Groves stated that the banners are being put up today on Sixth Street and the red, white and blue striping will be completed by Thursday.
6. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Miller adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

BRENDA K. JACOBS
CITY CLERK

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