



# MINUTES CITY OF NORCO

CITY COUNCIL/COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 2820 CLARK AVENUE  
MAY 18, 2011

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CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hanna called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

City Attorney Harper– **Present**

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

**§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  
Management  
Middle Management, Professional and Confidential Service

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION: Mayor Hanna reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

REPORT OF ACTION(S) TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION (§54957.1): **City Attorney Harper stated that discussions were held in Closed Session related to labor negotiations and further stated that there were no reportable actions to report.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Sullivan

INVOCATION: Council Member Sullivan

PRESENTATION: Recognition of Best of America by Horseback  
*Committee Volunteers*

**Mayor Hanna presented all of the City staff, Committee members and volunteers with a certificate of appreciation for all of their hard work and effort in putting on this event.**

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

**M/S Bash/Newton 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, NEWTON, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: NONE**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

1. CRA CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

- A. CRA Minutes:  
Regular Meeting of May 4, 2011  
Special Meeting of May 4, 2011  
**Recommended Action: Approve the CRA Minutes (City Clerk)**

2. OTHER CRA MATTERS: No other CRA matters

ADJOURNMENT OF CRA: 7:14 p.m.

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:**

Item 3.D was pulled by the public and Council Member Sullivan pulled Items 3.C., 3.G and 3.H.

**M/S Azevedo/Bash 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, NEWTON, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: NONE**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

3. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

- A. City Council Minutes:  
Regular Meeting of May 4, 2011  
Special Meeting of May 4, 2011  
Special Meeting of April 27, 2011  
**Recommended Action: Approve the City Council Minutes (City Clerk)**

- B. Recap of Actions Taken at the Planning Commission Regular Meeting of May 11, 2011. **Recommended Action: Receive and File** (Planning Director)
- C. Appointment of One Member to the Economic Development Advisory Council. **Recommended Action: Appoint Kim Calabrano to the Economic Development Advisory Council.** (Contract Economic Development Specialist) PULLED FOR DISCUSSION
- D. Resolution Setting the Regular Meeting Schedules for City Commissions and the Economic Development Advisory Council for Fiscal Year 2011-12. **Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2011-24.** (City Clerk) PULLED FOR DISCUSSION
- E. Acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Equestrian Trail Fence Project as Complete. **Recommended Action: Accept the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Equestrian Trail Fence Project as complete and authorize the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion with the County of Riverside.** (Public Works Director)
- F. Approval and Adoption of the Annual Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. **Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2011-25, approving the annual appropriation limit for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.** (Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance)
- G. Establishment of Annual Special Tax for Community Facilities District No. 93-1 for the Fiscal Year 2011-2012. **Recommended: Adopt Resolution No. 2011-26, Establishing Annual Special Tax for Community Facilities District No. 93-1 for the Fiscal Year 2011-2012.** (Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance) PULLED FOR DISCUSSION
- H. Fiscal Year 2011 Third Quarter Budget Performance Report. **Recommended Action: Receive and File** (Deputy City manager/Director of Finance) PULLED FOR DISCUSSION
- I. Addition of a Separate City Council Group with CalPERS to Implement City-Paid Benefit Reductions. **Recommended Action: Adopt the three CalPERS-required resolutions (Resolution Nos. 27, 28, and 29) to allow the City Council to pay their full employee's share (8%) of CalPERS contributions.** (Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance)

4. ITEMS PULLED FROM CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 3.C. Appointment of One Member to the Economic Development Advisory Council.  
**Recommended Action: Appoint Kim Calabrano to the Economic Development Advisory Council.** (Contract Economic Development Specialist)

**Council Member Sullivan** inquired about the other applicant as mentioned in the staff report. City Manager Groves replied that there were two applicants, but only one was recommended by the EDAC. She added that the second position has been noticed and is still open.

**M/S Sullivan/Bash to appoint Kim Calabrano to the Economic Development Advisory Council. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

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

3. D. Resolution Setting the Regular Meeting Schedules for City Commissions and the Economic Development Advisory Council for Fiscal Year 2011-12.  
**Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2011-\_\_.** (City Clerk)

**Vern Showalter.** Mr. Showalter commented on his concerns regarding the quarterly commission meetings, noting the need to address attendance. City Manager Groves stated that this recommendation is for only one year and any other changes would need to be made through ordinance amendments.

**Mayor Pro Tem Bash** commented on his time spent on the Parks and Recreation Commission and encouraged commission members to stay vigilant and active.

**Council Member Newton** commented on the importance of all of the commissions to the City Council. He further commented on the Planning Commission's reliance on the other commissions and noted concerns with timely feedback for decision making purposes. City Manager Groves re-stated that special meetings can be held if necessary.

**M/S Bash/Azevedo to adopt Resolution No. 2011-24. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

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

- 3.G. Establishment of Annual Special Tax for Community Facilities District No. 93-1 for the Fiscal Year 2011-2012. **Recommended: Adopt Resolution No. 2011-26, Establishing Annual Special Tax for Community Facilities District No. 93-1 for the Fiscal Year 2011-2012.** (Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance)

**Council Member Sullivan** asked what happens to this District after 25 years. Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro stated that at the end of 25 years, the debt is paid off and the District will cease to exist.

**M/S Sullivan/Bash to adopt Resolution No. 2011-26, Establishing Annual Special Tax for Community Facilities District No. 93-1 for the Fiscal Year 2011-2012. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

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

- 3.H. Fiscal Year 2011 Third Quarter Budget Performance Report. **Recommended Action: Receive and File** (Deputy City manager/Director of Finance)

**Council Member Sullivan** requested information on a line item referencing an unbudgeted workers compensation payment for an individual from the Citizens on Patrol. Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro stated that this pertains to injuries to an individual and the specific funds for these types of injuries are not designated.

**Council Member Newton** asked about specific General Fund revenues designated as intergovernmental, more specifically asked if there was some expected funding that was not received. Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro stated the funding has not yet been received for the County of Riverside's Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program and also State reimbursements received that were expected to be higher. He added that at this time we do not expect any additional State reimbursements. Council Member Newton commented on the late payment of utility fees and asked what could be done to accelerate those payments. Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro stated that customers are making payments in a timelier manner and fewer penalties are being collected. Council Member Newton commented on the overage in expenditures in Park Maintenance and Fire Suppression and Paramedics and asked what could be done to bring that back into line in each department. Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro stated that the overage was caused by a retirement payout (Parks Maintenance) and worker's compensation payments and legal expenditures (Fire Suppression and Paramedics). The situation in fire is that we do not budget for expenditures related to workers comp injuries.

**M/S Sullivan/Bash to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2011 Third Quarter Budget Performance Report. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

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

5. CITY COUNCIL ACTION ITEM:

- A. Third Amendment to the Agreement for Law Enforcement Services to Either: Option 1: Eliminate Two Traffic Deputy Positions, Two Community Service Officer Positions and One Community Oriented Policing Deputy Position; or Option 2: Eliminate Two Traffic Deputy Positions

*Implementing Option 1 will reduce General Fund law enforcement costs \$1,013,000 by eliminating two Traffic Deputy positions, two Community Service Officer positions, one Community Oriented Policing Deputy position, and receiving a federal grant to help retain the last remaining Community Oriented Policing deputy. Implementing Option 2 will reduce General Fund law enforcement costs \$585,000 by eliminating two Traffic Deputy positions and receiving a federal grant to help retain a Community Oriented Policing deputy who would be eliminated in Option 1. Option 2 keeps the sub-station at City Hall open.*

**Recommended Action: That the City Council select Option 1 or Option 2 and authorize the Mayor to sign the appropriate Amendment to the Agreement for Law Enforcement Services. (Lt. Cooper)**

**City Manager Groves** commented on the budget process, noting the need to reduce expenditures. She noted the Council policy actions required to proceed, further commenting on the two options brought before them in regards to the Sherriff's contract.

**Lt. Cooper** presented the City Council with information regarding the two options, noting it will be a difficult job to choose between two bad options. He summarized reductions that would result from each option.

**Council Member Newton** commented on the crossing guards, noting a concern with Option 1, leaving no officers involved with the crossing guard contract. Lt. Cooper stated that he would envision the City's Finance Department taking over the contract. City Manager Groves stated that this is a shared contract with the School District, adding that currently the Sherriff's do not go out on a daily basis to monitor the crossing guards.

**Council Member Azevedo** asked staff if anyone has thought through where that money would be made up if Option 1 is approved. City Manager Groves stated that as she mentioned during the Budget workshops, staff would bring that back for Council consideration and at this time could not state what would be recommended.

**Council Member Sullivan** stated that he does not like either option and asked why this decision needs to be made tonight. He further commented on how difficult it would be to make up the remaining deficit.

**Sigrid Williams.** Ms. Williams commented on the need for the public to feel safe, noting that the last thing a city should do is cut public safety in these times, which would open up the City for more crime. She further stated crime statistics in the nation and in Norco, noting that Norco's crime is higher than the national level. She stated that she is not in favor of cutting the Sheriff's Department.

**Mike Williams.** Mr. Williams stated that he is in favor of keeping the Sheriff's sub-station in Norco. He commented on speeding problems in the City, noting the negative element that would arise from the Sherriff's deploying out of Jurupa. He asked the Council to please make a decision that is best for the City, as safety comes first.

**Lance Gregory.** Mr. Gregory stated that he attended an earlier Council study session where the presentation was made regarding the two options, adding that he does not agree with either one. He commented on traffic issues in the City, adding that Norco will become a "destination" for criminals. He asked the Council to make the right decision.

**Karen Leonard.** Ms. Leonard stated that there is not a good answer and asked if discussions have been held with the City of Eastvale regarding sharing a station. City Manager Groves stated that yes, discussions have been held. Ms. Leonard stated that she does not like the option of losing the station, but hates worse losing the City.

**Julie Waltz.** Ms. Waltz commented on Assembly Bill 109, asking where is that going to leave all of us. She noted that citizens need to feel secure in their homes. She stated that she would not feel comfortable if the Sherriff's station was taken away.

**Roy Hungerford.** Mr. Hungerford stated that he does not want to see cuts to the Sheriff's Department, adding that the Council should look to the Fire Department for cuts. He further commented on the City's budget for Fire and compared it to the City of Eastvale's budget, noting that the Council should look at contracting out for fire services.

**Dave Henderson.** Mr. Henderson stated his concerns with "nothing to report" from Closed Sessions, when he believes there are actions that should be reported. He commented on games being played with the Fire Department, adding that he would like to see the City contract with the CDF for fire services.

**Council Member Sullivan** stated that he agrees with what much of what was said, adding that the Fire Department is just as important as the Sheriff's Department. He noted his support for Option 2, keeping the Sheriff's sub-station in Norco. He also stated his support for going to the people for a parcel tax, as not enough tax revenues are coming in at present.

**Council Member Azevedo** noted the comments made to "get the money from somewhere else" wondering where that "somewhere else" would be. She commented on the myths that property tax would cover the costs for public safety. She also commented on her work to attract big box development into the City to provide the necessary sales tax revenues. Council Member Azevedo commented on the concept of the City contracting out for fire services. She stated her support for Option 2, adding that she would like to re-look at options in six months.

**Mayor Pro Tem Bash** stated that he agrees with many of the comments, adding that he would suggest that everyone contact and complain to Supervisor Tavaglione letting him know that public safety is important in Norco. He added that he believes he has one job, and that is to keep the City safe and further commended the Citizens on Patrol for the work they do. He stated that he cannot ethically ask for a tax and supports Option 2 with the caveat that we will know more in about six weeks.

**Council Member Newton** stated that neither option is acceptable. He noted his concerns regarding balancing the budget with Option 2. Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro stated that we need to find it somewhere and does not know where that mix will be. He added that at this point, he is not sure of any other revenue source to make up that shortfall, noting that fund reserves are used up and no longer available. He further added that the cash flow needs to be addressed, noting that from a prudent financial practice, we need to balance the budget and not carry a deficit budget forward.

**Mayor Hanna** commented on the growth of the Sheriff's Department and stated how much he appreciates them. He added that he does not want to lose the visibility, but added that the City needs to cut somewhere. He noted his support for Option 2 as he cannot justify closing the sub-station. He stated that in September or October he would like to take another look at the budget to add another officer if possible.

**Council Member Azevedo** commented on the Citizens on Patrol and noted that everyone should become advocates for them. She also encouraged buying gas in Norco, as that is the City's largest source of sales tax revenue.

**Council Member Sullivan** commented on the proposed Riverside County Sheriff's Department and the layoffs discussed in a newspaper article he read. He further commented on the City of Eastvale's budget, noting its projected sales tax revenues at \$1.7 million. He added that the Council will try to do everything they can to look at this again, adding that he would like to see all 4 motor officers brought back.

**M/S Bash/Sullivan to approve Option 2 and authorize the Mayor to sign the Amendment to the Agreement for Law Enforcement Services. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

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

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:**

**Sigrid Williams.** Ms. Williams reported on the Norco Mounted Posse's volunteer hours, noting that those numbers are continuing to grow.

**Karen Leonard.** Ms. Leonard congratulated the Best of America by Horseback volunteers, noting that it was a successful event. She commented on her concerns that a small group of volunteers were selected to be recognized, adding that all volunteers should be recognized. She further requested a full financial report on the Best of America by Horseback event.

**Nancy Crysler.** Ms. Crysler commented on a group formed in Norco regarding the pavers going in on the horse trails, noting that they are dangerous for horses and riders.

**Susan Zurawik.** Ms. Zurawik commented on the pavers in the flat lands in Norco. She noted that they are alright in the hills, but are slippery and unsafe in the "flat lands".

**Bobbie Pope.** Ms. Pope noted she spearheaded the controversy regarding the pavers, noting that there are a lot of people with or without permits putting in cement pavers. She asked if the City can afford the liability if someone gets hurt from falling on the pavers, adding that the City needs to change the way the code is written. She stated that she hopes that the Council will put this item on a future agenda and re-write the code and then enforce it.

**Kathy Thistlethwaite.** Ms. Thistlethwaite commented on her concerns regarding the pavers and further commented on where they are being seen in areas that are flat. She noted that the Council needs to do something to keep the trails as "trails" and not turn them into residential sidewalks.

**Pat Hedges.** Ms. Hedges thanked the Council and City staff for the work being done for the City, noting the hard decisions that need to be made.

**Nina Mango.** Ms. Mango commented on safety issues on the horse trails with the pavers placed in the flat lands, noting an incident she had. She stated that the main concern should be safety in the City.

7. OTHER MATTERS – COUNCIL:

**Council Member Sullivan**

- ✚ Thanked everyone that helped with the Extreme Mustang Makeover. He noted that this is the last year of the contract with the City adding that a request has been made that a proposal be put together for a new contract so the event can return to Norco. He asked Director Petree to assist with this, noting that there is a possibility that the event will be moved to October.
- ✚ Commented on the Sheriff's station in Norco noting that he has ideas regarding the Citizens on Patrol.
- ✚ Stated that he was on the Council when the pavers were approved, noting that there was a committee put together to test and evaluate alternate material for the horse trail. He added that there were no complaints on the pavers during that time. He stated that he does not understand the fear of riding on the pavers, but is open to listening, noting he was one of the ones that spearheaded this years ago.

**Council Member Azevedo:**

- ✚ Stated that she, Mayor Pro Tem Bash, Su Bacon and the City's Historic Preservation Consultant Bill Wilkman spoke at the California Preservation Foundation Conference in Santa Monica. She added that this was a huge honor and commended Mayor Pro Tem Bash for the information he provided to all present at the event. She noted that a seminar put on by the California Preservation Foundation will be held on the Navy Base in June.
- ✚ Commented on the proposed California high-speed rail, noting the alternate route that would "take out" Norco, running along the 15 Freeway. She further commented on the open houses that are being held, noting the June 21<sup>st</sup> open house in Corona. She encouraged everyone to attend to make sure it is known that Norco firmly opposes the high-speed rail route through Norco.
- ✚ Reported that on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, WRCOG will hold its General Assembly and Condoleezza Rice will be the speaker. She stated that Dr. Brenda Davis will be recognized and presented with an award at that event.

**Council Member Newton:**

- ✚ Asked Director Thompson about a letter received regarding difficulties with vehicles driving behind the trails (Corydon and Vine). He noted that staff needs to remedy this as soon as possible with some type of fencing so that horses, not vehicles, can pass through this area. Director Thompson noted that this is being looked into and alternate measures are being discussed. Council Member Newton confirmed that City Manager Groves would notify the Council by Monday regarding what that remedy is.
- ✚ Commented on the Mixed Solid Waste Taskforce, noting the potential waste/revenue stream that would result from the proposed Waste to Energy Plant. He asked Director Thompson what the status is in regards to the Chevron Feasibility Study. Director Thompson stated that Chevron is doing the initial scoping and there will be a progress meeting held in a few weeks.

**Mayor Pro Tem Bash:**

- ✚ Noted his concerns regarding rocks left by work completed by Edison, noting someone would get hurt. Public Works Director Thompson stated that Edison has been contacted to remove the rocks and confirmed that the location is property owned by the County.
- ✚ Commented on a safety issue regarding fence that encloses a drainage ditch by the baseball field at Norco High school. He asked Director Thompson to assist with getting some new fencing.
- ✚ Stated that he has received about six calls from residents complaining that their water bills have doubled.

**Mayor Hanna**

- ✚ Commented on the California high-speed rail project and the article from Sunday's paper, noting the articles negativity towards the project.
- ✚ Commented on the State's bond sale to be used for road improvements and additional jobs.
- ✚ Stated that last Tuesday he went to Sacramento with Danny Azevedo to attend the Minimum Standards Roundtable discussion sponsored by the Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Association. He commented on the discussions held and noted that he was the only representative from a City.
- ✚ Asked Director Thompson about the water leaks he had contacted him about, noting that he would like the calls returned to residents in a timely manner.

8. OTHER MATTERS – STAFF:

**Parks, Recreation & Community Services Director Petree:**

- ✚ Stated that the 2011 Relay for Life event in Norco raised \$46,000.
- ✚ Commented and provided information on the Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy caused by EHV-1. He added that a link will be available on the City's website for updates and information.

9. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Hanna adjourned the meeting at 9:30p.m.

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BRENDA K. JACOBS, CMC  
CITY CLERK