



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
CITY COUNCIL/COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 2820 CLARK AVENUE
JUNE 1, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hanna called the meeting to order at 5:31 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: Cooper, de Boer, Groves, Jacobs, King, Okoro, Petree and Thompson

City Attorney Harper– **Present**

THE CITY COUNCIL/CRA RECESSED TO CLOSED SESSION (§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 7:03 p.m.

REPORT OF ACTION(S) TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION (§54957.1): **City Attorney Harper stated that there were no reportable actions from Closed Session.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Pro Tem Bash

INVOCATION: Assembly of God – Beacon Hill
Pastor Rene Parish

Agenda Items 1.A. & 4.A.

PRESENTATION:

WRCOG Assembly Bill 811 Presentation
*Rick Bishop, Executive Director, and
Barbara Spoonhour, Program Manager*

Ms. Spoonhour presented Mayor Hanna with a plaque recognizing the City of Norco's participation and partnership in the SCE/WRCOG Energy Leadership Program. Louis Davis, representing Southern California Edison, stated that a rebate check in the amount of \$33,000 will be sent to the City of Norco for its participation in this Program.

Mr. Bishop presented information on WRCOG's Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Program. Examples of eligible improvements, along with the Program benefits were presented. Ms. Spoonhour presented the financing options and requirements for the Program. The judicial validation and timeline were presented with June/July 2011 being the beginning point for the acceptance of applications.

In response to questions asked by the City Council Members, Ms. Spoonhour stated that this Program is for property owners only and not municipalities. She also stated that workshops will be held in the different sub-regions and added that the City will be contacted when they will be held.

REGULAR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA) AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:

1. CRA CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

A. CRA Minutes:

Regular Meeting of May 18, 2011

Special Meeting of May 18, 2011

Recommended Action: Approve the CRA Minutes (City Clerk)

M/S Bash/Sullivan to approve the CRA Minutes with corrections requested by Council Member Sullivan and Council Member Azevedo. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, NEWTON, SULLIVAN

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

- B. Acceptance of Bids and Award of Contract for the City of Norco Animal Shelter Expansion Project. **Recommended Action: Award of base bid with Add Alternate 1 for the City of Norco Animal Shelter Expansion Project to Hamel Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$1,364,480 and authorize the Executive Director to approve contract change orders up to 10 percent of the original contract amount.** (Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Development)

Council Member Newton commented on the present drawings for the Animal Shelter and asked if the building could be expanded in the future. Director Petree replied that this was previously discussed and requested by the Council and that provision for future expansion is included in the drawings. He added that a structural engineer confirmed that the Animal Shelter is designed to be expanded out.

M/S Bash/Newton to award the base bid with Add Alternate 1 for the City of Norco Animal Shelter Expansion Project to Hamel Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$1,364,480 and authorize the Executive Director to approve contract change orders up to 10 percent of the original contract amount. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

2. OTHER CRA MATTERS: No other CRA Matters

ADJOURNMENT OF CRA: 7:32 p.m.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:

3. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

Council Member Sullivan pulled Item 3.E. and Item 3.G. was pulled by the public for discussion.

M/S Bash/Azevedo to approve the City Council Minutes as corrected and 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

- A. City Council Minutes:
Special Meeting of May 24, 2011
Regular Meeting of May 18, 2011
Special Meeting of May 18, 2011
Recommended Action: **Approve the City Council Minutes** (City Clerk)
- B. Resolutions Calling the 2011 General Municipal Election. **Recommended Actions: Adopt a) Resolution No. 2011-30, requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside consent to the conduction of the November 8, 2011 General Municipal Election in the City of Norco**

by the County of Riverside Registrar of Voters; b) Resolution No. 2011-31, calling and giving notice of the General Municipal Election; and c) Resolution No. 2011-32, adopting regulations for the candidates for elective office. (City Clerk)

- C. Approval of Salary and Benefits Resolutions for Management; Middle Management, Professional and Confidential Employees; and Approval of an Amendment to the City Manager Employee Agreement for Fiscal Year 2011-12 to Implement Employee's Paying Four Percent (4%) of the Employee's Contribution Rates Toward Retirement through the CalPERS Retirement System. **Recommended Actions: a.) Adopt Resolution No. 2011-33, approving the Annual Salary and Benefits for Management personnel; b.) Adopt Resolution No. 2011-34, approving the Annual Salary and Benefits for Middle Management, Professional and Confidential Service personnel; c.) Adopt Resolution No. 2011-35, approving the Employer Paid Member contributions' and d.) Approve an Amendment to the City Manager's Employment Agreement. (City Manager/Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance)**
- D. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Public Works and Parks Maintenance Workers Association and the City of Norco for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. **Recommended Action: a.) Approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Public Works and Parks Maintenance Workers Association for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and b.) Adopt Resolution No. 2011-36, approving the Employer Paid Member contributions. (City Manager/Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance)**
- E. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Norco Firefighters Association and the City of Norco for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. **Recommended Action: Approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Norco Firefighters Association for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. (City Manager/Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance) PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**
- F. Ratification of an Expenditure for Sewer Collection System Maintenance and Cleaning Services provided by National Plant Services, Inc. **Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the City Council ratify an expenditure in the amount of \$77,512.11 for sewer collection system maintenance and cleaning services provided by National Plant Services, Inc. (Director of Public Works)**

- G. Approval to Restructure the Norco Beautification Committee. **Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2011-37, disbanding the Council-appointed Joint City-Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee and approve City Manager appointments of community representatives to serve on committees in order to assist City staff with community events sponsored by the City.** (City Clerk)
PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

4. ITEM(S) PULLED FROM CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 3.E. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Norco Firefighters Association and the City of Norco for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. **Recommended Action: Approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Norco Firefighters Association for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.** (City Manager/Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance)

Council Member Sullivan commented on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), noting that he does not agree with it. He further commented on discussions held at the Budget Workshops regarding cuts that needed to be made in each City department, noting what the Firefighters gave up in the past year. He also stated that the Firefighters have given more than we have asked them to give. Council Member Sullivan stated that this could have been worked out in time. He also stated that if we impose this contract, the Firefighters could hire a law firm to implement the 3% at 50 and the City would probably lose. He stated again that he does not agree with the recommendation to impose the contract.

Rose Eldridge. Ms. Eldridge commented that she has seen a lot of things happen with the Norco Fire Department, noting an article from a newspaper she saved that is 22 years old. She urged the Council to keep the Fire Department.

Rick Cheatham. Mr. Cheatham stated that the Council has a tough decision and “begged” them not to make this decision on the back of the Norco Firefighters. He added that if benefits and staffing levels are reduced, the Firefighters will leave Norco, noting that the Firefighters are public servants and they would serve even if they were asked to cut more.

David Goad. Mr. Goad thanked the Council for doing the job they do and commented on the time he worked for the Fire Department and watched it turn into a professional department. He stated that for Norco to maintain its unique lifestyle, it needs to implement a tax. He asked that the Council give the Firefighters the opportunity to work with them.

Steve Sandefer. Mr. Sandefer spoke in support of the Norco Firefighters Association as the Union President for the Hemet Firefighters. He stated that the people of Norco are in charge and added, as information, that the administrative staff in Hemet took the same cut as the firefighters.

Karen Leonard. Ms. Leonard stated that the Norco Firefighters Association has met the terms set and asked why the Council is not acting in good faith to negotiate this as they have requested, noting the valid concerns of the Council. She added that the Council should take this contract for the next year and look at more competitive bids during that time.

Bill Kohl. Mr. Kohl commented on the important services that are provided by police and fire, noting how much of his property taxes go for these services. He added that this needs to be a priority for the City as response times are critical. He suggested that the Council come up with a different plan with concern for health and safety.

Ron Laursen. Mr. Laursen commented on his disbelief, noting that beginning two and one-half years ago concessions were made that saved the City over \$700,000 and added that the Firefighters stood beside the City through the tough economic times. Mr. Laursen stated that in February, the Norco Firefighters Association was asked for a collaborative \$1 million budget reduction from the Fire Department, noting the efforts made and rejected. He commented on the formal negotiations that took place and the resulting demands made from the Firefighters. He stated that he would like to send the representatives back to the table to negotiate in good faith.

Curtis Coombs. Mr. Coombs stated that dire times call for dire measures and added that he believes that as the City, there is an obligation to fight for what is best in the City. He commented on contracting out for fire services and the fact that the City has an obligation to do this as they cannot afford to pay for the current Norco Fire Department.

Roy Hungerford. Mr. Hungerford stated that the City does not have any money and this is what it comes down to. He added that everyone is facing hard times, not just the Firefighters, and if not cut from them, what else do we shut down. He noted that he would fight a parcel tax to the end, adding that taxes are not an option.

Su Bacon. Ms. Bacon commented on the fact that police and fire are not the only ones that save lives. She added that these are difficult times; not the fire or police against the City. She stated that every City department has made cuts, adding that you don't tax your way out of a recession.

Council Member Sullivan interjected that the City's financial problems will continue into next year whether we keep the Fire Department or not. He commented on the need for a tax and stated that he would like to let the people decide if they want to save the City to get it out of the hole.

Linda Dixon. Ms. Dixon noted her concern with the bottom line, adding that she attended the Budget Workshops and the Council meetings and has paid attention to where the cuts are. She stated that the major concern is there is no money and every city needs to act with common sense and for the better good of the city.

Nina Mango. Ms. Mango thanked the Fire Department for its response to her home and stated that she hopes that the Council can decide to keep protection in Norco with the help of the paramedics. She begged the Council to make a conscientious decision for the wellbeing of the City.

Denise Shoemaker. Ms. Shoemaker stated that this is a budget problem and not a personal action taken against the Fire Department. She added that the City really needs to look at what cuts can be made.

Council Member Sullivan stated that the City needs to bring in some big box stores on Hamner Avenue to bring in some tax revenue, also noting that Silverlakes and Ingalls will help out some. He added that the City still needs to go to the people for some help. He stated that personal agendas should be kept out of the way and added he does not think the Council has done that.

Council Member Azevedo stated this has been a challenge for her, adding that this is one of the best fire departments a city could ever have. She noted that on the other hand, Norco has no money and is going bankrupt. She stated that constant staffing needs to be managed to sustain this Department and overtime is part of what is bankrupting the City. Council Member Azevedo stated that she would be willing to spend another week or two to discuss options and added that the Council needs to be fiscally responsible. She noted that she wants the Fire Department but does not want the City to go bankrupt.

Mayor Pro Tem Bash commented on the budget process, noting that staff continues to work to build economic development in the City. He further commented on the overtime and disability claims, noting that those are things that a city our size needs to look at. Mayor Pro Tem Bash stated that he would love to go out for a public safety tax but cannot defend the numbers at this time. He further stated that he resents the fact that the Fire Department thinks that the Council will not keep the public safe, adding that he is committed to public safety. He noted that people want a different form of public servant that they can afford, adding that if the numbers submitted were real, the Council would have accepted them. He further added that the Council needs to find a way to keep residents safe within a certain budget.

Council Member Newton commented on the Fire Department personnel and the quality of service they provide, adding that this is not the issue. He stated that if we continue on this path, we will be closing stations. Council Member Newton stated that his main concern is that the management of this Department is not effective with the costs resulting from constant staffing and overtime. He noted that the Department needs to manage constant staffing and overtime or the City will be forced to brown out stations. He added that he knows his decision will be correct.

Mayor Hanna stated that the bottom line is that we cannot afford this, noting constant staffing and overtime, adding to the problems with the Fire Department going over budget. He added that Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro has the correct figures. Mayor Hanna stated that he has nothing against the Fire Department, but changes need to be made and the City needs to do what they can afford. He added that he does not see any way around this MOU and added that he likes the part in it regarding future compensation not being based on a survey of any other city, but on the City's ability to pay, as that is the way a budget should be.

Council Member Sullivan commented on the fact that fifty percent of the City is in the Redevelopment Project Area, and further commented on the projects funded in the Redevelopment Budget. He noted the \$200,000 in the budget for constant staffing and stated that when that money runs out, the City would use a small two-man crew. He commented on the disability claims funded, noting that the money spent is for all City staff, not just the Fire Department. Council Member Sullivan stated that if the City does not get additional revenues, it would need to close a fire station. He further stated that the Council needs to go back to the table and negotiate.

Council Member Azevedo noted that the City is at a deadline to bring a balanced budget to the Council by the end of June. She asked if negotiations could continue to address constant staffing even if the MOU was approved. City Attorney Harper noted that the negotiations are at an impasse at this time and if the MOU is approved, it would go into effect on July 1st and the Council would have the ability to change it at any time.

Mayor Pro Tem Bash addressed the proposed MOU, noting that if the Council would want to put two men on the fire truck right now, they would need to impose a contract because the current MOU, as it stands, does not allow for that. He further commented on one of the side letters that makes it impossible to manage the constant staffing and added that times are changing and cities are going bankrupt.

Council Member Sullivan noted that discussions could be held next year regarding browning out a station to manage the constant staffing. He also commented on the 3% at 50 retirement enhancement for the Firefighters that the Council voted down, noting that they are entitled to this and it will cost the City. He further commented on the opportunity to negotiate to a 3% at 55 retirement enhancement with them.

Motion by Council Member Azevedo to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Norco Firefighters Association for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 with the stipulation that the Council continues negotiations in case there is an opportunity for a side letter in the future. The motion died for lack of a second motion.

M/S Bash/Hanna to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Norco Firefighters Association for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

Council Member Azevedo, under discussion, asked what the next step in the impasse process is. City Attorney Harper stated that the NFA has requested that a meeting take place where a decision could be made regarding the next step in the impasse proceedings. He added that mediation is not mandatory for the parties, parties meaning the Norco Firefighters Association and the City.

Substitute Motion by Council Member Sullivan to put impasse procedure off for at least two weeks to give staff an opportunity to sit down with the Norco Firefighters Association to see if they can work out constant staffing. The substitute motion died for lack of a second motion.

M/S Bash/Hanna to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Norco Firefighters Association for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 was voted on the board. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

G. Approval to Restructure the Norco Beautification Committee. **Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2011-37, disbanding the Council-appointed Joint City-Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee and approve City Manager appointments of community representatives to serve on committees in order to assist City staff with community events sponsored by the City.** (City Clerk)

Pat Overstreet. Ms. Overstreet asked for clarification on the recommendation and what the changes would be that would affect the Beautification Committee.

City Manager Groves stated that this is an item to restructure the Beautification Committee. She noted that this is a committee that falls under the Brown Act and is required to have noticing provided for each meeting that a majority of the Committee members attend, which has become difficult with the current Committee's involvement. She stated that what this action does is disbands the Council-appointed Committee and creates two separate event committees appointed by the City Manager, adding that all of the current members will be asked if they wish to stay on a committee. She also stated that Council Member Azevedo will continue to serve as the Council liaison for the committees.

Council Member Sullivan received confirmation that there will still be Beautification Awards presented and the current Beautification Committee members will be asked if they wish to continue to serve on that event committee.

M/S Azevedo/Bash to adopt Resolution No. 2011-37, disbanding the Council-appointed Joint City-Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee and approve City Manager appointments of community representatives to serve on committees in order to assist City staff with community events sponsored by the City. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:

Brian Borg. Mr. Borg commented on the pavers in the horse trails and the maintenance problems that accompany them. He asked that they not be allowed in the horse trails. He also stated that there is a bio hazard problem at Pikes Peak Park in regards to the litter found by his children, who frequent the park. He added that there is a lighting problem at the Park, noting that it is too dark.

Eliza Echevarria. Ms. Echevarria stated that she is the Community Relations Officer for the Riverside County Transportation Commission and reported on the SR-91 Corridor Improvement Project Update and the public hearing to be held on June 9th at the Corona Civic Center Gymnasium from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Nina Mango. Ms. Mango commented on her concerns regarding the equestrians' safety with the pavers in the horse trails, noting her hopes to improve the trail system in the City and not ever put pavers in again.

Bobbie Pope. Ms. Pope asked for a moratorium on the placement of pavers in the trails, noting that the pavers are dangerous for riders and horses. She asked that the Municipal Code be changed to not allow pavers to be installed, adding that she has done some research on products other than pavers. She stated that where it is flat in the City is where the problems are and pavers should not be allowed there.

6. OTHER MATTERS – COUNCIL:

Council Member Newton:

- ✚ Thanked Public Works Director Thompson for taking care of the problem at Corydon where the vehicles were going on the trails.
- ✚ Stated that he was appointed to the Riverside County Waste Management Advisory Council as a WRCOG representative and commented on a Assembly Bills discussed at the meetings he attended. He noted that AB 341 could have an effect on the future manure-to-energy plant regarding the storing of green waste.

Mayor Pro Tem Bash:

- ✚ Asked Public Works Director Thompson if he reviewed the illegal paver list he submitted to him. Director Thompson responded to that list, as he had reviewed them himself.
- ✚ Recommend that the Council participate in a questions answer session at the Senior Center to calm any fears they may have.
- ✚ Stated that he does not think Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro gets enough credit as he has saved the City many times and has kept the City afloat.

M/S Bash/Newton to place a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services in the City of Norco on the next City Council agenda. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Council Member Azevedo:

M/S Azevedo/Bash to place a report on the next City Council agenda regarding a moratorium on the installation of pavers on the horse trails, especially in the flat ground. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

- ✚ Publically acknowledged Parks, Recreation & Community Services Supervisor Peggy Calvert for her work at the Senior Center and her infectious enthusiasm and interaction with the seniors.
- ✚ Commented on the Stevie Wonder performance at Norco College, noting that he is a motivational speaker and was rewarding to listen to.
- ✚ Reported that on June 23rd, 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 Sullivan:

- ✚ Thanked Public Works Director Thompson for taking care of the problem at Seventh and California.
- ✚ Thanked Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro for the work he has done for the City and complimented him on receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting seven years in a row.
- ✚ Commented on the retirement of Dr. Davis and also the presentation made by Stevie Wonder.

Mayor Hanna:

- ✚ Commented on the horse that had fallen on Sixth Street, as mentioned by Council Member Azevedo, noting that this did not happen on the pavers, but happened on the asphalt and cement where the horse could not get traction.

7. OTHER MATTERS – STAFF:

City Manager Groves commented on the action the Council took on the Norco Firefighters Association MOU and noted that there is no change in staffing at the Fire Department with this action. She added that the Council would need to approve any staffing changes with the FY 2011-12 Budget. She further commented on the privilege it is as the City Manager to work with the City employees -- every department, every director, every firefighter and every sheriff. She added that these are extremely difficult times and none of this is easy. She thanked all of the groups for the implementations made on the agenda tonight regarding the PERS contributions.

Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services Petree gave a brief update on the Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy caused by EHV-1. He noted that there have been some cancellations of shows because of this threat, adding that there is a link on the City's website with updated information.

8. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Hanna adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

BRENDA K. JACOBS, CMC
CITY CLERK