



MINUTES CITY OF NORCO

CITY COUNCIL/COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 2820 CLARK AVENUE
SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hanna called the meeting to order at 7:00 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: Bryan, Cooper, Groves, Jacobs, King, Okoro, Petree and Thompson

City Attorney Harper – **Present**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Azevedo

INVOCATION: Grace Fellowship Church
Pastor Vernie Fletcher

PROCLAMATIONS: Constitution Week – September 17-23, 2011
Diane Stephens, Committee Chair

Mayor Hanna presented Ms. Stephens with a proclamation in recognition of Constitution Week.

Patriot Day 2011

Mayor Hanna presented a proclamation to Lt. Cooper and Fire Chief Bryan in remembrance of September 11, 2001 and in recognition of Patriot Day 2011.

PRESENTATION: California Law Enforcement Challenge First Place Award for Traffic Safety

Lt. Cooper provided information regarding the receipt of the Award presented to the Norco Sheriff's Department.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Hanna commended the Boy Scouts in attendance for working on their merit badges and welcomed them to the meeting.

Mayor Hanna read a letter received from Pat Gesler, City Liaison Officer for the Norco Saddle and Harness Association, inviting everyone to attend a short 9/11 memorial service to be held at the George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center on Sunday, September 11 at noon.

REGULAR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA) AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:

1. CRA CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

M/S Bash/Sullivan to adopt 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

- A. CRA Minutes:
Regular Meeting of August 17, 2011
Recommended Action: Approve the CRA Minutes (City Clerk)
- B. Ratification and Approval of the Amended Enforceable Obligation Payment Schedule. **Recommended Action: Adopt CRA Resolution No. 2011-13, ratifying and approving the Amended Enforceable Obligation Payment Schedule.** (Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance)

2. OTHER CRA MATTERS: No other CRA matters

ADJOURNMENT OF CRA: 7:23 p.m.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:

3. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

Council Member Newton pulled Item 3.D. for discussion.

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

- A. City Council Minutes:
Regular Meeting of August 17, 2011
Recommended Action: Approve the City Council Minutes (City Clerk)
- B. Recap of Actions Taken at the Planning Commission Special Meeting of August 31, 2011. **Recommended Action: Receive and File (Planning Director)**

- C. Approval of a Resolution Fixing the Employer's Contribution Under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act (Norco General Employee Association). **Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2011-65, fixing the employer's contribution under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act.** (Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance)

- D. Approval to Purchase a 2011 Case Model No. 580 SN Loader-Backhoe. **Recommended Action: Authorize the Department of Public Works to purchase a 2011 Case Model No. 580 SN Loader/Backhoe and trade-in a 1996 Caterpillar Model 416 B Backhoe from/to Case Power and Equipment for a total amount of \$71,640.26.** (Public Works Director)
PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

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

- 3.D. Approval to Purchase a 2011 Case Model No. 580 SN Loader-Backhoe. **Recommended Action: Authorize the Department of Public Works to purchase a 2011 Case Model No. 580 SN Loader/Backhoe and trade-in a 1996 Caterpillar Model 416 B Backhoe from/to Case Power and Equipment for a total amount of \$71,640.26.** (Public Works Director)

Council Member Newton commented on the purchase of the backhoe and received confirmation from Public Works Director Thompson that the purchase included a one-year unlimited warranty on equipment and a two-year unlimited warranty on the power train, both at no additional cost. Council Member Newton further commented on his desire to check if it would be financially beneficial to the City to surplus the equipment and sell it out of state. Public Works Director Thompson noted that it is staff's recommendation, based on the AQMD restrictions for this implement model and the labor-intense process to sell or auction if off, to offer it as a trade-in.

Substitute M/S Newton/Bash to approve the purchase of the 2011 Case Model No. 580SN Loader-Backhoe in the amount of \$78,640.26 and hold off on trading in the 1996 Caterpillar Model 416 B Backhoe until it is determined if it will be declared as surplus by the City. This substitute motion/second was not carried to a roll call vote.

Substitute M/S Sullivan/Hanna to authorize the Department of Public Works to purchase a 2011 Case Model No. 580 SN Loader/Backhoe and trade-in a 1996 Caterpillar Model 416 B Backhoe from/to Case Power and Equipment for a total amount of \$71,640.26. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

5. CITY COUNCIL ACTION ITEM:

- A. Consideration of a Proposal to Contract out Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

On July 25, 2011, in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP), the Riverside County Fire Department/CAL FIRE provided a proposal to the City for the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services. Staff has reviewed the proposal, sought clarifying information and met with County and CALFIRE representatives regarding the proposal. It is being presented to the Council for consideration. The next steps would be the preparation of a Transitional Memorandum of Understanding with the Norco Firefighters Association (NFA) and a contract between the City and the County of Riverside.

Recommended Action: 1) That the City Council declare its intent to enter into a contract with the County of Riverside/CAL FIRE for the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services; 2) Authorize the City Manager to prepare a Transitional MOU between The Norco Firefighters Association (NFA) and City of Norco; and 3) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate a contract with The Riverside County Fire Department/CAL FIRE for fire protection and emergency medical services for Council approval. (City Manager and Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance)

City Manager Groves introduced the City Council item and acknowledged the presence of Chief Curley and Chief Hawkins, representing the County of Riverside/CAL FIRE, who were available to answer any questions that the Council may have. She presented an overview of the proposal, noting the key provisions included.

Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro commented on the financial considerations used in an attempt to develop a cost comparison providing fire services internally compared to the estimated true cost of providing comparable services through a contract with CAL FIRE. He noted that the FY 2011-2012 adopted budget is based on the current staffing level of a 3-person engine company operating from two stations, which is similar to the County of Riverside proposal for staffing engine companies. The CAL FIRE adjusted cost proposal was presented in the amount of \$3,151,150. This amount includes 24/7 battalion chief duty coverage, all engine company employee full burdened costs, fleet maintenance and operations, dispatching, communications and IT support, future worker compensation and other liability costs. The City will continue to pay for certain ongoing costs including utilities, building and grounds maintenance, weed abatement and small tools. The City adjusted cost estimate was presented with a potential savings from contracting in the amount of \$1,408,891. Other financial considerations would be certain unavoidable (sunk) costs which the City may continue to pay even after services are contracted out such as accrued vacation; sick leave; and the cost of existing workers compensation claims and retiree employees' healthcare costs.

City Manager Groves commented on the steps that will be taken next if the Council declares its intent to enter into a contract with CAL FIRE. She added that the transition time required to work through the details could be a three-to-four month process.

Council Member Sullivan commented on the post health retirement costs and received confirmation from staff that CAL FIRE will pick up all of the liability of those who have not elected to vest with the City. He also received confirmation that the adjusted cost estimates were based on the FY 2011-12 adopted budget.

Chief Hawkins. Chief Hawkins stated that cooperative agreements, not contracts, is how they look at fire protection services. If Norco would elect this proposal, a cooperative agreement between the City and the County would be rolled into one agreement with Cal FIRE. The proposal includes providing two 3-person paramedic companies, provide battalion chief coverage, keep the fire inspector within the City employment and one half-time office county position; all while maintaining local control. Chief Hawkins presented an overview of how the County system functions, making it clear that the principals of the Norco Fire Department and NART will continue. He confirmed that they will find positions for all of the current staff and the same, or better, services will be provided. Labor relations will no longer be the City's decision, but will be made on a state-wide basis. Chief Hawkins concluded noting the core values of CAL FIRE – 1. Leadership, 2. Competence, 3. Integrity, 4. Safety and 5. Customer Service.

Council Member Newton received confirmation from Chief Hawkins that he does not anticipate any new increases in personnel costs and a PERS reduction, as a new Memorandum of Understanding was just signed for a three year period of time. Also in response to Council Member Newton, Chief Hawkins gave a brief overview of how the volunteer reserve firefighter program would effectively work, which would augment the current program. Chief Hawkins also responded to Council Member Newton's concern regarding replacement equipment noting that the City will never be unstaffed and replacement equipment would be provided on a short-term basis with no additional cost.

Mayor Pro Tem Bash commented on the senior citizens in Norco and the concerns that they have with this transition. Chief Hawkins responded that social networking is a quick way to present this information, along with going from care center to care center, and holding public meetings. Chief Hawkins added that the Norco Fire Department will continue to be active in the community. Also in response to Mayor Pro Tem Bash, Chief Hawkins stated that in regards to the use of existing equipment, all cities handle this differently and this will be discussed and determined through the negotiation process. He added that CAL FIRE equipment is state-of-the-art and top equipment.

Council Member Azevedo received confirmation from Chief Hawkins that both the uniforms and fire trucks will reflect both the Norco Fire Department and CAL FIRE decals. Also in response to Council Member Azevedo, Chief Hawkins stated that a decision will be made regarding personnel that will float and personnel that will stay, with a rotational overtime list. He added that the Norco Firefighters will bring in their seniority standing and also confirmed that in regards to mutual aide, there will be a combination of efforts in the proximity. Chief Hawkins also confirmed that field trips will continue to be provided for the kids.

Council Member Sullivan stated that the proposal is very well written and easy to understand noting that his biggest concern is the length of the contract and the unknowns regarding the City's ability to pay for the service. Chief Hawkins stated that if during that time the City is unable to pay for the full contract, they can request a reduction in service, noting that he is not in favor of 2 person squads, but would consider it. Council Member Sullivan commented on the 90 to 120 day transition period and asked when the CAL FIRE management would take over. Chief Hawkins stated that this would be negotiated and would happen as quickly as possible to assign a chief officer in Norco for day-to-day work that needs to be accomplished.

Mayor Hanna asked for clarification on the reserve personnel. In response, Chief Hawkins stated that they would be trained through an academy to bring them up to a certain level of training. Chief Hawkins also stated that the cooperative agreement with Corona would continue and there would always be coverage.

Council Member Newton asked for clarification regarding emergency operations in the City. Chief Hawkins stated that the County will take over emergency services in the City and will help staff the City's Emergency Operations Center.

Daymond Center. Mr. Center spoke against the proposal and commented on the specifics of the City known by the current fire employees.

Jodie Webber. Ms. Webber commented on her concerns regarding the cost adjustment, noting that there could be a lot more costs that the City will assume and it may be a wash. She also noted her concern regarding the response time in the Norco hills. She added her concerns regarding future costs and service control.

Council Member Sullivan stated he continues to be against this and has long believed that the City should continue negotiations with firefighters. He added that he does not think that there will be much of a difference when the contract is negotiated. He further noted concerns regarding a change in personnel and concerns for the senior citizens.

Council Member Azevedo commented on the unfunded liability that would be reduced through this contract. She also stated that she hopes that as many as possible current personnel will stay in Norco, adding that this is not easy decision, but it needs to be done to keep the City solvent.

Mayor Pro Tem Bash noted this is a win-win-win situation, adding that he believes that at this point in Norco's history, the City needs to protect themselves and no longer can have the cost overruns as it has had in the past. He further stated that CAL FIRE has people of integrity.

Council Member Newton stated that the Council's first responsibility is to provide adequate public safety and the current Department that can no longer be managed financially. He received confirmation from Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro that the numbers stated are based on estimates; however, there are hard numbers in the actual expenditures. In response to Council Member Newton's concerns regarding "pink slips", City Manager Groves stated that the proposal includes the transition of all current sworn safety personnel into CAL FIRE, adding that they would no longer be City of Norco employees and would be transitioned into state employees.

Mayor Hanna commented on the current Fire Department engineers and their understanding of the City. He stated that the City could not keep afloat as is and noted his appreciation for all of the work that has gone into this proposal.

M/S Bash/Newton to 1) Declare its intent to enter into a contract with the County of Riverside/CAL FIRE for the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services; 2) Authorize the City Manager to prepare a Transitional MOU between The Norco Firefighters Association (NFA) and City of Norco; and 3) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate a contract with The Riverside County Fire Department/CAL FIRE for fire protection and emergency medical services for Council approval. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:

Pat Overstreet. Ms. Overstreet commented on the Norco Fair and the great reports that will follow. She presented Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro with a "one trillion dollar bill" received by RURAL as a "tip" at the Fair.

Karen Leonard. Ms. Leonard commented on the rights of the First Amendment and statements made by Council Member Sullivan at a previous Council meeting, noting it was discrimination and her views are entirely her own.

Rebecca Buffington. Ms. Buffington commented on the public meetings held regarding the proposed truck distribution center, noting the poor behavior displayed at those meetings.

7. OTHER MATTERS – COUNCIL:

Council Member Newton:

- ✚ Commented on his representation on the Riverside County Waste Management Advisory Council and noted an event to be held in Perris, California in October at CR&R where they convert municipal waste to renewable natural gas. In response to Council Member Newton, Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro presented an update on the Chevron Manure to Energy Project stating that a summary was received from Chevron stating that they are still on schedule to deliver a report to the Council no later than December 15 of this year in accordance with the funding agreement with the Department of Energy.
- ✚ Noted that there is a lot of trash left in the Santa Ana Riverbed on weekends and asked if it was possible to ask the Norco Mounted Posse to assist in patrolling that area. City Manager Groves responded that they are an independent organization and would need to be contacted regarding this request. Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services Petree added that the property, with the acceptance of River Trails, is in the jurisdiction of the Army Corp of Engineers.

Mayor Pro Tem Bash:

- ✚ Received confirmation from Public Works Director Thompson that the trail fencing project along Corydon is out to bid and will come to the Council in October to award the bid.
- ✚ Asked about the effectiveness of the patrol vehicle at Norco Elementary. Lt. Cooper responded that it is unknown at this time.
- ✚ Stated that there will be an event held celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Stater Bros on September 30th and sponsored by the Greater Corona Valley Chamber of Commerce.
- ✚ Announced the launch of a major gift campaign for Norco College to be held on September 23.
- ✚ Noted that the Fair was sensational and further commended the efforts of the volunteers.

Council Member Azevedo:

- ✚ Commented on the success of the Norco Fair and the plaque she received for running the talent show for the past 24 years.
- ✚ Noted the award received by the Sheriff's Department and the work that the UNLOAD Committee has done to educate the community. She further noted that the Norco High School kids are again participating in picking up cigarette butts in the local parks. In response to Council Member Azevedo's concerns, Director Petree confirmed that all of the signs are still up in the parks.
- ✚ Stated that there will be an open house opportunity at some time in the future to tour the improvements completed at Norco High School.
- ✚ Suggested expanding on the "Shop Norco" campaign on the City's website.
- ✚ Announced two Corona-Norco Unified School District events; one being a Wine and Jazz Festival put on by the Foundation on September 16th and the other being a patriotic assembly to be held at Highland Elementary on Friday, September 9th at 9:00 a.m.

Council Member Sullivan:

- ✚ Thanked Pat Overstreet for her comments at the Planning Commission meeting, adding that he hopes that in the future there will be more respect for others shown.
- ✚ Commented on Ms. Leonard's comments and stated that he is sorry that she took his comments out of context.

Mayor Hanna:

- ✚ Commented on the trash left on the weekends in the River bottom and also trash being dumped off of Corona and River Drive. In response, Director Thompson stated that staff would look into this.
- ✚ Commented on the lack of restrooms at the most recent parade. In response, Director Petree noted that this would be discussed in the post evaluation with the Norco Fair Committee.

8. OTHER MATTERS – STAFF:

City Manager Groves:

- ✚ Commented on the auto mall partnership with surrounding cities and noted data received following a survey taken that revealed that many Riverside County persons shop out of the county. She added that customer service was number one in that decision. There will be advertising campaigns that will take place and Norco is one of the cities that are participating.
- ✚ Stated that there will be open riding available at the George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center on Tuesdays, beginning on September 13, and information will be available on the City's website. She added that an evaluation will take place following the first six weeks..

9. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Hanna adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

BRENDA K. JACOBS, CMC
CITY CLERK