



**MINUTES  
CITY OF NORCO**

CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 2820 CLARK AVENUE  
FEBRUARY 1, 2012

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

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

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

**Section 54956.9 – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation**

Case Name: B & A Construction, Inc. vs City of Norco  
Case Number: RIC 11802

**Section 54957.6 – Conference with Labor Negotiator**

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

Employee Organization: Norco General Employees Association  
Norco Public Works & Parks Maintenance Workers Association  
Management  
Middle Management, Professional and Confidential Service

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Pro Tem Azevedo

INVOCATION: Norco Church of Christ  
*Pastor Andrew Lemus*

COMMENDATION: Deputy Tim Warburg

**Mayor Bash presented Deputy Warburg with a commendation honoring him and wishing him well on his retirement effective February 10, 2012. He noted that Deputy Warburg, a 26-year law enforcement veteran, provided exemplary service to the citizens of Norco for 17 years.**

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:**

1. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

**M/S Higgins/Hanna to adopt the items as recommended on the City Council Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: SULLIVAN ON 1.E.**  
**ABSENT: NONE**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

- A. City Council Minutes:  
Regular Meeting of January 18, 2012  
Special Meeting of January 23, 2012  
Recommended Action: **Approve the City Council Minutes** (City Clerk)
- B. Resolution Approving Amendment No. 4 to the Chino Basin Desalter Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement. **Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 2012-06, approving Amendment No. 4 to the Chino Basin Desalter Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement with the Chino Desalter Authority, subject to non-substantive changes and approval by all CDA Member Agencies; and authorize the City Manager to execute the Amendment.** (Public Works Director)
- C. Resolution Granting Authority for Preservation of Historic Documents, Photographs and Artifacts. **Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2012-07, granting the Historic Preservation Commission the sole authority for the preservation of historic Norco documents, photographs and artifacts.** (Economic Development Specialist)
- D. Resolution approving Site Plan 2011-20 (Zoetemelk). **Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 2012-08, granting with conditions, site plan approval to allow a 174 square-foot windmill with a base height of 23 feet and blade height (from finished grade) of about 40 feet at 1407 Second Street, located within the a-1-20 zone (agricultural low-density) zone. Site Plan 2011-20.** (Planning Director)
- E. Resolution Upholding the Planning Commission's Denial of Site Plans 2011-07 through 2011-13, and Denying Tentative Parcel Map 36392, for Development of Six Warehouse Distribution Buildings on 86.93 Acres located Generally between Pacific Avenue and Mountain Avenue and First

Street and Second Street Excepting out Approximately Five Acres on the Southeast Corner of Second Street and Pacific Avenue and Adding Approximately 13.6 Non-Contiguous Acres on the East Side of Mountain Avenue. Site Plan 2011-07, Site Plan 2011-08, Site Plan 2011-09, Site Plan 2011-10, Site Plan 2011-11, Site Plan 2011-12, Site Plan 2011-13, Tentative Parcel Map 36392. **Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2012-09.** (Planning Director)

2. ITEM(S) PULLED FROM CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:
3. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS: **(No new evidence will be heard from the public as the public hearing has been closed regarding all items listed.)**
  - A. Ordinance Amending Title 18 of the Norco Municipal Code by Amending the Provisions of Chapter 18.13 Entitled "A-1 Zone-Agricultural Low Density", Amending the Provisions that Regulate Roosters within the A-1 Zone. **Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance No. 938 for second reading.** (City Clerk)

**M/S Hanna/Azevedo to Adopt Ordinance No. 938 for second reading. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

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

- B. Ordinance Amending the Norco Hills Specific Plan to Establish Provisions to Regulate Fowl and the Number of Animals not Otherwise Categorized as an Animal Unit. **Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance No. 939 for second reading.** (City Clerk)

**M/S Azevedo/Hanna to Adopt Ordinance No. 939 for second reading. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

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

4. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEM:
  - A. City of Norco General Municipal election Cycle. (Mayor Bash)

**City Manager Groves** introduced the item for City Council discussion.

**Katherine Bish.** Ms. Bish stated that she opposes changing the election cycle from odd to even years, noting that voters in Norco that vote in odd years are better informed and the most concerned about what happens in Norco.

**Pat Overstreet.** Ms. Overstreet stated that she opposes changing the election cycle as there is an overload of election material to review for the larger elections. She added that the current odd-year election cycle brings out the people that care about the town.

**Mayor Bash** stated that the reason why he would suggest moving to an even-year election cycle is that it makes smaller groups less powerful. He commented on the importance of having representation on the School Board. He also noted that the Riverside Community College District is contemplating the creation of districts and that election would most likely be on an even-year cycle. He further stated that changing to an even-year election cycle is good government with better representation.

**Council Member Sullivan** stated that he opposes changing the election cycle. He commented on the 2004 ballot measure to change to an even-numbered election cycle voted down by the people. He further commented on the length of the ballot for a national election and also the length of time it takes to certify that election. He stated that he is not in favor of this change.

**Council Member Higgins** stated that he could not find a convincing reason to make a decision. He commented on the election statistics provided, noting that the number of voters does not mean they are more or less concerned. He noted that he wanted to reduce the term to three years rather than four, but was concerned with the legal opinion provided. He stated that he does not want to go to five year terms without bringing this to the voters, adding that based on the information provided; he would not suggest a change at this time.

**Council Member Hanna** commented on the City Council's previous discussions in 2010, adding that he spoke with residents who stated that they want the Council to serve 4 years. He stated that he would not vote on decreasing the terms and will say no on this item.

**Mayor Pro Tem Azevedo** stated that in a perfect world, the even-year election cycle would be the best way to go as it has a higher voter turnout. She further stated that she believes that she would have then been elected by a larger majority of the people. She commented on the fact that she does not want to spend the money, nor is she comfortable with giving herself an added year, and so will not support the change at this time.

**Mayor Bash** stated that he was prepared to reduce his term to three years, adding that he believes that it is imperative for Norco to go to the even-year election because in the long term, the odd-year election cycle will hurt the City. He stated that he will bring this issue back again next year for the City Council to discuss.

#### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:

**Katherine Bish.** Ms. Bish stated that she supports City Council term limits and further stated that the City Council should not receive any pay, benefits or retirement until things become better in the City.

**Robin Grundmeyer.** Ms. Grundmeyer provided information regarding the Norco FFA and the top program it provides. She noted that, unfortunately, the state budget had a detrimental effect on education. She further commented on the cuts made to the state's technical and career education.

**Kirsten Smith.** Ms. Smith commented on the Norco FFA and what a great organization it is, noting the leadership conferences they attend. She informed the Council that the FFA is selling agricultural license plates and is holding a fund raising dinner on February 25 at Nellie Weaver Hall, beginning at 6 p.m. The tickets are available at \$50 for a single and \$75 for a couple

**Carole Lindsey.** Ms. Lindsey commented on the leadership in the FFA. She provided additional information on the California agriculture special interest license plate (information regarding the license plate is located on the California Department of Food and Agriculture website at <https://secure.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/calagplate/>). She stated that the Norco FFA is charged with selling 37 plates and they are hoping that people will understand how important the Ag program is as a result of the fundraising activities.

**Vern Showalter.** Mr. Showalter congratulated the Norco Ag program for a job well done. He also commented on the poor service he has been receiving from Charter Cable and asked that the Council really scrutinize them when renewal time comes up.

#### 6. OTHER MATTERS – COUNCIL:

##### **Council Member Sullivan:**

- ✚ Stated that the Sign Code Working Group is close to bringing something back to the Council and will be holding two more meetings to finalize the details.
- ✚ Reported that there will be a presentation from Chevron at the City Council Meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> regarding the feasibility study that was completed.

##### **Council Member Higgins:**

- ✚ Stated that in the future he will want to discuss the need to modify the City's Charter to add City Council term limits, along with no salaries or benefits for Council Members.
- ✚ Commented on his discussions following the Alere Appeal Hearing, noting that Alere realized that they presented the project in the wrong way. He added that they will want to make sure that they do not spend a million dollars on something the City will not approve. He suggested discussing the Planning issues before a new project begins, adding that if the Gateway Specific Plan is modified in the middle of project discussions, there will be a conflict.

##### **Mayor Pro Tem Azevedo:**

- ✚ Reported that she will be judging the talent show put on by the cheerleaders at Norco High School, which will be held in the new performance theater.
- ✚ Stated that she has been working with Director Petree and the President of the Norco Horsemen's Association on a television network cooking show that will be locating in Norco on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

- ✚ Asked if a “State of the City” address has been scheduled. City Manager Groves responded that the Norco Area Chamber will be hosting this in March some time and the date is yet uncertain.

**Council Member Hanna:**

- ✚ Commented on the need for the Council to discuss the Gateway Specific Plan. City Manager Groves stated that a study session would be scheduled in the future to discuss this.

**Mayor Bash:**

- ✚ Noted that he is not a believer in City Council term limits. He stated that in terms of the money, the Council does not make that much, adding that it is not a volunteer job. He further stated that if the City goes under, then it would be a different story.
- ✚ Reported that he is getting compliments on the Fire Department, noting that the transition has been wonderful.

7. OTHER MATTERS – STAFF: None
8. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Bash adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

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BRENDA K. JACOBS, CMC  
CITY CLERK