



**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF NORCO**  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP  
CORONA-NORCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LEARNING CENTER SOUTH -- 2820 CLARK AVENUE -- NORCO, CA 92860  
APRIL 30, 2012

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1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bash called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.
2. 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**
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Fire Chief Geoff Pemberton
4. PRESENTATION -- THE ROAD TO FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

City Manager Groves and Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Okoro presented an overview of the City budget structure, a financial overview of the General Fund, cost containment measures implemented to this date, a preview of the FY 2012-2013 General Fund Budget, fiscal challenges, examples of balancing measures, and next steps in reaching fiscal sustainability by 2017.

**Council Member Sullivan** commented on the public safety information provided and requested some clarification from Lt. Cooper. Lt. Cooper stated that in the case of the Sherriff sub-station closing in Norco, there would be 2 officers on duty 24 hours per day to respond to calls for service at a minimum staffing level. Council Member Sullivan further commented on the low property tax received due to the large redevelopment Project Area in Norco. He also noted that money could be saved by a reduction in Fire services.

**Mayor Pro Tem Azevedo** received confirmation from Director Petree that the charges for service revenues include the George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center. She commented on the impacts to residents if staff was reduced. She noted her concerns regarding the use of the funds held in the Special Asset Revenue Fund, noting the aging infrastructure throughout the City that may need to be repaired or replaced. She added that she is not prepared to reduce Fire services.

**Council Member Hanna** received confirmation from Director Petree that the cost to fence off closed parks and maintain them would vary. He also stated that medians would be cleared of live plants and trees and in response to the question regarding emergency responses from Animal Control, there would be limited standby service and emergency response, both dependent on what the Council approves in the budget.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments were received from seven persons in attendance. Comments included:
  - Could consider general obligation bonds.
  - Concerned about fire and safety services.
  - Cannot look at cutting anything in public works as the streets have gone from bad to worst.

- Recommendation made to look at using the Special Asset Revenue Fund to fill the gap for the “fix” this year.
- Not in favor of pulling out landscape in medians.
- Recommendation made to approve a tax for a couple of years.
- Suggestion made to share the Sheriff sub-station with another agency.
- Norco should be a self-sufficient City and should stop acting haphazardly in regards to litigation.
- Should receive a registration fee for horses.
- Not many great options; the problems are masked by the great job done by employees.
- Not in favor of cutting trees down and clearing medians.

6. CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS:

**Mayor Pro Tem Azevedo** stated that the people are what make Norco special, adding that there is a shiny future ahead for the City. She stated that the problem is getting through the next few years, noting that she is concerned about using the money in the Special Asset Revenue Fund. There is a need to promote economic development and there needs to be City functions to assist with that.

**Council Member Hanna** stated that he is upset that the City may lose the Sheriff sub-station, noting that he is a strong supporter of public safety. He added that he could not support closing a fire station. He further stated that he does not believe in taxes, but if that will save the City, he would think seriously about placing it on the ballot.

**Council Member Higgins** commented on the need for a priority list regarding what could be cut, adding that he heard no Council Member consensus. He stated that he does not want a tax and would not vote for one, adding that he would only consider a tax after depleting every avenue, junction and flow chart position and there is nothing left. He briefly commented on the large amount of parks acreage in the City. He stated that he does not believe the City has reached the limit in staff cuts, adding that it is time to right-size what we have, noting that you don't balance a budget by bringing funds in from other sources.

**Council Member Sullivan** briefly commented on the number of rooftops in Norco in comparison to other cities, noting that he is concerned about property tax numbers. He stated that he is not in favor of using the Special Asset Revenue Fund to balance the budget, nor in favor of using the reserves. He added that there is a need to budget money for City lawsuits. He stated that he would vote to place a tax on the ballot, but not this year as it would be fruitless. He commented on the need to attract big box stores to raise the sales tax base. He also noted that Silverlakes and the potential closing of the prison will not generate immediate revenues to the City. He stated that he is concerned about the maintenance of roads, adding that the City needs to start putting money away for infrastructure.

**Mayor Bash** commented on development in the Norco hills, noting that the residents in the hills pay a tax for maintenance of the trails, which is not collected elsewhere in the City. He further commented on the potential closure of the California Rehabilitation Center and the cleanup process that will follow. He stated that the City is not close to going bankrupt and this meeting

was held to discuss what can be done to balance the budget. He stated that there is nothing saved by closing parks. He also stated that he does not believe that the City abused redevelopment. He briefly commented on his opposition to closing the Sheriff sub-station. He further commented on any City's pending litigation items, noting that the City has insurance to cover those expenditures. He stated that in terms of City staff, they are needed to take care of processing future development in the City.

7. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Bash adjourned the special meeting at 8:35 p.m.

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BRENDA K. JACOBS, CMC  
CITY CLERK

/bj-81008