



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
May 21, 2014

City Council Chambers
2820 Clark Avenue, Norco, CA 92860



CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hanna called the meeting together at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Berwin Hanna, Mayor, **Present**
Herb Higgins, Mayor Pro Tem, **Present**
Kathy Azevedo, Council Member, **Present**
Kevin Bash, Council Member, **Present**
Greg Newton, Council Member, **Present**

1. WORKSHOP PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 BUDGETS

A. Continued Discussion on the Operating Budgets

City Manager Okoro provided a brief report on the operating budgets. Mr. Okoro stated that the FY 2014-2015 operating budget will come before the Council for approval at the next regular meeting of the City Council. The only change to the operating budget relates to the pension rates for the Fire budget. Mr. Okoro noted that two other issues left unresolved for the operating budget are in regards to refuse franchise fees and the possible addition of a motorcycle officer and requested direction from Council.

Council Member Azevedo indicated that she would need to see how a motorcycle officer would impact other parts of the budget before making a decision as well as hearing recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Committee on Infrastructure Needs.

Council Member Newton stated that he supports an additional motorcycle officer. In response to Council Member Newton, Mr. Okoro indicated that a tentative meeting date between City and County officials and the County Sheriff has been scheduled in June to discuss options.

Mayor Pro Tem Higgins indicated that he met with Assembly Member Eric Linder and discussed a double fine area for Norco. Based on the 25mph equestrian zone, Assembly Member Linder had positive feedback and would have his staff work on this issue. Mayor Pro Tem Higgins suggested holding direction regarding a motorcycle officer until the meeting with the County Sheriff.

Council Member Bash and Mayor Hanna concurred to hold comment regarding the motorcycle officer until recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Committee on Infrastructure Needs are received.

B. Presentation of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budgets

City Manager Okoro presented the proposed CIP Budget with review of the various funds and projects. Mr. Okoro noted that there is \$1,056,729 left in remaining bond proceeds, which is under the control of the Successor Agency to the former Redevelopment Agency. The Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC) has requested monies to be earmarked from the bond proceeds for an electronic message sign in the amount of \$59,000. Another project requested to be incorporated is artwork for Ingalls Park.

Council Member Azevedo commented that she supports both projects as noted by Mr. Okoro. In response to Council Member Azevedo, Economic Development Specialist Roger Grody indicated that EDAC is examining different options for the electronic message sign.

Council Member Greg Newton supports both projects but also mentioned the completion of the median on Detroit and Hamner Avenue as well as the open curb at California and North. Both of these areas are considered gateways and would promote the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Higgins questioned the \$130,000 for artwork and why it is needed. Mayor Pro Tem Higgins also questioned where the money is for the George Ingalls Memorial as well as who designed and approved the over-the-street electronic message board for Sixth Street. Mr. Okoro stated that money for the George Ingalls Memorial is in the Parks Fund. Mayor Pro Tem Higgins stated that he prefers to see the money used for a community swimming pool.

Council Member Bash supports the artwork and requested a presentation on the artwork master plan in context of the entire park.

Mayor Hanna discussed that Ingalls Park is on the rise and the City should focus its efforts on making Ingalls Park more attractive in order to draw in revenue. Mayor Hanna also stated that an electronic message board is more affordable than banners.

There was some discussion between Council Members regarding the specifics of the electronic message sign. Mr. Grody stated the sign would be located at Sierra and Sixth Street and would promote community-based events and as Mayor Pro Tem Higgins suggested could be used for amber alerts or other emergency notifications.

M/S Higgins/Azevedo for the allocation of \$250,000 from the Successor Agency funds for an electronic message sign and public artwork at George Ingalls Equestrian Park. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Brian Petree briefly reported on two

projects being considered. One project is improvements to Ingalls Park, which is funded by bond proceeds and development impact fees. The other project is the Ingalls Park Veteran's Memorial. For the Veteran's Memorial, \$500,000 was budgeted through bond proceeds and fundraising proceeds. Mayor Pro Tem Higgins suggested an endowment fund for persons interested in purchasing bricks for the Veteran's Memorial but cannot afford it. Mr. Petree stated he would bring it to the Executive Committee for consideration. Mayor Pro Tem Higgins, Council Member Bash, and City Attorney Harper each donated \$1,000 to the endowment fund.

Director of Public Works Lori Askew presented on the projects relating to streets, trails, water, and sewer projects. Ms. Askew discussed the trail improvement fund and noted that she incorporated all ten of the requested trail improvements from Norco Horsemen's Association (NHA). The largest project is the Trail Street/Round Up Street replacement, which will begin July 2014. Ms. Askew noted a correction with the decomposed granite numbers in which she requested an increase to the trail materials budget to \$15,000 for the fiscal year. Mr. Okoro noted that the monies for decomposed granite needs to come out of the General Fund and not the CIP budget.

In response to Council Member Newton, Ms. Askew stated she would follow up as to why the first project, Corydon - River Road – Santa Anita, presented as the most doable, is not included on the list.

Mayor Pro Tem Higgins referenced the trail section of Corona Avenue – Reservoir – Third Street and Ms. Askew noted that there is no trail fencing for that section. Mayor Pro Tem Higgins requested that Ms. Askew look into the trail section on Willow Drive from Corona Avenue to Valley View. Mayor Pro Tem Higgins also referenced the trail section on Third Street from Temescal Avenue to Valley View and Ms. Askew stated that the section is part of the Street Improvement Program.

There was some discussion between Council Members and staff regarding the Hamner Avenue Widening Project. Mayor Pro Tem Higgins commented on the past proposal of a two left-hand turn lanes from southbound Hamner Avenue onto eastbound Hidden Valley Parkway. Mayor Hanna also commented on the right-hand turn pocket to the southbound I-15 from eastbound Hidden Valley Parkway. Ms. Askew stated that the proposals would have to be reviewed again with CalTrans. Ms. Askew stated that she would add those two projects to the list.

Council Member Azevedo commented on George Ingalls Equestrian Park signs for the Sixth Street exits of Interstate 15. Water and Sewer Manager Bill Thompson indicated that previous discussion resulted in waiting on the signs in order to add Silverlakes on them.

M/S Azevedo/Bash to direct staff to contact CalTrans to install signs on the northbound and southbound exits of Interstate 15 directing traffic to the George Ingalls Equestrian Park . The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

In response to Council Member Bash, Mr. Thompson stated that the traffic signal equipment at Hidden Valley Parkway and Corona Avenue could be used elsewhere and stated that he would need consensus from Council to bring it back for action. Council Member Bash also referenced the land at Norco High School, which the City is responsible for, on the northwest corner of Hillside Avenue and Second Street and requested that staff look into cleaning the roadway. In response to Council Member Bash, Mr. Thompson stated that he would contact Caltrans regarding the backup of westbound traffic on Hidden Valley Parkway turning left in to the Hobby Lobby parking lot and would provide an update at a subsequent meeting.

M/S Bash/Higgins to direct staff bring back a report to City Council regarding the removal of the traffic signal at Hidden Valley Parkway at Corona Avenue. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Linda Dixon stated that in March 2014, the City Council approved funding to assist with the handling of historical artifacts in the amount of \$5,000. Ms. Dixon requested additional funding in order to handle a large collection of historical artifacts that is forthcoming.

M/S Bash/Higgins to appropriate \$10,000 for the handling of historical artifacts.

Council Member Newton commented on the possibility of not appropriating the entire amount.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Newton to appropriate a reduced amount of \$5,000 for the handling of historical artifacts. The motion died due to lack of a second.

The original motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:

Ed Dixon thanked the City Council for appropriating funds for a sign across Sixth Street.

Ted Hoffman commented that slurry seal is needed for Norco Ridge Ranch streets as it is approaching ten years since it has been done. Mr. Hoffman urged the Council to earmark funds for the slurry seal before further deterioration occurs. Mr. Hoffman commented that an electronic sign across Sixth Street is a good idea but noted four other areas at the north and south end of Hamner Avenue as well as River Road that would benefit from smaller electronic pole signs.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Hanna adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

CHERYL L. LINK
CITY CLERK