



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
CITY COUNCIL

August 20, 2014

City Council Chambers
2820 Clark Avenue, Norco, CA 92860



Berwin Hanna, Mayor
Herb Higgins, Mayor Pro Tem
Kathy Azevedo, Council Member
Kevin Bash, Council Member
Greg Newton, Council Member

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 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**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Pro Tem Herb Higgins

INVOCATION: Beacon Hill Assembly of God, *Pastor Rene Parish*

City Manager Okoro requested to add four potential litigation items to Closed Session.

M/S HIGGINS/BASH to add four potential litigation cases to Closed Session by urgency. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

The City Council recessed to Closed Session (Section 54954) to consider the following matter:

§54956.9(c) – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation:
Four Potential Cases

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION: Mayor Hanna reconvened the public meeting at 7:16 p.m.

REPORT OF ACTION(S) TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION (§54957.1):

City Attorney John Harper stated there was no reportable action.

PROCLAMATION:

Lieutenant Daniel Hedge, Riverside County Sheriff's Department

Mayor Hanna recognized Lieutenant Hedge for his dedicated service to the citizens of Norco and congratulated him on his appointment to supervise the Sheriff's Personnel Bureau. Lt. Hedge thanked the Council, staff, and the community. Captain Horton recognized Lt. Hedge's efforts and commitment and presented him with a plaque.

Mayor Hanna called up Tony Baretto to the podium. On behalf of Horseweek, Mr. Baretto presented a check to N.A.R.T in the amount of \$500.

Mayor Hanna called Ed Dixon to the podium. Mr. Dixon commented on the Founders Day Ride in July which raised \$300 for the Veteran's Memorial. Mr. Dixon also commented on a \$500 donation for the Veteran's Memorial from the Lake Norconian Club Foundation and Corrections Officers of the California Rehabilitation Center.

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS AS FOLLOWS:

1. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS ON REGIONAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Council Member Bash:

- Attended a meeting with the Navy on August 13, 2014 to discuss the photovoltaic project and other projects.
- Commented on the Norco Fair on Labor Day weekend. On Sunday August 31, twenty Riverside County residents will be sworn into the armed services.
- Commented that a \$1,000 donation was received from Supervisor Tavaglione for the Veteran's Memorial.
- Noted that the National Wheelchair Basketball Association will designate Norco as the pioneering city from 1945. There will be two veteran group exhibition games for inmates on the home court of the Rolling Devils.

Mayor Pro Tem Higgins:

- Nothing to report.

Council Member Newton:

- Attended a Chino Basin Desalter Authority meeting to discuss construction contracts for expansion projects. The Santa Ana River project is at a stand-still due to workers being met with some steel object preventing the drilling portion of the project from moving forward.

Council Member Azevedo:

- Attended the Economic Development Advisory Council this month. The group has new members. Noted one of the discussion topics is an equestrian guide put together by Economic Development Department Intern Kelli Newton. The guide will be ready for the Council's review at the next Council meeting.
- Met with the California Rehabilitation Center and Lake Norconian Club Foundation members Linda Dixon and Su Bacon. The California Rehabilitation Center donated \$500 to girls softball, \$800 to JAAF, and \$500 to the Veteran's Memorial.
- Commented on the success of the Norco Car Show and Sock Hop event and thanked Norco Birthday Committee Chair Geoff Kahan for his work coordinating the event.

Mayor Hanna:

- Attended the Riverside Transit Agency Transportation NOW subcommittee meeting last week. Ridership continues to increase and the subcommittee is proposing to extend service in the City and extend hours to 10:00 p.m. for classes at Norco College.
- Attended the Riverside County Transportation Commission subcommittee meeting regarding the I-15 freeway expansion concerns and the lack of a toll lane exit from the I-15 to the 91 freeway, which could cause cut through traffic in Norco.
- Attended the County-Wide Mayor's meeting in Banning. There were fourteen Mayors in attendance to discuss issues with marijuana dispensaries. The meeting was sponsored by the League of California Cities.
- Attended the Navy Ship Tour of the USS Anchorage in Los Angeles as part of "Navy Days" with City Manager Andy Okoro and City Clerk Cheryl Link.

2. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT ITEMS:

M/S AZEVEDO/BASH to approve Item 2.A. as corrected on page six and to approve the remaining items as recommended on the Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

- A. City Council Minutes:
Regular Meeting of August 6, 2014 (City Clerk)
Action: Approved the City Council Minutes with corrections on page six.
- B. Procedural Step to Approve Ordinance after Reading of Title Only. (City Attorney) **Action: Approved.**
- C. Recap of Actions Taken by the Planning Commission at its Meeting held on August 13, 2014. (Planning Director) **Action: Received and filed.**
- D. Acceptance of Offer from Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District of Dedication for Second Street Right-of-Way. (Public Works Director) **Action: Accepted the offer of dedication.**
- E. Acceptance of the Various Streets Slurry Seal Project as Complete. (Director of Public Works) **Action: Accepted the Various Streets Slurry Seal Project as complete and directed the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion with the County of Riverside.**
- F. Approval of "Straight Trail Talk" Flyer to Be Mailed to Norco Residents Regarding Homeowner Trail Maintenance. (Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services) **PULLED FOR DISCUSSION.**

3. ITEM(S) PULLED FROM CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

- F. Approval of "Straight Trail Talk" Flyer to Be Mailed to Norco Residents Regarding Homeowner Trail Maintenance. (Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services)

Council Member Bash suggested making the font size bigger on the flyer for easier reading. Council Member Bash expressed his appreciation in the City's efforts to notify residents about homeowner trail maintenance.

M/S BASH/HANNA to approve the flyer to be mailed to Norco residents regarding homeowner trail maintenance. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

4. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS: *No new evidence will be heard from the public as the public hearing has been closed regarding the items listed.*

- A. **Ordinance No. 978, Second Reading.** Code Amendment 2014-03. A City-Initiated Proposal to Amend Chapter 5 of the Norco Municipal Code by

Amending Section 5.04.060, 5.04.090(a), 5.04.202, and 5.04.260 (Business License and Regulations).

M/S HIGGINS/BASH adopt Ordinance No. 978. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

- B. **Ordinance No. 979, Second Reading.** Code Amendment 2014-04. A City-Initiated Proposal to Amend Norco Municipal Code Chapter 9.07 Entitled "Noise Amplification Devices" to "Noise Regulations" and Sections Thereof.

M/S HANNA/HIGGINS adopt Ordinance No. 979. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

5. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Equestrian Trail Parking Violation Enforcement. (Police Chief)

Lt. Briddick presented a brief report regarding trail parking violation enforcement as presented in the staff report. Lt. Briddick commented on addressing perceptions of inadequate enforcement of horse trail violations on weekends and current deployment efficiency concerns. Lt. Briddick gave background information on the Norco Citizens Patrol and equated it to a neighborhood watch program. Lt. Briddick expressed his concerns with Norco Citizens Patrol not being equipped or trained to handle confrontations. Lt. Briddick recommended not proceeding with Norco Citizens Patrol handling trail parking enforcement.

In response to Mayor Hanna, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Brian Petree indicated that Animal Control Officers write warnings any time violations are seen, not just on Saturdays.

Mayor Pro Tem Higgins concurred with some of the recommendations and indicated he is looking forward to the implementation of the program. Council Member Azevedo concurred with not using Norco Citizens Patrol.

Ted Hoffman commented on the great report and concurred not using Norco Citizens Patrol. Mr. Hoffman also suggested hiring two community service officers.

M/S NEWTON/BASH to approve the proposed Sheriff staff plan. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

- B. Removal of Traffic Signal at Hidden Valley Parkway and Corona Avenue.
(Director of Public Works)

Director of Public Works Lori Askew presented information as noted in the staff report and requested direction from the City Council.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Higgins, Director Askew stated that the signal maintenance is \$83 per month. Ms. Askew also responded that the City of Corona doesn't wish to purchase the signal, instead only purchasing components of it as long as it meets their current signal standards.

In response to Council Member Newton, Director Askew indicated that the City of Corona needs the signal to be kept in place six to eight months because they may have to go out to bid for design and conduct a traffic study for a signal at Via Blairo.

Pat Overstreet commented that she has lived on the street for thirty-six years and is concerned about opening it to four lanes of traffic. Ms. Overstreet expressed that it is imperative that the City prevent any more cut through traffic.

Jodie Webber commented that the removal of the signal is counterproductive. Ms. Webber expressed her concerns that removing the sign would create a safety hazard.

Ted Hoffman concurred with Ms. Webber. He stated that the signal serves a purpose – it slows the traffic coming down Hidden Valley Parkway. Mr. Hoffman also said that he is not in favor of opening Corona Avenue.

Denise Sutherland stated that she is in favor of removing the traffic signal. She said she was never intended to inconvenience residents.

Lance Gregory indicated that he opposes removal of the traffic signal and wants to know the costs involved in removing it versus paying the maintenance fee. Mr. Gregory stated that he has seen many accidents there and requested that this issue be taken back to the Streets, Trails, and Utilities Commission for review.

Council Member Azevedo stated that Via Blairo is the issue and asked why a signal is needed on one street to protect another. Council Member Azevedo expressed her support for removing the signal and that keeping Corona Avenue closed maintains the City's lifestyle.

In response to Council Member Newton, Director King stated that the goal of the circulation element is to maintain the City's lifestyle. Council Member Newton commented that safety should not be compromised and address the real issue by closing Corona Avenue permanently.

Mayor Pro Tem Higgins gave a brief history of the Corona Avenue closure. Mayor Pro Tem Higgins suggested removing the signal and closing Corona Avenue permanently.

Council Member Bash concurred with Mayor Pro Tem Higgins. In response to Council Member Bash, Mr. Thompson indicated that he would need to look at the poles and mast arms of the signal to see if they could be used elsewhere in the City.

Mayor Hanna concurred with this being a safety issue as the signal slows down traffic.

M/S AZEVEDO/HIGGINS to remove the traffic signal at Hidden Valley Parkway and Corona Avenue. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: HANNA

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

- C. Resolution Electing to Serve as the Successor Housing Agency of the Norco Community Redevelopment Agency and Retain the Housing Assets and Functions Previously Performed by the Norco Community Redevelopment Agency, Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 34176. (City Manager)

City Manager Okoro presented brief information as noted in the staff report. Mr. Okoro indicated that the resolution, if approved, will also need to be approved by the Oversight Board and the California Department of Finance.

Scott DeRosa commented that it is important that the City approve the Successor Housing Agency.

Diane Foster said she bought her home in Norco in 2007 and then lost her job. Ms. Foster discussed her issues with the loan and requested that the City approve the Successor Housing Agency to help negotiate settlements.

Council Member Bash and Mayor Pro Tem Higgins both expressed their support for the creation of the Successor Housing Agency.

In response to Council Member Newton, City Manager Okoro indicated that the Successor Housing Agency will continue to fulfill responsibilities until there are not available funds to continue the program.

M/S HANNA/BASH to adopt Resolution No. 2014-56, rescinding Resolution No. 2012-02 and electing to retain the housing assets and functions previously performed by the Norco Community Redevelopment Agency in accordance with Section 34176 of the Health and Safety Code. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

- D. Discussion on the Response Letter from the State Historic Preservation Officer to the Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Detachment Norco Regarding Continuation of Consultation Under USN101129A – National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Status of Properties at Detachment Norco. (City Manager)

City Manager Okoro gave information as presented in the staff report. Historical Resources Consultant Bill Wilkman provided additional information on the State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) determination. SHPO concurred with Navy findings and SHPO took it a step further by noting the gate does not qualify as a historical resource, the landscape does not quality, and nothing on site is eligible.

Mr. Wilkman stated that the Historic Preservation Advisory Council (HPAC), a federal agency, is responsible for looking at issues related to determinations. HPAC has been very receptive and indicated a willingness to look at the information. HPAC has no role in the determination but can ask for more work to be done.

Mr. Wilkman recommended that the City continue the research of historical resources, send a letter to SHPO stating the City's disagreement of their findings and concern of lack of communication, and suggested sending a copy of the letter to legislators.

Council Member Azevedo commented on her support for Mr. Wilkman's recommendations.

Denise Sutherland thanked the Council for their support of ongoing historical resources.

Patricia Overstreet stated that she is a new member on the Historic Preservation Commission and is frustrated with the process. Ms. Overstreet urged the Council to support Mr. Wilkman's recommendations.

Matthew Potter, Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, agreed with Mr. Wilkman's suggestions.

Denise Shoemaker suggested that the City continue with historical resources survey. Ms. Shoemaker commented on the photovoltaic project having an effect on birds and airplane pilots complaining about glare.

Council Member Bash thanked the Commission Members for attending. He expressed his

support for the Navy but indicated that there is a great amount of evidence supporting historical resources on the Navy Base property.

Mayor Pro Tem Higgins expressed his appreciation for the efforts of everyone involved and noted the need to continue with the survey.

Council Members Azevedo and Newton concurred.

M/S BASH/HIGGINS to continue with the City's historical resources survey, send a letter to the State Historic Preservation Office indicating the City's disagreement with the determination and lack of communication, and send copies of the letter to legislators. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:

David Madsen, regional representative for AQMD, introduced himself to the Council as he has just been assigned to the region three months ago. Mr. Madsen commented that a major issue the agency is working on is pollution from mobile sources. Mr. Madsen also offered to display a hydrogen car at a future Council meeting.

Ted Hoffman commented that the George Ingalls Equestrian Event has hosted major events over the past three weekends and expressed his concerns on the condition and aesthetics of Sixth Street. Mr. Hoffman stated that the weeds and debris do not represent the City favorably to visitors. Mr. Hoffman indicated that Norco Horsemen's Association decided to support a "No" vote on Measure L and asked for support.

7. CITY COUNCIL / CITY MANAGER / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Council Member Azevedo noted that the California Rehabilitation Center population is down to 2,700. Council Member Azevedo noted that the City is moving forward with a healthy community resolution.

Council Member Azevedo requested to agendaize a formal resolution opposing Measure L.

M/S AZEVEDO/BASH to direct staff to prepare a formal resolution declaring the City's opposition to the City of Riverside's Measure L. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HANNA, HIGGINS, NEWTON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Council Member Newton commented on the funds collected to assist seniors with their water bills and the City has not found ways to administer the funds. City Manager Okoro indicated that the Successor Housing Agency approved this evening will address the issue and will bring back other assistance programs.

Council Member Newton commented about a resident who fell off a horse while riding on the trails on Corona Avenue between Second Street and Third Street. Council Member Newton asked for a remedy to the trail encroachments.

Water and Sewer Manager Bill Thompson stated that the Streets, Trails and Utilities Commission recommended on three different occasions to post signs indicating unsafe trails.

M/S NEWTON/HANNA to agendize discussion of the trail encroachments on Corona Avenue between Second Street and Third Street for the September 17, 2014 meeting. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Council Member Newton commented on the use of certified volunteers to supervise court workers. In response, Director Petree stated it is a risk management question and will be researched.

Mayor Pro Tem Higgins requested to agendize the permanent closure of Corona Avenue.

M/S HIGGINS/BASH to agendize discussion regarding the permanent closure of Corona Avenue. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Council Member Bash commented on improving enforcement of the panhandler ordinance. City Manager Okoro stated that staff will review the ordinance.

Council Member Bash also commented on the costs for special events permit. City Manager Okoro stated that he and Director King will review the costs and meet with Council Member Bash.

Mayor Hanna commented that weed abatement has improved but more needs to be done. Mr. Geoff Kahan commented that the Boy Scouts are coordinating with Norco Horsemen's Association for trail clean up.

City Manager Okoro reminded the Council and the public that the September 3, 2014 meeting has been cancelled. Mr. Okoro also commented on the grand opening ceremony for the Fairfield Inn and Suites on Tuesday, September 9, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hanna adjourned the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

CHERYL L. LINK, CITY CLERK