

Minutes of the Blythe City Council March 8, 2016

The March 8, 2016 Meeting of the Blythe City Council was called to order at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers by Mayor DeConinck. Also in attendance were Vice Mayor Wade, Council Members Galvan, Egan and Reynolds. Staff in attendance included: Interim City Manager and City Clerk Crecelius, City Treasurer and Interim Finance Director Elms, Police Chief Mathews, Public Works Director Baldizzone, Planner Burrow, Chief Building Inspector Garnica and City Attorney Bettenhausen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor DeConinck. The Invocation was offered by Councilman Galvan.

REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION: City Attorney Bettenhausen reported the Council considered item #1, a personnel matter and Item #2, potential litigation. Direction was given and not final action was taken.

Mayor DeConinck introduced Lt. Art Fleck, the new commander of the Area highway Patrol Office.

CONSENT CALENDAR: *Items on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted with one motion of the Council. If any item requires individual consideration, it will be removed from the consent calendar and acted upon separately.*

1. **Posting of the Agenda.**
The summary of agenda items were posted on the bulletin boards on the outside of the public entrance to the Council Chamber and near the inside entrance of the Council Chamber on Friday, March 4, 2016.
2. **Approval of the Warrant Register.**
Recommendation: Approve **3/8/16**, warrants numbered 63817 through 63868 and in the amount of \$548,842.47.
3. **Approval of the Payroll Register.**
Recommendation: Approve **3/8/16**, warrants numbered 48081 through 48109 and Direct Deposits numbered 36116 through 36172 in the amount of \$267,308.76; **3/8/16**, warrants numbered 48110 through 48138 and Direct Deposits numbered 3673 through 36228 in the amount of \$255,452.02 and **3/8/16**, warrants numbered 48139 through 48148 and Direct Deposits numbered 36229 through 36325 in the amount of \$69,349.03.
4. **Minutes of the February 9, 2016 City Council Meeting**
Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting.
5. **Minutes of the February 12, 2016 City Council Meeting.**
Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the February 12, 2016 Meeting.
6. **Minutes of the February 23, 2016 City Council Meeting.**
Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the February 23, 2016 Meeting.
7. **City of Blythe Permits Issued in February 2016.**
Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.
8. **City of Blythe Fire Department Monthly Activity Report for February 2016.**
Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.
9. **City of Blythe Police Department Monthly Activity Report for January 2016.**
Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.
10. **Request for Extension of Tentative Tract Map 34833.**
Recommendation: Grant a three year extension to the life of Tentative Tract Map 34833.

11. **Request for Extension of Tentative Tract Map 33710.**

Recommendation: Grant a three year extension to the life of Tentative Tract Map 33710.

12. **Rejection of Claim, Sarah Morgan.**

Recommendation: Reject this Claim pursuant to law.

No public comment. Vice Mayor Wade moved approval of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilman Egan with a unanimous aye vote.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Re-Allocation of 2016-17 CDBG Public Service Funds. Planner Burrow stated before you is the continued Public Hearing from the February 23rd meeting. I understand Council has questions or different ideas on how you may want to reallocate the funding. I am here to answer any questions and provide understanding of the process.

Interim City Manager Crecelius reported a letter from Sheltering Wings was received stating there are issues between the County and State they are working and they appreciate our consideration and look forward to reapplying next year.

Councilman Reynolds asked for clarification on allocating the funding to park improvements. Planner Burrow stated at our initial meeting in November it was Council's direction to give 15% of our allocation to fund public service projects. Traditionally we have done that, but you don't have to, you can also use it for an approved project. Park Improvements at Todd Park has been approved. It is my recommendation we continue to fund the service groups, but it is up to Council.

Councilman Galvan asked if we could apply this to the loan we took for the Community Center.

Councilman Galvan would like to use the money to fund the new restroom at Todd Park.

Mayor Deconinck stated we have been funding the service projects, but next year we can get out in front of this and do some more homework.

No public comment. Vice Mayor Wade moved approval of staff's recommendation. The motion as seconded by Councilman Egan with aye votes from DeConinck, Wade, Egan and Reynolds and a no vote from Galvan.

Amendments to the Parking Ordinance. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated it is staff's recommendation to open the Public Hearing to allow for public comment. After public comment it is recommend this item be continued to the May 10th Council meeting.

Councilman Galvan asked the Building and Police Departments to work together to design this Ordinance.

No public comment. Councilman Egan moved to continue this item to the May 10th Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Galvan with a unanimous aye vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2016-006 Urging the Reallocation of Judicial Resources. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated at the February 29th CVAG Executive Committee Meeting members voted to send a resolution in support of reallocating the number of judges

statewide in order to increase the number of judges in Riverside and San Bernardino counties where judicial need is ranked 1st and 2nd respectively. CVAG then asked its member cities to send a similar resolution to the governor and State legislature. It is recommended Council adopt Resolution No. 2016-006 urging the governor, legislature and judicial council to work together to reallocate judicial resources to ensure equal access to justice for all Californians.

No public comment. Councilman Egan moved approval of staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reynolds with a unanimous aye vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-006. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA, URGING THE GOVERNOR, LEGISLATURE AND JUDICIAL COUNCIL TO WORK TOGETHER TO REALLOCATE JUDICIAL RESOURCES TO ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS.

Use of Quechan Park by Desert Storm Rally. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated participants in the Annual Desert Storm Rally have been traveling to Blythe since 2006. In past years Todd Park has been the staging area for their race. This year event organizers are expecting a larger turnout in which the parking lot at Todd Park may not accommodate. Staff suggested Quechan Park as an alternate location for the staging area. As there are parking fees for use of Quechan Park it is recommend Council waive parking fees for the participants of the desert storm rally secluded for April 1st and 2nd. It is further recommended Council allow no more than two RV's to camp in the park on March 31st and April 1st to provide security for this event.

No public comment. Vice Mayor Wade moved approval of staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Egan with a unanimous aye vote.

GRID Alternatives. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated Lisa Castellone will give a presentation on the GRID Alternatives Program. Subsequent to the presentation it is recommended Council adopt Resolution No. 2016-005 as amended. After posting on the Agenda Mrs. Castellone informed staff of some needed changes to the Resolution. It has been reviewed by the City Attorney and none of the changes warrant pushing this item to a future meeting. An amended Resolution has been distributed for review.

Lisa Castellone gave a brief presentation about the program.

No public comment. Vice Mayor Wade moved approval of Resolution No. 2016-005. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Reynolds with a unanimous aye vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-005. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ITS SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION WITH GRID ALTERNATIVES SOLAR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM FOR BLYTHE 'S LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION:

Marcos Pirante. Marcos Pirante reported on an issue he was having with the Superior Court.

ORAL REPORTS:

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated Chief Mathews has submitted retirement paperwork and this is his last official Council meeting as Police Chief. I would like to wish him well and thank him for his service to the City of Blythe for the past 27 years.

Chief Mathews stated the Blythe Police Department is strong, resilient and functional. We have faced some strong challenges but the members of the department have persevered and continue to do their jobs in the most commendable manner. I hope the Council appreciates and is as proud of them as I am. In a few days I will turn over the daily to control to a new caretaker. I thank the Council and staff for all of the opportunities and support and the chance to serve this community. Thank you.

Councilman Reynolds stated it has been a pleasure working with the Chief.

Vice Mayor Wade reported Pastor Lloyd Bowen passed away last night and asked for a Proclamation to recognize his work in the community.

Councilman Reynolds would also like to issue a Proclamation to the family of Ted Arneson.

Mayor DeConinck stated PAL will have a booth at fair and asked everyone to stop by to support PAL.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MEMBER COMMENT:

ADJOURN:

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:56pm.

Joseph DeConinck, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mallory Sutterfield-Creclius, City Clerk