

**Minutes of the Blythe City Council**  
**April 12, 2016**

The April 12, 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 and Council Members Egan and Reynolds. Councilman Galvan was excused from the meeting. Staff in attendance included: Interim City Manager and City Clerk Crecelius, City Treasurer and Interim Finance Director Elms, Police Sgt. Coe, Public Works Director Baldizzone, Planner Burrow and City Attorney Bettenhausen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor DeConinck. The Invocation was offered by City Attorney Bettenhausen.

**REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION:** City Attorney Bettenhausen reported Council considered item #1, Public Employee Appointment, Chief of Police and item #2, potential litigation. Vice Mayor Wade recused himself for item #1. Mayor DeConinck and Council members Reynolds and Egan then approved the City Manager's Appointment of Jeff Wade as Police Chief. Direction was given on item #2, no final action was taken.

**PROCLAMATION:**

1. **Robert Crain**

**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.*

2. **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, April 8, 2016.

3. **Approval of the Warrant Register.**

Recommendation: Approve **4/12/16**, warrants numbered 63869 through 63961 and 63962 through 63971 in the amount of \$504,409.71 and **4/12/16**, warrants numbered 63972 through 64063 and RDA Warrant numbered 64064 in the amount of \$781,957.46.

4. **Approval of the Payroll Register.**

Recommendation: Approve **4/12/16**, warrants numbered 48149 through 48152 in the amount of \$6,619.60; **4/12/16**, warrants numbered 48153 through 48180 and Direct Deposits numbered 36326 through 36380 in the amount of \$246,323.67; **4/12/16**, warrants numbered 48181 through 48185 in the amount of \$17423.74; **4/12/16**, warrants numbered 48186 through 48212 and Direct Deposits numbered 36381 through 36436 in the amount of \$326,548.79; **4/12/16** warrants numbered 48213 through 48216 in the amount of \$1,749.68 and **4/12/16**, warrants numbered 48217 through 48226 and Direct Deposits numbered 36437 through 36566 in the amount of \$65,554.49.

5. **Minutes of the March 8, 2016 City Council Meeting.**

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2016 Meeting.

6. **City of Blythe Permits Issued in March 2016.**

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

7. **City of Blythe Fire Department Monthly Activity Report for March 2016.**

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

8. **City of Blythe Police Department Monthly Activity Report for March 2016.**

- Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.
9. **Police Chief Employment Agreement.**  
Recommendation: Authorize the City Manager to enter into an Employment Agreement with Jeff Wade for the position of Police Chief.
  10. **Vehicle Abatement Services.**  
Recommendation: Reject the only response to the Vehicle Abatement Services Request for Proposal submitted by Brothers Towing.
  11. **Rejection of Claim, Francine B. McDermott.**  
Recommendation: Reject this Claim pursuant to law.
  12. **Promissory Note to Secure Loan from the City of Blythe Sewer Fund to Water Fund.**  
Recommendation: Authorize the City Manager to execute the attached Promissory Note on behalf of the Water Fund to secure a loan from the Sewer Fund.
  13. **Agreement for CFD No. 2004-1, Special Tax Administration Services.**  
Recommendation: Authorize City Manager to enter into an agreement with David Taussig & Associates for Special Tax Administration Services.
  14. **Annual Assessment for Lighting District Nos. 1 and 2.**  
Recommendation: Adopt Resolution Nos. 2016-007, 2016-008, 2016-009 and 2016-010.

*RESOLUTION NO. 2016-007. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE AMENDING AND/OR APPROVING THE REPORT OF THE ENGINEER REGARDING THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF BLYTHE LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 1 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.*

*RESOLUTION NO. 2016-008. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE AMENDING AND/OR APPROVING THE REPORT OF THE ENGINEER REGARDING THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF BLYTHE LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 2 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.*

*RESOLUTION NO. 2016-009. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT ASSESSMENTS WITHIN CITY OF BLYTHE LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 1 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISION OF PART 2 OF DIVISION 15 OF CALIFORNIA STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE AND APPOINTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR HEARING PROTESTS.*

*RESOLUTION NO. 2016-010. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT ASSESSMENTS WITHIN CITY OF BLYTHE LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 2 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISION OF PART 2 OF DIVISION 15 OF CALIFORNIA STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE AND APPOINTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR HEARING PROTESTS.*

No Public Comment. Mayor DeConinck asked for a motion on items 1-8 and 10-14. Councilman Egan moved approval of the Consent Calendar. Vice Mayor Wade seconded the motion with a unanimous aye vote.

**Police Chief Employment Agreement.** Vice Mayor Wade recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated there have been some amendments to the contract published in the Agenda. The first is severance, which should be changed from 3 to 4 months. The second addition is an annual performance review by the City Manager with an annual merit not to exceed 5% per year for the term of the contract.

No public comment. Councilman Egan moved approval of the Agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reynolds with a unanimous aye vote. Vice Mayor Wade rejoined the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Request to Waive Fees.** Interim City Manager Crecelius stated to construct the new I-10 Riviera Drive off-ramp, it was necessary to re-configure the surrounding parcels. The City is participating with the two adjoining property owners to amend parcel boundaries. Under the proposed map, property lines will be situated in a manner that allows each of the three property owners to maintain their same individual amount of acreage although actual parcels will be re-positioned. Recordation of the proposed Tract Map benefits the City by forming two functional parcels of land for the City's future use. The City of Blythe previously contributed one-half of the engineering fees incurred in the preparation of the tract map. In order to further accomplish the land division, certain city imposed fees are applicable. As the City's contribution to the project, it is staff's recommendation that Council waive the planning fees associated with the proposed map. All ancillary costs incurred would be the responsibility of the adjoining property owner(s). The requested waiver of planning fees applies solely to the Tract Map process.

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

**Alexander Field Fence Improvements.** Public Works Director Baldizzone stated per the request of the Parks and Rec Committee, staff obtained quotes to remove the existing 8ft fence at Alexander to install a new 6ft fence. Installation of the new fence will include 4ft wide man gates, one 24ft wide double drive gate and one 30ft wide double drive gate. To reduce cost of installation, the Public Works Department will perform the demolition, trenching and installation of an 8in curb. Three proposals were received with the low bidder being Smith Fence at \$22,320. The Parks and Rec Committee recommend the authorization of a Contract awarding the installation of the fence to Smith Fence. It is further recommended Council authorize a budget amendment in the amount of \$22,320.52 + sales tax from General Government to Parks.

Councilman Reynolds asked for the timeframe. It was reported no more than a month.

Public Comment. Richard Selph of 492 N. Earl is concerned with the fence proposal. Why are you re-doing this fence? It was reported there are places that need to be repaired and a patch was the same amount of money as a new fence. Mr. Selph thinks grading should be added to the project.

Councilman Reynolds moved approval of staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by councilman Egan with a unanimous aye vote.

**Vehicle Purchase-Street Department.** Public Works Director Baldizzone stated Public Works is in dire need of replacing its Street Department vehicle fleet. Currently the Street Department has a 1995, 1999, 1997 and 2007 pickup trucks. All vehicles with the exception of the 2007 have over 100,000 miles. Staff has found vehicles from the procurement division of the State of California. The cost of three Ford F-150 4x2 regular cab pickups is \$67,128.46. This includes taxes, fees and delivery. There is an additional costs of \$4,920 for safety equipment. The current funding available for Street equipment

is \$17,000. There is a balance of \$180,000 in asphalt and base materials. It is recommended a budget amendment of \$55,000 from asphalt and base materials to Street equipment be made for the purchase of these vehicles.

Mayor DeConinck asked Public Works Director Baldizzone to explain why these trucks cannot be purchased locally. It was reported the local dealer is not a State bid provider. If we have to go through the bid process we won't be able to purchase the vehicles this fiscal year.

No public comment. Councilman Egan moved approval of the purchase of the vehicles. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reynolds with a unanimous aye votes.

**ORAL REPORTS:**

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated staff has been working on amendments to the Parking Ordinance which is to come before Council on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Prior to that meeting staff would like to schedule a Study Session to look at those changes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Joseph Williams of 620 N. Sola Ave stated he uses the Rec Center and paid for a membership but could not use it due to the youth basketball league. He would like his money back or another membership.

**MEMBER COMMENT:**

Mayor DeConinck stated the Outlook Conference went well, but I would like to see more locals there. The CWA Farmers ball is April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Spaghetti Dinner went well; I think 1,000 went through the take out line.

**ADJOURN:**

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

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Joseph DeConinck, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Mallory Sutterfield-Crecelius, City Clerk