

Minutes of the Blythe City Council February 12, 2019

The February 12, 2019 Meeting of the Blythe City Council was called to order at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers by Mayor Reynolds. Also in attendance were Vice Mayor Egan and Council Members DeConinck, Rodriguez and Halby. Staff in attendance included: Interim City Manager and City Clerk Crecelius, Finance Director and City Treasurer Elms, Police Chief Wade, Public Works Director Baldizzone, Chief Building Official Garnica and City Attorney Collins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Reynolds. The invocation was offered by Vice Mayor Egan.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION:

City Attorney Collins stated the City Council entered into Closed Session at 4:45pm. Discussion was had, no final action was taken.

PRESENTATION:

10th Annual Norman Taylor JROTC Flag Retirement Ceremony. PV HIGH JROTC Cadets Valles, John, Aldridge, King and Schall reported on their Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony and Service Learning project scheduled for 8am on March 30th at the American Legion. They invited the public to attend.

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.*

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

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, February 8, 2019.

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

Recommendation: Approve **2/12/19**, warrants numbered 69393 through 6969471 in the amount of \$515,447.94.

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

Recommendation: Approve **2/12/19**, warrants numbered 50858 through 50873 and Direct Deposits numbered 43890 through 43950 in the amount of \$234,494.67; **2/12/19**, warrants numbered 50874 through 50875 in the amount of \$283.53; **2/12/19**, warrants numbered 50876 through 50877 in the amount of \$8,421.25; **2/12/19**, warrants numbered 50878 through 50893 and Direct Deposits numbered 43951 through 44011 in the amount of \$244,654.07; **2/12/2019**, warrants numbered 50894 through 50911 in the amount of \$5,861.43; **2/12/2019**, warrants numbered 50912 through 50916 and Direct Deposits numbered 44012 through 44114 in the amount of \$81,428.38 and **2/12/2019**, warrants numbered 50917 though 509187 in the amount of \$1,656.59.

5. **Minutes of the January 22, 2019 City Council Meeting.**

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the January 22, 2019 meeting.

6. **City of Blythe Permits issued for the Month of January 2019.**

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

7. **City of Blythe Fire Department Monthly Activity Report for January 2019.**

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

8. City of Blythe Police Department Monthly Activity Report for January 2019.

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Purchase of new Commuter Vehicle. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated in January, Council deemed the City's two Chevy Malibu hybrids used as pool vehicles as surplus vehicles due to their age and reliability. These vehicles will be sold at the next City auction. Staff would like to replace the vehicles with one Ford Escape in an amount not to exceed \$34,200. The vehicle will be purchased from Downtown Ford Sales with pricing from the State Bid list. In an effort to make this purchase locally, staff met with a representative from Larry Green Ford who was unable to provide a quote for this vehicle. Therefore it is recommended Council authorize a purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$34,200 to Downtown Ford Sales and approve Resolution No. 2019-002, amending the 2018/19 Operating and Capital budget for this purchase.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-002. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE CALIFORNIA APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET.

Sale of 2008 Ford Escape to Palo Verde Valley Transit Agency. Mayor Reynolds recused himself from the meeting due to a potential conflict of interest. Councilman DeConinck asked if he had a conflict. It was reported the Council members who serve on both the Council and Transit Board did not have a conflict of interest. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated at the last meeting, Council deemed a 2008 Ford Escape used by the Planning Department as surplus. It was staff's intent to sell the vehicle at auction. After the meeting the Palo Verde Valley Transit Agency expressed an interest in purchasing the Vehicle. They subsequently made an offer of \$2,500. The purchase was approved by the Transit Board at their February 6th Meeting. It was estimated the City could receive between \$1,500 and \$2,500 if the vehicle were sold at auction. Therefore, it is recommended Council authorize the sale of the 2008 Ford Escape to PVVTA in the amount of two thousand, five hundred dollars.

No public comment. Councilman Rodriguez moved approval of staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Halby with aye votes from Egan, DeConinck, Rodriguez and Halby. Mayor Reynolds rejoined the meeting.

Establishing the Commercial Cannabis Employee Permit Fee. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated Section 5.10.070 of the City's Commercial Cannabis Ordinance requires any person working in a commercial cannabis business to obtain an employee permit from the City. The Ordinance states that a fee necessary to cover the costs of administering the program will be set by Resolution of the Council. In 2017 the Council adopted a number of fees related to the Commercial Cannabis application process, but a

fee for the employee permit program was not adopted at that time. Now that businesses are close to opening, it is necessary to adopt a fee to recover the cost for administering the employee permit program. The employee permit process consists of all potential cannabis employees submitting an application to be reviewed and approved by the City Manager. Once approved, employee ID cards will be issued by the Blythe Police Department. The work permit is also contingent on successfully completing a live scan. Once issued, a commercial cannabis employee permit is valid for 36 months. Staff has estimated the cost to issue the work permit at \$85.00 per permit. This fee includes the City Manager's review, time spent by Police Department staff creating the ID card and materials used. It is therefore recommend Council Adopt Resolution No. 2019-004 establishing the cannabis employee work permit fee at \$85.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-004. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA ESTABLISHING A FEE FOR COMMERCIAL CANNABIS EMPLOYEE PERMIT PROGRAM.

Family and Kids Foundation. Forensic Technician Hudson stated as you know for over a year we have been working to help the homeless. About 6 months ago I met Terri Bowen with County EDA who is very eager to help the community and our committee. She has a connection to a foundation that would like to help Blythe.

Terri Bowen stated the Family and Kids Foundation works with disadvantaged and at risk youth in Western Riverside County. In September 2018 I was assigned to work on homeless issues in the City of Blythe. I was able to make a connection with the Family and Kids Foundation, bring them to Blythe and show them our needs. They have approximately 18 years in the business of raising funds and procuring items. The items coming to Blythe have a retail value of \$40,000-\$60,000. We are looking at a kickoff event on April 17th. We need to rent a semi truck to bring everything out. A partnership has been established with PVUSD for product storage. The items include clothing, education supplies, furniture, linens, baby supplies, shoes, bedding, sporting goods, house wares, personal hygiene products, toys and games, baby safety items and grocery which will go to the food pantry and Harmony kitchen for distribution. I have also asked them to start procuring appliances.

Councilman DeConinck stated he may be able to help with transportation.

Councilman Egan asked how they find the recipients. Terri Bowen stated they are working on that currently, with an initial 400 family invitation. We are working with the schools and Palo Verde Outreach Team and can reach out to churches, Eve's place and others for information on who's in need. Councilman Egan stated Jaclyn Randall at PVC works with students that are homeless or near homeless and about 10% of our student body has food insecurities.

Forensic Technician Hudson stated we would like to partner with the foundation and invite you to the kick off event on April 17th.

The item was received and filed.

Extension of Temporary Use Permit- Casablanca Farms. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated in December of 2017 a Temporary Use Permit was issued to Casablanca Farms for the storage of four modular units at 3450 W. Hobsonway. The units will eventually be used in conjunction with applicant's cannabis cultivation complex. On January 24th staff received a request for a six month extension of the TUP. Casablanca Farms estimates that the units will be relocated and permitted no later than June 30, 2019. The BMC allows the Planning Director to issue a TUP for up to 1 year. The Council has authority to extend the TUP for an additional year. Therefore, it is recommended Council authorize a six month extension to Casablanca Farm's TUP for 3450 W. Hobsonway.

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

Project Conditions for Casablanca Farm's Cultivation Facility at 3240 W. Hobsonway. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated in November 2017 staff received a request from Seed to Soul Farms, now operating as Casablanca Farms, for project conditions to construct a greenhouse cannabis farm on 2.94 acres at 3450 W. Hobsonway. On December 14, 2017 the applicants were provided project conditions for the project as presented. The conditions are required to be incorporated into the Site and Building plans for the development of the project. Over the course of 2018 staff and the applicant met numerous times to discuss the project conditions. The applicant asked for a number of considerations related to: fire protection, on-site perimeter access, traffic impacts and analysis, environmental review, off-site improvement requirements and perimeter fencing. During the course of these meetings staff was able to make concession on all of the applicant's requests except for the proposed fencing proposal and their refusal to provide any off-site improvements for the project. An 8ft block wall along the frontage of Hobsonway and Neighbours was initially required as Council wished to have cannabis facilities screened from public view. The Commercial Cannabis Ordinance was drafted with sensitivity to the citizens who were not in favor of this industry in our City. The Council wanted to make sure these businesses were essentially out of sight and out of mind for those residents. Should Council wish to change course, staff will need direction on which type of fencing should be required for this and all other cannabis projects. The applicant is proposing a 6ft no cut no climb fence around the entire property. It is staff's recommendation that regardless of the fence chosen, the height should remain at the required 8ft for security purposes. The required off-site improvements include the widening of Neighbours Blvd. and W. Hobsonway along the entire frontage of the project. This condition is necessary to be consistent with the requirements of the City's General Plan Roadway Designation. If the General Plan is not adhered to, and issues with traffic arise, it would fall to the City to make the improvements at the City's expense. The improvements are put in place to negate any impacts from this development to our community. Due to the project's location on W. Hobsonway, the applicant was not required to make curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements at this time. As the off-site improvements could be costly to the developer, the Public Works Director offered a

solution to allow the applicant to bond for the improvements, and complete the necessary off-site improvements within three years. This allows the applicant time to construct this project and start the business prior to making the required improvements. This concession was not acceptable to the applicant who does not wish to make any off-site improvements at this time. Staff cannot support any changes to the existing condition for off-site improvements aside from the allowance of a bond and three years to complete the improvements as conditioned. Therefore it is recommended Council provide direction to staff on these two project conditions.

Mayor Reynolds stated this has been a very long process using numerous hours of City staff time to get this project moving. Concessions have been made to work with the applicant and we have bent over backwards to accommodate. Its time that everyone understands that the City cannot afford to be giving away money and that is basically what is happening here, when there are numerous meetings and concessions. It's not acceptable. We use the term business friendly, yet in some cases in my opinion we are being taken advantage of just to get a business to open in our town. It's unfair to the community and unfair to City staff. We have conceded enough and need to move forward. I will ask for a block wall to be installed on the frontage of Hobsonway and Neighbours Blvd. I will also ask the applicant to do the off-site improvements through a bonding effort which I think is very reasonable. That gives you three years to get the improvements done and follows the General Plan which was established for these improvements. I don't think we should make a concession; we need to stick to our General Plan and the Conditions of Approval. The concessions made are reasonable and helpful to the development of this property. I want people to understand that this is it, no more.

Vice Mayor Egan stated I was in favor of the block wall originally. After seeing the site plan and the nondescript buildings I agree with the 8ft. height, but don't see the benefit of a block wall. It should be 8ft for security with a no cut no climb fence. There are some nice looking fences out there and you won't have to clean graffiti off of it.

Councilman Rodriguez asked Police Chief Wade if he had an opinion on no cut/no climb vs. a block wall. Chief Wade stated the Edison facility on S. Main St. has a no cut/no climb fence. It's not a real attractive fence, but for security purposes it can be coated with graffiti resistant paint and is much safer than chain link or rod iron. A block wall for security purposes is the best. I don't like how a no cut/no climb fence looks. I think a block wall on Hobsonway/Neighbours is appropriate with no cut/ no climb on the other two sides. For security purposes a no cut/no climb fence at 8ft is the minimum around the entire perimeter.

Vice Mayor Egan asked which would be harder to get over. Chief Wade stated probably the no cut/no climb. Vice Mayor Egan said we have see through fencing around our City facilities which makes it easier to patrol.

Chief Wade fears it looking like a concentration camp with chain link and razor wire around the top. An 8ft chain link fence without razor wire is pretty simple to get over.

Public Works Director Baldizzone stated Edison's fence has razor wire but that fence is more expensive than a block wall.

Police Chief Wade stated if we give this concession to this project, others will also ask for it. There is one project I am concerned about that is in a residential area. If you allow a chain link around that it would not be good.

Mayor Reynolds stated do we want to continue to give in every time someone wants a change or variance or are we going to stick to our guns so they know a block wall is what we guaranteed the community?

Vice Mayor Egan stated I was in favor of the block wall until I saw the nondescript buildings. I am not looking at a concession; I am looking at this logically. The most obvious part of the facility is above the wall. That is how I backed off of the block wall.

Mayor Reynolds stated I go back to what we promised the community.

Councilman Rodriguez stated the metal fences are not the prettiest. So you would not want to put them in residential areas.

Mayor Reynolds stated staff has been asking for color renderings for months. I found it disturbing that we got them the day before the meeting. Council didn't even have a chance to look at it.

Eli Owens of Casablanca Farms stated when we started this process we got steered in every wrong direction we could. This is a big deal for the City. We have been a part of four projects and nobody requires a block wall. I have examples of cultivation facilities and none are block walls. There are many different ways to do it and they are all 6ft. I have talked to some correctional officers and a block wall is not what they would want. If someone jumps over it, you can't see. Graffiti is an issue and security is an issue. The fence is one line of defense of many. Law enforcement can look at the facility at any time. There is lighting everywhere and 24 hour security. This is an agricultural thing. Since we started the prices have gone down by half. You are not going in to steal stuff. We don't have cash on hand, we are growing stuff; we're farmers. From a security standpoint and a graffiti standpoint it just doesn't make sense, its overkill. There are cities right now that aren't even doing fences. In the latest farm bill hemp is now legal. It's a commodity, it's a plant and the US Government just recognized it as so. We are an agricultural company and due to the stigmata we are in a commercial zone. It's going to change. You mentioned cannabis facilities are screened from view. Look at the site plan and renderings, the buildings are 12 ft high and you can't see through them. This was written a year ago and times have changed. Don't over regulate something that is already overregulated by the State. We have submitted our grading and civil plans. We have our modular foundation complete. We have ordered our green houses, our structural engineering is complete and we are moving forward.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated to clarify that although the grading plans have been submitted, we can't move forward with them until these two items are addressed.

Councilman Halby asked why they don't want to bond on the off-site improvements.

Mr. Owens stated that we did a study and we don't have an impact to require these improvements. We are not Walmart, there is not going to be a huge traffic impact and does not warrant the off-site improvements. We want to expand. We have 13 acres and are starting on 2. Before we expand we are happy to meet with you and discuss the off-site improvements again. Placing an unnecessary expense on us for something that has been shown its not needed doesn't make any sense. Every year you have the ability to give us our business license. If at any time you think we are not doing something to help the community you could not give us our license that next year. We have already donated locally and haven't done any business yet.

Councilman Rodriguez stated weren't you aware of these conditions when you applied for this project? Mr. Owens stated no. When we first got here there was information delivered to us that set us back hundreds of thousands of dollars and months of time.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated what he is referring to is that he no longer needs a traffic study. The off-site improvements are actually required by the City's General plan.

Public Works Director Baldizzone stated the widening of Neighbours and Hobsonway is called out in the General Plan. Whatever we decide today goes against the General Plan. Regarding the fence, what Mr. Owens is forgetting to say is that in cities like Desert Hot Springs they allow rod iron and chain link fencing in industrial areas. They are not in a commercial area. He is in a commercial area. I am not requiring them to do curb, gutter and sidewalk as they are far from downtown. I modified the standards of the City for their project. In September I met with them and offered a bond with three years to complete the off-site improvements. I believe in three years in the business they will make some money to make the improvements the City requires to follow the General Plan.

Eli Owens stated with the bonding you have to have a business with cash flow. They want a lot, we looked into it. What it comes back to is the fact of the matter is that it's not needed. It's not needed for what we are trying to build here. We didn't come up with that, we hired a company that does this specifically.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated what you are referring to is something totally different. You provided that letter that stated you did not have to do a traffic study. What we are speaking about are the road improvements which are per the General Plan. A company could say whatever they wanted to say, but the City has already adopted these guidelines for projects when they are developed. Any project that develops regardless of whether its cannabis or retail, there are certain things the General Plan calls out to mitigate the impacts from that development. That's all we're asking you to do is to finish that road.

Public Works Director Baldizzone stated what you don't have to do in that intersection according to that letter you brought us is to put in traffic signal lights. You can continue having the stop signs in that intersection. The widening of Hobsonway and Neighbours is following the General Plan of the City.

Vice Mayor Egan asked if that would be required of any business that built there. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated look across the street at Valero. They did the same thing we are requiring of this project.

Public Works Director Baldizzone stated it was also done further west on Buck Street when the power plant was built. They widened Hobsonway to make the right turn for people going into the facility. What we are asking for is for the future development of the City.

Eli Owens stated it all comes down to the future development of the City. We are trying to set a new standard with the Council and the City.

Vice Mayor Egan asked when the bond would be posted. Public Works Director Baldizzone stated it can be posted when construction starts. It can be posted when they have the estimated cost as the bond will be 1-2% of the cost of the improvement. They will pay 2% per year of the cost of those improvements.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated it should be posted when they pull permits.

Eli Owens stated it's not as simple as that. The businesses that do this are established. They know their costs. Our costs are going down right now. We are in an industry that's brand new. Certain cities are over-regulating and businesses are hearing about it. One thing Blythe has is that we are not close to anything. There is no advantage to being out here.

Mayor Reynolds stated when you came here to do business you knew we were 100 miles from anywhere.

Eli Owens stated I understand you are setting a precedent, you are creating a new industry in Blythe, but when you say you are making concessions, we are giving away money.

Mayor Reynolds stated you don't think that having all of these meetings and discussions doesn't cost the City?

Eli Owens stated when we have been asked to pay fees we have done it. I respect your time, but it's my time too, I put everything I have in this. We are close to \$1 million. Everything I own is in this project. We went to four other places, but wanted to be somewhere we could expand and create a business and this is where we ended up. We are trying to do our best and all we are asking for is to not be over-regulated. We are not asking for anything that is not fair.

Vice Mayor Egan stated you want zero and we want a bond to guarantee that you will do what you say you are going to do. We don't want a 100% bond, but zero is not going to fly with me. What other options are there if you can't bond?

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated they either do the off-site improvements during construction or they bond and do it within three years of issuance of their Certificate of Occupancy. Those are the options. That is what is required of any other business doing any other project.

Vice Mayor Egan asked if we could push it out a year until after they were open. Interim City Manager Crecelius said at that point you would have no recourse if they didn't follow through. Once they have their Certificate of Occupancy they are open.

Eli Owens asked what the last new development here was. The answer is a hotel. There is a proven model for hotels. The companies moving in here are corporations. We are not that. We are farmers; we are a mom and pop operation.

Councilman Rodriguez stated you are still a developer. You are developing in a commercial area. The standards were set before you got there. If someone wanted to build a convenience store they would have to do the same thing. Its building development, it doesn't matter what you are developing. There is nothing around the power plant and they were still required to do the same thing. It's a building in a commercial area.

Eli Owens stated that will be commercial forever. The Government did not just pass a bill stating that electricity is no longer a commercial thing; it's now a plant thing. It's a plant. This industry is focused on what it was, not what it's going to be. We came here because it's a farming town.

Councilman Rodriguez stated that if a farmer built a shed in a commercial area he would still have to do the same thing.

Councilman DeConinck stated if you were in the County you would be paying a DIF fee of about \$34,000 an acre along with other factors. The County does not give away anything. I have been through it. You are getting a good deal and you should be happy with what you are moving forward with. I am looking at you renderings and have some questions.

There was discussion back and forth about the renderings.

Councilman Halby stated the road improvements they are asking for are pretty basic. You do need to widen the road and have a turn lane. You are going to have trucks coming to pick up product. I am good with the fence, but the road improvements are necessary. They are part of the General Plan. We are not attacking you; it would be the same for any business. I think you should do the bond, I know you can pull it off.

Eli Owens asked if as Neighbours is still pretty good, do we have to do both Neighbours and Hobsonway. Mayor Reynolds stated as its part of the General Plan both need to be done.

Public Works Director Baldizzone stated the condition of the road has nothing to do with the widening and future development of the City. You have a road that was paved last year by CalTrans. The status of the pavement has nothing to do with the General Plan requirement.

Mayor Reynolds opened public comment.

Michelle VanDyke of 14271 Riverside Dr. stated the Farm Bill was adopted to allow hemp years ago. As someone who lives in that area I don't mind whether they go with a block wall or no cut no climb but I request you keep it at 8ft. It's much easier to get over a 6ft vs. 8ft fence. I understand there will be cameras but we know getting their image on camera does not help when they are wearing a hoodie and face mask. We have homeless living in that area. There are low income individuals living at the motel on the other side of the gas station. There is another motel down the street full of sex offenders and people recently released from custody. They come down as far as Neighbours and Hobsonway. No matter how much it's going to be under cover, if those individuals think they can get their hands on some marijuana they are going to be able to get in and out and be on the freeway before anyone shows up.

John Paul Woorley of 245 Eunice Circle stated there are security protocols and they are using fiber wire. If someone touches the fence it creates a vibration. At that time a camera can zoom in to that location and see what's going on. You can't do that with a block wall.

James Schluter of 9400 18th Avenue stated I am ok with not having a block wall. Visually, as a member of the community I am perfectly ok with no cut no climb. I still think it will be one of the best looking fences in town.

Leslie Watkins of 117 E. Hobsonway commended staff on a tremendous job on all of these projects and on this topic. Yes it is new and yes we are learning but you also have a General Plan. You don't have any General Plan Amendments in front of you tonight to change it. The future development of our City is now. If we don't uphold what we said we are going to do, then why are you all even here? This is the same group of people that disrupted your City Council meeting during the JROTC Cadet presentation. I take huge offence to that as a Veteran and community member.

James Schluter stated that was a misunderstanding and apologized.

Interim City Manager asked the Council to give direction on each item individually.

Vice Mayor Egan moved approval of an 8ft no cut no climb fence. There was discussion regarding the type of fence that would be installed. Interim City Manager asked Council

to provide direction on the type of fence, the height and where it's located. Direct staff to pick an ascetically pleasing no cut no climb fence.

Vice Mayor Egan asked if the fence should be the same aesthetic value all the way around or is there was a section that could be cheaper and not as pretty. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated the back of the property abuts the freeway. I think it's important to have the most aesthetically pleasing fence on Hobsonway and Neighbours what you do beyond that is up to you.

Councilman DeConinck said we are talking about security so you need a good fence. If you have a good fence in the front they will go to the back.

Vice Mayor Egan stated it would still all be no cut no climb. But it will cost more to be pretty, but will be just as effective in the back.

Mayor Reynolds stated its time to move forward. We have a motion on the table for an ascetically pleasing no cut no climb fence. Are we going for the whole perimeter or two or three sides?

Councilman Rodriguez stated the whole perimeter, 8ft.

Councilman Rodriguez seconded the motion with aye votes from Rodriguez, Halby and Egan and no votes from Reynolds and DeConinck.

Vice Mayor Egan made a motion to require them to have the off-site improvements completed or have a bond in place for those improvements before a Certificate of Occupancy is issued. Councilman DeConinck seconded the motion with a unanimous aye vote.

ORAL REPORTS:

Public Works Director Baldizzone stated the Barnard Street Storm Water Improvement Project is complete. We are within budget with a change order in the amount of 1% of the project.

Councilman Halby stated they are over budget by \$2,500 so that means the bid that lost, only lost by \$1,700. Public Works Director Baldizzone stated the project called for a cut in the cross gutter. It was going to be for half of the cross gutter so half would be new and half would be old so I asked them to complete the cross gutter. I would have done the same for another contractor.

Mayor Reynolds reported on Blythe Fire Department's BBQ Cook off.

Councilman Halby stated I would like to give gratitude to Blythe's Boxing Champion Andrew Cancio who won the world championship on Saturday night at Fantasy Springs. The City is planning an event for him.

Vice Mayor Egan thanked JROTC for their presentation. It was neat to see young people caring so much about something that is important to most of us here.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tim Wade of 1240 N. Eucalyptus stated CR&R has not been sweeping in my neighborhood for the last month and a half. They stated a truck broke down. I am not sure why they don't have a redundant system. Then on Monday CR&R knocked one of my trash cans over. They picked up the paper, but not the grass. Someone should contact them as they are not living up to their contract. I live in one off the nicest, if not the nicest neighborhood in Blythe but the street is the worst if not one of the worst residential streets in Blythe. The City was out there for two days last week filing potholes and I appreciate that, but after the first rain it will be gone. If something could be done it would be helpful.

ADJOURN: The City Council meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Dale Reynolds, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mallory Crecelius, City Clerk