

Minutes of the Blythe City Council February 14, 2017

The February 14, 2017 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 Galvan, Egan and Reynolds. Staff in attendance included: City Manager Cosentini, City Clerk and Deputy Administrative Services Director Crecelius, City Treasurer and Interim Finance Director Elms, Police Chief Wade and Public Works Director Baldizzone.

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

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION: City Attorney Bettenhausen reported the Council entered into Closed Session at 5:00pm on January 24th 2017 to discuss existing litigation. Direction was given, no final action was taken. Tonight the Council entered into Closed Session at 5:00pm to discuss potential litigation, one case and Labor Negotiations with the Mid-Management, Clerical and Laborer's Units and Labor Negotiations with the Public Works Director. Direction was given, no final action was taken.

PRESENTATION:

Palo Verde High School JROTC. This item was continued to a future meeting.

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, February 10, 2017.

3. Approval of the Warrant Register.

Recommendation: Approve **2/14/17**, warrants numbered 65508 through 65586, in the amount of \$460,493.44 and **2/14/17**, warrants numbered 65587 through 65662 in the amount of \$363,412.37.

4. Approval of the Payroll Register.

Recommendation: Approve **2/14/17**, warrants numbered 49035 through 49042 and Direct Deposits numbered 38580 through 38641 in the amount of \$64,090.38; **2/14/17**, warrants numbered 49043 through 49072 and Direct Deposits numbered 38677 through 38730 in the amount of \$258,129.73; **2/14/17**, warrants numbered 48979 through 489006 and Direct Deposits numbered 38471 through 38524 in the amount of \$259,626.99 and **2/14/17**, warrants numbered 49007 through 49034 and Direct Deposits numbered 38525 through 38579 in the amount of \$258,215.77.

5. Minutes of the January 10, 2017 City Council Meeting.

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2017 Meeting.

6. City of Blythe Permits Issued in January 2017.

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

7. City of Blythe Fire Department Monthly Activity Report for January 2017.

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

8. Investment Report for Second Quarter FY 2016/17.

Recommendation: Receive and file this quarterly report.

9. Budget Adjustment for Transient Occupancy Tax Consultant.

Recommendation: Approve a budget transfer of \$40,000 from Police Administration to General Government for AMN Key Solutions.

10. Extension of the Interim Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana.

Recommendation: Approve a 45 day extension of the Interim Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana.

11. Electric Vehicle Charging Station.

Recommendation: Approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$11,500 for the construction of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station using grant funds from MDAQMD.

Item #10 was pulled from the Consent Calendar.

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

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Vacancy on Palo Verde Transit Agency's Board of Directors. City Clerk Crecelius reported at the December meeting staff was directed to advertise for a vacancy created on the Palo Verde Transit Agency's Board of Directors with the retirement of City appointee Lincoln Edmond. One letter of interest was received from Alan Weeks, a long time Blythe resident and business owner. Council had discussed holding interviews of the interested parties, but as only one application was received; it is recommended Council appoint Mr. Alan Weeks to the Board. After you make this appointment it will be ratified by the Transit Board of Directors.

No public comment. Councilman Reynolds abstained from voting due to a potential conflict of interest. Councilman Egan moved approval of staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Galvan with a unanimous aye vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Selection of Grants. City Manager Cosentini stated Grant Writing was the number one priority of the Council. Council and staff went through a process where Council selected a grant writing firm. The firm met with each department and took input and spoke to Council. From there the firm identified a number of grants they thought met those needs. The Council wanted to select the grants that were perused and they are attached. They Mayor went though the list with department heads.

Vice Mayor Wade stated the department heads should decide, as they will be the ones using them. I think the grants that need match funding should be last on the list.

Councilman Egan would like to look into using the Urban Greening Grant Program for the Rails to Trails project.

Councilman Reynolds would like to look into using the Urban Greening Grant Program to add more lights in the park using LED technology.

Public comment. Henry Covello stated over the last 30 years there has not been any investment in street infrastructure. It is deplorable. The City should lead by example for contractors, but your projects are a disaster. The funds are not going in the right direction. We need the right people in the right positions. If the work is not done correctly you should use the bond to bring in people to finish the job. You can do whatever you want to the top, but unless you go down and compact the dirt you are only throwing money into a hole and will have to re-do it every few years.

Rob Holt of the Holt Group stated you have capacity at the Waste Water Treatment plant. It is 800,000 gallons, there is no reason to build another plant with the one we have now. The City has had State Revolving Loans in the past and is in good standing with the State. It may be best to pursue another Loan with the State Revolving Fund.

After a lengthy discussion on the listed grants Council selected the following grants to move forward with:

State Water Resources Control Board: Water Recycling Funding Program
State Water Resources Control Board: Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
State Water Resources Control Board: Water and/or Energy Audits Program
CalRecycle: 2016-17 Rubberized Pavement Grant
California Natural Resources Agency: Urban Greening Grant Program

Blythe Fire Department Fundraiser. City Manager Cosentini stated the request before you is to waive the no drinking in City parks rule for the Fire Department Fundraiser on March 4th. It's a BBQ cook off to raise money for the 4th of July Fireworks.

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

N. Broadway form Juniper Trail to 10th Avenue Road Construction Project. Public Works Director Baldizzone stated the City has received the agreements for federal aid projects. These agreements between the City and CalTrans establish the terms and conditions applicable to receive federal funds for this project. The project's estimated cost is \$413,453 with \$150,000 in federal funds available for use on this project. To receive these funds we must sign and return these two agreements. CalTrans also requests a Resolution from the City. It is recommended Council Adopt Resolution No. 2017-003 allowing the City Manager to execute agreements for the N. Broadway road construction project.

Vice Mayor Wade asked if the project had been put out for bid. Public Works Director Baldizzone stated the project went out three weeks ago and the bid opening is scheduled for February 22nd.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-003. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLITHE APPROVING ADMINISTERING AGENCY-STATE AGREEMENT NO. 08-5233F15 AND PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 005-F WITH APPROVED FINANCE LETTER FOR THE NORTH BROADWAY FROM JUNIPER TRAIL TO 10TH AVENUE ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board Order R7-2016-0013. Public Works Director Baldizzone stated this Board Order was adopted on June 30th of 2016. The Order requires the City to conduct several studies, one of which is a City Wide Salinity Study which is a new requirement. We are requesting to outsource this study. We must provide a plan to the State Water Resources Control Board. For that plan we are asking for permission to proceed with outsourcing the study.

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

City Logo Discussion. Councilman Reynolds stated we need to update our logo. It is time for a change. We need to identify our City with something. There was talk of adapting the Centennial Logo and turning it into a City Logo. We need a logo representative of the City, where when you see it you think of Blythe.

Councilman Egan asked if it would be a contest. Councilman Reynolds stated you could do a contest or hire a graphic designer. I also know of people in house who could draw it out for us. I would like to know if Council is on board with re-designing the City Logo.

Vice Mayor Wade sated yes. He believes the current logo was adopted in 1985, when I started working for the City and I didn't care for it back then.

Mayor DeConcink stated the Centennial logo is very nice. He likes the contest and maybe taking it to the schools and see what the kids come up with.

No public comment. Vice Mayor Wade moved approval of engaging in a redesign and placing this project with the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Egan with a unanimous aye vote.

Execution and Delivery of a Bond Funding Agreement. Interim Finance Director Elms stated before you is Resolution No. 2017-002 approving the execution and delivery of a bond funding agreement. The reason for this agreement is to allow the transfer of \$1.6 million in unspent bond proceeds from the Successor Agency to the City. Before the dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency the Agency used bonds to funds projects. With the dissolution act we are no longer able to do this. However, we still have proceeds that were issued before the dissolution that need to be spent. Traditionally this would be an Oversight Board action once the Council selected a project. As the Oversight Board now submits an annual ROPS it makes the process time consuming. To make the process easier agencies have entered into these agreements transferring control to the city. Staff felt this would work for the City as the Council and Successor Agency Boards have the same members. Although the City will have control of the bond proceeds, the bond process must be spent in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were issued. Assuming both boards approve the agreements and we receive DOF approval in the next 30 to 45 days the proceeds could be transferred to the City as of July 1, 2017.

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

ORAL REPORTS:

Chief Wade stated the Agreement with the new Police Lieutenant, Garth Dale was finalized today. He will be sworn in next Tuesday at 8am.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Richard Andeo of 540 E Chaparral addressed Ordinance No. 880-17, the moratorium on recreational marijuana. The Ordinance states negative effects on public health and safety and welfare would occur if the sale of recreational marijuana took place. He wanted to know what specifically would occur, what was the basis of this finding and how do these effects compare with the effects from the sale of alcohol. He asked if this study was available. City Attorney Bettenhausen stated this is a temporary Ordinance to buy the Council some time to consider the issue. The harm considered is for the uses being allowed in which the City has no regulations in place. Mr. Andeo asked what findings you have that that there have been observed experiences as

stated in the Ordinance. What experiences did you rely on? City Attorney Bettenhausen stated it is reported in the Minutes establishing all the facts in the record.

MEMBER COMMENT:

Mayor DeConinck stated City staff does a pretty good job. I received a notice of violation for burning without a permit. I forgot to renew it. I want to let everyone know I am not exempt from following the rules. I appreciate them doing their jobs.

Councilman Reynolds stated he attend a housing meeting in Indio on Friday. I received some astonishing information on the lack of housing in the state of California. It has to do with affordable housing. I stated at the meeting that I agree with affordable housing, but the City of Blythe does not need any new multi family housing units. What we need is conventional housing.

ADJOURN:

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Joseph DeConinck, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mallory Crecelius, City Clerk