

**Minutes of the Blythe City Council
March 14, 2017**

The March 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, Deputy City Clerk Lang, City Treasurer and Interim Finance Director Elms, Police Chief Wade, Planner Burrow 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 to discuss Labor Negotiations with the Mid-Management, Clerical and Laborer's Units and Labor Negotiations with the Public Works Director. Item #3, Conference with Real Property Lease Negotiators was pulled from the Agenda. Direction was given, no final action was taken.

Chief of Police Wade introduced the City's new Police Lieutenant, Mr. Garth Dale.

PROCLAMATION:

DMV/Donate Life Month, April 2017

PRESENTATION:

Presentation of the City of Blythe's FY 2015/26 Financials. The audited financials were presented by Rich Teaman and Rick Gallo of Teaman, Ramirez and Smith. It was reported the City has received an unqualified opinion which is the best you can receive. There was an emphasis of matter due to a change in accounting procedures. There is a going concern but you have made tremendous strides. This year the General Fund went positive which is the first time that has happened since 1998. That was quite a major task you have struggled with for a number of years. There were no problems found with internal controls and your appropriation limit was calculated correctly. Some funds are still running a deficit but we are very pleased the General Fund is no longer running a deficit. We did not believe you could accomplish what you have in the past five years. That is a true testament to your staff.

No public comment. The item was received and filed.

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. Vice Mayor Wade moved approval of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilman Egan with a unanimous aye vote.

3. 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 10, 2017.

4. Approval of the Warrant Register.

Recommendation: Approve **3/14/17**, warrants numbered 65723 through 65880, in the amount of \$338,662.59 and **3/14/17**, warrants numbered 65664 through 65709 and 65710 through 65722 in the amount of \$105,455.29

5. **Approval of the Payroll Register.**
Recommendation: Approve **3/14/17**, warrants numbered 49073 through 49100 and Direct Deposits numbered 387310 through 38785 in the amount of \$256,130.65; **3/14/17**, warrants numbered 49101 through 49130 and Direct Deposits numbered 38786 through 38841 in the amount of \$266990.73 and **3/14/17**, warrants numbered 49131 through 49138 and Direct Deposits numbered 38842 through 38903 in the amount of \$59,419.97.
6. **Minutes of the February 14, 2017 City Council Meeting.**
Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the February 14, 2017 Meeting.
7. **City of Blythe Permits Issued in February 2017.**
Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.
8. **City of Blythe Fire Department Monthly Activity Report for February 2017.**
Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.
9. **City of Blythe Police Department Monthly Activity Report for February 2017.**
Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.
10. **Rejection of Claim, City of Blythe vs. Rosalie Robbins.**
Recommendation: Reject the Claim pursuant to law.
11. **Use of Quechan Park for Desert Storm Rally.**
Recommendation: Waive the parking fee for participants of this year's Desert Storm Rally and allow no more than one RV to camp in Quechan park on April 7th and 8th.
12. **Independent Auditors' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures concerning Golf Course.**
Recommendation: Receive and File the Accountants' Report.
13. **Surplus items at the Recreation Center.**
Recommendation: Deem the listed items as surplus and excess.

Public comment. Richard N. Deyo questioned the Police Department's monthly report and if it had a breakdown of the domestic violence calls involving marijuana vs. alcohol. The Chief of Police stated a report could be created by hand searching the reports.

Councilman Galvan asked about the surplus of the boxing equipment.

Vice Mayor Wade moved approval of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilman Galvan with a unanimous aye vote.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Extension of Interim Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana. City Attorney Bettenhausen stated it was recommended Council provide direction to staff. The moratorium provides a temporary ban to allow this body time to consider whether you want a permanent ban or locally regulate and allow it. The State will be licensing businesses as well as allowing indoor and outdoor cultivation unless this Council acts to locally regulate. The Mayor has requested an amendment to the zoning code which will be presented at the next meeting to ban marijuana. This action today would extend the moratorium for 10 months and 15 days. If you have not taken action by that time you would need to have another public hearing to extend it further. By amending the zoning code now you could amend it at any time or leave it in place. An amendment would take 90 days before it would take effect, the moratorium takes effect immediately.

Public Comment. Richard N. Deyo stated I discussed with the City Manager my concerns regarding due process and the concept of freedom to act. You should make the evidence available that supports the findings. This was not even illegal until 1937. The fact that it is a schedule 1

drug is scary. People have a fascination with marijuana. Why not allow it with restrictions. It's not that hard to do this. It's only because you are afraid. Do the due process required.

Sandra Hudson of 9646 4th avenue stated she agrees with most of what he said. My question is what do you have in mind economically to replace the sale of marijuana? It is benefiting other communities. I am not a smoker, have never been interested in it but from an economic stand point you are going to have to do something. We are tired of driving on horrible roads. We want some growth and if this is the avenue to get it you may have to consider it regardless of your personal feelings.

Henry Covelo of 512 Murphy St. stated Attorney General Sessions is going to go after Colorado due to the interstate sells that are happening. It has to be controlled at the State level. The State is going to tax it 16%. They are now working on tracking it from the grow to the dispensary. This will keep illegal growers from putting it in the market. I am not for or against it, but I am ok with it if there is 16% revenue to be made. If we consider it, make sure it benefits our community and schools and the people are held to the most stringent part of the law.

Vice Mayor Wade stated you are all welcome to talk but I think we are getting ahead of ourselves. The next item is the one we want to talk about. This is just the ban to allow us time to see what we are going to do.

Mayor DeConinck stated we are doing this on the advice of our attorney to allow us time to try to get our ducks in a row to understand this. We have never done this before. We are trying to do what is best for our community.

Richard N. Deyo stated you have this moratorium on the Agenda but are going to bring in the zoning ordinance through a side door so you are not playing fair. City Attorney Bettenhausen stated that is another item that will be on the next agenda.

Mr. McBeth stated I do not agree with the drug problem, but Blythe California needs revenue to fix the streets, sewers and get more police officers. We have a good police department, it is safe here and we all need to work together. The town looks like trash and we need to clean it up.

Vice Mayor Wade moved to adopt Ordinance No. 881-17. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reynolds with a unanimous aye vote. The title of the Ordinance was read into the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 881-17. AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE EXTENDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL 10 MONTHS AND 15 DAYS A MORATORIUM ON NON-MEDICAL MARIJUANA-RELATED BUSINESSES AND PERSONAL OUTDOOR NON-MEDICAL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65858.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Recreational and Medical Marijuana Policy Direction. City Manager Cosentini stated it is recommended Council provide direction to staff. There are four options: a ban on recreational marijuana, allow recreational marijuana with regulations and taxation, to allow both recreational and medicinal marijuana and regulate and tax both with the understanding that drooping recreational is a possibility and the last option to allow medical marijuana with taxation and regulations. A ban would be no new revenue. Our consultant has advised us that regulating recreational marijuana would bring the City between \$960,000 and \$1.3 million annually. These numbers are based on four cultivation facilities, four manufacturing facilities and two

dispensaries. These estimates are also good for medical marijuana. When this was approved at the state level, 52% of Blythe voters were in favor of it. The proposition gives the State authority unless the local jurisdiction takes control by either a ban or regulation. Whether or not you ban or regulate the law allows people to use it in the privacy of their home. You can regulate growing in the house, but they are allowed to grow 6 plants. It also decriminalized possession. Another issue is the County of Riverside is having some fiscal difficulties and looking for new sources of revenue. They may become a competitor in this situation. It is something to keep in mind as we work through this. If we banned it and the County did not, we could create a market demand. There would be no facilities inside the City, but would be placed outside of our front door with no control as to where they were placed or the number of facilities in the community. The opposite is also true if we decide to regulate it. There may also be enhanced enforcement at the federal level. If the City Council proceeds with regulation and taxing marijuana, it is of the opinion that the City, City Council and City staff would have no criminal or civil liability in the matter. The exposure would fall upon the business owners. The City already has a ban on medical so if you ban recreational you will have a complete ban under the law. As the Council took the action to ban medical marijuana, the Council can undue that action. The logic would be to do both medical and recreational at the same time as it will take about a year to develop our regulatory structure. Option four is probably the safest as the federal government is not interested in the medical use. The last item is the ban the Mayor would like to bring at the next meeting.

Councilman Galvan asked if the fees collected would be distributed among the schools, hospital and different entities. It was reported it would be a local tax that would come to the City; there would be no sharing of the fees. There would also be fees to recover staff time spent on things such as inspections.

Vice Mayor Wade asked if we did both recreational and medical would the fees collected be double the estimates, or would it be the amount stated above. It was reported the amount of money is predicated on the number of facilities. Whether you do either or a blend of both, you get that amount of money with that number of facilities. If you increase the number of facilities the amount collected would grow.

City Manager Cosentini stated local control is the number one issue tonight. It is very important the Council retain control in the City limits and these options would do that.

Mayor DeConinck stated the consultant told us how much we could collect, but did not tell us how much this was going to cost City with extra police and code enforcement. He stated one acre of produce generates \$24,000 and when I asked how they came up with those numbers they couldn't answer. I am concerned with how they came up with these numbers. What is the dollar amount per square feet and pound? They did not break it down.

Councilman Galvan asked how they came up with these figures. What percentage did they use? It was reported for dispensaries it was single digits, between 3 to 5%. The cultivation facilities were tax per square foot. They cautioned the City to be fair or people would go somewhere else. Page 109 has some of the numbers you are asking about.

Councilman Galvan stated he was watching the History Channel and the illegal dealer business has tripled in Colorado because they don't charge sales tax. You bring up all the positives but you don't bring up the negatives. Maybe we need to focus on that next time.

Councilman Reynolds stated he has been on both sides of the fence but bottom line is if we don't do anything we are stuck. We are not going to make any money, we will not be able to regulate

the residents who want to grow and won't be able to do anything, I believe we need to get in front of it and be part of the market, not part of the reaction. If the County decides they want to do this it will be right outside of City limits. It could be right outside of Kmart. All we will get from that will be the repercussions, not the dollars and cents. We have a chance to make a few bucks. We need to step up and do what is right for this community.

Councilman Galvan stated you don't know if it's right for this community or not.

Councilman Reynolds stated that is my opinion. I have been on both sides of this, and lost a daughter to drugs but I am thinking towards the future. I want to help our community get revenue to do the things we need to do.

Public Comment: Henry Covelo stated on a growers permit through the State of California you are allowed 99 plants. After that if you have a dispensary with a demand that exceeds that growth then you are allowed to accommodate the patient factor. I have built dispensaries for people in Huntington Beach, Long Beach, Bakersfield and in the high desert. You put in a surveillance system so you can control the people coming in. Yolo County is putting skews on the product so you can control it that way.

Clifford Short stated this subject is near and dear to my heart as I was a drug addict and it started with marijuana. I have been clean for 27 years. The worst time of my life was starting drugs. It breaks my heart that you have lost a child to drugs and want to pass this. Look at what alcohol costs the City and State in hospital and court fees. The costs outweigh the revenue. There are different types of marijuana, what are you going to choose or are you going to choose? I know of families torn apart because of medical marijuana. Is it really worth the bottom dollar? If you want more revenue bring in jobs, bring in something to teach our children a career with a clear mind. I did drugs from the age of 15 to 28 and I am lucky to still have my family.

Richard N. Deyo of 580 E. Chaparral feels sorry for the last gentleman but 10% of people who drink become alcoholics and 10% of drug users become addicts. We shouldn't be running a rule with 90% of people who can control themselves. We tried it with alcohol and created a crime syndicate. You want to talk about costs, ask the Police how much it costs to run around busting people for marijuana possession, to incarcerate people who sell marijuana. You won't have gangs because it won't be profitable for them. They call it weed because it grows real easily. The market place will be flooded and gangs won't find it profitable. You state it will take 7-9 months to establish the regulation. Is that how long it will take if the Council adopted option 3? It was reported it would take 7-9 months if everything goes smoothly.

Mr. Mcbeth of 870 E. 14th Avenue stated I have a daughter with a medical disorder that benefits from cannabis. I don't have a dog in this fight but I know of people like my daughter who benefit from the medical aspect of this. I am glad you are proceeding with caution, but we need to move on this because everyone else is getting revenue from it that could be ours.

Mayor DeConinck stated two years ago medical marijuana was put on the ballot and this town voted against it. The Council could have decided on it but we took it to the people. The medical marijuana is not regulated. If it went through a drug store I would not have a problem with it. There is a lot of homework that needs to be done here. It is not all about money.

Councilman Egan moved approval of option #3. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reynolds with aye votes from Wade, Reynolds and Egan and no votes from DeConinck and Galvan.

Grant Input and Process to Determine Future Grants. City Manager Cosentini stated you have selected a grant writer and are proceeding with some grants. You asked for input on three specific grants. We will get a monthly report from our grant writer which we can provide to you every month if you choose. This is an on-going process but we need some direction on selecting future grants. Sometimes grants come up out of the blue, and unless you want to hold special meetings to discuss those grants or I can approve them and keep the Council engaged with direction given on a monthly basis or we can turn it over to staff and keep you advised.

Councilman Reynolds would like the staff to handle it and keep the Council advised due to the time line of these grants. I don't want to stall the process if staff can get it done.

Vice Mayor is also in favor of that.

No public comment Councilman Reynolds moved to direct staff to handle future grants. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Wade with a unanimous aye vote.

City Manager Cosentini stated the next item are the three grants you wanted more information one. The first of which is a FEMA grant with a match as high as 15%. I am recommending we not pursue that one due to the money involved. The second was a CalRecycle Grant and it is recommended by Planner Burrow that we not pursue it. The third grant was a Prop 1 B Waste Water Program Grant and Public Works Director Baldizzone thinks it has great promise for our sewer issue at the Golf Course. It is a loan and before we pursue this, we need to redesign the project and decide who is going to pay for this and how much its going to cost.

Councilman Galvan asked what was wrong with the old plans. Public Works Director reported the sewer is coming down to the lift station on 6th avenue. This will tear up the entire street and there would be no access to the golf course during construction.

Councilman Reynolds asked if the cost estimate was based on the current design or new design. It was reported the estimate was based on \$120 per linear foot for the old design and \$220 for every five feet.

Rob Holt of the Holt Group stated we have done 6 of these loans before. It may not all be a loan, there may be some grant funds available due to the septic tank issue up there. The problem is the original design did not have a preliminary engineering report. You just can't plunge into the design, you have to do routing studies, look at right of way and soil conditions. We need a preliminary engineering report to evaluate all the technical aspects of this project. From that we can make a reasonable cost projection. There were a lot things not properly evaluated in the previous design. This grant or loan process will require a preliminary engineering report along with a revenue plan. It will be similar to the process we did when we got the SRF Loan for the Waste Water Treatment Plant in 1994.

Councilman Egan moved approval of not pursuing items 1&2 and moving forward with item #3. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Wade with a unanimous aye vote.

Remax/Blythe Realty License Agreement. Planner Burrow stated the License with Blythe Realty is before you for review. As you may recall was set for review back in November to check on the status of the construction of the fire damaged building located on W. Hobsonway. The demolition of the old building has been completed. The rebuilding of the office is taking longer than anticipated and is not yet complete. The property owner and contractor continue to

work with the insurance company to facilitate the rebuild and assure staff all intentions are to complete this project as soon as possible. The business owner concedes the continued use of the temporary office trailer sited on City property has exceeded the originally intended lengthy of time. As the remodel is not complete Mr. Kehl has requested the License continue in effect with modifications. The proposed amended terms include: the electrical service panel remain in the parking lot after removal of the temporary trailer. This service will be made available for future city approved public functions that may be held in the city owned lot. For as long as he owns the building the cost of this service will be absorbed by Mr. Kehl. Additionally Mr. Kehl has agreed to offer to the Blythe Recreation Center a framed football jersey autographed by Rob Gronkowski to be raffled off or set for auction as the staff of the Recreation sees fit. The Jersey is valued at \$1,200 but could exceed that value through the raffle or auction process. It is proposed to increase the rent to \$150 per month during the time the trailer remains at the site. With Council's permission staff recommends any amendments to the terms of the current agreement be incorporated as directed tonight and the Mayor be authorized to execute the amended agreement once the formal content is approved by the City attorney. Provided the Council continues the agreement, the Temporary Use Permit allowing placement of the temporary office trailer will require Council approval to extend the permit past the May 4th date. The administrative process has been exhausted and the Municipal Code calls for Council action to keep the permit in effect. It is recommended Council provide direction on the proposed Licensee Agreement amendments, authorize the Mayor to execute the amended agreement and extend the temporary use permit for a period not to exceed 1 year.

Public Comment. David Kehl thanked Council and staff for allowing me to appear here today. Since we last met we have spent about \$35,000 in demo and are working really hard. Restoring a historic building is expensive and the property values don't support the amount of work that goes into the building. It's probably a better business decisions to let the building decay, but I don't want to do that. I want to make this easy so I presented a three pronged compensation agreement. I bought the jersey for \$600 at a Children's Miracle Network auction. I bought it to donate it to the Recreation Center. It is currently benign framed, which costs \$400. I was able to help the children's hospital and the Recreation Center. I think they can sell 100 tickets at \$20 a piece. I will buy some tickets to try to get the jersey back. Everyone is working hard to rebuild this building to not leave a scar in the downtown. The Mayor had the brilliant suggestion to leave the electrical to support events and activities in the downtown area.

Mayor DeConinck asked if Mr. Kehl would be amenable to rent of \$300 instead of \$150. Mr. Kehl stated he was able to do that. I am grateful but also taxed because this is hard on our business and staff. The easy thing would be to take the insurance money and go but I am trying to do the right thing and am hoping you do the right thing.

Leslie Jessop-Watkins of 1250 E. Hobsonway stated just under two years ago my husband and I lost a 4,000 sq. ft. building and what Mr. Kehl says about taking the insurance money and running was honestly one of our thoughts. It took a long hard conversation for a couple of months to make the decision to reinvest on our lot. Reinvesting when the property vales are zero takes a lot of risk. We were fortunate to be on the east end of town, but he is in the downtown. We only have one time in our life to make that right and this is that time. If he is asking for some forgiveness to have a little time, it took us a year and a half. I got to scrape my building off the ground. He has to do a lot of infrastructure. I implore you to look at his project, not at him or his business but for our town. If it is going to take some time to do it right, maybe you need to give him that time. Councilman Galvan stated my issue is not the time it's the \$1 a month rent. If it takes him three years I don't care, but not with public funds.

Mayor DeConinck thinks \$300 a month is a fair deal.

Councilman Egan stated so you want to take more money from him that he could put into his business. Mayor DeConinck stated anyone would have to pay rent. He can take his time building. Councilman Egan asked how much the trailer on our parking lot is costing the City. City Manager Cosentini stated you would have to access the value of the parking spaces not being utilized by the public. You could also see what it would cost to rent a similar sized building. Councilman Egan stated \$1 is too little but \$300 is too much. City Manager Cosentini thinks \$300 is reasonable.

Mr. Kehl stated nobody knows the value of that parking lot, we can throw a dart but nobody knows. I am ok with the \$300, I know Councilman Galvan has that in his head and I am willing to pay it, but I am hoping you would be more reasonable. I bought the Jersey for the Recreation Center, but if you want cash that is not a donation.

Councilman Egan stated there are a lot more problems on Hobsonway than that trailer. He is a businesses person trying to get back on track.

Councilman Galvan stated he has two businesses in Yuma, he does not sound like a person that is hurting.

Councilman Galvan move approval of a rent of \$300 a month, the electrical staying for public use, authorize the Mayor to sign the amended agreement and a donation of the jersey to the Recreation Center. The motion was seconded by Councilman DeConinck with aye votes from DeConinck, Wade, Galvan and Reynolds and a not vote from Egan.

Councilman Egan moved approval authorizing the Mayor to of the extension of the Temporary Use Permit for a period not to exceed 1 year. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reynolds with a unanimous aye vote.

City Wide Salinity Study. Public Works Director Baldizzone stated at the last meeting the Council was introduced to the 2016-0013 SWRCB Board Order. The order requires a City wide salinity study due by June 30 2017. At the last meeting Council authorized staff to outsource the technical services needed for this study. Staff requested proposals from the engineering firms working with the City and two proposals were received. The Holt Group was the most favorable proposal at \$21,752. After this technical document is approved by the State, the City will need perform a City Wide Salinity Study that could cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000 depending on the recommendations of the State. It is recommended Council authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement for the City Wide Salinity Study Work Plan and Time Schedule with the Holt Group an authorize a purchase order to the Holt Group in an amount not to exceed \$21,752.

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

North Broadway Street Improvement Project (Juniper to 10th Avenue). Public Works Director Baldizzone stated this was identified as a street needing rehabilitation in 2013. It was adopted in the 2016/17 budget and consists of grinding, overlay and removal of the asphalt and construction of curb, gutter and sidewalks. The project will be financed by STP and Measure A Funds. The City received four sealed bids for the project on February 22, 2017 from ATP General Engineering Contractors in the amount of \$417,975, Granite Construction in the amount

of \$420,053, Hal Hays Construction in the amount of \$539,406 and Sully Miller Contracting in the amount of \$545,000. Staff determined ATP was the responsive and responsible bidder. A proposal from Amir Engineering was received for construction surveying services in the amount of \$38,400. The estimated project costs for the North Broadway Street Improvement Project are \$457,775. It is recommended Council Award the contract to ATP General Engineering Contractors in the amount of \$417,975, establish a project budget not to exceed \$457,775, Authorize the City Manager to execute the agreements and project documents and approve change orders not exceeding \$25,000 and authorize the City Manager to execute an Agreement with Amir Engineering for construction surveying in an amount not to exceed \$34,800.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Communal Dumpster Project. City Manager Cosentini stated you tasked the City Manager with placing a communal dumpster in the community so that people who are illegally dumping would have some place to take their load. I contacted CR&R and they were concerned that an unsupervised dumpster might attract hazard waste and other things not allowed to be disposed of in a dumpster. We then looked at placing it at Public Works but the Public Works Director did not want it there due to space and staffing concerns. The Mayor then proposed placing it at CR&R. They agreed to do that with a rate increase of 2.5%. This amounts to a 51 cent increase in the monthly residential rate. Don't focus on the 51 cents, but the 2.5% which is the true cost to the community.

Councilman Reynolds stated we have a contract with CR&R and when we moved the trash cans out of the alleys we created more trash. We had a clean up day and there was stuff in the alleys. I brought it to the attention of the City Manager that since that Clean up Day there are still a pile of large items that should have been picked up that have been sitting there for six months. When they are not fulfilling their contract and then our alleys and streets look like nobody cares I have a problem with a 2.5% increase to provide a dumpster. They should do what they are supposed to do and it should not be on the back of the communities.

Councilman Egan stated the alley dumpsters were taken away to improve things and that has not happened.

Mayor DeConinck stated we are trying to come up with ideas to help clean up the community. Some of the alleys are clean but others have problems because people know they can dump there and get away with it. I don't necessarily agree with the charge. I suggested the drivers notify the office if there are things sitting in the alley so they can make a note to pick it up. Maybe we could do a six month trial for free to see if it works. Lately it seems things have improved.

Alex Brachovich of CR&R stated this issue was brought to our attention by the City Manager and we are trying to work with you. The alley issue has been on going for years. Its not going to change because we changed. What we tried to do when we negotiated the new deal was to take the focus out of the alleys and making the service consistent throughout the City with the curbside pick up. I have been in this business for 30 years and you are not going to change a habit in 30 days. You have some bad habits. You have people who treat your alleys like landfills. When you look at our contract we are doing everything we said we would do. We are even doing more. When your Code Enforcement officer calls and says there is trash in the alley we go and pick it up. That is not in our contract. There are a lot of things we are doing that we are not getting compensated for. I am not here to ask for compensation for those things but when you ask us for

additional services, Armando can't do it, there is a cost. There is a cost to us as well. We are covering our costs. 51 cents a month covers up to two boxes a week. We can take two loads to the landfill a week. There are labor charges there and costs for use of the landfill so we have to cover those costs. If it's something the Council wishes to move forward with we are more than happy to do that. We provide service to 50 cities and no other city has the level of service you do. You get bulky item pick ups, a clean up day and illegal dumping retrieval from the side of the road. You don't see that in many cities. We also took over commercial billing and roll off. Before we paid 5% for your staff to do that but we didn't reduce the franchise fee. There were a lot of things that went into that agreement.

Councilman Reynolds stated he did not see the problem 5 or 6 years ago that he sees today. Instead of getting better it continues to get worse and it seems to be concentrated on the Southside. Some of it is illegal dumping and some of it is the homeowners. I want a working relationship so our town looks clean.

Mr. Brachovich stated he wants to same thing and would be happy to continue to work with Peter to purse other avenues to resolve some of those issues. Some of those alleys are going to be tough.

Public Comment. Leslie Jessop Watkins of 1250 E. Hobsonway stated I came to the City to speak to the City Manager about this very issue three weeks ago. I am a brand new State Farm Agent and every home that is written for a policy or renewal is being inspected as of November of 2016. The inspectors did not come back with what was wrong with the homes, but with the trash issue. That was in February so I drove through town. Peter asked me which area and I said all. This is a call for South 1st through 6th St. on both sides of the freeway. They need to be cleaned up, they are despicable. There are things against the fence line, mattresses, bulky items and limbs on S. Third that have been there for two months. I don't know what they aren't seeing. I had my business underwriter here on Monday and he asked what was up with the trash. I said they are working on it and eh said they need to get a handle on it because it is completely out of control. To echo what Mr. Reynolds said, it is getting worse. I locked dour can at cutting edge because of the issues we had. You can see this from the freeway and its embarrassing. We need a full boar clean up day.

Vice Mayor Wade stated the people that are illegally dumping are not going to go to CR&R to dump. It's not in them to do that. Its nothing against CR&R and I don't think the rest of the citizens should have to pay for it because its not going to work.

Mayor DeConicnk stated maybe we can do it alley by alley, have the officers drive through each week, make a note of it and maybe write some citations.

Mr. Brachovic stated we could put up signage in the worst areas and provide some dumpsters in concentrated areas to clean it up.

Councilman Reynolds moved to pursue another way. The motion was seconded by Councilman Egan with a unanimous aye vote.

Quechan Park Attendant. City Manager Cosentini stated this idea was generated by Councilman Reynolds. Staff was supportive and after I reviewed it I felt it was a good idea. The numbers are attached and there has been a reduction in revenue but we have had some good years. The dredging is a needed service that will increase use, but I believe having an attendant

during the summer is worthy of Council's consideration. We think the whole thing can be done for \$10,000. The costs would be offset by the increase in revenue generated.

Councilman Reynolds stated we would start in May with Memorial Day weekend. In the past the COPS covered it Friday through Sunday and on holiday weekends we would cover Monday's. The gate traffic is sporadic, but having someone there from 10am until dark. On Sundays you could start a little later.

City Manager Cosentini stated the numbers are based on a 40 hour work week working five days at eight hours a day. Those days could be rotated to capture the high traffic days at the park.

Mayor DeConinck asked if the COP's could still drive through on the off days.

Councilman Galvan stated he has talked to boaters and they won't launch there until it is dredged. They are using other parks. I think we need to get it dredged and go from there. City Manager Cosentini stated another option would be to dredge and then put in the attendant.

Mayor DeConinck stated a permit to dredge has been sent in, but the problem is we have to do the dredging before the first of the year or have to wait until June due to some endangered species. PVID will do the work, but we are waiting on the permit.

No public comment. Councilman Egan moved approval of a park attendant for Quechan Park. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reynolds with a unanimous aye vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION:

Jettie Townsend, regarding paving of Date Road. Discussion was had about the repaving project and the possibility of moving the project up once the design is complete. It was reported there are some issues with a water line that need to be worked out, but it is on the list to move forward.

Public Comment. A gentlemen thanked the Council for their efforts and asked Council to move forward as soon as possible. Barriers have been taken down so cars drive wherever and I am afraid for the children. It is a hazard that needs to be addressed.

ORAL REPORTS:

City Manager Cosentini reported on the City Auction set for March 23rd .

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A gentleman commented on the population of Mesa Bluff and asked how they were going to pay for the sewer extension. You have a lot of people in this town on a fixed income. You need to be transparent with them. How are you going to stipulate that 95% of the people pay for something that they are not receiving? The property at the Mesa will appreciate because of this.

MEMBER COMMENT: None

ADJOURN:

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Joseph DeConinck, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mallory Crecelius, City Clerk