

Minutes of the Blythe City Council May 8, 2018

The May 8, 2018 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, City Treasurer and Finance Director Elms, Police Chief Wade, Public Works Director Baldizzone, Chief Building Official Garnica and City Attorney Bettenhausen.

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

Mayor Reynolds invited Jennifer Cusack, Community Relations Liaison with SCE to provide Council with an update.

PROCLAMATION:

May is Building Safety Month. The Proclamation was presented to Building Official Daniel Garnica.

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, May 4, 2018.

3. Approval of the Warrant Register.

Recommendation: Approve **5/8/18**, warrants numbered 67931 through 68020 in the amount of \$560,068.28.

4. Approval of the Payroll Register.

Recommendation: Approve **5/8/18**, warrants numbered 50269 through 50270 in the amount of \$175.45; **5/8/18**, warrants numbered 50271 through 50270 in the amount of \$12,122.92; **5/8/18**, warrants numbered 50273 through 50294 and Direct Deposits numbered 41843 through 41897 in the amount of \$236,565.79; **5/8/18**, warrants numbered 50295 through 50312 in the amount of \$13,386.33 and **5/8/18**, warrants numbered 50313 through 50318 and Direct Deposits numbered 41898 through 42000 in the amount of \$73,766.19.

5. Minutes of the April 24, 2018 City Council Meeting.

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the April 24, 2018 meeting.

6. City of Blythe Permits Issued for the Month of April 2018.

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

7. City of Blythe Fire Department Monthly Activity Reports for April 2018.

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

8. Blythe Police Department Monthly Incident and Activity Report for April.

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

9. Third Quarter Investment Report for FY 17/18.

Recommendation: Receive and file this quarterly report.

10. Annual Consumer Price Index and Landfill Rate Adjustment.

Recommendation: Approve the annual rate adjustments submitted by CR&R pursuant to Section 22.7.1 of the Solid Waste and Recycling Services Agreement.

11. **Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (SLESF).**
Recommendation: Accept and expend the estimated \$100,000 in SLESF funding for FY 2017/18 towards the salary and benefits of police officer positions as approved in the budget.
12. **Operation Stonegarden Grant.**
Recommendation: Council authorize the City Manager to execute any and all actions necessary for the expenditures associated with the Operation Stonegarden grant and approve the Operational Agreement between the City and County of Riverside.
13. **Lease Agreement-Pitney Bowes.**
Recommendation: Authorize the City Manager to sign a five year lease agreement with Pitney Bowes in the amount of \$5,691.36 annually for a folder/inserter and mailing machine.
14. **FY 18/19 Local Streets and Road Project list Submittal.**
Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2018-012 adopting a list of projects for FY 2018/19 to be funded by SB 1.

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-012. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, ADOPTING A LIST OF PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018/19 FUNDED BY SB 1: THE ROAD REPAIR AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2017.

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

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Third Amendment and Restatement of the Joint Powers Agreement-CVAG. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated after approval of the Agreement by the Executive Committee on February 26th, the City Council approved the Third Amendment and Restatement of the CVAG Joint Powers Agreement on March 13th and forwarded a signed copy to CVAG. After the City had executed the amended agreement, some other CVAG members had some issues with how the JPA was approved by the Executive Committee. The agreement was then taken back to the Executive Committee and was unanimously approved by the committee on April 30th. CVAG is now asking the Cities who had previously approved the agreement to rescind that decision and adopt the updated version. It is recommended Council authorize the Mayor to execute the updated version of the JPA and rescind the previous motion made to adopt this agreement.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Issuance of Commercial Cannabis Business Permits. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated Adriangelina Investment, LLC submitted applications for manufacturing and cultivation at two parcels located on 14th Avenue. Both parcels are zoned Industrial General (I-G) which is an allowed zone for Commercial Cannabis Operations. Adriangelina Investment, LLC, has submitted the information required to pass the first three phases of the application process, including an in-depth interview with staff and owner background investigation. The applications propose a medium sized cultivation operation with Type A and B licenses and a manufacturing facility. It is recommended Council issue Commercial Cannabis Cultivation and Manufacturing Business permits to Adriangelina Investment, LLC for APN #848-110-002 and #848-110-004 (located on

14th Avenue near SCE). If approved by Council, the Cannabis Permits will be issued once the site has been inspected and a Certificate of Occupancy issued by the Building Department.

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

Annual Assessment for Lighting District Nos. 1 and 2 for FY 2018/19. Finance Director Elms stated as required under the Landscape and Lighting Act of 1972, the City Council must conduct an annual proceeding in order to levy its annual assessments for Lighting and Landscape Districts 1 and 2. It is recommended Council adopt Resolution 2018-014, declaring its intent to levy Lighting and Landscape District No. 1, Resolution No. 2018-016 declaring its intent to Levy Lighting and Landscape District No. 2 and setting a date and time for hearing protests during the regularly scheduled June 12th Council meeting at 6pm. It is further recommended Council adopt Resolutions 2018-013 and 2018-015 approving the attached Engineers reports prepared by Wildan Financial Services for both districts.

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. 2018-013. 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 2018-19.

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-015. 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 2018-19.

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-014. 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 2018-19 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PART 2 OF DIVISION 15 OF THE CALIFORNIA STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE AND APPOINTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR HEARING PROTESTS.

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-016. 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 2018-19 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PART 2 OF DIVISION 15 OF THE CALIFORNIA STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE AND APPOINTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR HEARING PROTESTS.

Partner Site for the Social Security Administration's Video Service Delivery Project. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated staff from the Social Security Administration approached the City about available space in City Hall they could use as a video service site for their clients. They stated the site would be set up at no cost to the City and would take minimal City staff time to administer the program. It was reported the local Social Security office has one staff member at this time, which can lead to long wait times. The Social Security Administration was looking for alternatives to better serve their customers and thought City Hall would be an appropriate place for a Video Service Site. If this contract is approved, anyone needing to speak with a representative

of the Social Security Administration could visit the Multi-purpose room and login to the video conferencing equipment to speak with a representative. These conferences would only be available on the agreed upon days and times. It was important to staff that the MPR remain open for use by the City and other organizations. It was also reported the local Social Security Office is not closing; they are simply trying to expand their services in rural areas. As the City does not have staff to manage this program for Social Security, it was explained that it will take very minimal City staff time, and if it becomes a burden, we will suspend the service at City Hall. It is recommended Council authorize the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with the Social Security Administration for their use of the Multi Purpose Room for a Video Service Site.

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

Opposing the Tax Fairness, Transparency and Accountability Act of 2018. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated the Tax Fairness, Transparency and Accountability Act of 2018 is being circulating for petitions to qualify for the November Ballot. This initiative is sponsored by the American Beverage Association, the trade association of soda companies and the California Business Roundtable. The Act would eliminate the City's authority to enact a general tax, requiring all tax measures to have a 2/3rd vote to pass. It would also require the tax measure to specifically identify how revenues will be spent with binding and enforceable action and would narrow the threshold from reasonable to actual costs local governments may apply as fees for services offered. The League of California Cities is opposed to this Act and are asking cities to adopt resolutions to demonstrate how harmful this measure would be for our communities as it would significantly limit the City's ability to raise much needed revenue and recover the cost of service provided. If approved by voters, the measure would be retroactive to January 1, 2018. This means any tax measures approved by voters in 2018 would be void if not passed with by a 2/3rd vote of the people; even if they were placed on the ballot as general tax measures. If Measure D passed in June, it could be overturned by this Act if 2/3^{rds} of our voters do not cast a yes vote on this Measure. This would keep the City from collecting much needed tax revenue to mitigate cannabis impacts and cost the City more money if we were required to take this measure back to voters for a 2/3rd vote. It is recommended the City oppose the Tax Fairness, Transparency and Accountability Act.

No Public comment. Vice Mayor Egan moved approval of Resolution No. 2018-009. The motion was seconded by Councilman Halby with a unanimous aye vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-009. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA OPPOSING THE TAX FAIRNESS, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2018.

ORAL REPORTS:

Chief Wade stated May is the month to commemorate the loss of Police Officers across the United States. There are ceremonies held in Washington DC and at our capitol in Sacramento. Our local ceremony is on May 21st in Riverside. I was honored to be asked to MC that program

at 6pm on May 21. I would like to invite all of you to attend. It's held in front of Riverside Police Department in downtown Riverside.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tim Wade reported on issues with CR&R. My street does not get swept twice a month. I was told their truck was down. I guess they don't have a redundant system. I think the contract stated the trucks cannot be more than 5 years old, but they are still using a Palo Verde Disposal truck. It has to be at least 10-15 years old. When they compress their trash they go down to the end of my street because its dirt and the truck leaks. It's ruining our streets. Could someone check into their service and have their trucks updated. The other one is CVAG, are we getting our biggest bang for our buck? I know Councilman DeConinck gets a lot done with them but it seems like Blythe is forgotten with CVAG. There are new overpasses in the Coachella Valley, why can't they do something with ours?

MEMBER COMMENT:

Councilman DeConinck prepared a packet for Council regarding the sale of land to the Wildlife Conservation Board. If you read in there it states the WBC provided notice to the County of Riverside. The County was aware of this, and that is one of my concerns. I went to my CVAG meeting early to meet with Tom Kirk and went by Supervisor Perez's office in hopes to meet with him. His staff said he was busy preparing for the CVAG meeting. I asked if they could give me a few minutes before or after the meeting. Supervisor Perez was late to the meeting and left early. I didn't get a phone call or anything. I found out he would be in town on Sunday and asked to meet with him then. He came to town and I received no response. When I spoke with his representative it was stated Supervisor Perez is leaving this up to Jeff Stone. I have received more information from Marion Ashley than our own Supervisor. I was able to place it on PVID's agenda and they have prepared a letter. They were able to provide me with some tax id numbers to determine who is paying the taxes. The Bureau of Reclamation is currently paying the water toll on the property.

City Attorney Bettenhausen stated Freedom of Information Act requests have been sent to the US Department of Fish and Wildlife and Public Records request to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife specifically asking for on the parties involved in this transaction and sources of funding. I expect a response in the next two weeks.

Mayor Reynolds thanked Councilman DeConinck for the effort he has put into this. I am disappointed that our Supervisor would not speak with you. That is disturbing and something that should not be ignored. Mayor Reynolds stated next Wednesday is Run for the Wall.

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

Dale Reynolds, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mallory Crecelius, City Clerk