

Minutes of the Blythe City Council August 8, 2017

The August 8, 2017 Meeting of the Blythe City Council was called to order at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers by Vice Mayor Wade. Also in attendance were Council Members Galvan, Reynolds and Egan. Mayor DeConinck participated via teleconference. Staff in attendance included: Interim City Manager and City Clerk Crecelius, City Treasurer and Interim Finance Director Elms, Police Chief Wade, Planner Burrow, Public Works Director Baldizzone and City Attorney Bettenhausen.

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

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION: City Attorney Bettenhausen stated Council entered Closed Session at 5:00pm to discuss Item #1 Labor Negotiations with the Sworn and Non-Sworn Units, Item #2, Potential Litigation and Item #3 Labor Negotiations with Mallory Crecelius. On Item #2 direction was given, no final action was taken. Items #1 & #3 were recessed and will be brought back following open session.

PRESENTATION:

California Alliance for Renewable Energy Solutions. Patrick Sinclair, Executive Director of CARES gave a presentation about the Alliance and asked for Council to support the Pumped Storage Project at Eagle Mountain CA.

Public comment. Jeff Harvey, Project Director of Eagle Crest Energy. I work with Patrick Sinclair on providing information on the project but CARES is an organization completely distinct from my work or Eagle Crest Energy. I have been working on the project for 10 years. The hydrology is mountain front recharge with is a small zone of the mountain front areas. The estimate of recharge is 12,700 acre feet per year.

Councilman Egan moved approval to support the project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reynolds with a unanimous aye vote.

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; near the inside entrance of the Council Chamber and at Carlsbad Sea Point Resort 6400 Surfside Ln. Carlsbad CA on Friday, August 4, 2017.

3. Approval of the Warrant Register.

Recommendation: Approve **8/8/17**, warrants numbered 66374, 66377, 66378, 66386, 66387 and 66389 through 66436 in the amount of \$305,516.13 and **8/8/17**, warrants numbered 66375, 66376, 66379 through 66385, 66437 through 66454 and Utility Billing Refund Warrants numbered 66455 through 66470 in the amount of \$262,765.69.

4. Approval of the Payroll Register.

Recommendation: Approve **8/8/17**, warrants numbered 49458 through 49489 and Direct Deposits numbered 39767 through 39822 in the amount of \$255,010.17; **8/8/17**, warrants numbered 49490 through 49497 in the amount of \$5,601.68; **8/8/17**, warrants numbered

49498 through 45900 in the amount of \$17,876.46; **8/8/17**, warrants numbered 49501 through 49531 and Direct Deposits numbered 39823 through 39878 in the amount of \$263,578.80; **8/8/17**, warrants numbered 49532 through 49539 and Direct Deposits numbered 39879 through 39975 in the amount of \$69,992.24 and **8/8/17**, warrants numbered 49450 through 49571 and Direct Deposits numbered 39976 through 40030 in the amount of \$245,832.37.

5. **Minutes of the July 11, 2017 City Council Meeting.**
Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the July 11, 2017 Meeting.
6. **Minutes of the July 13, 2017 Special City Council Meeting.**
Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the July 13, 2017 Meeting.
7. **Minutes of the July 25, 2017 Special City Council Meeting.**
Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the July 25, 2017 Meeting.
8. **City of Blythe Permits Issued in July 2017.**
Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.
9. **City of Blythe Fire Department Monthly Activity Report for July 2017.**
Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.
10. **City of Blythe Police Department Monthly Activity Report for July 2017.**
Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.
11. **Laborers' MOU Adoption.**
Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2017-032 adopting changes to the Laborers' MOU.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-032. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA ADOPTING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE LABORER'S LOCAL 1184 UNIT FROM JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2018.

12. **ORI Number for Cannabis Business Background Checks.**

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2017-031.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-031. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ACCESS STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL SUMMARY CRIMINAL HISTORY INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYMENT INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRACTORS, AND FOR LICENSING OR CERTIFICATION PURPOSES.

13. **Amended Water Conservation Ordinance.**

Recommendation: Conduct the second reading by Title only, waving further reading of Ordinance No. 884-17, amending Chapter 13.05 of the Blythe Municipal Code.

ORDINANCE NO. 884-17. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 13.05 (WATER CONSERVATION) TO TITLE 13 (PUBLIC SERVICES) OF THE BLYTHE MUNICIPAL CODE.

Public Comment. Richard N. Deyo of 584 E. Chaparral Dr. asked why the domestic violence statistics on the Police Department Monthly Report were no longer broken out with incidents involving marijuana vs. other drugs or alcohol.

Councilman Reynolds moved approval of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilman Egan with a unanimous aye vote. The City Clerk read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

NEW BUSINESS:

Manhole Rehabilitation. Public Works Director Baldizzone stated the well rehabilitation program was abandoned in 2008 and staff would like to restart the program. The City has identified 12 manholes in the City with issues. There is also an emergency situation at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. We asked for quotes from Sancon to repair two manholes. It is recommended Council authorize the City Manager or her designee to execute a purchase order in the amount of \$18,970 to Sancon Engineering, Inc for the rehabilitation of the manhole on Gumwood and Hobsonway and the manhole behind La Paloma Restaurant. We may be able to

save money by having two more manholes done now which would save on mobilization costs. The other two manholes would cost about \$8,000 each, but I only have a purchase order for the first two manholes.

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

First Amendment to the Agreement with AMN Key Solutions. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated On January 10th Council entered into an Agreement with AMN Key Solutions to provide services related to the feasibility of placing a Transient Occupancy Tax Measure on the ballot. After conducting some preliminary work on this item, the consultant advises that now is not the best time to move forward with this type of tax increase. She believes the best strategy for the City would be to place a cannabis tax on the June 2018 ballot. It is recommended Council authorize the City Manager to execute the First Amendment to the General Services Agreement with AMN Key Solutions to allow work on a cannabis ballot measure instead of the originally proposed TOT measure.

Councilman Galvan asked if the same fees would be charged. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated about six weeks of work has been completed so far. She has not billed us for several months as no work has been completed. The budget is there for any further work she does. Originally the consultant wanted the contract to read as a revenue measure so that we could switch gears if necessary but the former City Manager was adamant that it state TOT Tax. As that is how the contract was written we have to amend the contract but the other terms of the contract would not change.

Councilman Reynolds asked if there was a discussion on a ½ cent sales tax increase. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated we discussed not revisiting TOT in the future but instead look at a sales tax measure.

Public Comment. Joseph Halby of 217 W. Hobsonway stated it sounds like she is in breach of contract as she hasn't been working on it. You should probably just cancel the contract and pay her for what she has done. I think the Sales tax could go up to 8%.

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

Naming a Street in Honor of John Dobbs. Vice Mayor Wade stated I was in the same class as John Dobbs and have been friends for over 40 years. I was approached by a classmate about naming a city street in the name of John. I put it on the agenda as a City street and there has been a lot of input from staff since. We have come up with some variables to the street; one was the Golf Course Club house. Today the Fire Chief recommended the Fire Hall or Fireworks Show. One idea was making a street in memory of John rather than changing the street name. John gave 10's of thousands of dollars to this community. He lost his 20 month battle with brain cancer on July 26th. I have spoken with the family and they were humbled that anything would be done.

Councilman Egan asked which street. Vice Mayor Wade said the street that came to my mind was Main St. as that is where Dobbs was located, but there are a lot of implications with changing the name of Main St. There are a lot of businesses on that street and it would cost them a lot of

money. That is why I started shying away from naming a street. Defrain was proposed as the John Dobbs Memorial way. His celebration of Life is October 21st at the Golf Course so if we decided to make th Golf Course in memory of his name we may be able to dedicate it on that day as well.

Councilman Galvan is in favor of everything but changing a street name is a burden for people.

Vice Mayor Wade stated the only street that came to mind was Willow off of 14th St. and call it John Dobbs Circle. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated there is a proposed business there, but no established business there. That is the street with the least amount of ramifications for changing the street name.

Public Comment. Richard Selph of 492 N. Earle St. suggested Quechan Park be named John Dobbs Park. Locals use that park a lot and maybe it would help the City with that park.

Sandy Hudson of 9646 4th Avenue stated the group in the back has been discussing this as we were all friends of John's. We believe the Golf Course is the best place at it was home base for John and where the majority of the money was raised. It seems appropriate and I think he carries his spirit there.

Dwight Kelly of 580 Riviera Dr. stated he helped John with the Duffers. John was an excellent person and I think we could do a couple of venues.

Councilman Reynolds is in favor of the entire Golf Course, not just the Clubhouse. Councilman Reynolds would like to name it the John Dobbs Memorial Golf Course.

Joseph Halby stated you can't take Blythe out of the name of the Golf Course. I don't think that would be one we could do, the club house is good and the street by AMPM as it will have things on it in the future. Many people would see it and it would be a good tribute.

Councilman Reynolds stated we could leave Blythe in the name of the Golf Course.

Councilman Egan made a motion for staff to research any issues with re-naming the Golf Course or Quechan Park after John Dobbs and bring back the findings. The motion was seconded by Councilman Galvan with aye votes from Wade, Galvan, Reynolds and Egan. Mayor DeConinck recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest.

Interim City Manager Compensation. City Attorney Bettenhausen stated this item is brought to you in regards to the Interim appoint of a City Manager on July 13th . On your Closed Session agenda was labor negotiations for discussion of compensation. That item was recessed until the end of the open session so that we can comply with SB 1436 which requires the board to orally report out a recommendation for a compensation change for City Managers. The recommendation is the Interim City Manager will be given out of class compensation with a pay of \$60 per hour. This would be retroactive to July 13th , the date of appointment and will be in effect until the Council ends the assignment or the employee declines further service. At that time she will be returned to her current position and compensation as the Deputy Director of Administrative Services.

No public comment.

ORAL REPORTS:

Public Works Director Baldizzone reported on the reopening of the Splash Pad after it was closed for repair.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Superintendent Charles Bush stated we spent quite a bit of time working on a Joint Use Agreement with the City. We were almost there and spent the summer and spring acting like it was in place as the intent was to make the City's recreational facilities and School District Recreation Facilities available for use. We had a successful summer with the Pool and great Baseball season. Everything worked really well and my hope is the City wants to continue and get this Agreement finished.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated it was one of the thing I was aware was being worked on. I found half of an agreement on the former City Manager's Desk and was trying to track down the entire agreement. I will bring it to you for adoption.

MEMBER COMMENT: None

The Council recessed into Closed Session.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION:

Direction was given on Item #1.

ADJOURN:

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Joseph DeConinck, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mallory Crecelius, City Clerk