

Minutes of the Blythe City Council October 30, 2018

The October 30, 2018 Special 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 and Chief Building Official Garnica.

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

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION:

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated the City Council entered Closed Session at 5:15pm to discuss two items, two cases of existing Litigation. One between the City and Better Neighborhoods, a California Corporation and one between the City and John Light, an individual and the Laborers' International Union of North America. Direction was given, no final action was taken.

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.*

1. 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, October 26, 2018.

2. Minutes of the October 9, 2018 City Council Meeting.

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the October 9, 2018 meeting.

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the Southern California Edison Blythe Service Center Improvement and Expansion Project. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated the proposed Southern California Edison "Blythe Service Center" Improvement and Expansion Project involves a total of 7.47 acres on three parcels. Improvements include replacement of the existing service center with a new Operations Building, a new Pre-Fab and Haz-Mat Storage Building, a new fuel tank canopy to be constructed over the existing fuel tank, and a new pre-fabricated metal employee parking canopy. Site improvements include new parking lots, reconfigured entrance for SCE pole trucks, new water, fire and sewer services, and storm drainage improvements. The expansion area which is 2.6 of the 7.47 acres will be developed with a new access road with automatic gate, new concrete lay-down areas, pole storage racks, pole-climbing training area, gravel lay-down yard, and storm drainage improvements. As SCE is building on two additional parcels they will be required to merge all three parcels into one 7.47 acre parcel. Two parcels have a zoning land use classification of "General Commercial". This property is proposed to be rezoned to "Public / Quasi Public" (P-QP) which is consistent with the existing SCE service center site. The Zone Change and

Parcel Merger will be brought before Council for discussion/adoption at a later date. The zone change required SCE to prepare an environmental document for the two expansion parcels. The parcel currently utilized by SCE's service center is exempt from this process under sections 15300 and 15302 of the 2018 CEQA guidelines. As the Lead Agency under CEQA, the City of Blythe had determined that an Initial Study and Negative Declaration is adequate documentation to satisfy CEQA requirements for this project, because the proposed project could not have a significant impact on the environment. The IS/ND is intended to provide the City Council with full disclosure of potential environmental effects of the project for uses as one basis of its decision on the project. The Initial Study/Negative Declaration evaluates the proposed projects' potential effects on the following resources topics: Aesthetics, Agricultural resources, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation and Circulation, Tribal Cultural Resources and Utilities and Service Systems. The results of the Initial Study conclude that all potential impacts are less than significant. The Initial Study meets the requirements of the CEQA Statute and Guidelines, and the City of Blythe Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. In preparing the Initial Study and Negative Declaration, staff independently reviewed, evaluated and exercised judgment of the Project and the Project's potential environmental effects. Prior to approving the project, the City Council shall consider the proposed Negative Declaration (ND) together with any comments received during the public review process. The public review period commenced October 9th and closed October 29th without comment. Therefore, subsequent to the Public Hearing it is recommended Council adopt Resolution No. 2018-041 approving the initial study and negative declaration prepared for the SCE Service Center Improvement and Expansion project.

Mayor Reynolds opened the Public Hearing. No public comment was made.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-041. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE CONTAINING FINDINGS IN SUPPORT OF APPROVAL OF A NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON BLYTHE SERVICE CENTER IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION PROJECT.

ORAL REPORTS:

Public Works Director Baldizzone stated the City was awarded the Urban Greening Grant. The grant is \$185,000 and will provide new irrigation and tree planting for Miller Park.

Councilman Halby reported on a very successful Community Cleanup Day and the new park monument signs. He also stated the County had passed their Cannabis Ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURN: The City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:13pm.

Dale Reynolds, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mallory Crecelius, City Clerk