

**Minutes of the Blythe City Council Meeting
February 9, 2021**

The March 9, 2021 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 DeConinck and Council Members Rodriguez, Halby and Burton. Staff in attendance included: Interim City Manager and City Clerk Crecelius, Finance Director Elms, Police Chief Coe, Building Official Brown, Fire Chief Hasler and City Attorney Roberto.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Reynolds. The Invocation was offered by Councilman Burton.

PROCLAMATION:

DMV/Donate Life Month, April 2021.

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. Councilman Rodriguez moved approval of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burton with a unanimous aye vote.

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, March 5, 2021.

3. Approval of the Warrant Register. (pages 4-17)

Recommendation: Approve **3/9/2021**, Utility Billing warrants numbered 72932 through 72947 in the amount of \$1,330.11; **3/9/2021**, warrants numbered 72948 through 72997 in the amount of \$222,712.72 and **3/9/2021**, warrant numbered 72998 through 73053 in the amount of \$248,488.52.

4. Approval of the Payroll Register. (pages 18-21)

Recommendation: Approve **3/9/2021**, warrants numbered 52143 through 52157 and Direct Deposits numbered 49617 through 49673 in the amount of \$235,169.72; **3/9/2021**, warrants numbered 52158 through 52159 in the amount of \$2,801.75; **3/9/2021**, warrants numbered 52160 through 52173 and Direct Deposits numbered 49674 through 49730 in the amount of \$228,930.99 and **3/9/2021**, warrants numbered 52174 through 52178 in the amount of \$65,905.07.

5. Minutes of the February 9, 2021 City Council Meeting. (pages 22-29)

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2021 Meeting.

6. Minutes of the February 9, 2021 Special City Council Meeting. (page 30)

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2021 Special Meeting.

7. Minutes of the March 2, 2021 Special City Council Meeting. (page 31)

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the March 2, 2021 Special Meeting.

8. City of Blythe Permits issued for the Month of February 2021. (pages 32-39)

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

9. City of Blythe Fire Department Monthly Activity Report for February 2021. (page 40)

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

10. City of Blythe Police Department Monthly Activity Report for February 2021. (page 41)

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

11. **Evaporation Pond Repairs- East Pond at WWTP.** (pages 42-43)
Recommendation: Authorize a purchase order in the amount of \$18,500 to R.E. Hoover Company for the coating material used in the East Evaporation Pond at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
12. **Repair of Aeration Lines of the Biolac System at WWTP.** (pages 44-45).
Recommendation: Authorize the issuance of a purchase order in the amount of \$10,150 to R.E. Hoover Company for unforeseen costs to repair aeration lines of the Biolac System at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
13. **Agreement for CFD No. 2004-1 Special Tax.** (pages 46-65)
Recommendation: Authorize the Interim City Manager to execute an agreement for CFD No. 2004-1 Special Tax Administration Services with David Taussig and Associates.
14. **Destruction of Financial Records for Fiscal year 2014-2015.** (pages 66-70)
Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2021-009 authorizing the destruction of certain financial records and documents for fiscal year 2014/15.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-009. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA AUTHORIZING THE DESTRUCTION OF CERTAIN RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS AS AUTHORIZED BY THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE.

15. **Continuance of Local Emergency due to COVID-19.** (pages 71-75)

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2021-010.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-010. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA, DETERMINING THE NEED TO CONTINUE THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PROCLAIMED ON MARCH 20, 2020 AND PREVIOUSLY CONTINUED ON MAY 12, 2020, JULY 14, 2020, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, NOVEMBER 10, 2020 AND JANUARY 12, 2121.

No public comment. Councilman Rodriguez moved approval of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burton with a unanimous aye vote.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Cannabis Dispensary License Conditionally issued to HAH 1, LLC. Interim City Manager stated no update was provided by applicant.

No public comment. The item was received and filed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Design of the Lovekin-Barnard Street Rehabilitation Project. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated the City released an RFP for proposals from civil engineering consultants to perform design work to rehabilitate a stretch of Lovekin Blvd. from Hobsonway to Barnard and a stretch of Barnard from the first alley to Main Street. The RFP was sent to twenty engineering firms. As released, the RFP included an overlay rehabilitation on both street segments. After the RFP was released, it was determined an overlay may not be the best method of rehabilitation. A geotechnical report is needed to determine the best approach. In late January, an addendum was issued to the RFP stating proposals should include the cost to design an overlay and cost to design the total removal and replacement. After the Geotech report is received, staff will determine how to proceed. The selected firm will then prepare the design based on the recommendation of the City, geotechnical report and project budget. Staff received 6 proposals. After review of each proposal, it was determined that Onward Engineering was the lowest responsible bidder based on experience, method, responsiveness, ability to complete the project within the specified timeframe and cost. Onward Engineering also included two optional tasks, a railroad encroachment permit for a lump sum of \$5,520 and nail and paint centerline establishment for a lump sum of \$6,996. Therefore, it is recommended Council award the design project to Onward Engineering. It is also recommended the Council authorize the Interim City

Manager to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Onward Engineering, in an amount not to exceed \$67,499 if it is determined the design will consist of an overlay, or \$76,034 if it is determined that a full removal and replacement is required, once reviewed and approved by the City Attorney. It is also recommended that Council authorize the Interim City Manager to approve the optional tasks identified in Onward Engineering's proposal, if such tasks are determined to be necessary, and to amend the Agreement by an amount not to exceed \$12,516 for such tasks. It is further recommended Council authorize the Interim City Manager to issue a purchase order to LandMark Consultants, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$7,450.00 for the Geotechnical Report required for the project and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the attached Agreement with LandMark for said report.

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

2020 Urban Water Management Plan. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated every urban water supplier providing water for municipal purposes to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually is required to prepare and adopt an Urban Water Management Plan. UWMP's are required for a water supplier to be eligible for State grants and loans and should be reviewed every five years. The 2020 UWMP is due to the Department of Water Resources by July 1, 2021. As West and Associates prepared the City's 2015 UWMP, they have historical knowledge of the City's water system and past UWMP's. They are able to complete the UWMP by the State's deadline. City staff is working with the State on possible funding for the College Bolted Steel Water Tank project. To ensure the City may apply for State funding either through their grant or loan programs, we should submit the UWMP by the July deadline. Therefore, it is recommended Council award the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan to West and Associates, authorize the Interim City Manager to issue a purchase order to West and Associates in an amount not to exceed \$15,850 and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute Professional Services Agreement No 2021-007 A.

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

Traffic Signal Repair at Broadway and Hobsonway. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated on the evening of February 26th, the traffic signal located at the N.E. Corner of Broadway and Hobsonway sustained damaged after being struck by a semi-truck. Econolite prepared an estimate in the amount of \$30,000 on a time and materials basis. The City will be billed for hours spent and materials used for repair. Econolite plans to repair both the Broadway/Hobsonway and Lovekin/Chanslorway signal lights at the same time, which should save the City on mobilization costs. Therefore, it is recommended Council authorize the Interim City Manager to execute a purchase order to Econolite Systems in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for repair of the traffic signal at the N.E. corner of Broadway and Hobsonway.

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

Final Parcel Map 37984. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated Mesa Ranch, LLC with their agent, The Holt Group Inc. requested approval to divide one 52.76± acre site into four 4

separate parcels. The project site is located at Defrain Boulevard and 4th Avenue. Proposed Parcel No. 1 is 20.19± acres in size, Proposed Parcel No. 2 is 12.55± acres in size, Proposed Parcel No. 3 is 10.00± acres in size and Proposed Parcel No. 4 is 10.02± acres in size. At the November 10, 2020 meeting, Council approved Tentative Parcel Map 37984 with conditions. The Final Map was submitted and has been reviewed by the City's Engineer and was found to be in substantial compliance with the approved Tentative Map and complies with the conditions applied to the project. Therefore, it is recommended Council authorize staff to record Parcel Map 37984.

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

MEMBER COMMENT:

Councilman Halby stated I hear over and over that this town is dying. How can that be when real estate inventory is on the market for 1 day, all the rentals are taken, and the commercial market is even selling. For a town that is dying, there sure is a lot of money being invested around here. I would like to say that we need to be more positive to where this is going, we are definitely not dying.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kathy Linares of 2454 Fairway Dr. stated the Fairway Villas homeowners have been dealing with an overburdened septic system for 20 years. Mesa Bluffs Development is no longer taking care of the pumping. I phoned the Interim City Manager about setting up a meeting with Council and the homeowners to see what we could come up with. We have our annual meeting on March 20th and would like to be able to present something at that time. I would like you to commit to a time and date prior to the 20th .

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated there is an established Ad Hoc Committee for this issue.

There was discussion on the issue. Staff was directed to schedule a Study Session to discuss the issue with the full Council.

ADJOURN: The City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm.

Dale Reynolds, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mallory Crecelius, City Clerk