

**REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA CITY CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, February 21, 2006, 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 21000 Hacienda Blvd.
MINUTES**

OPENING CEREMONIES: Mayor Adams opened the meeting at 6:18 p.m. Following the pledge of Allegiance, Pastor James Fuller, Solid Rock Missionary Baptist, provided the invocation. The clerk called the roll:

PRESENT: Council members Edmiston, Lessenevitch, Schafer, Dempsey, Adams.

ABSENT: None

Also Present:

City Manager Bill Way; City Attorney Wayne Lemieux; HR Manager Michelle Schafer, Fire Chief Mike Antonucci; Police Chief Linda Lunsford, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Michele Hornback; City Clerk Helen Dennis, Deputy Clerk Denise Hilliker.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Motion to adopt agenda by Councilman Lessenevitch, second by Councilman Edmiston; carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Felix Gomez, resident, introduced Clifford Reynolds, Manager of Silver Saddle Resort, who is interested in building a cooperation between the Saddle and the city. He thanked the residents and Council for their support over the years.

Chiloe Alius, Jr. Miss California City, announced her recent coronation as Jr. Miss Antelope Valley, and said it was a pleasure to represent her community to the whole valley. City Manager Way pointed out that she is also the Youth Mayor for the city this year.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

CIVIC/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Kim Collins, city, praised the city website and the Council page, but needs more contact info for the Council.

Ed Waldheim, city, asked what the City's doing about the dump site proposed between the City limits on the north and Cantil. He held up several recent newspapers with front page stories about the landfill site. He asked Council to get immediately involved. Mayor Adams said he knew there have been focus groups in the area, and the person in charge of this is in the business. He is using the same process he used in Orange County and San Diego County, that is to go directly to the voters and bypass the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Waldheim said the ideal place for this is Desert Center where there are railroads leading to a huge hole that will never be filled up, no matter how many years they dumped into it.

Councilman Schafer said that he has learned there is a huge PR firm out of New York that is going to come and sell this to the Board of Supervisors, and as a city we are out of the loop to prevent it, except for our vote on the November ballot. He said our job is to involve the local media in this and get the word out where this is going to be located.

Mayor Adams said the political reality is that the Los Angeles area has more legislators than Cantil has population. Ed Waldheim said Kern County has more savvy voters.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB 1. Mid-year Budget Review - Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Hicks

Terry Hicks presented his figures for current expenditures and revenues experienced at mid-year, then reviewed the changes proposed for the F/Y 2005-2006 budget, as requested by staff (see staff report, figures attached, as Attachment "A"). He said given the revenues coming into the city, at the end of the fiscal year, the city rather than using \$1.3 million of reserves, it appears we will only use approximately half a million. The financial position is ending up \$2.4 million by the end of the year.

Councilman Edmiston asked the police chief if her increase was on top of the proposed increase for dispatch or was that included in the overall increase (Page 12). Chief Lunsford said the increase requested this evening was in addition to the funds for Dispatch. Mayor Adams asked for a "linear" itemization of the increases in the police department budget overall, and wants that brought back with time for them to study it before the next meeting.

Councilman Schafer has a couple of issues explained:

1. Building inspection. How is it that with all the fees collected for plan checks and all the other fees, how is it there is a need for additional funding in building inspection? How can the department not absorb those costs with the revenues coming in?
2. Why is the cost of police cars shown as an increase here when special funds that were not allocated previously were to pay for them? Terry said that it has to be shown in the budget as an expense, which it was, regardless of the source of funding.
3. Water transmission - for Dan Allen. Why are we over for water meters? Per Dan, we have increased over what was projected at the beginning of the year. The increase is the offset for the purchase of the additional, unexpected, meters. Mayor Adams asked what the inventory is at the yard - about 40. Dan explained that there are 30-35 meters installed every week, so this is about a week's inventory, so they don't have to wait on meter delivery when they are to be installed.

Councilman Edmiston asked if the reason Terry was asking for an amended budget was to use some of the new income to cover these overages that have come about since the budget was adopted?

Terry said that was correct, where the police cars were concerned, and the public works budget as well, where the meters at the time the budget was adopted where for water parts appropriations, the projected budget was approximately \$55,000 and \$60,000, and in here it is upped to \$145,000-\$150,000. That's the same thing for building inspection. Mr. Helt has been asked to work on projects that were not contemplated in the original budget.

The total increase in the budget, if the amendment is approved, is \$2,492,550.00. The matter is scheduled to return as Continued Business on March 7, 2006.

Kim Collins asked some questions about the budget, and was cautioned about using terms like "surplus"; rather, unrestricted as opposed to restricted kinds of expenditures. He asked if it would be appropriate to bring up the sports arena and community center next year for repairs. He asked if this budget did not include the sale of 50 acres on Twenty Mule Team Road, that could be used next year. Yes, but Terry made it clear that if that property were sold the funds went into the General Fund and the Council would appropriate it where they determined; it is not "extra" or "surplus" money.

Council determined to bring back the budget amendment next meeting after they had obtained specific information on specific items.

NB 2. Council discuss Benz Sanitation business practices and property maintenance - Councilman Lessenevitch

Councilman Lessenevitch said he had a problem with getting a billing dispute settled with benz and had made numerous phonecalls and not received responses. He said his contractor had made more calls and not received calls back. He wanted the name of a contact to get his billing dispute resolved.

Paul Benz was present but said he came without any information on what the problems was, other than the letter written by the City Manager that he was requested to be at the meeting to address issues of billing practices and property maintenance.

Both Paul Benz and accounting department spokesman Mr. Lee apologized for Councilman Lessenevitch's problem and asked the Councilman to try to reach Paul himself, or Mr. Lee or Dave at the local office. The only problem is they have to know what to address. He also said that in the future if people don't respond he needs to know about it and "heads will roll".

Mayor Adams asked about the trash that blows out of people's trucks when they bring their trash; it's all over the lot across the street. Dave from the local office said he has a whole crew out every morning to clean up the trash that has blown across the street. Paul added that people come after the gates are closed on the weekend and leave the trash piled up at the gates, that blows around too.

Councilman Schafer had suggestions for Mr. Benz about how to relocate the bins in his yard so the "blowable" trash could be removed from the front of the yard so it can't be blown across the street; also he could rearrange his personnel so the Saturday hours would be longer.

Mr. Benz said he would look into longer hours, but there has to be two people there; people mistreat his employees, when they are told they can't bring in household trash. He said he has spent over \$200,000 since the building boom has started, buying roll-offs and bins, so it's not like Benz is not supplying the contractors' needs. Trash cans are dumped the day they are called in or the next day; never longer. In addition he has spent over \$40,000 repairing packers in his trucks from having concrete put in the

bins; it crushes the packers in the trucks. He has other issues he would like to address. Again he apologized to Councilman Lessenevitch; if he can prove Nick called 20 times someone will be fired.

Ed Waldheim noted that the trash was getting out of hand at Conklin, Neuralia or Hacienda or at the north end of town. He asked if the dumpsters could be closed; when they are left open, the wind carries the trash out of the bins and puts it all over the desert. Paul said if they went out there right now, to 200 construction sites, the lids will be found open. To get them to close the lids is nearly impossible. If the bins are over-filled, they can't dump them without the excess falling off. Then Benz is right back in trouble with the contractors for not dumping their trash. Waldheim said we should pass an ordinance that if they don't close the bins, it's a \$100 fine, if they find it again, it's a \$100 fine. Code Enforcement should be citing these people. He offered to do the job.

The Mayor brought up the motorcycle people who trash the desert. He said Corva has thousands of people who come out every weekend who throw trash around. Waldheim said he has asked the BLM, Rangers, Sheriffs and police including the DIRT team to cite unkempt camps, he says he takes no prisoners on that issue. He and the Mayor decided to carry that conversation on elsewhere.

NB 3. Authorization to obtain bids on the repair of drainage system on Ives Court - Pubic Works Director

Dan Allen described the problem, what has been done in the past to try to correct drainage problems at this location, and after engineering studies, what needs to be done now. Mr. Minor, the proponent, had a video and powerpoint presentation for Council to show what the problems were. When the street was repaved in 2002-2003, the altered contours diverted the normal water flow going into the culvert into the driveway and into his garage and around the property. Every time there's a water main break the water runs into his garage, his being the low point in the tract. Ron Wallace bulldozed a channel and provided sandbags to prevent water from running into the driveway, but the channel has filled up with silt and no longer protects the property. A temporary fix would be to dig out the channel but it needs a permanent solution. Mr. Minor is asking the Council to approve the funding for a permanent fix so he can get away from this problem.

Councilman Edmiston asked where the money was to come from. Dan Allen said it would come from Special Tax street monies.

Bud Burnett, Citizens Advisory Committee, said he wanted to discuss the use of Special Tax funds with the CAC before the Council made a decision on where the funding was to come from. Mayor Adams said whether the Council followed the CAC's advice or not, the Committee should have the opportunity to provide their opinion before Council action on this request. The Mayor said they needed to look at using these funds for both this project and the one in the Jacobs tract. Councilman Lessenevitch said the Council needs to do this.

Dan Allen presented three options for the repairs, developed by two engineering firms, who came up with the same solutions.

Mayor Adams asked if the Council has a problem with the CAC looking at the projects? As long as it is done this week, so they can take action at the next meeting, March 7th. Mr. Minor asked if it would be helpful if he attended the CAC meeting; yes. Also Option 3 with a v-ditch in front of the driveway, would not work for him because his wife is in a wheelchair and it will create a great hardship for her mobility. Mr. Schultz from Jacobs tract said he could attend the meeting as well. He noted the length of time it is taking to get the drawings and plans from the Engineer on this. Dan Allen said it is because he is having to engineer the whole tract, not just Mr. Schults' house.

Council deferred this item to March 7th for action.

COUNCIL AGENDA:

Councilman Edmiston congratulated Rita Sargent, Parks and Recreation, for obtaining athletic shoes from a grant between Nike and National Recreation and Parks Association. Also he wants to get a briefing off-line about some of the issues in the Lakeview Mobile Home Park; several people have talked to him about the issues of speeding, drugs, unkept properties, etc. Also, there's a deep hole at the corner of So. Loop and Bay Avenue; the shoulder has washed out away from the pavement.

Councilman Schafer asked about the status of the food vendor trucks. He has had many contacts by phone, email and in person about the trucks. He wants to know if they are licensed, have their health permits, etc. Per staff, yes they do, and their operations are being controlled by Dan Allen, the Traffic Engineer. If they fail to operate as instructed, the police will cite them or their license will be cancelled.

Vice Mayor Dempsey asked when the air ambulance was coming back. He asked about a replacement unit and if we've done without them for three months, why do we need them? Chief Antonucci said the same thing happened to Mercy Air, they were gone for three months and Air 19 filled

in. The employees are part time, and are working elsewhere, not on our payroll.

Mayor Adams thanked Charter Communications for fixing the sound, it is good quality. He read an article in the Bakersfield Californian about calling Consumer Affairs if you have a car that can't be smogged. If you turn it in, you receive \$1,000 or they will give you \$500 to fix it. He wants the police chief to contact Consumer Affairs and find out how difficult it is to get this done. Also he reads in the Valley Press that they are having problems with parolees and housing projects, but California City has some issues as well. He feels we are being abused by L.A. County. When they send four cars full of parole officers to check on their people, we have a problem. They should be paroled in the County where they come from.

CONSENT CALENDAR/PUBLIC COMMENT:

CC 1. Check Register dated 2/13/06

CC 2. Minutes of February 7, 2006 regular meeting

Motion to adopt Consent Calendar by Councilman Schafer, second by Councilman Edmiston. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Edmiston, Lessenevitch, Schafer, Dempsey, Adams

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilman Lessenevitch, second by Councilman Schafer, to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Helen Dennis, City Clerk