

**REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA CITY CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, March 6, 2007, 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 21000 Hacienda Blvd.
MINUTES**

OPENING CEREMONIES:

Mayor Evans opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation, the city clerk called the roll:

PRESENT: Council members Edmiston, Schafer, Strong, Mayor Pro Tem Lessenevitch, Mayor Evans

ABSENT: None

Also Present:

City Manager William Way; City Attorney Wayne Lemieux; Police Chief Lunsford; City Clerk Hilliker

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Motion by Councilman Schafer, second by Councilmember Edmiston to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Councilmember Edmiston explained that the Army Corp of Engineers is attempting to get access to properties identified in the former Mojave Gunnery Range "C". This is to assess if there are any ammunitions or not. He felt this is important information for the community to be aware of. The advantage to the property owner is there is no cost to them and their property will be cleared. This information would also be beneficial to the City as well. This has come by an action of the Federal Government. Jay Field and Chuck Wald from the Army Corp. of Engineers attended to give an overview presentation as well as answer any questions.

Mayor Evans, along with members of the council, recognized Vince and Lorraine Balsitis on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. A proclamation honoring them will be presented to them at the next council meeting.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:

City Clerk Hilliker reported that County Elections should have the absentee votes posted on their website shortly after 8:00 pm. Precinct results should be posted by 10:00 pm. Also to announce the time to apply for positions available on the Planning Commission, as well as the Airport Advisory Board, will be from March 9th through March 23rd.

Mr. Way reported on the recent accident that took out the light in the medium in front of Victor Plaza. SCE has already been contacted and they have in turn subbed out the work to be done. As far as information on the accident itself, it is an ongoing investigation with the police department.

CIVIC/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ed Walheim, Cal City Forward, wanted to thank everyone who worked on Measure A. Also the Events Committee has made they calendar of upcoming concerts.

Bob Smith, East Kern Health Care District, briefed everyone on a meeting he attended, sponsored by Councilmember Hunter of Victorville. The focus of the discussion was the need for a Trauma Center in the High Desert.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Rhonda Vasquez requested more information be available when vacancies become available on the various boards and commissions, as well as a "job description "for each.

Ed Collins, would like to see the Ellison Plaza, hotel, etc making a little bit more of an effort to get things completed. Also concerned with billboards advertising a supermarket and sports bar here in the City, when they haven't really been started.

Wally Malindez of North Edwards would like to see smaller houses on large lots and is concerned with the fact the sewer system within the City is almost nonexistent.

NEW BUSINESS 1:

Discussion regarding trash issues in the city

Mr. Way opened by asking the Council to consider the major portion of the discussion regarding this topic be continued until the council workshop to be held on March 8th.

Mayor Evans voiced his concerns and feels we must take some critical action, quickly, or it is going to be years before this City should look the way it should. He feels the contractors, churches, and others should come together for a "summit", as well as someone from Benz. This is too important of an issue to wait any further.

Councilmember Edmiston concurred that the community as a whole needs to be part of the solution.

Concerns voiced by the public include questioning whether there is enough city man power to handle the number of violations pertaining to trash.

Mayor Evans answered that the city could use a lot more code enforcement officials; but that rides on what happens at the polls tonight. Also the subject of administrative fines will be discussed at further the workshop meetings.

Councilmember Schafer reminded everyone that they have a free service to dump items at Benz. The public does not need to put themselves up for a fine or public humiliation, just use this free service.

NEW BUSINESS 2:
Budget Amendment

Mr. Way reminded that the council that they adopted a budget for FY 06/07 which included a \$65,000 General Fund appropriation for data processing. The intention was to acquire new general budgeting/accounting software. He assessed, shortly after being hired, that the city needed to move forward with more sophisticated software to handle our accounting functions and to bring all of our accounting activities into one program. Following the failure of Measure J in November 06', staff made the recommendation to council to postpone the acquisition so that \$30,000 could be appropriated to fund a special election for Measure A on the March ballot. With that in mind staff preceded down the road of reviewing the software with all departments, as well as having the company come here so that members of the council could review it. The projected total cost, with their training activities, is \$70,925. After discussions with the company they are requesting a deposit of \$35,462.50, with the balance of \$35,462.50 to be paid next fiscal year.

Mr. Way went on to explain that though the current software can provide some of the reports which we request, it is not software that is specifically designed for the variety of reports which municipal software can create and provide. There are several hundred cities across the western United States that utilize this software. Pricing for this software is found to be competitive. The council will be able to have real time access to the output data from the accounting system wherever you might be. The public will also have some access of reporting functions via the internet. Mayor Evans feels that this software will provide the public with their request for accountability and transparency. He also reiterated that the previous council and Mayor wanted this change, voted for it and the current council should carry out their policy.

Motion by Councilmember Schafer, second by Councilmember Edmiston to approve \$35,462.50 deposit for software and budgeting the \$35,462.50 balance in next year's budget. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Edmiston, Schafer, Strong, Lessenevitch, Evans
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

CONSENT CALENDAR/PUBLIC COMMENT:

CC 1. Check register dated 02/27/07

CC 2. Approve minutes of Regular Meetings dated 01/16/07

Motion by Councilmember Edmiston, second by Mayor Pro Tem Lessenevitch to approve Consent Calendar. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Edmiston, Schafer, Strong, Lessenevitch, Evans

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

CLOSED SESSION:

CS 1. Per Govt. Code Section 54957.6, confer with Labor Negotiator William Way regarding California City Firefighters Association and CCPOA.

Mr. Way provided the Council with a copy of the MOU between the City and the Police Officers Association prior to the meeting. It was the consensus of staff and the council that further discussion in closed session was not warranted.

Motion by Councilmember Edmiston, second by Councilmember Schafer to approve the MOU and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Edmiston, Schafer, Strong, Lessenevitch, Evans

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilmember Schafer, second by Councilmember Edmiston to adjourn at 7:31pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise Hilliker, City Clerk