

**Minutes for
CALIFORNIA CITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday April 28, 2011
City Hall Council Chambers
California City, CA 93505**

The Chairman: B. Smith called the meeting to order, at 5:35 PM.

The following members were present: K. Collins, R. Salasavage, D. Schofield, B. Smith, D. Weaver, J. Wheeler and R. Wilson.

The following guests were present: City Manager: Tom Weil

Adoption of Agenda: D. Weaver made a motion to adopt the agenda with changing the date from 2010 to 2011 as requested by the Chairman, and D. Schofield seconded it.

The motion carried 7 - 0.

Minutes of Prior Meetings: The Secretary presented Minutes for March 24th 2011, R. Wilson made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented and R. Salasavage seconded it.

The motion carried 7 - 0

Old Business:

1. Updates for Special Tax Projects and Business information

The City Manager: Tom Weil presented this agenda item. **He** stated that **Neuralia Road** is a **Special Tax Project** that is moving ahead and the **City** is meeting with **Caltrans** on this project in the next two weeks, after that meeting the **City** will be preparing this road project to go out for bid. **The City Manager** continued by stating that **Redwood Blvd** is on the list with 4 lanes to **Hacienda Blvd**, intersection work at **Hacienda Blvd**. and roadway work to the **Middle School**. **T. Weil** stated that this project would happen during the school year, along with underground electric work near the schools.

D. Weaver asked if the **streetlight** at **Airway** and **Hacienda** could be moved to improve the lighting at that intersection? **He** stated that right now the **streetlight** is at the far north side of this intersection. **D. Weaver** asked if the streetlight could be placed in the middle of the new four-lane intersection?

T. Weil replied by stating he would look into this matter.

B. Smith asked about the schedule for **Neuralia Road**.

T. Weil replied by stating that this project would take **90 to 120 days** to complete and **he** hopes to have this project done by this fall.

The City Manager stated that the **Special Tax** has **15,000 dollars** set aside for the **4th of July fireworks** display this year.

D. Weaver stated that the **Fireworks** are the least of our problems.

T. Weil commented that the **City Council** held a workshop last **Monday** night dealing with the **Special Tax**.

The Council was suggesting a new **five-year tax** with an election in **March of 2012**. **Tom** stated that he felt the **City** needed to get some good things under their belt before they ask for another **Special Tax**. **The Family Dollar** store west of **Alta One**, the new **Hotel**, the **Community Center** in the **Park** and **Scout Island** are a few projects he would like to see completed prior to another **Special Tax**. **T. Weil** stated that the **City** meet with the **County** about the **Community Center**, and this project could go out to bid in **30-45 days**.

D. Weaver asked if we could get the word out in the newspaper about **Scout Island**?

T. Weil stated that we would see what could be done about this.

The City Manager commented that the **City Council** was looking into increasing the number of **Police** and **Fire Dept.** personnel. **Police from 15 to 18 sworn officers**, **Fire Dept. from 10 to 14 full time personnel** including a **Battalion Chief**. **The City Council** was considering looking at **100 % funding** for the **Police and Fire Depts.** that may result in an increase of the **Special Tax** amount and making tracking of the **Special Tax** funds much easier. With their plan the **General fund** would have more money for **Vehicles** and **Building maintenance**.

T. Weil also stated that there was consideration for **25 to 50 dollars** being discussed for water projects.

T. Weil stated that on **May 9th** there would be another workshop held by the **City Council**. **The Special Tax** will be discussed again.

The City Manager stated that if the **City** was to loose the **Special Tax** homeowner insurance rates could go up a lot, they could go up to double or triple their present rate.

T. Weil stated the **State** is considering to release many of its prisoners and have the burdens placed on the **Counties** and **Cities**.

Tom will be talking to the **City's EDC and Chamber of Commerce** discussing the possibility of them helping to promote the **Special Tax** and working on **Election** plans.

T. Weil stated that the **New Hotel** is hoping to open in **June** or **July** and they are waiting on engineering work to get **Electric** and **Gas** service to the project site. The **Sewer** and **Water Lines** are already in place for this project.

Tom stated the **Family Dollar Store** had their plans submitted to the **City** and they were being reworked due to the fact that they need to meet a 100 miles per hour wind rating for the building. The original plans they submitted were only rated for 85 miles per hour winds. **The City Manager** also stated that **Family Dollar Store** is supposed to be open in **November** and the store will be about 8,500 square feet in size.

J. Wheeler asked if the **New Hotel** and the **Family Dollar Store** planned to hire local residents?

T. Weil stated that he has been in communication with these two businesses and they have assured him that they plan to hire as many locals as possible.

J. Wheeler asked the **City Manager** if he knew more about the **Family Dollar Store**?

T. Weil explained that the company was based out of **North Carolina** with over **6,000 stores in 44 states**. The **Company** plans to have open about **300 stores in California in 2012** and about **300 more** each year after that until they have about **1,200 stores in California**. Most of the first stores in **California** are going into existing buildings. Right now the only two stores being built from the ground up are at **California City and Taft**.

D. Weaver asked about the property on the **North East corner** at **CCB** and **Proctor**

T. Weil stated that this property is a project in the developmental stages. They have to do some animal studies before proceeding with their project.

2. Continued presentation of an Ordinance of the City Council as it relates to an Advisory Body to Oversee Special Tax Receipts and Expenses

T. Weil talked about **David Evans** article that recently appeared in **The Mojave Desert News**. **David** was not talking about our group being recognized, but about us not being under direct control by the **City Council**. **The New City Council Ordinance** regarding the **California City Citizens Advisory Committee** had the first reading during the last **City Council meeting**, second reading will be at the next **City Council meeting** and after that the **New Ordinance** will go into effect after a **45-day waiting period**.

T. Weil encouraged our group to not take any action on **David Evans** newspaper article.

B. Smith stated he believes **David** slammed the **City Council**

T. Weil commented that he also believes **David** was slamming the **City Council**

D. Schofield wanted to know when **David Evans** was **the Mayor**.

Tom Weil replied by saying **David** was between **Larry Adams** and **Larry Adams**, then **Larry** was voted out by the **New Mayor: Patrick Bohannon**, and **Tom** also said he is not sure if **David's** comments are sour grapes, or what it is all about. **Tom** stated that **David Evans wife** works at the **Chamber of Commerce** office and that the **entire family** is involved with local **City Civic affairs** and that they are a real nice family.

The City Manager stated that the **City** is fixing to go into an outside audit in by **June** of this year and the audit results will be in before the fall of this year. **Tom** would like to see our group does an audit of **The Special Tax** before **March** of next year and that we could to get started some time after the **official City Audit** results are in.

3. Presentation of Approved Version of the Committee's Bylaws

The Secretary presented the new **Approved Version of the Committee's Bylaws**. **K. Collins** also stated that the effective date appears of the top of the first page and also on the bottom of every page.

The Chairman informed our group that the newest **Bylaws changes are now permanent** and that changes to our **Bylaws** can be made only once per year. As of **March** every year we can make changes, any other changes would have to happen next year.

4. Presentation of Updated Membership list - Rick Warren added

The Secretary passed out copies of the **newest updated list** to all members present.

The Chairman: Bob Smith asked if all the information for each member was current. All members present were ok. **Bob** informed all the members that if any changes were made to their information to please inform **himself** or the **Secretary**, this would allow us to keep our information current.

New Business:

1. Plans for Special Tax Audit

The Chairman: Bob Smith opened up this item for discussion.

The City Manager stated that late fall around this **August**, to set up an internal sub committee and to get with **Tom** to start this. **Tom** stated that **R. Wilson** was part of the last two audits done by this **Committee**.

R. Wilson also stated that **Chuck McGuire** was the **Chairman** of our organization at the time and **Chuck** had presented oral and written audit reports to the **City Council**

Tom Weil stated that **The Parks and Recreation Dept** is fully funded by the **Special Tax** and **Road Repair projects** are also funded by this **Special Tax**. **1.75 Million** per year are for **road projects** and the **City** leverages this money to work on road projects that may take years to be finished. **Tom** stated that some projects may be in the works for years but the **City** needs a funding source to keep these projects going and or to guarantee that they will have the money at a future date to finish these projects.

T. Weil stated that with **Beacon Solar** and **Sanitary Sewer projects** in the planning stages, the **City** decided to do the main roads in the **City**. **Tom** stated that **Special Tax funds** were spent this year on improvements to **California City Boulevard**. **Crack sealing** in the main portion of the **City** and some **other road improvement projects** were put on hold during the past year.

Tom Weil commented that there was a demonstration in **Mojave** about a **Soil Mixture** that cost about **30 dollars per ton** as compared to **Asphalt** that cost about **100 dollars per ton**. This may be a usable lower cost product to do road repair work in our **City**.

K. Collins asked if the **City** was planning on funding any future water line projects with a **new Special Tax**.

T. Weil stated that the **City** might possibly include some **new Special Tax funds** for future water line projects. This will be up to the **City Council** to determine this matter.

2. Members and Public Comments

D. Schofield asked what has been done on the **Special Tax** in the **Newspapers**? People need to know more about where their funds are going.

The City Manager stated that **The Mojave Desert Newspaper** now prints an item titled **The Mayors Corner**. This is an item that the **Mayor** is using to attempt to keep the **Citizens** informed on issues involving the **City**.

Tom also stated that the **City** is expanding its **Facebook page** and will use any and all new means to keep the **Citizens** informed on issues involving the **City**.

K. Collins commented that the **City** has a web site and maybe the **City** could put more **Special Tax** information along with pictures, on the **City web site**.

T. Weil commented that the **City Hall** information lady **Serina**, is taking notes from the public regarding the **City's Special Tax**.

T. Weil stated that the **City** plans to put up **Special Tax** signs on **Neuralia Road** once construction has begun.

D. Schofield asked about the number of properties involved in the **Special Tax**

The City Manager stated that the **City** has about **51,000 parcels** with about **4-5,000** occupied, so the actual **residents** receive a 10 to 1 return on the **Special Tax funds** paid every year. The **residents** are the caretakers for the **Community**.

T. Weil stated that he was glad to see **J. Wheeler** back at our meetings.

D. Weaver commented about the **Water Tax** that failed. **He** felt that there was not enough information given out and the **City** needed to provide more progress reports about this issue.

T. Weil stated that he felt the **Water Tax** failed **700 votes short** for two reasons, the first being that it became a political issue that started around election time, with some damaging letters appearing in the local **Newspaper**. **Tom** also stated that **very many negative issues** with **Bell, California** were appearing on **Television**, the **Internet** and in **Newspapers**.

Adjournment

R. Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and **R. Salasavage** seconded it.

Motion carried 7 - 0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.