

**REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA CITY CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, May 16, 2006, 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 21000 Hacienda Blvd.
MINUTES**

OPENING CEREMONIES: Mayor Adams opened the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, an associate of the Desert Song Foursquare, provided the invocation. The clerk called the roll:

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

ABSENT: None.

Also Present:

City Manager William Way; City Attorney Wayne Lemieux; Finance Director Terry Hicks; Acting Fire Chief Chris Hayes; Police Chief Linda Lunsford; Public Works Director Dan Allen; City Clerk Denise Hilliker

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Larry Phelps, School District Superintendent, was unable to attend and will be rescheduled for the following meeting.

City Manger introduced information on the proposed Sports Arena project. Councilman Schafer wanted clarification that the developer in negotiations wanted to build and operate the proposed Sports Arena. Mr. Way explained that the arena would still house city personnel and city functions and that they would just be operating the building structure itself for a period of time. The City would not immediately have title on the property. The Council inquired as to why. Mr. Way asked to be able to address that issue in a staff report to the council as the next council meeting.

Mayor Adams presented a plaque to Hal Fairbanks in recognition of his service on the Planning Commission.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

CIVIC/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

City Manager Way reported that there will be a community breakfast, served by himself and council, on May 20th 7:30-9:30am, at the top of the hill in Central Park. This fundraiser will benefit the volunteer committees coming together to bring Central Park back to its original state.

David Campbell - Special Tax Committee Update

Proposal will be brought to the Council at their June 6th meeting to be the renewal of the special tax on the Nov. ballot. Survey results will also be presented. Website (www.californiacityspecialtax.org) is also available for filling out and submitting survey, as well as information. Question came to the committee regarding the amount of monies received by the city for all the new homes being built. Contractors are paying anywhere from \$10,000. to \$15,000. in fees per permit. It was explained that out of these fees being collected only about \$1100.00 stays with the City. The remaining goes for AVEK fees as well as school fees. Out of the City's portion, none goes into the general fund for general services. By law, these monies have to be used to support the permit process, which can exceed the amount we are receiving.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Reggie Cyrus presented the Council with information regarding his conditional use permit.

Donald Jones - Graffiti problem. Feels it is out of hand and doesn't understand why our size police department cannot get it under control. Would like the City to put together some kind of joint program between the citizens and the police. Feels it will deter new businesses from wanting to come into the city. Perhaps a reward program for turning taggers could be established.

Councilman Dempsey explained that the police department is down 4 officers who are going from call to call. Until the citizens themselves start watching and calling, then we will always have this problem. It is very difficult for anyone to catch them in the act. Plus the court system is not willing to prosecute juveniles for graffiti, since they are overcrowded with those that commit more serious crimes.

Chief Lunsford concurred that the graffiti does need to come down as soon as it goes up. Part of the problem is that it is private property. She recommended that people volunteer for the VIP's program. Once their background is cleared they are given a vehicle and are able to go out and be ears and eyes for the department.

There was also discussion regarding speeding vehicles around the elementary school.

Hal Fairbank commented that since Chief Lunsford took over the department, there has been a noticeable a lot more police activity.

NEW BUSINESS

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NB 1. STRATA Project Specific Plan - City Manager

Mr. Way recalled that a couple of meetings ago the council approved entering into an agreement with a planning consultant to work on a project for a specific plan on south side of the city. Part of that agreement was that staff would be coming back to you with some consultant agreements. There are two agreements that staff is recommending approval of. One is with DKS, for traffic impact study (\$61,000.), the other is PCR, for biological resource study (\$136,490.). Potential developer of the property has already funded these consultant projects and Mr. way reminded the council, and the public, that the entire cost of this project will be funded by the developer.

Councilman Schafer raised concern over the rise in cost from the original budget received. Mr. Way replied that the City had received the entire funds of both consultant projects, including the elevated costs.

Councilman Schafer also received clarification in regards to his concern over the traffic study including Hwy 395.

Motion by Councilman Lessenevitch, second by Councilman Edmiston to approve both consultant agreements and authorize the City Manager to sign necessary documents; Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Edmiston, Schafer, Lessenevitch, Dempsey, Adams
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

COUNCIL AGENDA:

Councilman Edmiston - None

Councilman Schafer - Inquired when first draft of 06'-07' budget would be made available. Mr. Way replied that he anticipates giving council preliminary documents before the next meeting on June 6, 06.

He has received numerous emails and phone calls concerning threatening, aggressive nature dogs. Seriously we need to put this item on an agenda and make people take responsibility for their animals.

Also wanted to thank the owners of the apartments across from La Conquista for revamping a major corner along the main blvd.

Councilman Lessenevitch - Public has inquired about our government access channel. Perhaps the channel could also be used for getting the word out to the public concerning subjects like graffiti, development, and neighborhood watch. Also wanted to let the staff know that there are reasonable fares out of Meadows Field, Bakersfield to Sacramento.

Vice Mayor Dempsey - Encouraging neighborhood watch

Mayor Adams - Kern County is in need of two (2) people who can do set-up for the June 5th primary. See the City Clerk for details. Wants staff to look into the watering of the Par 3 Golf Course with affluent water.

CONSENT CALENDAR/PUBLIC COMMENT:

CC 1. Check Register dated 5/9/06

CC 2. Minutes of May 2, 2006, regular meeting

CC 3. Council adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CALIFORNIA CITY AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR THE SEWER BACKBONE PROJECT THROUGH THE USDA WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM AND INSTRUCTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN THE GRANT"

Motion by Councilman Schafer, second by Councilman Lessenevitch to approve Consent Calendar. Roll Call vote as follows:

AYES: Edmiston, Lessenevitch, Schafer, Dempsey, Adams

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

CLOSED SESSION:

CS 1. Pursuant to Gov't Code Sec. 54957.6, confer with Labor Negotiator William Way regarding Misc. Employees Union, C.C. Firefighters Assoc., CCPOA

Council recessed at 7:20 pm for closed session. Upon return at 8:37 pm, City Attorney Lemieux reported that in closed session the Council instructed the labor negotiator in matters appearing on the agenda.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilman Schafer second by Councilman Edmiston, to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise Hilliker, City Clerk