



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SOLVANG CITY COUNCIL

Council Chambers  
1644 Oak Street  
Solvang, Ca. 93463

April 27, 2015  
Monday  
6:30 pm

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mayor Richardson, Council Members Duus, Jamieson, Skytt and Zimmerman

STAFF: Brad Vidro, City Manager, Roy Hanley, City Attorney, Arleen Pelster, Planning/Community Development Director, Lt. Shawn O'Grady, Mary Ellen Rio, City Clerk

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Led by Council Member Skytt.

**PRESENTATION**

Mayor Richardson presented a proclamation to Neil Steadman in recognition of National Prayer Day.

Mayor Richardson presented a proclamation to Tracy Farhad recognizing May 2-10, 2015 as Travel and Tourism Week in the City of Solvang.

**CITY MANAGERS REPORT**

Informational report only.

1. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL**

Carey McKinnon, Supervisor of Solvang Library

- Provided an update on statistics for the library for the past quarter, January thru March
- Provided a series of pictures displaying various events that had been held
- Reviewed events coming in May and June

Kelly Rigoni

- Reside in an area of the City adjacent to Mission Ready Mix
- Their hours of operation begin very early in the morning and I find 3am to be a little too early
- Is it possible to for Council to contact them to see if a compromise can be reached

Mayor Richardson noted the City Manager will look into the situation.

Tracy Farhad

- Hosted 3 Familiarization Site Visits (Fam tours) with tour operators from Denmark
- A wine distributor also visited making contact with local wineries in hopes of importing more of our local wines to Denmark
- Laura Kath, SCVB publicist attended a Visit California Media Reception in Los Angeles and made many contacts including one with CNN
- Solvang was represented in a publication of a high end French Magazine which has a very large distribution
- Participated in the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association event in Los Angeles
- Hosted media prior to the Vintners Association Festival
- Thanked the City for hosting the northern division of host cities for Special Olympics

2. **COUNCIL REQUESTS**

None.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

No changes.

4. **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2015**

**Motion** was made by Council Member Jamieson, seconded by Council Member Skytt to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion carried** with a verbal response of 5 ayes.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda read by City Clerk.

- a. Approval of warrant register
- b. Approve revised job description for the Water Supervisor Position
- c. Adopt Resolution No. 15-\_\_\_\_, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Solvang authorizing the City Manager to execute an FTA Section 5311 Grant Agreement with the California Department of Transportation for operations assistance for the Santa Ynez Valley Transit System

**Motion** was made by Council Member Duus, seconded by Council Member Zimmerman to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 5 ayes.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**6. SOLVANG (SKYTT) MESA LANDSCAPE AND LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 2004-1, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING AND LEVYING ASSESSMENTS**

Staff report by City Manager

- No increase in assessment for the current year
- Anticipate a reserve balance of \$95,000 by the end of the fiscal year
- To clarify what appeared in the newspaper, the assessment can go as high as \$2200 per year, but it is remaining at \$1200
- Phase 2 will now be added to the landscape contract effective July 1

Public Comment:

Pat Kelly

- I just learned about this, however I know it was published in the paper
- The new homes are required to have drought resistant landscapes so I hope this water savings has been reflected in the assessments as the cost should decrease
- Maybe as we move forward all the areas can go to drought resistant, at which time with less attractive landscaping all homeowners will see a reduction in rates
- It appears in the report that when the project reaches full build out the assessments will be going to \$2200; with all the cost savings measures in place I am wondering about this
- Also, as one of the first homeowners in the development, I am concerned about the current landscaping maintenance, the developer was initially taking care of this and we were paying fees, what happened to those assessments, did they go into reserves; seems like a lot of money in reserves for the capital infrastructure improvements

Sharon Leforth

- Concerned when I read the newspaper article as it did make it seem like the assessment was doubling
- Understood with full build out the costs would be going done; want to make sure we pay close attention to expenses so we do not automatically increase costs
- The area is wonderful to live in and I don't like to see the brown lawns including mine however maybe we could cut back a little on the features for beauty and avoid increasing the assessments

**Motion** was made by Mayor Richardson, seconded by Council Member Skytt to adopt Resolution 15-\_\_\_\_, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Solvang confirming and levying assessments for Fiscal Year 2015-16, and authorizing the City Manager to sign the necessary documents, on behalf of the City, to place the assessments on the property tax roll for Fiscal Year 2015-16. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 5 ayes.

## 7. ADOPTION OF THE 2015-2023 DRAFT HOUSING ELEMENT

Staff report by Planning/Community Development Director

- This General Plan amendment to update the City's Housing Element is required by State law
- Jurisdictions are required to update their housing allocation numbers for the 2015-2023 planning period
- Planning Commission and the City Council reviewed the draft in October 2014 and submittal to the state was completed on October 30, 2014
- The State review was completed and a letter of approval with suggested changes was issued on December 29, 2014
- If the changes are approved by Council the state will then certify our Housing Element

Public Comment:

Michael ? (No speaker slip)

- Referring to PowerPoint map, inquired if the information reflects the maximum number of build outs at 64 units for the Peterson property adjacent to Skytt Mesa; would it include the entire piece of the property, as there are many older oak trees

Planning/Community Development Director responded that when properties are being assessed it usually utilizes all of the acreage however when the time comes to really look at the development, all things are considered such as heritage trees, slopes and any irregularities.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Skytt, seconded by Council Member Duus to adopt Resolution 15-\_\_\_, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Solvang adopting an amendment to the Solvang General Plan consisting of updated Housing Element; and certifying the Negative Declaration as adequate environmental review pursuant to the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 5 ayes.

## 8. WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Staff report by City Manager

- 2015 state water allocation is 20% or 300 AF with a carryover from 2014 at 443 AF
- Reviewed the status of the producing capacity of City wells
- Water supply Management Plan should be ready for Council review in June
- City should remain at the 25% required reduction rate

In response to Council concerns about water usage in areas that rely on tourism, City Attorney responded that the mandate does not take this into consideration and the figures are based solely on residential use.

Council Members discussed the water problems with Council Member Jamieson responding that the state does not have a water shortage we have a water management problem. Mayor Richardson inquired if the penalty for not reaching the 25% reduction in usage could be somehow used to educate residents in water reducing measures, possibly discussing this at the water workshop.

Public Comment:

Pat Kelly

- Inquired if all the hotels and motels have been mandated by the City to install low flow fixtures and if not can they charge an additional tax to have the tourists pay for usage
- If Skytt Mesa homeowners have undeveloped backyards is there an incentive to have them put in drought resistant landscapes

City Manager responded that there are rebates available however they would be for existing homeowners who are taking out lawns and replacing with drought resistant materials

Gay Infanti

- During the water workshop I think it would be a good idea to revisit the water usage for hotels, restaurants and residential customers – there are many newly developed appliances available now that use much less water

Information was received by Council and direction given to staff.

**9. CITY OF SOLVANG GOALS-UPDATE (Tabled from the meeting of April 13, 2015)**

Staff report by City Manager

- The update was provided a year ago with Council direction to table until after the election
- It was decided to take the goals individually with Council actions as follows:

Goal #1 **WORK TOWARD WATER INDEPENDENCE**

- objective i) Provide ongoing education to customers
- objective ii) Pursue additional water supplies
- objective iii) Develop additional storage
- objective iv) Develop equitable rate structure
- objective v) Establish rates sufficient to cover costs
- add objective vi) Pursue membership in CCWA
- add objective vii) Evaluate Recycled/ reclaimed water

Goal #2 **IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION**

- objective i) Delete – Council cancelled the project as the funding could not be identified
- objective ii) Delete upon completion of CalTrans work as study verified amending some of the speed limits on Mission Dr.
- objective iii) Revised objective to pursue the components of the Mission Drive Corridor Study approved by Council which included signalization and better lighting of crosswalks

Goal #3 **ENHANCE THE PROFITABILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF THE TRC/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- objective i) Consider a long term parking plan
- objective ii) Promote more environmentally friendly design in future planning
- objective iii) Delete – Hired an Economic Development Director
- objective iv) Pursue economic diversity

Goal #4 **IMPROVE PARKS AND RECREATION**

**No changes**

objective i) Work with County and City of Buellton on a Valley-wide parks & recreation authority

objective ii) Study possibility of a Youth Center

objective iii) Study possibility of establishing a community center

Goal #5 **MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND INTER-AGENCY RELATIONS**

add objective i) Continuation of ad hoc committee with Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

Goal #6 **MAINTAIN EMERGENCY OPERATION PLAN**

objective i) Stage disaster drills/table top exercises

objective ii) Provide training

objective iii) Develop policy for customer service and information to residents during emergencies

Goal #7 **SUPPORT TOURISM INDUSTRY**

objective i) Continue funding promotions through the Solvang Conference and Visitors Bureau

objective ii) Accountability for use of promotion funding

Goal #8 **ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE**

objective i) Increase online availability of services

objective ii) Delete – Adopted a social media policy

objective iii) Evaluate transit needs

Goal #9 **MAINTAIN QUALITY STAFF**

objective i) Provide continued education & Training

Goal #10 **EVALUATE CAPITAL NEEDS**

objective i) Maintain pavement management system

objective ii) Maintain Capital Improvement Program

Goal #11 **IMPROVE FINANCIAL STABILITY**

objective i) Continue to build reserves

objective ii) Evaluate/Reduce Pension Liability

**Added new Goal:**

Goal #12 **FUTURE GROWTH**

objective i) Modify the General Plan to expand the Sphere of Influence

objective ii) Pursue study of possible annexations

Public Comment: None.

**10. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (Oral reports: Each Council Member will give oral reports on their activities in relation to the following committee or agencies. In addition, each member may report on items that will be included on the agenda for such committee or agency and seek guidance from the Council as a whole on such items, including on what position to take on behalf of the City)**

- **Santa Barbara County Association of Governments**

Mayor Richardson reported summary had been distributed to Council

- **Air Pollution Control Board**

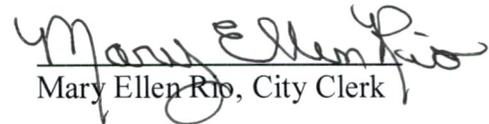
Mayor Richardson reported that discussions were held on the green gas emissions with a special meeting being called to develop or approve the standards for the emissions.

- Joint Wastewater Committee
- Finance Committee
- Water Committee
- Indian Gaming Benefit Committee
- California Joint Powers Insurance Authority
- Other Committees/meetings

**11. ADVANCE CALENDAR**

Informational calendar – no action.

**12. ADJOURNMENT** Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 8:07pm.

  
Mary Ellen Rio, City Clerk