



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE SOLVANG CITY COUNCIL**

Council Chambers
1644 Oak Street
Solvang, CA 93463

June 28, 2021
Wednesday
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Uhrig, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Charlie Uhrig; Mayor Pro Tem Orona; Councilmembers Robert Clarke; Mark Infanti; and Jim Thomas

STAFF: Xenia Bradford, City Manager/City Clerk; Chelsea O’Sullivan, Assistant City Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Councilmember Thomas

CEREMONIAL ITEMS/COMMENDATIONS

City Manager/City Clerk presented Years of Service Awards to Trevor Holley and Jeff Morss.

PRESENTATIONS - None

1. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL

City Manager/City Clerk Xenia Bradford invited members of the public attending in person, on Zoom or on the phone, to comment on items not in the agenda.

There were no public comments on this item.

2. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager/City Clerk Bradford provided the following highlights:

- Provided updates of Cal/OSHA Regulation changes
- Reported on the recent distribution of the Quarterly Newsletter
- Addressed the General Plan Update
- Discussed the Solvang Festival Theater remodel
- Spoke about recreation programs back in session
- Reminded residents of existing drought conditions
- Presented an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Requested nominations for Employee of the Quarter

- Listed upcoming City events
- Talked about the Advance Calendar and future agenda items

3. COUNCIL COMMENTS, REQUESTS AND ADVANCE CALENDAR

Councilmember Infanti reported someone on Nextdoor is offering pickleball training and discussed a recent meeting of the Air Pollution Control District and addressed related programs.

Councilmember Clarke requested that City Council address Fjord Drive, the Copenhagen closure, and the Farmers Market in an upcoming meeting; reported that People Helping People has hired a Diversity Coordinator to address an increase in hate crimes, discrimination and bias in the community working with Inclusion SYV; stated the latter has a statement on their website about there being an increase in bullying and bigotry and asked that the City address those serious allegations.

Mayor Pro Tem Orona discussed a meeting she had with Assemblymember Bennett, District Supervisor Joan Hartman and members of SBCAG regarding a bike path that would connect Buellton and Solvang.

Mayor Uhrig reported attending an SBCAG meeting where Measure A was discussed; stated many of the State's rest stops are closed, as they are under construction; addressed receipt of a Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant by SBCAG; announced People Helping People will be making a presentation at the July 26th City Council meeting and presented an update of food distributions by the Food Bank.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Agenda as Presented.
- b. Approval of Minutes of Special City Council meeting on June 2, 2021, and Regular City Council meeting on June 14, 2021
- c. Receive Santa Barbara County Sheriff Monthly Status Report for May 2021
- d. Second reading of Ordinance establishing regulations for electric trolley operations within the City limits

Mayor Pro Tem Orona recused herself from Item No. 4.d, as she has a financial interest in electric trolley operations within the City limits and left the Chambers.

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

Motion by Councilmember Infanti to approve Consent Agenda Item No. 4.d, as presented, seconded by Councilmember Clarke, and carried with a roll call vote of 4-0, with Mayor Pro Tem Orona, recused.

Mayor Pro Tem Orona returned to the Chambers and took her place on the dais.

Motion by Councilmember Clarke to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda, as presented, seconded by Councilmember Thomas, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING - None

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

5. RECEIVE PARKING STUDY PRESENTATION

Receive Parking Study Presentation. City conducted a Parking Study in Fiscal Year 2020-21. The Parking Study will be used to inform the General Plan Update.

City Manager/City Clerk Xenia Bradford introduced the item and deferred to the City's consultant for a presentation.

Jeff Weckstein, Walker Consultants, narrated a PowerPoint presentation with highlights of the Solvang Downtown Parking Study.

Discussion followed regarding the fiscal impacts of the various recommendations made, the turnaround of various options until they pay for themselves, a parking permit program for residents, private parking lots available to the general public, the possibility of people parking in neighborhoods with the implementation of paid parking on City streets, the lack of parking enforcement in the City, the need for signage directing people where to park, mechanical/remote enforcement mechanisms, parking at the Veterans Hall, and consideration of parking at Lot 72.

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments.

Jennifer Soni

- Spoke about parking being maxed out, especially on weekends
- Presented options for consideration including Veterans Hall
- Suggested implementing use of a shuttle or trolley for people parking outside walking boundaries
- Mixing land uses for structures incorporating both small businesses and parking

Dennis Beebe

- Spoke about the lack of signs directing people where to park
- Suggesting adding large signs with a Danish motif
- Supported remote parking and shuttles
- Recommended considering the Union Bank, the Veterans Hall, and the Solvang Elementary School parking lots
- Discussed updating the City website with parking information
- Opposed all parking controls relative to money or time

Hans Duus, Santa Maria

- Provided a brief history of parking in Solvang
- Discussed the need for better signage identifying parking lots
- Spoke about considering merchants from surrounding cities
- Suggested a special parking lot for the handicapped

There were no other public comments.

Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

City Council directed staff to return with a report and recommendations relative to signage, remote parking, providing shuttle service, Lot 72, the City website, additional parking opportunities on private lots and addition of ADA parking.

Mayor Uhrig reopened public comments.

Jennifer Soni

- Suggested potential routes for a shuttle service

Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

Recess/Reconvene

Mayor Uhrig called for a recess at 8:03 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m., with all Councilmembers, present.

6. FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 BUDGET ADOPTION

- Review Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Supplemental Budget for Operating Programs and Capital Improvement Program
- Adopt Resolution approving Gann Limit calculation for Fiscal Year 2021-22
- Adopt Resolution adopting Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget

City Manager/City Clerk Bradford narrated a PowerPoint presentation with a summary overview on the City's Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget.

Discussion followed regarding anticipated Capital Improvement expenses, by fund, the year-to-year comparison of operating contracts, traffic counts and tree management and street tree management.

Councilmember Thomas requested adding the Therapeutic Riding Center's Senior Program to the list of Agency Grants Recommendations at \$5,000.

City Manager/City Clerk Bradford indicated changes can be made according to City Council's discretion and addressed the application process and policies relative to Agency Grants.

City Manager/City Clerk Bradford continued with the presentation addressing strategic goals and presented recommendations.

Discussion followed regarding separating public works and utilities departments, maintenance vacancies, increases in the janitorial contract and the possibility of going back to pre-COVID-19 levels, the possibility of using a different contractor for trash pickup, focusing on cutting back, as needed to reduce expenses, and having a separate contract for Code Enforcement.

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Orona expressed concerns about setting precedence by allocating a grant to the Therapeutic Riding Center; noted there is a process in place for applying for City grants; stated the organization did not apply for a grant and suggested scheduling another round of applications for City grants.

Councilmember Thomas believed they did not apply because they thought they did not qualify and added they would qualify, as their senior program is specific to seniors.

Discussion followed regarding inviting the agency to present at a future City Council meeting to have Council consider allocating funding to their senior program.

City Council directed staff to return with a report for consideration of allocating funds to the Therapeutic Riding Center's Senior Program at the City Council meeting of July 26, 2021.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Orona to adopt a Resolution approving Gann Limit calculation for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and adopt a Resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget, as presented, seconded by Councilmember Infanti, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

7. APPROVE OPERATING CONTRACT EXTENSIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22

Approve contract extensions as follows and authorize City Manager to execute the contracts:

- a. Contract extension with IDK for Marketing Services through December 31, 2021
- b. Contract extension with Lanspeed for Information Technology services through December 31, 2021
- c. Contract extension with Willdan for Building Services through June 30, 2022
- d. Contract extension with Urban Planning Concepts for Planning Services not to exceed \$30,000 through June 30, 2022

City Manager/City Clerk Bradford presented four contracts which she recommended that City Council consider extending and reported that all City contracts include a 30-day termination clause.

Discussion followed regarding the proposed IDK contract amendments, expenses related to the creation of QR Codes and payments for IDK events.

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

Motion by Councilmember Infanti to approve contract extensions as follows and authorize City Manager to execute the contracts:

- a. *Contract extension with IDK for Marketing Services through December 31, 2021*
- b. *Contract extension with Lanspeed for Information Technology services through December 31, 2021*
- c. *Contract extension with Willdan for Building Services through June 30, 2022*
- e. *Contract extension with Urban Planning Concepts for Planning Services not to exceed \$30,000 through June 30, 2022*

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Clarke and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

8. COVID-19 RE-OPENING OF ECONOMY - MODIFIED CITY REGULATIONS
POLICY DIRECTION

Receive staff report on COVID-19 State regulation changes and provide with policy direction to address currently modified City regulations including Copenhagen Drive temporary closure

City Manager/City Clerk Bradford presented an update of changes in the COVID-19 State regulations, the reopening of the economy and changes in City regulations.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of doing a confidential survey of business owners on Copenhagen, City Council prior direction regarding maintaining the closure of Copenhagen through October, encroachment permits, considering alternative options for Copenhagen, challenges in terms of deliveries to businesses on Copenhagen and logistics, status of the terrace lights, actions by the City of Santa Barbara.

Motion by Councilmember Infanti to extend the City Council meeting beyond 9:30 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Thomas, and carried with a roll call vote of 3-2, with Councilmember Clarke and Mayor Pro Tem Orona, opposed.

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments.

Tracy Beard, Solvang Chamber of Commerce (via Zoom)

- Stated there has to be a good reason for keeping Copenhagen closed
- Spoke about the need to develop a good survey for businesses on Copenhagen
- Suggested considering keeping it closed through December
- Discussed the need to focus funding on business improvement

Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

Discussion followed regarding the need to reestablish enforcement of the City's Sign Ordinance.

Motion by Mayor Uhrig to have the City eliminate the relaxed sign regulations by July 31, 2021, seconded by Councilmember Infanti, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

City Manager/City Clerk Bradford reported staff will return to City Council with a report and results of the survey in approximately one month.

Councilmember Thomas reiterated the need for a confidential survey.

9. AB1234 REPORT OUT AND COUNCIL CLOSING COMMENTS - None

10. ADJOURNMENT- Mayor Uhrig adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

XENIA BRADFORD
City Manager/City Clerk