



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF
SOLVANG CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION AND
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SOLVANG CITY COUNCIL**

Council Chambers
1644 Oak Street
Solvang, CA 93463

August 23, 2021
Monday
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION JOINT SESSION

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

ROLL CALL

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

Planning Commission Members: Joannie Jamieson; Aaron Petersen; Justin Rodriguez; and Jack Williams

ABSENT: Commissioner Scott Gold

STAFF: Xenia Bradford, City Manager/City Clerk; David Fleishman, City Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Councilmember Clarke

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE – VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES ADOPTION

Review and adopt Vision & Guiding Principles for the Comprehensive General Plan Update 2040

City Manager/City Clerk Xenia Bradford introduced the item and Jim Harnish and Brent Gibbons with Mintier Harnish and deferred to them for a report.

Brent Gibbons narrated a PowerPoint presentation with an update of the vision and guiding principles; discussed the General Plan update process; addressed phases, the existing conditions and trends workbook and community engagement and presented details of the development of the vision and guiding principles.

Discussion followed regarding review of the vision statement and guiding principles by the Design Review Committee, the rationale behind changing "multi-cultural" to "cultural" and including other heritages besides Danish.

Mayor Pro Tem Orona spoke about being more inclusive in the vision statement.

Planning Commission Chair Williams opined what is being presented as a vision statement is a statement of where the City is, today; noted it lacks goals and desired achievements and believed the last sentence speaks to the City's core values and does not belong in a vision statement.

Planning Commissioner Rodriguez felt the vision statement is verbose; suggested that it be shortened and concise and recommended defining Solvang as the Danish Capital of America.

Mayor Uhrig agreed the vision statement lacks a "vision" for the future.

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments.

Eric Hutchins

- Spoke about a vision statement implying a future state
- Agreed that it is a statement of what the City is, today
- Discussed the effort that has gone into developing it
- Noted it needs additional efforts in order to achieve a desired product

J.L. Duncan, GPAC Member

- Stated the intent was to describe Solvang as it exists and as it will exist in the future
- Spoke about challenges in working with various committees/groups
- Noted there was an attempt to be inclusive and use as many of the adjectives suggested by the members of the community, as possible
- Reported different cultures are addressed under the guiding principles

Nancy Emerson

- Agreed with Chair Williams's comments regarding the statement lacking a vision for the future
- Stated the idea is to produce a vision statement that people can remember
- Noted it should serve to guide in terms of how well the City is doing the work to become the kind of City it wishes to be 20 years from now
- Felt this is a good start but that additional work is needed to develop a good vision statement

Jennifer Soni, GPAC Member

- Talked about the differences in using active verbs versus being verbs
- Suggested looking at the vision statement in terms of what is versus an action

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of adding language such as "to remain" in order to depict the vision for the City's future and acknowledging the work that has occurred so far.

Planning Commissioner Rodriguez reiterated his suggestion for the vision statement as "The Danish Capital of America".

Chair Williams agreed with the guiding principles; suggested an expansion and reiteration of the proposed vision statement; felt the vision statement should be shorter and should support the guiding principles and reiterated the last sentence speaks to the City's core values and does not belong in a vision statement.

Discussion followed regarding City Council's ability to modify the vision statement as desired and circling back to

the vision statement after other sections have been completed.

Brent Gibbons continued with the presentation and reviewed the GPAC recommended guiding principles.

Discussion followed regarding addressing the museum and the Mission and including the Chumash and Spanish heritages under cultural resources.

Eric Hutchins

- Suggested the need to review what constitutes guidance at the right levels
- Noted the need to consider processes in guiding and making decisions

Sheila Benedict

- Complimented the GPAC and City consultants on their hard work

Discussion followed regarding diversifying, supporting the community, focusing on tourism, and considering a tourism-driven economy, addressing "buffered from the impacts of traffic" as something strived for, including the library under cultural resources and/or education, the need to be inclusive, including the City's relationship with the Chumash Tribe under cultural resources and listing preceding cultural groups.

Nancy Emerson

- Suggested removing "remain" from the neighborhood section
- Noted primary historic elements include the Chumash, Spanish, Mexican and Danish

J.L. Duncan, GPAC Member

- Spoke about guiding principles driving policies and aspirations
- Felt that listing cultural resources will be challenging in terms of groups included/excluded
- Suggested adding libraries after Danish village
- Recommended changing "remains" to "are" under neighborhoods

Esther Jacobsen Bates, GPAC Member

- Agreed with Mr. Duncan's suggestions
- Spoke about "multi-cultural" being inclusive
- Noted the need to include Spanish and Mexican influences

Discussion followed regarding placing emphasis on tourism being the City's economic driver.

Sheila Benedict

- Spoke about including multi-cultural elements and adding the mission

Discussion followed regarding living wage jobs and continuing to strive for a sustainable economy.

There were no other public comments.

Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

Motion by Councilmember Infanti to approve the Guiding Principles as discussed, seconded by Councilmember Thomas, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

The motion was approved by the Planning Commission 3-1 with Commissioner Jamieson, opposed.

ADJOURN JOINT SESSION – 8:03 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Uhrig, called the meeting to order at 8:11 p.m.

CEREMONIAL ITEMS/COMMENDATIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS

Elverhøj Museum of History & Art – Annual Report

This item was postponed to the regular City Council meeting of September 13, 2021.

1. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL

City Manager/City Clerk Xenia Bradford invited members of the public to comment on items not on the agenda.

Tracy Beard – Solvang Chamber of Commerce

- Discussed distribution of masks to the community and throughout the valley
- Spoke about updating some of their signs
- Noted businesses are still suffering the effects of COVID-19
- Requested adding consideration of extending safety protocols including waivers of the sign ordinance until after January 2022 to the next City Council agenda

Max Hanberg

- Apologized for the cancellation of Danish Days
- Noted continued impacts of COVID-19 and the need to be prudent

Jeff Lee – Teamsters Union Local 986

- Spoke about impacts of COVID-19
- Thanked City Manager Bradford and City Attorney Fleishman for their help

Sheila Benedict

- Discussed the St. George project
- Referenced the existing drought
- Felt building projects should be placed on hold until the drought has been resolved

J. Padfield

- Referenced the Old Lumberyard project
- Felt a project of that magnitude should be postponed until the General Plan update process is completed

There were no other public comments.

2. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager/City Clerk Bradford provided the following highlights:

- Announced the upcoming State of the City event
- Discussed the next General Plan update workshop
- Commented on the enforcement of the sign ordinance
- Provided an update on City staff recruitments
- Presented details of the Advance Calendar

Councilmember Thomas requested consideration of a City-wide implementation of signs for businesses on a future agenda and Mayor Pro Tem Orona agreed.

3. COUNCIL COMMENTS, REQUESTS AND ADVANCE CALENDAR

Mayor Uhrig discussed the SBCAG Easy Bike project; reported on Measure A Tax receipts; addressed the Clean Air Express; commented on the the Clean California program; provided data on the Bethania Church food bank and announced upcoming City events.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Agenda as Presented
- b. Receive Santa Barbara County Sheriff Monthly Report for the month of July 2021
- c. Approve renegotiated one-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Teamsters Union Local 986, and authorize the City Manager to execute approved documents

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Orona to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, seconded by Councilmember Infanti, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

5. TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Receive applications for Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC) and appoint committee members per the ordinance establishing the committee

City Manager/City Clerk Bradford presented details of the report.

Councilmember Infanti appointed Kim Jensen and listed his involvement in the City.

Mayor Uhrig appointed John Martino.

Mayor Pro Tem Orona appointed Chery Elizabeth Shallenbrger and spoke about her professional experience.

Councilmember Clarke, appointing Barry Prescott, and Councilmember Thomas, appointing Max Hanberg, commented on the experience of their appointees to the TAC.

Mayor Pro Tem Orona recommended appointing Alexander Grenier to the TAC.

Alexander Grenier spoke about his work with the Chamber of Commerce; noted his desire to contribute to the community and talked about creating activities for youth in the community.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Orona to appoint Alexander Grenier to the Tourism Advisory Committee, seconded by Councilmember Infanti, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

Mayor Uhrig recommended appointing Perry Baker to the TAC.

Councilmember Clarke suggested appointing Jennifer Soni or Linda Johansen to the TAC.

Tracy Beard, Solvang Chamber of Commerce, spoke about bridging the Chamber of Commerce and the tourism community and asked for a Chamber representative to be appointed to the TAC.

Motion by Councilmember Thomas to appoint Tracy Beard to the Tourism Advisory Committee, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Orona, and carried with a roll call vote of 4-1, with Councilmember Clarke, opposed.

6. SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER REMODEL PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST

Receive a request from the Solvang Festival Theater for \$500,000 pledge over a five-year period toward the \$4.7 million project to remodel the Solvang Festival Theater

City Manager/City Clerk Bradford introduced the item and addressed the Solvang Festival Theater funding request.

Chris Neilsen, Chair, Solvang Festival Theater, discussed Theater Fest and the proposed renovation project and asked the City to invest in the venture.

Ann Foxworthy Lewellen, Ph.D., Vice Chair, Solvang Festival Theater, spoke about generation of income for the City; talked about the impacts of COVID-19; discussed their new vision statement and asked for the City's support.

Mayor Pro Tem Orona commented positively on the benefits of the Theater.

Councilmember Thomas suggested forming a subcommittee to study the matter and Councilmember Clarke agreed to explore funding options.

Discussion followed regarding the uncertainty of the times and making a commitment for a lesser amount.

City Attorney Fleishman spoke about the possibility of City funding implicating prevailing wage for the project and suggested that City Council direct staff to work with Theater Fest to work on a way that would best effectuate Council's intent to support Theater Fest without making a firm commitment at this time.

City Council concurred to direct staff to work with Theater Fest to determine the best way for the City to support Theater Fest.

Motion by Councilmember Clarke to switch Items No. 7 and 8, seconded Councilmember Thomas, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

7. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY REGARDING THE CREATION OF A DISTRICT-BASED ELECTION SYSTEM

Hold the second Public Hearing to receive input from the community regarding the creation of a district-based election system. The hearing will be held at 9:00 pm.

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

Daniel Phillips, National Demographics Corporation, narrated a PowerPoint presentation regarding the creation of a district-based election system.

Discussion followed the initial deadline for draft maps, creation of maps by a demographer based on input from City Council and the public, obtaining the latest census data, upcoming related meetings and input relative to the communities that should remain in the City of Solvang.

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments.

Aaron Petersen

- Commented on County districts
- Suggested ways of counting and forming districts
- Recommended working from the outside, in

Sheila Benedict

- Expressed concerns regarding low voter turnout in Hispanic communities
- Spoke against gerrymandering
- Opined the City is too small for districts to work

City Attorney Fleishman noted if the City chooses not to go through the redistricting process, it will be expensive; acknowledged challenges and noted there are ways for redistricting to be done.

Mr. Phillips cautioned against the City submitting any maps before the official data is out and spoke about smaller areas that would serve as building blocks on what districts may look like.

Public Works Director Matt van der Linden agreed with Mr. Petersen's comments in terms of working from the outer City areas, in to form districts.

Tracy Beard – Solvang Chamber of Commerce

- Suggested scheduling a meeting on a Saturday to teach residents to use the app

Eric Hutchins

- Talked about disliking mandates and doing the right thing for the City
- Suggested the need to discuss principles and arrive, internally, at what is good for Solvang

Discussion followed regarding the costs of fighting the mandate, on principle, the possibility of having districts with no candidates running, the need to create an ordinance that establishes a process for electing/appointing candidates when no one is running and avoiding situations that may deter people from running.

There were no other public comments.

Council concurred to direct staff to return with a report, to an upcoming City Council meeting and to allow additional public input.

Discussion followed regarding when the 2020 census data will be available.

Motion by Councilmember Clarke to extend the meeting past 9:30 p.m., seconded Councilmember Thomas, and carried with a roll call vote of 3-2, with Councilmembers Clarke and Thomas, opposed.

8. COPENHAGEN DRIVE CLOSURE

Receive results of the community surveys and provide policy direction whether Copenhagen Drive will re-open to vehicular traffic on November 1, 2021, or will remain closed.

City Manager/City Clerk Bradford narrated a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Copenhagen Drive closure, including results of a community survey.

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments.

Tracy Beard – Solvang Chamber of Commerce

- Expressed concerns regarding continued impacts of COVID-19 on the community
- Reported the Chamber will continue to support the City
- Spoke about the need to improve the community and economic development
- Noted the City must do better in terms of spending its money

Aaron Petersen

- Opined Copenhagen Drive should remain closed until health restrictions are completely eliminated
- Suggested the need to study the matter include thoroughly, including parking and traffic, long term
- Urged City Council to think hard about shutting down the east/west corridor
- Recommended doing a traffic study at some point when Copenhagen opens

Jennifer Soni

- Spoke about how the closure of Copenhagen has affected her business
- Talked about tourists wanting to be outside, enjoying Solvang
- Expressed concern about the lack of anyone in the City addressing the negativity along Copenhagen, including the lack of restrooms and loud music
- Suggested the City invest in installing a pedestrian walkway along Copenhagen

Eric Hutchins

- Spoke about Copenhagen going in the direction of Knotts Berry Farm
- Discussed tourists wanting to be outdoors

Joy Culley, Owner, Solvang Spice Merchant

- Spoke positively about promenades but was unsure about whether it is the right thing for Copenhagen Drive
- Noted most people collect on the sidewalks
- Discussed challenges with increased traffic and lack of parking
- Suggested opening Copenhagen for traffic and parking but using parklets for outdoor space for restaurants
- Stated she would like to see an alternate route for the trolley if the City decides to permanently close Copenhagen Drive

There were no other public comments.

Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

Discussion followed regarding keeping Copenhagen Drive closed for a few months, at least, opening up the entrance to Parking Lot 2, the possibility of considering a hybrid program (partial closure), accommodating art installations, and keeping Copenhagen closed until after the holidays.

Motion by Councilmember Thomas to extend the closure of Copenhagen Drive until January 31, 2022, seconded Councilmember Infanti, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

9. CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING STAGE 2 DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS

1. Adopt Resolution declaring a Stage Two Drought Condition for the City of Solvang and implement associated mandatory water use restrictions with penalties.
2. Direct Utilities Department staff to investigate the possibility of a long-term exchange agreement with other State water recipients

Public Works Director van der Linden narrated a PowerPoint presentation with the report.

Discussion followed regarding opportunities to purchase supplemental water, impacts on construction, and proposed cutbacks and impacts on residential and commercial customers.

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments.

There were no public comments on this item.

Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

Motion by Councilmember Infanti to adopt Resolution declaring a Stage Two Drought Condition for the City of Solvang and implement associated mandatory water use restrictions with penalties and direct Utilities Department staff to investigate the possibility of a long-term exchange agreement with other State water recipients, seconded Mayor Pro Tem Orona, and carried with a roll call vote of 4-1 with Councilmember Clarke, opposed.

10. CITY GOVERNMENT LOGO

Consider adoption of a new City official government logo to represent the City government and be used for the City website, letterhead, and other official documents

Assistant to the City Manager David Packard narrated a PowerPoint presentation regarding adoption of a new City government logo including results of a survey and proposed options.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of using a previously submitted windmill design, the need to obtain input from the public, the importance of choosing a color palette for the website redesign, the need for more options for City Council to review.

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments.

Joy Culley, Owner, Solvang Spice Merchant

- Spoke about the mermaid not being representative of the City
- Declared support of using a windmill
- Felt the use of a red color would be beneficial

There were no other public comments on this item.

Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

Council concurred to provide general direction to staff to return with other options to consider.


11. AB1234 REPORT OUT AND COUNCIL CLOSING COMMENTS

Mayor Uhrig encouraged residents to attend the State of the City event.

12. ADJOURNMENT- Mayor Uhrig adjourned the meeting at 11:50 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

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XENIA BRADFORD

City Manager/City Clerk