



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

September 13, 2021  
Monday  
6:30 p.m.

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**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Uhrig called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 1644 Oak Street, Solvang, California.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Staff Present: City Manager Xenia Bradford, City Attorney David Fleishman, City Clerk Annamarie Porter

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Councilmember Infanti

**CEREMONIAL ITEMS/COMMENDATIONS - None**

**PRESENTATIONS**

Santa Ynez Valley Foundation Proclamation

Elverhøj Museum of History & Art - Annual Report

Hidden Wings Presentation

Mayor Uhrig invited public comments.

Ryan Abbott (Via Zoom) thanked to City for its programs, spoke about large bins of dried wood and trash near pickleball courts, and spoke in support of Hidden Wings

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

City Clerk Porter invited members of the public to comment on items not in the agenda.

Kim Jensen, Vikings Charity Group announced an upcoming blood drive on September 21 and 22, 2021 at Veterans Hall & urged the public to participate

Eric Hutchins expressed concerns regarding the appointment of a teenager to the Tourism Advisory Committee, felt a 16-year-old is not qualified to serve on an advisory committee, and urged City Council to avoid the appearance of impropriety by appointing best-qualified individuals to advisory committees and rescind the appointment of the subject teenager

Matt Vander Linden, City of Solvang, Public Works Director/City Engineer announced his upcoming retirement on December 31, 2021, then read a written prepared statement hoping for a smooth transition

There were no other public comments.

Councilmembers Infanti, Clarke and Thomas, and Mayor Uhrig spoke about Public Works Director/City Engineer Vander Linden's service and expertise and thanked him for his years of service and help.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Bradford provided the following highlights:

- Welcomed new City Clerk Annamarie Porter
- Discussed the General Plan Update including next steps
- Addressed communications including the declaration of the Stage 2 drought conditions
- Talked about an upcoming meeting of the Design Review Committee
- Spoke about enforcement of the Sign Ordinance
- Announced upcoming Parks and Recreation events
- Listed City staff internal promotions and staff recruitments
- Presented details of the Advance Calendar

### **3. COUNCIL COMMENTS, REQUESTS AND ADVANCE CALENDAR**

Councilmember Infanti reported the Ground Water Sustainability Plan is open for public comment and urged residents to submit their comments at [www.santaynezwater.org](http://www.santaynezwater.org).

Councilmember Clarke referenced appointment of a 16-year-old to the Tourism Advisory Committee; noted he stated he wanted someone who had nothing to do with the TRC as a voice on that committee and announced the recent passing of Petti Pfau.

Councilmember Thomas referenced the expense report and asked for clarification regarding Platinum + for Businesses and City Manager Bradford explained it is payment for a City credit card.

Mayor Uhrig offered condolences on the passing of Petti Pfau; announced the Solvang Library Virtual Book Club; provided an update on Food Bank statistics and discussed recent and upcoming meetings.

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of Agenda as Presented.
- b. Approve Warrants – accounts payable and receivables for August 2021
- c. Approve Minutes of the Special Joint and Regular Meeting of August 23, 2021
- d. Approve and adopt the Resolution to accept the State of Good Repair Program FY 2021-22 Farebox Funding, approve the Project List, and authorize the City Manager to apply for and accept State of Good Repair Program funds and execute any necessary funding and contractual documents.

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

### **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **5. RESOLUTION ADOPTING UPDATED GENERAL FUND USER AND REGULATORY FEES**

Staff recommends the City Council hold a Public Hearing, continued from August 9, 2021, and adopt the proposed Resolution, with updated fees to be effective November 15, 2021.

City Manager Bradford presented background and noted the subject document has been available for public review.

Discussion followed regarding standard fees for filing appeals.

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments, and there being no one wishing to speak Mayor Uhrig closed public comments and the Public Hearing

Councilmember Clarke noted Solvang had not raised its fees since 2005, the need to recover costs, increasing fees incrementally, over time,

*Motion by Councilmember Infanti to waive further reading and adopt a Resolution adopting General Fund user and regulatory fees, seconded by Councilmember Clarke, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.*

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **6. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ELECTRIC TROLLEY LICENSE APPLICATION**

Public hearing, per Municipal Code Title 4, Chapter 12, to consider electric trolley license application from Horzes, Entertainment LLC. Due to continued review of the application staff recommends continuing the Public Hearing to September 27 Regular Council Meeting

City Manager Bradford presented a brief report.

Mayor Uhrig opened the public comment.

Jennifer Soni expressed concern whether there are additional applications for transportation, spoke about alternative transportation options, and suggested increased accessibility to transportation systems

Ernie Cascaro, Business Owner referenced Horzes Entertainment, LLC, asking whether it provided parking spaces or pays in-lieu fees and whether it pays a fee for the public parking spaces it occupies, wondered if the vehicles and exterior advertising go through a DRC approval process, expressed concerns regarding their fleet of vehicles, believed the company is subject to the same rules as other Solvang businesses in terms of parking and DRC approval, and voiced concerns regarding a potential conflict of interest and a monopoly of their type of business in the City

There being no one further wishing to speak, Mayor Uhrig closed the Public Comment period.

*Motion by Councilmember Clarke to continue the Public Hearing to the September 27, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilmember Thomas, and carried with a roll call vote of 4-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Orona, abstaining.*

## **REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA**

### **7. REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR THE VISITOR CENTER MANAGEMENT AND APPROVE CONTRACT**

Review proposals for the Visitor Center Management and authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with selected vendor. The recommended contract term is October 31, 2021, through June 30, 2022

City Manager Bradford presented a brief report.

Brenda Ball, Central Coast Marketing, discussed her experience managing the Visitor Center in the recent past; presented details of her proposal and thanked the City for the opportunity to serve.

Tracy Beard, Solvang Chamber of Commerce, presented a summary of their proposal to manage the Visitor Center.

Scott Shuemaker, President, IDK, spoke about the importance of the Visitor Center in the City's overall marketing

mix and deferred to Susan Lee for a presentation.

Susan Lee, IDK, spoke about her previous experience working in the Visitor Center; spoke about the importance of having fresh eyes and making human connections and summarized their proposal.

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments.

Jennifer Soni expressed support for Central Coast Marketing and the Chamber of Commerce to manage to Visitor Center, and spoke about the importance of having a local presence

There being no one further wishing to speak, Mayor Uhrig closed the Public Comment period.

Councilmember Infanti spoke positively about the IDK proposal; noted with their hiring of Ms. Lee, they have a local presence and reported they provide the lowest costs.

Councilmember Clarke expressed support for IDK to manage the Visitor Center.

Councilmember Thomas noted that Central Coast Marketing has done a good job managing the Visitor Center, so far, and expressed support for them to continue doing so.

Discussion followed regarding IDK's proposed hours of operation.

Mayor Pro Tem Orona supported Central Coast Marketing and IDK.

Mayor Uhrig thanked all three companies for their proposals and commented positively regarding each one.

Mayor Uhrig reopened public comments.

Brenda Ball, Central Coast Marketing reported offering Dean Klitgaard the opportunity to work with her in the Visitor Center but her offer was not accepted

Tracy Beard, Solvang Chamber of Commerce felt any of the organizations would do a great job at the Visitor Center, and stated the Chamber brings a bit more economic development experience

Scott Shuemaker, IDK agreed any of the proposing organizations would do a great job at the Visitor Center, spoke about the good work by Ms. Lee, and thanked City Council for its consideration

Eric Hutchins suggested considering whether any of the proposals offer innovations, and noted that if it isn't broken, there is no need to fix it

There being no one further wishing to speak, Mayor Uhrig closed the Public Comment period.

*Motion by Councilmember Infanti to accept the IDK proposal, seconded by Councilmember Clarke, and carried with a roll call vote of 3-2, with Councilmember Thomas and Mayor Uhrig, opposed.*

*Motion by Mayor Uhrig to switch Items No. 8 and 9 at this time, seconded by Councilmember Infanti, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.*

**8. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY REGARDING THE CREATION OF A DISTRICT-BASED ELECTION SYSTEM (HEARING WILL BE HELD AT 8:00 PM) (Previously Item No. 9)**

Third Public Hearing to receive input from the community regarding the creation of a district-based election system

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

Daniel Phillips, NDC narrated a PowerPoint presentation regarding creation of a district-based election system.

Discussion followed regarding availability of a user-friendly, interactive map for the community, choosing the appropriate criteria for separation, public input to date and additional opportunities for public input, the current stage of information gathering, areas with the majority of the population, and population by census block.

Mayor Uhrig opened the Public Hearing and public comments.

Dennis Beebe agreed with Councilmember Clarke noting the biggest population not being identified as a neighborhood, City Council's position of exercising management by exception, and discussion followed regarding next steps,

There being no one further wishing to speak, Mayor Uhrig closed the Public Comment period.

**Recess and Reconvene** - Mayor Uhrig called for a recess at 8:53 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:03 p.m. with all Councilmembers, present.

#### **9. RECEIVE A MARKETING UPDATE**

Receive a Marketing Update from the City of Solvang marketing consultant, including Julefest proposed Program

Scott Shuemaker, IDK, narrated a PowerPoint presentation with a marketing update including details of the proposed Julefest program.

Discussion followed regarding the Julefest starting date, the Julefest parade, and upcoming events.

#### **10. TRAFFIC CALMING – LAUREL AVENUE SPEED HUMPS NEAR SOLVANG SCHOOL**

Direct Staff to proceed with two additional speed humps on Laurel Avenue between Fourth Place and Atterdag Road and fund the improvements with cost savings from the South Alisal Road Pavement Reconstruction Project.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Vander Linden narrated a PowerPoint presentation regarding the installation of two speed humps on Laurel Avenue near Solvang School.

Discussion followed regarding the opinion of the Fire Department,

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments. There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Uhrig closed the Public Comment period

*Motion by Councilmember Thomas to direct staff to proceed with two additional speed humps on Laurel Avenue between Fourth Place and Atterdag Road and fund the improvements with cost savings from the South Alisal Road Pavement Reconstruction Project, seconded by Councilmember Infanti, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.*

*Motion by Councilmember Clarke to continue the meeting beyond 9:30 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Thomas, and carried with a roll call vote of 4-1, with Mayor Uhrig, opposed.*

#### **11. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADDING MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT AS A CONDITIONAL USE IN THE TOURIST RELATED ZONE DISTRICT/TOURIST COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND OTHER CONFORMING EDITS**

Introduce for first reading an ordinance of the people of the chartered City of Solvang, California adding musical entertainment as a conditional use in the tourist related zone district/tourism commercial district and making other conforming edits

City Attorney Fleishman presented details of the report.

Discussion followed regarding limitations relative to the noise intensity, challenges in terms of enforcement, avoiding noise nuisances or excessive noise,

Mayor Uhrig opened public comments.

Jennifer Soni reported outside amplified music has been extremely problematic, discussed challenges with enforcement, noted excessive noise has negatively impacted her business, urged City Council to protect her business and others, and suggested piping in music appropriate to Copenhagen

Eric Hutchins suggested that City Council address moving vehicles with amplified music, sidewalk musicians and events, expressed concerns with a nearby business offering karaoke, and believed there should be a limit in terms of intensity and noise pollution

There being no one further wishing to speak, Mayor Uhrig closed the Public Comment period

Discussion followed regarding the enforcement process and complaint-based enforcement.

*Motion by Councilmember Clarke to introduce for first reading an ordinance of the people of the chartered City of Solvang, California adding musical entertainment as a conditional use in the tourist related zone district/tourism commercial district and making other conforming edits, seconded by Councilmember Thomas, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.*

## **12. AB1234 REPORT OUT AND COUNCIL CLOSING COMMENTS**

Councilmember Clarke identified a Solvang sign that needs to be sanded and painted.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**- Mayor Uhrig adjourned the meeting at 10:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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Annamarie Porter, City Clerk