



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

October 25, 2021  
Monday  
6:30 p.m.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Uhrig called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 1644 Oak Street, Solvang, California.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Charlie Uhrig; Mayor pro tem Claudia Orona; Councilmembers Robert Clarke, Mark Infanti, Jim Thomas.

Absent: None.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Councilmember Clarke

**CEREMONIAL ITEMS/COMMENDATIONS**

- a. City of Solvang Employee of the Quarter Award

City Manager Bradford presented the City of Solvang Employee of the Quarter Award to Nathan Giacinto.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Family Court Awareness Proclamation

On behalf of City Council, Mayor Uhrig presented a proclamation declaring November 2021 as Family Court Awareness Month to Sandy Ross (via Zoom), a volunteer with the Family Court Committee and Child Safety Advocate.

Ms. Ross spoke about child safety and domestic violence and thanked the City for the proclamation.

- b. Tournament of Roses Royal Court Presentation – This item was not considered and there was no City Council action.

**1. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – NON-AGENDA AND CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA ITEMS  
WRITTEN OR VERBAL**

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

C. J. Jackson spoke about recognizing the work and service of Public Works Director/City Engineer Matt van der Linden and hoped the City search for a new Public Works Director will yield someone with equal capabilities and ethics.

Mikhael Pulle invited City Council and the community to an upcoming open house on micro units, Saturday, October 30, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.; noted the purpose of micro units is to address the needs of providing affordable housing to residents and employees in Solvang.

Ed St. George explained micro units need to be under 400 square feet and urged those interested to attend the upcoming open house.

Jamie Baker, Space VR, (Via Zoom), announced the Oscar Mayer Weiner Mobile will be parked outside Space VR this Saturday, October 30, 2021, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and invited the public to attend.

There being no one further wishing to speak, Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

## **2. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Bradford provided the following highlights: Discussed upcoming programs and events, addressed the Solvang General Plan update, announced upcoming commission and committee meetings, provided a reminder regarding Drought Stage 2, and presented details of the Advance Calendar.

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

Councilmember Thomas commended the Sherriff's Department for arresting individuals who were stealing catalytic converters in the City and hoped to see residents at the upcoming Haunted House event Friday and Saturday.

Councilmember Infanti reported attending a recent event hosting the Tournament of Roses Royal Court and reported they will visit Solvang, annually, going forward.

Mayor pro tem Orona discussed the recent Half Marathon, suggested that information regarding street closures be made available prior to future events and commented positively on the event with the Tournament of Roses Royal Court.

Councilmember Clarke congratulated the Sherriff's Department for the arrest involving catalytic converter thefts, announced Dinner Impossible on November 7, 2021, requested the information be placed on the City's website and commented on the shooting death of two influencers in Mexico, noting one of the victim's last posts included information about Solvang.

Mayor Uhrig reported attending several SBCAG meetings, discussed Joe Centeno's accomplishments and passing, offered his condolences to the family, commented on upcoming consideration of broadband services, welcomed the participants of the Half Marathon last week and provided an update on Food Bank operations.

## **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of Agenda as Presented
- b. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 11, 2021
- c. Receive monthly Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department Compliance Report for the month of September 2021

*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.*

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

## **REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA**

## **5. ALISAL GUEST RANCH CONCEPTUAL PROJECT REVIEW – ADDITION OF OUTDOOR**

## **LUXURY RETREAT (GLAMPING) AND ANNEXATION OF APPROXIMATELY 10 ACRES**

Review conceptual proposal by Alisal Guest Ranch to annex 10-acre area directly east of the existing Guest Ranch into the City for development of 40 glamping guest units and provide staff with policy direction.

City Manager Bradford provided a brief introduction of the conceptual review.

Steve Horne, Suzanne Elledge Planning and Permitting, and Katherine Cochran, General Manager Alisal Guest Ranch, narrated a PowerPoint presentation regarding the conceptual proposal.

Councilmember Infanti reported meeting with Alisal Guest Representatives prior to this meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the suggested acreage to be annexed to the City, the possibility of the City providing sewer and water services, the need to rebuild and expand the capacity of the existing water reservoir and to provide appropriate access to the City to the area, having LAFCO set a new boundary line, and the need to approach the County about the project.

C. J. Jackson reported the current CUP is older than he is; spoke about expanding the operation for added capacity as they have maximized their utilization; provided a brief history of the area and existing reservoir and noted this is an attempt to attract a complimentary market segment.

Discussion followed regarding changes in the City and County limit lines and the need to finish Alisal Road south to the 101 Freeway.

Mayor Uhrig invited public comments.

Susan Bott, Save our Solvang, (Via Zoom), spoke about annexation taking place only by a general vote of the citizens of Solvang; discussed protecting agricultural land, water sheds and open space land; noted it is the job of the applicant to make a convincing argument in favor of the project, to be presented to the voting citizens of the City and hoped the City will allow the citizens to evaluate and vote on this item.

There being no one further wishing to speak, Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

City Attorney David Fleishman confirmed only uses consistent with agriculture and the preservation of open space land would be permitted; spoke about the land being permitted as an agriculture zone and believed it does not necessarily require a vote of the people.

Mayor pro tem Orona noted it would be in the City's best interest to have a voice regarding water, sewer, and the impacts that different industries would have; commented on the glamping experience and believed the project provides a great opportunity to have an experience other than a traditional hotel and preserving rather than developing open space.

Councilmember Clarke reported Solvang needs the Alisal Ranch more than the Alisal Ranch needs Solvang; spoke about supporting the Urban Growth Boundary resolution and voiced his support of the concept.

*Motion by Councilmember Infanti to direct staff to continue the conversation, review the requirement and costs, and continue to work with the Alisal Ranch to move the project forward, seconded by Councilmember Clarke, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.*

## **6. SKYTT MESA CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Receive public comment from Skytt Mesa neighborhood, including a written statement submitted to the City included in this agenda

City Manager Bradford provided a brief introduction of the item including a brief background and history.

Chris Horne narrated a PowerPoint presentation; reported they have found opportunities to improve the City's Municipal Code with respect to handling small sheds within setbacks and Code Enforcement; discussed points of agreement; referenced Skytt Mesa CC&Rs, Municipal Code definitions and setbacks; commented on the City's complaint-based Code Enforcement system and believed that with some minor adjustments to the Municipal Code, residents can be allowed to have small garden sheds in sensible locations while avoiding aesthetic and public safety issues.

Mayor Uhrig reported meeting with Mr. Horne and other Skytt Mesa residents regarding this item.

City Attorney Fleishman reported City Council will get recommendations from the Planning Commission regarding what is appropriate and pointed out that every homeowner in Skytt Mesa bought into the development with a set of CC&Rs that prohibit the creation of improvements without a specific process and the Municipal Code was in place when the homes were constructed. He added the sheds were constructed in violation of both the CC&Rs and the Municipal Code; noted City Council's prior direction was to enforce the Code, as it is written and discussed the State requirements. City Attorney Fleishman advised that if City Council is inclined to make any changes, that it do so with respect to side yard setbacks and utility sheds but urged City Council to leave the enforcement program, alone.

Discussion followed regarding enforcement of CC&Rs, inclusion of a process in the CC&Rs for improvements, allowing Code Enforcement to continue enforcing the Code, proactively and the possibility of relaxing the requirements relative to storage sheds.

Mayor Uhrig invited public comments.

Irina Malkmun spoke about the need for increased storage.

Rovi Butcher reported that none of her neighbors who have sheds are complaining and believed the City is trying to solve a problem that does not exist.

Jay Carsman reported they had a shed installed on their side yard, which has a 20-foot setback; noted they were not aware they were in violation of the Code and urged City Council to resolve the issue.

There being no one further wishing to speak, Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

Councilmember Thomas requested asking Code Enforcement to stand by until this gets reviewed by the Planning Commission, absent any specific request for enforcement, with respect to sheds.

There was City Council consensus to direct staff to take the matter to the Planning Commission for recommendation regarding revisions to the City's Municipal Code provisions for residential zones with respect to sheds in side and rear yard setbacks.

#### Recess/Reconvene

Mayor Uhrig called for a recess at 8:32 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:37 p.m., with all Councilmembers, present.

### **7. PAY FOR PERFORMANCE PROGRAM FOR MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES**

Receive and approve staff recommendations to establish a pay-for-performance program for management employees (Department Heads and Managers).

City Manager Bradford narrated a PowerPoint presentation of the staff report.

Discussion followed regarding hiring at existing pay scales, City Council recommendations to perform a compensation study, the existing step system, setting performance goals and the proposed one-time performance bonus.

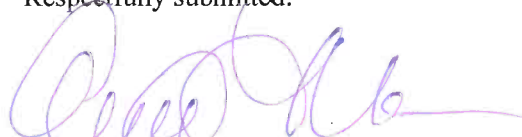
There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Uhrig closed public comments.

*Motion by Councilmember Infanti to not support the proposed pay-for-performance program for management employees, seconded by Councilmember Clarke, and carried with a roll call vote of 4-1, with Mayor pro tem Orona, opposed.*

8. **AB1234 REPORT OUT AND COUNCIL CLOSING COMMENTS** - None

9. **ADJOURNMENT**- Mayor Uhrig adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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Annamarie Porter, City Clerk