



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

Council Chambers
1644 Oak Street
Solvang, Ca. 93463

August 9, 2010
7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF: Brad Vidro, City Manager; Roy Hanley, City Attorney; Tully Clifford,
Public Works Director; Lt. Julie McCammon; Mary Ellen Rio, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Council Member Duus

PRESENTATION

Mayor Richardson presented a proclamation to Bent Olsen honoring the 40th Anniversary of Olsen's Danish Village Bakery.

CITY MANAGER'S STATUS REPORT

Informational report only.

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

Mayor Richardson announced that he was pulling **item 4e** off Consent Agenda for further discussion so those wishing to speak on that item would have public comment at that time.

Tracy Farhad

- ❖ Distributed SCVB packets to Council which included the update on goals and objectives, now being broken down by departments; report on public relations activities locally and overseas and report on tourism outlook for the country
- ❖ Visitation to the visitors center has increased
- ❖ Website traffic continues to soar and has exceeded our expectations
- ❖ Buynak law firm has been hired to assist in obtaining the 501 c3 foundation status to increase grant opportunities

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- ❖ Tourism remains at the top of the revenue engine for the city
- ❖ Will be in Denmark for the next couple of weeks attending press conferences advertising the Solvang Centennial

Council Member Palmer suggested that the Solvang Conference and Visitors Bureau Board be presented with the idea of reporting every six months instead of quarterly, as was previously directed by Council, due to the amount of time it takes to compile the reports. Tracy Farhad responded that she will gladly present the suggestion at the next meeting and return to Council.

Susan Williams

- ❖ This month third Wednesday will feature the sidewalk sale approved by Council
- ❖ Overall theme is experience Solvang, shop local, save money and have fun
- ❖ 65 businesses are taking part, 40 will be participating in the sidewalk sale, 7 restaurants offering discounts and 11 establishments taking part in the wine walk
- ❖ Merchants support and like the idea, it seems to be very successful
- ❖ Some new ideas are possibly holding this event year round

Bent Olsen

- ❖ There are many empty lots in town which really need to be mowed, is it possible to force the property owners to take care of this by May of each year and if not would the City be able to mow and bill the owners

City Manager responded that there are several areas to be taken care of and if they are not mowed Code Enforcement will deal with those owners.

2. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Skytt

- ❖ Have been approached by a number of citizens with concerns about the large number of wine bars and wine tasting rooms in Solvang; would like a future agenda item regarding issuing of Letters of Convenience/Necessity

Consensus of Council agreed to schedule this issue on a future agenda.

Palmer

- ❖ Appreciated Bent Olsen's comments about a business friendly Council, without revenues from the Tourism Occupancy Tax and sales tax we would not have a City
- ❖ At the previous Council Meeting mentioned information about the problems associated with drug addiction; September is National Drug Addiction Recovery Month and I will be giving information to Mayor Richardson. If you would like to see the information please contact the Mayor

Duus

- ❖ Offered congratulations to Bent and Susy Olsen and shared memories of when Bent first moved to Solvang

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Jamieson

- ❖ Echoed congratulations to Bent and Susy Olsen telling him it would have been a perfect evening to be enjoying some delicious pastries

Richardson

- ❖ Thanked the Santa Ynez Valley News for the editorial encouraging people in Solvang to enter the political race; papers can still be pulled until Wednesday.

3. JULY 26, 2010 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

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

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda read by the City Clerk.

- Approval of pre-issued warrants dated July 22, August 3, 2010
- Approval of warrant register dated August 9, 2010
- Receive and file Sheriff's report for the month of June 2010
- Receive and file Santa Barbara County Fire Department update for the month of July 2010
- Approve and authorize forwarding a Letter of Necessity to Department of Alcohol Beverage Control for wine bar and tasting establishment for Bon Voyage at 1539 Mission Drive, Suite A
- Award contract to Mendez Concrete, Inc. for sidewalk and access ramp project in the amount of \$98,828 and authorize City Manager to execute any change orders if within contingency of \$19,765
- Adopt on second reading, by title only, Ordinance No.____, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Solvang Adding Title 6, Chapter 6 to the Solvang Municipal Code to Provide Social Host Liability for Underage Drinking

Motion was made by Council Member Skytt, seconded by Council Member Jamieson to approve the consent agenda **items 4a** through **4g** excluding **item 4e**. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 5 ayes.

Council Member Skytt reporting a possible conflict of interest with **item 4e** left Council Chambers.

Staff report for **item 4e** was given by City Manager

- ❖ Previously Letters of Necessity were issued to those businesses requesting them, however recently City Council has taken more of an interest in reviewing these requests

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- ❖ This owner currently operates Lions Peak wine tasting in Solvang obtained under a Type 2 winegrowers license which did not require a Letter of Necessity
- ❖ Due to the number of licenses that have been issued in our census tract a Letter of Necessity is required for this application
- ❖ The location for the new business is a facility that previously housed a wine tasting
- ❖ Asking for direction from Council

Public Comment:

Jennifer Soni

- ❖ Have become very involved in the community, employ several local residents
- ❖ Recognize the wide variety of tourists that visit Solvang and would like to offer the international wines for enjoyment including from Denmark and Sweden
- ❖ Will continue to support the local events and continue to conduct my business to the high standards of this unique and beautiful community of which I am proud to be a part of

William Etling

- ❖ I am here on behalf of Doris and Renton Mitchell, owners of the building where Bon Voyage is desiring to open their wine tasting facility
- ❖ They have turned down many businesses wishing to lease this space as they did not feel they were the right tenants; they do feel comfortable with this particular tenant
- ❖ When this building is fully leased, it covers the cost of Renton's care in Friendship House, and Doris would appreciate your help in acquiring this new tenant

Council Member Palmer stated he would have a problem voting against something when there is no adopted policy in place. Mayor Richardson cited statistics of 43 alcohol dispensaries in the City, including markets, restaurants, bars, wine bars and beer bars. The Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control allows 11 for our census tract. My question is where do we stop, we are becoming known as wine bar city, this destroys the character of our town.

Motion was made by Council Member Duus, seconded by Council Member Palmer to approve the issuance of this Letter of Necessity for Bon Voyage. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 3 ayes, 1 no, 1 absent with Council Member Richardson voting no and Council Member Skytt absent.

Council Member Skytt returned to Council Chambers.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. CENTENNIAL PLAZA FINAL DESIGN

Staff report by Public Works Director

- ❖ This design incorporated the previous suggestions by Council
- ❖ Looking for final suggestions or approval to move forward

- ❖ Introduced David Goldstien who reviewed and explained his design in detail
- ❖ Responded to questions about various materials being used and descriptions of items included in the design

Public Comment:

Nancy Emerson

- ❖ Inquired if light fixture would be fully shielded and selected to fit with the feel of the downtown
- ❖ Inquired if there is a top on the light fixture

David Goldstien responded that the fixtures are patterned after a Danish designer, shielded and very contemporary; the only up lighting will be on the flags.

Hans Duus expressed concerned with the quarter of a million dollars to build the Plaza; when this was first talked about, donations were mentioned. I would like to put that out there to get the community involved, this is our town, business community, residential community. Would like to see the donors recognized in some way. Do not want the City to be responsible for all of the costs, would like to see 50% donated.

Motion was made by Council Member Skytt, seconded by Council Member Duus to direct staff to proceed with the project. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 5 ayes.

6. **PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OPTIONS FOR BUILDING AND PLANNING SERVICES**

Staff report by City Manager

- ❖ During the budget process a request was made to bring back options for ways to reduce costs in Planning & Community Development department as well as options for the building department functions
- ❖ Since that discussion, the Planning Director has put in for retirement and the Associate Planner has submitted her resignation
- ❖ This now adds more of an urgency to this process to maintain continuity
- ❖ Reviewed some variations for handling these functions and provided comparison of expense and revenue numbers
- ❖ Looking to direction from Council

Public Comment:

Nancy Emerson

- ❖ Expressed appreciation for the opportunity of working with Shelley Stahl and Tina Wilson, they have been very professional in working on lighting issues
- ❖ Realize economics is an issue and it has been a luxury having 2 employees in that department
- ❖ With Skytt Mesa now developing, how many new developments would be coming in the future

City Manager responded that they had been identified in the housing element and recalls about 12 parcels.

David Goldstien

- ❖ Have dealt with California Code Check and also the local department
- ❖ Solvang deserves more than the hired guns out of Atascadero
- ❖ It is difficult to take care of business long distance
- ❖ Encourage you to say in the future if the economy turns around both the Planning and Building Departments will be here

Motion was made by Mayor Richardson, seconded by Council Member Palmer to accept the City Managers recommendation to keep the building department as is and to hire a Planner.

Motion carried with a roll call vote of 5 ayes.

Motion was made by Mayor Richardson, seconded by Council Member Palmer to instruct the City Manager to confer with the City of Buellton to look into the possibility of economically joining forces with the City of Buellton in Planning and/or Building. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 4 ayes, 1 no with Council Member Skytt voting no.

7. **DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATES TO LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Staff report by City Clerk

- ❖ This item was initially heard at the June 28, 2010 meeting and tabled to allow other Council Members time to register for the conference
- ❖ There were no additional Council Members who registered, only Mayor Richardson and Council Member Skytt will be attending
- ❖ Both of these members have a conflict with the business meeting time and their train schedules

Public Comment: None

No action was taken on this item and Solvang will not have a voting delegate designated.

8. **CHANGES TO SECTIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE**

Staff report by City Attorney

- ❖ Asked that the ordinances be dealt with one at a time

Public Comment: None

Motion was made by Council Member Skytt, seconded by Council Member Jamieson to adopt on second reading, by title only, Ordinance No. 10-____, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Solvang making technical amendments to Title One of the Solvang Municipal Code.

Motion carried with a verbal response of 5 ayes.

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Public Comment: None

Motion was made by Council Member Skytt, seconded by Council Member Duus to introduce for first reading, by title only, Ordinance No. 10-____, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Solvang making changes to City Council meeting procedures. **Motion carried** with a verbal response of 5 ayes.

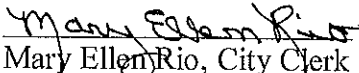
Public Comment: None

Motion was made by Mayor Richardson, seconded by Council Member Palmer to introduce for first reading, by title only, Ordinance No. 10-____, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Solvang establishing procedures for the adoption of ordinances by the chartered City of Solvang, but deleting the sentence in section d which would not require a second reading. **Motion carried** with a verbal response of 5 ayes.

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS (Oral reports)**

Council Member Skytt reported that he had met with city staff, representatives from the Mission and a representative of the Board of Architectural Review to discuss the lot on the corner of Alisal and Mission. A proposal was agreed upon which they will fast track by bringing up as an informational item at the Board of Architectural Review August meeting and then they will be prepared for the agenda item at the September meeting.

10. **ADJOURNMENT** Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.


Mary Ellen Rio, City Clerk