



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

Council Chambers
1644 Oak Street
Solvang, Ca. 93463

April 27, 2009
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, Jackson and Palmer
Council Member Skytt absent.

STAFF: Brad Vidro, City Manager; Roy Hanley, City Attorney; Tully Clifford,
Public Works Director; Dana Waite, Finance Director; Mary Ellen Rio,
City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Council Member Palmer.

PRESENTATION

A proclamation was presented to Council Member Jackson recognizing her service on the Solvang City Council.

CITY MANAGER'S STATUS REPORT

City Manager asked and received consensus of Council to bring back an item for allowing alcohol in Solvang Park for special events.

1. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - WRITTEN OR VERBAL

Tracy Farhad

- ❖ Thanked Council Member Jackson for her time serving on City Council and her tireless efforts promoting tourism
- ❖ Provided update on the SCVB goals and objectives
- ❖ Numbers down significantly on requests for visitors guide
- ❖ Little higher revenue than usual which we will utilize for the sweepstake and advertising
- ❖ Visitation down by 30% at visitors centers
- ❖ Response from the National Trust regarding our Preserve America application requested additional information

Willi Campbell

- ❖ Thanked Linda Jackson for her service on the City Council, she has represented the city hard at work, honorably and with panache
- ❖ Seems to me that there have been several mid-term resignations, don't notice that in other cities, something is wrong
- ❖ Hope you will consider filling the vacancy with someone who will make a contribution, a lasting value. Feel that in the past you were looking for compatibility, that is the last thing I would look for

2. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Jackson

- ❖ Feel we are all blessed to be living in this special community Solvang with its exceptionally beautiful scenery and weather
- ❖ Takes a very dedicated team to make the City work and personally thanked the City staff for their dedication and hard work
- ❖ Also have a team of dedicated people on the dais, they love the city and care about its future
- ❖ Urged the public to take the time to thank each of the Council Members when they see them, countless number of hours are spent reviewing materials and attending meetings
- ❖ Wish for a united, strong Council, harmoniously moving forward to make Solvang the best it can be

Duus

- ❖ Will miss Council Member Jackson, sorry we couldn't have worked together longer; will be seeing her and Oliver around town
- ❖ Expressed disappointment that the Rancheros Visitadores tradition which has taken place here since 1930 has been lost; sorry that new people come into the valley with little respect for these traditions
- ❖ This is really a part of history which began in the 1800's when the cattle drives started at the Missions

Palmer

- ❖ Will truly miss Linda Jackson, have enjoyed our discussions, we have worked together reviewing and discussing the packet materials, discussing the City's future, much the same as when Carol Anders served on the Council; Linda is easily the greatest Chamber of Commerce Director they have had
- ❖ Referring to the discouraging numbers provided by Tracy Farhad in her report, they have been substantiated by the merchants

Richardson

- ❖ Admire Council Member Jackson for her intelligence, the power to get things done, her enthusiasm and her "stick to it" attitude, know we will see each other at various events
- ❖ Visited the windmill retrofitting project at the Danish Inn, and while this has been hard on the Rasmussen family they do realize the historic value it provides for the City. Suggest that residents express our appreciation to the family and would like to see this windmill featured in some of the advertising opportunities to show the Rasmussen's their efforts are appreciated

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Calendar read by the City Clerk.

- a. Approval of minutes of the regular City Council meeting of April 13, 2009
- b. Approval of pre-issued warrants dated April 13 and 20, 2009
- c. Approval of warrant register dated April 27, 2009
- d. Receive and file Sheriff's report for the month of March 2009
- e. Adopt on second reading, by title only, Ordinance No. 09-____, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Solvang amending rules contained in the Solvang Municipal Code regarding exemptions for complimentary rooms and record keeping requirements for Transient Occupancy Tax
- f. Introduce for first reading, by title only, Ordinance No. 09-____, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Solvang amending the Solvang Municipal Code to delete provisions in Parks Code requiring permits for assemblies in Parks.
- g. Bus Purchase for Santa Ynez Valley Transit
 1. Appropriate additional funding to purchase a replacement transit bus for Santa Ynez Valley Transit at a cost not to exceed \$65,000.
 2. Authorize City Manager to execute contract to purchase transit bus

Mayor Richardson announced if ordinances appear on the Consent Agenda he will pull them to allow an extra public comment period. **Items 3e** and **3f** were pulled, no public comment received.

Motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Duus to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 4 ayes, Council Member Skytt absent.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER WELLS BETWEEN SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1 AND CITY OF SOLVANG**

Staff report by City Manager

- ❖ Ad Hoc committees have meet several times since June 2007 and in November of 2007 developed a Joint Defense and Common Interest Agreement
- ❖ Staff was directed to seek a cooperative approach to minimize exposure to litigation and disputes with neighbors in adequately protecting interests of all parties in the use of river water
- ❖ Reviewed water usage history and the importance of diversifying resources
- ❖ Santa Ynez River underflow could supply an additional resource
- ❖ The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the partnership with Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District to aid in the development of this well field
- ❖ Due to the instability of state water allotment, staff is recommending approval of this agreement
- ❖ Section 6, Working Group was revised and would need to be included in any motion

Public Comment:

Brian Chaney

- ❖ In February 2005, rains washed out the embankment at Well No. 3 and I was contacted by the City to provide a bid for FEMA for rebuilding that embankment, I was asked again for bids in 2006 and 2007 and am inquiring where we sit with the FEMA funding

Public Works Director responded that the third bid had been submitted to FEMA and we are awaiting their response. They have asked for additional information, but we have not received final resolution.

Leo Mathiasen

- ❖ Water is never a boring topic in Solvang
- ❖ Council had pledged to hold Public Workshops to take public input on these water issues, but has not kept that promise

- ❖ Appears the discussions have been going on since 2007 without full disclosure to the public
- ❖ The ad hoc committee does not have complete knowledge of Solvang's water issues and water counsel does not seem to have Solvang's best interests in mind
- ❖ The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (ID#1) has never had the best interests for Solvang in mind
- ❖ Reviewed past history of relationship with ID#1
- ❖ Some of the information in the staff report needs clarification
- ❖ MOU is complex, areas are not clear and feel you are cutting the public short

Lee Bettencourt

- ❖ Thanked the City for the meetings in which they were able to set down and cooperatively discuss the water issues
- ❖ Aware of old history, some unfounded, however we need to move forward
- ❖ An adequate supply of water is important for all the valley and we need to maximize our efforts
- ❖ It is imperative to get this permit and time is of essence

Council Members discussed in length the MOU, expressing the hesitancy of moving too quickly, not fully understanding the complexity of the agreement. It was pointed out that the MOU will be conducted in steps and could be discontinued by either party with 30 days written notice. The need for further input in a workshop format was suggested to clarify this issue for the public as well as the Council.

City Attorney responded that he had also reviewed the agreement and basically it is just a guideline to proceed in exploring these concepts. It can be cancelled at any time by either party. The intent should be the most economical way of providing water. Our timeframe for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is very tight and relies on the Cachuma EIR. It is imperative that we have an adequate EIR done and in order to do this, it will require cooperative efforts, with Mr. Jackson, IFD#1 and others to figure out usage without involving costly legal fees. We are trying to justify a sufficient water supply and that would involve proving up sufficient acre feet of water.

Motion was made by Council Member Duus, seconded by Council Member Palmer to move forward with the MOU with a review by the Council after the completion of Section 3.2 at which time Council will evaluate whether to continue with the agreement, and to approve language revision in Section 6. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 4 ayes. Council Member Skytt absent.

Council scheduled a Water Workshop to be held on Wednesday, May 27th at 6:00 p.m.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Oral reports)

None.

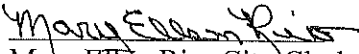
6. CLOSED SESSION

Council entered into closed session at 8:53 p.m.

GC54957 Personnel Evaluation – City Manager

Council adjourned to open session at 9:24 p.m. with Mayor Richardson reporting no reportable action.

7. ADJOURNMENT Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.


Mary Ellen Rio, City Clerk