



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE SOLVANG CITY COUNCIL

Council Chambers
1644 Oak Street
Solvang, Ca. 93463

June 8, 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, Jamieson, Palmer and Skytt

STAFF: Brad Vidro, City Manager; Roy Hanley, City Attorney; Dana Waite, Finance Director; Shelley Stahl, Planning/Community Development Director; Tully Clifford, Public Works Director; Fred Lageman, Parks and Recreation Director; Charlie Uhrig, Community Resource Deputy; Mary Ellen Rio, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Council Member Skytt

PRESENTATION

Mayor Richardson presented a certificate of appointment to Joan Jamieson.

Kyle Abello, Parks and Recreation Coordinator presented a video of Parks and Recreation programs.

CITY MANAGER'S STATUS REPORT

Informational report only.

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1. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - WRITTEN OR VERBAL

Ron Herbig

- ❖ Project Relief, a program sponsored by a local church will have a convoy taking much needed supplies to the Navajo Nation on June 15th. Accepting items and monetary donations
- ❖ A Gospel concert will be held at the local Grange, telephone number was provided for those wishing to purchase tickets

Tracy Farhad

- ❖ Great turnout for the picnic in Solvang Park, fun day with great entertainment
- ❖ PowWow in Miami resulted in many new contacts with tourist operators; attended a Scandinavian reception and were able to inform them of our upcoming Centennial in 2011
- ❖ Presently hosting 15 tour operators, giving them the royal treatment

2. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Skytt

- ❖ Many people were enjoying the picnic in Solvang Park

Palmer

- ❖ Welcome Joan Jamieson to the City Council
- ❖ It is a sad time when we see the Governor of California breaking the social contract and taking money away from those in need
- ❖ We are unsure at how much will be taken from the City

Jamieson

- ❖ Thanked Council Member Palmer for his kind words
- ❖ Will do the best I can for our citizens

Richardson

- ❖ Echoed comments about the great turnout for the picnic in Solvang Park
- ❖ The wind ensemble did a wonderful job, this was the Big Band ensemble and it was their first public appearance

Mayor Richardson stated he would be shuffling the agenda due to a large group interested in **item #6**; this item will be heard after the consent agenda.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda read by City Clerk.

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- a. Approval of minutes of the regular City Council meeting of May 26, 2009
- b. Approval of pre-issued warrants dated May 22, 26, 27, June 1, 2, 2009
- c. Approval of warrant register dated June 8, 2009
- d. Receive and file Santa Barbara County Fire report for May 2009
- e. Approve agreement for continued provision of mobile crisis services and authorize City Manager to execute agreement
- f. Adopt on second reading, by title only, Ordinance No. 09-_____, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Solvang amending the Solvang Municipal Code to establish a Tobacco Control Ordinance in accordance with existing State Law

Mayor Richardson asked for public comment on **item 3f**, no public comment received.

Motion was made by Council Member Skytt, seconded by Council Member Duus to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 5 ayes.

6. LETTER OF OPPOSITION TO MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER ORDINANCE

Staff report by City Manager

- ❖ Discussion at Mayors and Managers meeting led to request for Mayors to sign letter of opposition to an ordinance being considered by the Board of Supervisors
- ❖ A task force is working on an ordinance which is to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in the fall

Mayor Richardson had asked consensus of Council prior to signing letter, lacking consensus, requested item to return for discussion. While he does not oppose spay and neutering, he had problems with mandatory wording in the letter and was looking to Council for input. He presented a PowerPoint presentation on a successful Animal Control program in Calgary.

Public Comment:

Hazel Mortensen

- ❖ The Calgary program is no cost to taxpayers
- ❖ Cat licensing paid for a spay/neuter clinic
- ❖ No cost for low income households
- ❖ In one year 48% of cats have been licensed
- ❖ Photos of animals arriving at the shelters are on the internet within 15 minutes
- ❖ Council endorsed state assembly bill 1634 two years ago for reducing pet population and now the Mayor is looking to oppose this spay/neuter issue
- ❖ The task group is working hard to make this work
- ❖ Would like owners to know that cats can become pregnant 10 days after producing a litter
- ❖ Adopt from shelters

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Ron

- ❖ Key here is no cost to City or taxpayers

Phoebe Alexiades

- ❖ Long time animal lover and have fostered many cat litters
- ❖ These litters are the result of irresponsible pet owners and cost the taxpayers many dollars
- ❖ We need these laws and it has been proven that they work

Shirley Cram

- ❖ Volunteer at the shelter in Lompoc and we receive many litters this time of the year
- ❖ We need this law for animal control
- ❖ Lompoc currently has a mandatory spay/neuter law and there has been no affect on the City, it is used on dogs that roam freely

Linda Greco

- ❖ Serve on the task force working on this ordinance
- ❖ It is a responsible pet owner ordinance and allows those who wish to keep their animals in tack to obtain a veterinary certificate stating that fact
- ❖ Do not understand the opposition prior to presentation of an ordinance
- ❖ Seems to be a special interest group stirring things up
- ❖ Three local animal shelters are offering to microchip cats for \$10

Dr. Lee Heller

- ❖ Have researched false claim in spay/neutering for the past two years and the costs are unfounded
- ❖ State spay/neuter Assembly Bill 250 has gone through the fiscal impact study showing no additional costs
- ❖ A program such as the one in Calgary would require an additional 4 to 7 people and would require grants
- ❖ County already has 4 low cost spay/neuter clinics which are privately funded
- ❖ Studies have been based on incorrect information
- ❖ This letter is inaccurate, incorrect or lacking necessary information, wait until the task force completes its research

Diane Howe

- ❖ Volunteer at a cat shelter which has opened my eyes to the need for a spay/neuter law
- ❖ All cats taken in are spayed or neutered resulting in a large expense
- ❖ Solvang has a large feral cat population
- ❖ Urge you not to sign the letter of opposition, but to wait for the task force to complete their study

Lisa Kenyon

- ❖ A part of the task force researching this issue, urge you to wait until all the facts are available and have been presented to the Board of Supervisors
- ❖ Trying to work with existing funds to make it work
- ❖ We are working to educate responsible pet owners

Susan Rothschild

- ❖ This item was heard before the Board of Supervisors in May and as a result of public interest, the task force was formed
- ❖ Much work has already taken place however the recommendations have not been completed in the form of an ordinance, you will be kept informed however wait for the ordinance to be presented

Ron Herbig

- ❖ Those fighting this issue are possibly breeders who do not pay taxes
- ❖ Understand some veterinarians are placing extra fees on these subsidized spay/neuter clinics
- ❖ Breeders are profiting, but something must be done

Motion was made by Council Member Jamieson, seconded by Council Member Skytt not to sign the letter of opposition. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 5 ayes.

At this time a 10-minute break was taken.

Mayor Richardson stated a request had been made to hear **item #5** at this time.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. SOLVANG MESA LLMD NO. 2004-01 CONFIRMING & LEVYING ASSESSMENTS

Staff report by Public Works Director

- ❖ Final Engineers report for Skytt Mesa assessments
- ❖ Assessment amounts remain the same as last year
- ❖ No fiscal impact to City

Public Comment: None

Motion was made by Council Member Skytt, seconded by Council Member Duus to:

1. Adopt Resolution 09-_____ confirming and levying assessments for Fiscal Year 2009/2010.
2. Authorize the Mayor and/or City Manager to sign the documents relating to placing the assessments on the property tax roll for FY 2009/2010 on behalf of the City

Motion carried with a roll call vote of 5 ayes.

4. REVIEW OF DRAFT BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010

Finance Director provided a PowerPoint overview of draft budget.

Public Comment:

Sarah Rosenblum

- ❖ Explained library services in Solvang through the County
- ❖ Appreciated funding from Solvang and the Friends of the Library
- ❖ Provides a valuable service to tourists also with use of internet
- ❖ Realize times are tough, but funding is appreciated

Willi Campbell

- ❖ Came to hear about Buellton Recreation, passion of animal lovers and the budget as well
- ❖ Appreciate funding given to Library, Senior Center and People Helping People
- ❖ Thank you for that funding, good work with these small budgets
- ❖ Thanks to Mayor and new as well as old Finance Committees, also City Administration

Tracy Farhad

- ❖ Thanks from all of us at the Solvang Conference and Visitors Bureau for reinvesting in tourism
- ❖ Feel we have a good relationship with the City and staff and will work hard promoting Solvang

Carolyn Lawrence

- ❖ As part of the Friends of the Library, wanted to thank the City for their funding to the Library it is very much appreciated
- ❖ This helps to provide so many services to the community and tourists as well
- ❖ Provided tote bags to Council with pictures designed by children in the community

Carey McKinnon

- ❖ Thanked the City for the funding and the support
- ❖ Reviewed service statistics from the prior year
- ❖ Fortunate to also have many volunteers and support of local businesses
- ❖ Thanks for your vision for the Library

Ron Herbig

- ❖ Envious of the City budget
- ❖ Inquired about cost of a piece of equipment

Finance Director verified the cost of the equipment which had not been funded.

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Council Members thanked City Staff, especially Finance Director and City Manager, prior as well as current budget committees for the good financial position of the City.

City Manager responded that the Budget will return at the next meeting, making a couple of minor changes, with a resolution for adoption.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS TO REPLACE COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON'S ASSIGNMENTS

Staff report by City Manager

- ❖ Committee assignments as a result of resignation
- ❖ Centennial Committee currently planning Centennial celebration
- ❖ League representative requires no meetings, acts as liaison
- ❖ Indian Gaming Meeting will probably not happen again til next year

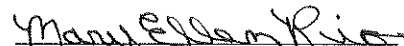
Public Comment: None

Motion was made by Council Member Skytt, seconded by Council Member Duus to appoint Joan Jamieson to the Solvang Centennial Committee and the Indian Gaming Local Benefit Committee, and to appoint the Mayor as the League liaison. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 5 ayes.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Oral reports)

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.


Mary Ellen Rio, City Clerk