



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SOLVANG CITY COUNCIL

Council Chambers  
1644 Oak Street  
Solvang, Ca. 93463

July 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, Jamieson, Palmer and Skytt

STAFF: Brad Vidro, City Manager; Roy Hanley, City Attorney; Dana Waite,  
Finance Director; Tully Clifford, Public Works Director; Shelley Stahl,  
Planning/Community Development Director; Lt. Mark Liddi; Mary Ellen  
Rio, City Clerk

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Led by Council Member Duus.

**PRESENTATION**

Tracy Farhad and Brenda Ball provided a PowerPoint presentation of the Solvang Conference and Visitors Bureau programs and marketing successes over the past year.

**CITY MANAGER'S STATUS REPORT**

Informational report only.

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

None.

2. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Skytt

- ❖ Solvang was featured in an article on the internet this morning as one of the top ten themed destinations to visit
- ❖ Wineries on the Alamo Pintado Corridor, which is out of our jurisdiction, have started serving food as restaurants, in violation of their conditional use permits. Lacking a sewer system in that area, would like to have the County Environmental Health investigate to make sure it is not affecting our water supplies

City Manager responded that Supervisor Farr is checking into that issue, but will call the Department of Public Health to voice a concern.

Palmer

- ❖ Urge everyone to review the 1995-96 Grand Jury Report recommendations for improving chances for obtaining a long term viable water supply
- ❖ Only 37% of Solvang voters cast ballots in 1991, 75% of them voted for state water with very little knowledge, as the Grand Jury discovered
- ❖ Would like the residents of Solvang informed of everything that is going on with the Memorandum of Understanding with SYRWCD ID#1 for the development of river wells and a water treatment plant
- ❖ Read excerpts from the 1991 ballot arguments
- ❖ Urged anyone in the public who is interested in what is happening in our little city to step forward and attend meetings, find out how it's done and what is on people's minds and when election time comes, be ready to run for Council

Jamieson

- ❖ Would like to have the phrasing for the Pledge of Allegiance spoken correctly
- ❖ Attended a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Harold Fletcher, a prior Fifth District Supervisor, who was my mentor in land development. Presented him with a city pin and he expressed his love of our city

Richardson

- ❖ Echoed Council Member Palmer's comments about running for City Council
- ❖ Reiterate the transparency of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Solvang and SYRWCD ID#1
- ❖ City will be posting a form on the website and also have it available in the lobby for pet owners that become incapacitated, this form prominently displayed in a person's home will inform someone that there are animals in the home that need to be cared for and list their needs

3. JULY 13, 2009 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 City Clerk.

- a. Approval of pre-issued warrants dated July 1, 8, 10, 14, 21, 2009
- b. Approval of warrant register dated July 27, 2009
- c. Receive and file Sheriff's Department Report for the month of June 2009
- d. Accept Sidewalk Improvement Project and direct City Manager to execute Notice of Completion for recordation
- e. Review agreement with TransFirst merchant card and authorize staff to execute agreement
- f. Adopt General Plan Annual Report 2006-2008 for submission to the State Office of Planning and Research and the Department of Housing and Community Development
- g. Adopt Resolution No. 09-\_\_\_\_, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Solvang approving a three year time extension for Case No. 03-18, Cerny Tentative Tract Map subject to revised Conditions of Approval and the Mitigation Measures set forth and accept previous Negative Declaration as adequate environmental review

**Motion** was made by Council Member Duus, seconded by Council Member Skytt to accept Consent agenda as presented. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 5 ayes on **items 4a through 4f** and a roll call vote on **item g** of 3 ayes, 2 abstentions with Council Members Jamieson and Palmer abstaining.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. REVIEW OF THE 2008-2014 DRAFT HOUSING ELEMENT

Mayor Richardson opened the Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Staff report by Planning/Community Development Director

- ❖ Housing Element is due to the state by August 31, 2009
- ❖ We have adequate sites for the required number of units

Introduced David Foote and Mike Prater, Firma consultants

- ❖ Reviewed the changes that were required
- ❖ New allocation numbers were lowered this time
- ❖ Changes were mainly in the programs and policies involving the homeless and disabled people

Public Comment: None

**Motion** was made by Council Member Skytt, seconded by Council Member Jamieson to:

- a. Adopt Resolution 09-\_\_\_\_, adopting the 2008-2014 Housing Element Update of the General Plan, and approving the Mitigated Negative Declaration as adequate environmental review, and
- b. Authorize staff to submit the 2008-2014 Housing Element Update for certification by the State Department of Housing and Community Development

**Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 5 ayes.

Mayor Richardson closed the Public Hearing at 7:50 p.m.

6. OLD MILL ESTATES IMPROVEMENTS

Staff report by Public Works Director

- ❖ On October 23, 2006 the vesting tentative map was approved by Council
- ❖ Prior to recordation, 23 conditions needed to be corrected
- ❖ One of the conditions included installing a westbound left turn lane and construction of a bicycle bridge. Due to potential changes with the intersection improvements in the area it was agreed that this condition was infeasible at this time and an in lieu payment for this was accepted by the City
- ❖ Due to the length of time the major improvements will require a request to bifurcate the bicycle bridge and turn lane is being requested so the Old Mill Estates Project can continue
- ❖ A letter addressed to the County Board of Supervisors is also requested notifying them of plans by the City to proceed with this project

Public Comment:

Aaron Petersen

- ❖ We were willing to take on this project 18 months ago however it was felt the city could do it better and faster and an in lieu payment was accepted
- ❖ A portion of the road in our project belongs to the County and though we did receive a land clearance for that road, it is being appealed by neighbors
- ❖ One of the main issues in the appeal with the Board of Supervisors is a question about the hold up with the turn lane and bridge
- ❖ We would really like to move forward with this providing an assurance to the County that this will be done in a timely manner

Mayor Richardson inquired if the project could be transferred back to the applicant for completion, and inquired if the in lieu fees paid were enough to cover the project. Public Works Director responded that he hoped the engineer had been correct in his estimates however if additional funding was needed, Measure D funds would be utilized.

Consensus of Council was the city had collected these in lieu fees and should follow through with the project.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Skytt, seconded by Council Member Jamieson to proceed with the engineering and design to complete the westbound left turn lane, and the bicycle bridge and to direct staff to compose a letter informing the County Board of Supervisors the city has accepted responsibility for this project and will complete as soon as feasible. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 5 ayes.

7. SOLVANG CONFERENCE AND VISITORS BUREAU FY 2009-10 BUDGET

Council Member Skytt reported a potential conflict of interest and left Council Chambers.

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING**

July 27, 2009

Page 5

Staff report by Finance Director

- ❖ SCVB had carry over funding from 2008/2009 fiscal year and is requesting that these funds be added to their 2009/2010 budget request
- ❖ Typically these unused funds are put back into reserves
- ❖ Looking for Council direction

Public Comment:

Tracy Farhad

- ❖ Excess funds are a result of unused postage due to less requests for Visitors Guides
- ❖ SCVB Board decided to move the funds forward rather than just use funds
- ❖ This would help to balance this year's budget which was funded at a lesser amount than requested

Council Members agreed with Council Member Duus' comments applauding the SCVB for coming forth with the excess funds and not rushing out to spend it before the end of the fiscal year.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Duus, seconded by Council Member Jamieson to approve the revised budget amount for the SCVB to include the carryover of \$10,250. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 3 ayes, 1 no and 1 absent, with Council Member Palmer voting no and Council Member Skytt absent. (As corrected)

Council Member Skytt returned to Council Chambers.

**8. SIDEWALK INFILL AND REPAIR**

City Attorney reported that three of the Council Members had a potential conflict of interest with this item and in order to maintain a quorum, one name would be selected from a basket allowing one of the Council Members to remain. A member of the audience, Mr. Ron Herbig selected the name of Council Member Palmer. Council Members Duus and Skytt left Council Chambers.

Staff report by Public Works Director

- ❖ Public Works identified areas of the city which would be improved by adding sidewalks or making needed repairs and compiled a prioritized list
- ❖ Areas considered were near schools, parks and tourist related areas
- ❖ The current budget allows for funding this project

Public Comment: None

Council Members inquired about areas within the city needing repairs, if there are certain areas that won't be getting sidewalks, and if the homeowners in the scheduled areas had been informed. Public Works Director responded that there is a sidewalk inspection program in place however the city does appreciate problem areas being brought forward, the sidewalk areas selected were those having the most immediate need for pedestrian flow and certain areas that are not being considered. The homeowners involved will be contacted and given the opportunity to view the plans.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Palmer, seconded by Council Member Jamieson to direct staff to proceed with sidewalk infill and repair and approval of the priorities as listed. **Motion carried** with a roll call vote of 3 ayes, 2 absent with Council Members Duus and Skytt absent.

9. **PUBLIC PARKING SIGNS**

Staff report by Public Works Director

- ❖ Current parking signs are in need of repair and more visibility
- ❖ Would like to see a consistency in city signage
- ❖ Sample signs were displayed

Council Members discussed the importance of the signage and complimented the Public Works Director for the clear cut design, however the majority expressed liking the existing wooden signs which match the old world charm of the city. Staff was directed to return to Council with optional designs perhaps updating and integrating the current wooden signs.

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

- SBCAG  
Council Member Skytt reported that a meeting will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup> to select the members of the Measure A Citizens Committee for which SBCAG received 27 applications.

11. **CLOSED SESSION**

Public Comment: None

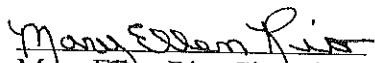
Council entered into Closed Session at 9:02 p.m.

GC 54957.6 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Agency designated representative: David Fleishman Employee Organization: Teamsters Local 381

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

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

  
Mary Ellen Rio, City Clerk