

SUSANVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2017– 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Garnier.

Roll call of Councilmembers present: Brian Wilson, Kevin Stafford, Joe Franco, Rod De Boer, and Kathie Garnier.

Staff present: Jared G. Hancock, City Administrator; Jessica Ryan, City Attorney and Gwenna MacDonald, City Clerk.

1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Hancock requested the removal of Item 4.1, recognition of Interim Chief Uptegrove. Chief Uptegrove would be with the City for additional time.

Motion by Mayor pro tem Franco, second by Councilmember Stafford, to approve the agenda as submitted; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Wilson, Stafford, Franco, De Boer and Garnier.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS: No business.

3 CLOSED SESSION: No business.

4 RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

Staff present: Jared G. Hancock, City Administrator; Jessica Ryan, City Attorney; Jim Uptegrove, Interim Police Chief; James Moore, Fire Chief; Dan Newton, Public Works Director; Deborah Savage, Finance Manager; Craig Sanders, Senior Planner and Gwenna MacDonald, City Clerk.

Mr. Newton offered the Thought of the Day.

1. Recognition of Interim Police Chief James Uptegrove

2. Recognition of Officer Terra Avilla

Interim Chief Uptegrove presented Officer Avilla with an award in recognition of her life saving effort administered to a newborn baby.

5 BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

There were no comments.

6 CONSENT CALENDAR: Mayor Garnier reviewed the items on the Consent Calendar:

- A Approve vendor warrants numbered 99243 through 99361 for a total of \$400,739.05 including \$128,453.04 in payroll warrants

Motion by Mayor pro tem Franco, second by Councilmember Stafford, to approve the Consent Calendar; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Wilson, Stafford, Franco, De Boer and Garnier.

7 PUBLIC HEARINGS:

7A Consider Ordinance No. 17-1007 authorizing adoption of 2016 California Building Codes:

Waive second reading and adopt Mr. Sanders reported that the State of California updates the State Building Codes every three years and requires their use by all local jurisdictions issuing building permits. The 2016 Building Codes become effective on January 1, 2017 and will become effective by the City on that date. Ordinance No. 16-1007 amends Title 15 of the Susanville Municipal Code, adopting the 2016 California Building Code. The City Council waived the first reading and introduced the ordinance on December 7, 2016, and a public hearing to consider the second reading and adoption of the ordinance was publicized as required. Mr. Sanders reviewed the changes from the previous code, including the addition of Chapter 15.02 which covers the authority of the Building Official and administration of building codes. Additional changes include the elimination of Appendix B of the California Building Code which required the appointment of an independent Board of Appeals to hear any disputes over the Building Official's application of the building codes. Sections have been added to the ordinance identifying that the City Administrator serves the function of the appeals board with any further appeal being presented to the City Council.

Mayor Garnier opened the public hearing at 7:09 p.m. and requested comments from the public.

There being no comments, Mayor Garnier closed the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Wilson, second by Mayor pro tem Franco, to waive the second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 17-1007; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Wilson, Stafford, Franco, De Boer and Garnier.

8 COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.
Commission/Committee Reports:

9 NEW BUSINESS: No business.

10 SUSANVILLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY: No business.

11 SUSANVILLE MUNICIPAL ENERGY CORPORATION: No business.

12 CONTINUING BUSINESS: No business.

13 CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

13A K-9 Unit Update Interim Chief Uptegrove explained that staff has prepared an overview of the proposed Police Canine Program for the City Police Department. The purpose of a police canine program is to support daily functions of police operations in service to the community. Dogs serve as an efficient force multiplier when officers respond to critical incidents and in-progress crimes. Canines are also frequently used as deployable tools to assist and accentuate an officer's abilities to search, track and detect illegal substances, evidence and people. Because dogs have such an increased sense of smell and hearing above a human's, they are able to more quickly and accurately locate items of evidentiary value at crime scenes.

Interim Chief Uptegrove stated that in addition to those services, a well-trained police canine can enhance community relations and encourage constructive interaction between law enforcement and the public. Police dogs are often brought to schools, civic groups and community and public events to soften lines

between the public and law enforcement. Police dogs encourage approachability and help break down barriers, soliciting trust and confidence especially between youth and law enforcement.

Interim Chief Uptegrove referred to the program summary, explaining that the proposal considers two canine teams for the Susanville Police Department. Having two teams provides for better consistency in training and maintenance of the program and allows for continuous availability and resources. The program could be started with one officer/canine team and as funds become available, an additional team can be added.

Interim Chief Uptegrove described the progress made to date by a very enthusiastic and supportive group of community members and business owners. A non-profit organization was established to assist the Lassen County Sheriff's Department in starting their canine program, and the Board has agreed to include and share donated revenues with the Susanville Police Department to start and maintain a police canine program. Currently, there is approximately \$10,000 in contributions available for the program. Staff believes this is a very unique opportunity for the City of Susanville and the Susanville Police department to start a police canine program with practically no start-up costs and minimal maintenance costs. With the overwhelming support already shown by the Susanville community and the department's enthusiasm to start this program, staff feels this would be a successful and valuable community program.

Councilmember De Boer stated that he was in full support of the program. It is good for the officers, the public, a good public relations tool for the youth and he is for the program.

Mayor pro tem Franco commented that he was also in support of the program, but he is concerned about identifying all of the costs since ongoing funding of the program has not been fully discussed, such as purchase of a vehicle for the team to use.

Interim Chief Uptegrove responded that the community has displayed a tremendous amount of support for the program. A vehicle has already been donated, and it is fully functional with the only anticipated cost being replacement of the decals. The officer assigned to the K-9 team will transport the dog to and from work in their own vehicle.

Mayor pro tem Franco asked what the anticipated replacement time would be for the vehicle.

Interim Chief Uptegrove responded that the vehicle is mechanically sound, and is in better shape than some of the City's existing patrol vehicles.

Councilmember Wilson asked why such a low value was placed on the vehicle.

Interim Chief Uptegrove responded that attributing a lower value is common when trying to surplus the vehicle. He continued by reviewing the estimated program costs, including purchase of the canine, initial handler training which is an approximate 5-week course. Equipment, dog food and veterinary care are expenses that have been largely donated by local businesses, and ongoing training which is expected to be coordinated with other area teams for cost saving benefits. Officer compensation for the additional responsibilities is formula-based and has been estimated at approximately \$300 per month.

Mayor Garnier noted that if the initial purchase price of the dog is \$7,200, then the start-up costs for two dogs, to include the equipment, is going to be very expensive. She stated that everyone is concerned about budget, and she is supportive of the program, but she is more in favor of starting out with one dog.

Mayor pro tem Franco stated that he is in favor of the program, and it provides an extra level of safety for the officers who often are alone on calls, but only if the program is operated correctly.

Interim Chief Uptegrove explained various fund raising efforts and the commitment of the community to sustain support and interest in the program, which would help to offset the annual expense and cost. Staff would recommend entering into a contract for veterinary care, and utilize opportunities to cross train with the County and other agencies in the region. This opportunity is unique in that it is a chance to get the program up and running for almost no cost, and that is not something that comes along every day.

Mayor Garnier thanked the members of the audience who have dedicated their time and support to the program. She invited comments from the public.

John Gerry asked why the City did not sell some of the surplus equipment such as the motorcycle or golf cart. Those items that are used rarely for parades and that type of activity could be sold to support the program start-up costs.

Bill McCabe, Lassen High School District, stated that he was a strong supporter of the program, and that the canine program would be invaluable for locating drugs and contraband on campus, as well as support the Officer that is assigned to the school.

Mike Pickens suggested that money which is seized during drug busts be rolled back into funding the program.

Interim Chief Uptegrove responded that an asset seizure program could be established, with a specific allocation of those funds to be rolled into support of a K-9 program.

Heather Roney stated that you can't put a price on the safety of the officers and she is in full support of a K-9 program.

Mike Mesa, Mesahaus Training Center, stated that he was born and raised in Susanville and is committed to assisting with the program in any way possible. His training facility is centrally located and he offered use of the facility in any capacity to provide assistance with training in any way possible.

Stephanie Wolf commented that she is in support of the program to provide additional safety to the officers.

Lisa Adler commented that she was involved with 4-H, and she was contacted by someone in the Chico area who has established a fund raiser to generate money for the vests that the dogs wear. She would be contacting her to identify funding that may be available for assisting in the purchase of dog vests. She added that the use of drugs in the high school is a big problem, and that the use of a K-9 to locate drugs would be a tremendous help.

It was the consensus of the City Council that the next steps would be to formalize a budget proposal and bring it back to the City Council for consideration.

Motion by Councilmember Stafford, second by Mayor pro tem Franco, to move forward with the process of establishing a K-9 program for the Susanville Police Department; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Wilson, Stafford, Franco, De Boer and Garnier.

13B Police Department update Chief Uptegrove reviewed a summary of the activities and projects of the Susanville Police Department including personnel, training, community outreach, crime stoppers program, animal impound fee update, parking and traffic and the facility remodel project at the department is scheduled to begin soon. He reviewed crime statistics for the second two quarters of 2016 as compared to the same period in 2015.

David Teeter, District 2 Supervisor, asked about the 4th quarter reduction in parking fees, and if it was anticipated that the number would increase with the recent increase in fees.

Interim Chief Uptegrove explained that the radar trailer was down for repair, and the enforcement efforts were pulled back somewhat over the holidays.

14 COUNCIL ITEMS:

14A AB1234 travel reports:

15 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilmember De Boer, second by Mayor pro tem Franco, to adjourn; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Wilson, Stafford, Franco, De Boer and Garnier.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Kathie Garnier, Mayor

Gwenna MacDonald, City Clerk

Approved on: February 1, 2017