

SUSANVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2019– 6:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Stafford.

Roll call of Councilmembers present: Brian Wilson, Joseph Franco, Brian Moore, Mendy Schuster and Mayor Kevin Stafford.

Staff present: Mike Wilson, City Administrator; Jessica Ryan, City Attorney, Kevin Jones, Police Chief and Gwenna MacDonald, City Clerk.

1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Councilmember Schuster, second by Mayor pro tem Franco, to approve the agenda; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Schuster, Franco, Moore, Wilson and Stafford.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

Vince Van Brunt stated that he had firearms stolen in 2016, and they were recovered. He identified that the firearms were his, signed a release to have the property returned, and since that time, he has been struggling to work with the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Susanville Police Department to have the property returned to him. He stated that he has exhausted all administrative remedies available to him, and was submitting a claim to the City for either reimbursement of the value of the property, or the City's assistance in recovering the property. He added that the FBI has informed him that they do not release guns to individuals but he must work with the City to recover the property.

3 CLOSED SESSION: At 6:09 p.m. the Council entered into Closed Session to discuss the following:

- A CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – significant exposure to litigation - pursuant to Government Code Section §54956.9(b): one
- B PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT – Pursuant to Government Code Section §54957
 - 1 City Administrator Performance Evaluation

4 RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

At 7:00 p.m. the City Council reconvened in Open Session.

Staff present: Mike Wilson, City Administrator; Jessica Ryan, City Attorney; Dan Newton, Public Works Director; James Moore, Fire Chief; Kevin Jones, Police Chief; Quincy McCourt, Project Manager; Deborah Savage, Finance Manager; Anthony Hanner, Building Official and Gwenna MacDonald, City Clerk.

Mr. Wilson reported that prior to closed session, the agenda was approved, and staff was requesting the addition of one item under new business, and the removal of Item 12A.

Ms. Ryan reported that during closed session, direction was given to staff. The City Council conducted a performance evaluation for Mr. Wilson and voted to approve a merit increase per the terms of his employment contract with the City.

Fire Chief Moore provided the Thought of the Day.

Public Works Director Newton, Chief Jones and Chief Moore presented service recognition pins and certificates to members of their staff for serving the City for 5 and 15 years.

Chief Jones presented a plaque to former Chief of Police, Tom Downing. Chief Jones discussed former Chief Downing's career in law enforcement and dedication to the community.

5 BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Pat Holley addressed the City Council regarding the issue of homelessness in the community, and requested that the City update the camping ordinance.

Gary Bridges discussed his family's experience with the number of homeless people who congregate in the area near Safeway and McDonalds', and expressed his feelings of concern for the safety of the community. He spoke highly of the Police Department and offered his assistance to help with the issue.

Jerry Askey also talked about the problem of homelessness in the community and requested that the City update the camping ordinance to prohibit camping within 100 feet of the river.

Gary Felt stated that he did not come to the meeting to discuss the homeless problem, but he supported those who had spoken about it. He suggested implementing an "Adopt the River" approach, similar to the Adopt a Highway programs. Service groups and businesses could be involved in helping to maintain and clean up sections of the river. Mr. Felt stated the reason he was attending the meeting was to request the follow up by staff on the proposal to install charging stations for electric vehicles in the uptown. He encouraged staff to contact LMUD, who was prepared to purchase the equipment. The cost to the City would be minimal.

Councilmember Wilson requested that staff follow up with Theresa Phillips from LMUD.

Antoinette Buchanan stated that the homeless problem in Susanville was out of hand, and she was frustrated by the theft and loitering that goes on in Safeway.

Raj Baines expressed his appreciation for the leadership of City Administrator Mike Wilson, and the hard work of staff, including Anthony Hanner, Building Official and Dan Newton, who served for a time as Interim City Administrator. He thanked staff for their effort to implement the City's Property Maintenance ordinance, adding that he has been coming to the Council for many years to complain, and he wanted to come and thank staff for their hard work and cooperation in moving forward to clean up Susanville.

Chief Jones addressed those present and discussed the current number of homeless camps along the river, and the challenges in dealing with the problem in light of the recent court case that had resulted from a homeless problem in Boise, Idaho.

6 CONSENT CALENDAR:

- A Approve minutes from the City Council's July 23 and 31, 2019 meetings
- B Approve the appointment of Alan Dowdy and Dan Foster to the Susanville Planning Commission

Motion by Mayor pro tem Franco, second by Councilmember Schuster, to approve the Consent Calendar; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Franco, Schuster, Moore, Wilson and Franco.

7 PUBLIC HEARINGS: No business.

8 COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commission/Committee reports: No business.

9 NEW BUSINESS:

9A Consider approval of vendor warrants numbered 204715 through 204809 for a total of \$578,963.53 including \$292,908.08 in payroll warrants Ms. Savage presented the vendor warrants for review and approval.

Motion by Councilmember Wilson, second by Mayor pro tem Franco, to approve the vendor warrants as submitted; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Wilson, Franco, Moore, Schuster and Stafford.

9B Consider approval of Resolution No. 19-5691 terminating existing Airport Hangar #24 land lease agreement and executing Airport Hangar #24 land lease agreement with James Hoepfner Mr. Wilson explained that the City declined the option to purchase Hangar #24 at the Susanville Municipal Airport, and it was sold to Mr. Hoepfner who took possession of the hangar on August 16, 2019. The City must execute a new ground lease with Mr. Hoepfner. He reviewed proposed changes to the language that addresses the expiration of the lease.

Motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Wilson, to approve Resolution No. 19-5691; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Moore, Wilson, Franco, Schuster and Stafford.

9C Consider approval of Resolution No. 19-5692 authorizing Capital improvements and vehicle purchase at the Susanville Fire Department Chief Moore discussed the building repairs that are needed, specifically to the roof, and the replacement of the Chief's vehicle. The roof is aging, experiencing numerous leaks, and staff has worked with a contractor and identified a solution that would reset the original warranty and extend the life of the roof for another 10 to 15 years. The Chief's vehicle is 14 years old and is having more mechanical problems that will become costly to fix. Staff is requesting authorizing to fund the roof repairs and vehicle replacement with the Fire Department Facilities and Equipment reserves. He added that the boiler at the fire hall is very old, and he would be bringing that back at a future meeting for consideration. The existing boiler is approximately 60 years old, and he was not able to secure a quote for replacement in time for the meeting.

Motion by Mayor pro tem Franco, second by Councilmember Schuster, to approve Resolution No. 19-5692; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Franco, Schuster, Moore, Wilson and Stafford.

Mr. Wilson noted that the City Council was required to vote specifically to approve the addition of an emergency item to the agenda.

Motion by Councilmember Wilson, second by Mayor pro tem Franco, to add consideration of Resolution No. 19-5693 to the agenda; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Wilson, Franco, Moore, Schuster and Stafford.

9D Consider Resolution No. 19-5693 authorizing the execution of Strike Force/Strategic Initiative Program funding Chief Jones explained that the City was notified on September 3rd that it had received funding as part of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. The request including funding for technical equipment to aid in the investigation and prosecution of drug, gang, violence and gun crimes. The funding available is \$36,309.30, does not require a match, and the agreement must be signed and returned by September 6, 2019.

Motion by Councilmember Wilson, second by Mayor pro tem Franco, to approve Resolution No. 19-5693; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Wilson, Franco, Moore, Schuster and Stafford.

10 SUSANVILLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY: No business.

11 **SUSANVILLE MUNICIPAL ENERGY CORPORATION:** No business.

12 **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

~~12A — Consider Ordinance No. 19-1018 imposing a Special Transactions and Use Tax of 1 percent to be used for Public Safety Services; Waive the first reading and introduce~~ Removed from consideration.

13 **CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORTS:** No business.

14 **COUNCIL ITEMS:**

14A **AB1234 travel reports:**

Councilmember Wilson asked if replacement of lighting was included in the Riverside Park rehabilitation project. He stated that LMUD has funding available for lighting, and asked that staff follow up with LMUD.

Councilmember Wilson informed those present that the item which was pulled from the agenda, discussion of a potential special sales tax for public safety, was a very important item. The subject has not received a lot of attention, however if the community is looking for the City to have a more robust Police Department, passage of the measure will be the only way it happens. He encouraged those present to begin the dialog with their friends and neighbors, and have the discussions that will need to happen in order for the measure to be successful.

Mr. Wilson added that the measure would also be funding the City’s Fire Department, whose services are also very important to the safety of the community.

Gary Felt commented that he is the Chamber of Commerce President, and the Chamber would be talking with its members and local businesses in support of the special tax.

Pat Holley suggested that the City continue to consider revenue options in addition to a special sales tax.

There was a general discussion regarding the City’s Economic Development efforts.

15 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Kevin Stafford, Mayor

Respectfully submitted by

Gwenna MacDonald, City Clerk

Approved on: October 2, 2019