

SUSANVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2020– 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, and Kevin Jones, Police Chief.

1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

2 PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS: None.

3 CLOSED SESSION: At 6:01 p.m. the Council entered into Closed Session to discuss the following:

A CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – existing litigation pursuant to Government Code Section §54956.9(d)(1)):

1. Case number 61824, 61839 Matthew Wood, Michael Bollinger vs. Susanville City Council, City of Susanville

4 RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

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

Mr. Wilson reported that the City Council approved the agenda with no changes prior to Closed Session. The scheduled presentation would not be heard due to the unavailability of representatives from Buxton Company. Mr. Wilson requested that Item 9B be moved to consideration after the presentation.

Mayor pro tem Franco provided the Thought of the Day.

Economic Development Presentation by Buxton Company.

9B Consider approval of Resolution No. 20-5745 approving CAFR Ms. Savage explained that the firm of Van Lant & Fankhanel, LLP has completed the audit of the City's financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. She introduced Greg Fankhanel to review the report.

Mr. Fankhanel explained that the audit included the financial statements of the governmental entities, business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information which comprises the City's financial statements. The CAFR includes Management's Discussion and Analysis comparing audited numbers from this year and the previous audited year. The City has received a clean or unmodified opinion, and he added that the City's staff was great to work with, providing information and assisting in the process.

Motion by Mayor pro tem Franco, second by Councilmember Wilson, to approve Resolution No. 20-5745; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Franco, Wilson, Franco, Moore, Schuster and Stafford.

5 BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Rudy Valentine stated that he has lived in Susanville for many years, and he is concerned regarding the recent increase in crime. His car has been stolen twice, his mail has been stolen, his wife was assaulted, his building was broken into several times, and he is very concerned and would like to see a real plan of how the City is going to address the problem.

Mayor Stafford asked if he had reported all of these incidents.

Mr. Valentine responded that he was told by the Police Department that there was not a lot that could be done. It is very frustrating to be told that, and while he can handle himself in an altercation, he is getting tired of it. He added that Susanville is just not the same anymore, and people are not calling things in because they feel like nothing is being done about it.

Harold Kimbriel stated that the homeless are being recruited to come here.

Mayor Stafford advised that a joint meeting with the County at Jensen Hall to discuss the issue with homelessness.

Councilmember Wilson added that the problem is not just a homeless problem.

Mayor pro tem Franco agreed, stating that the homeless issue is not just a homeless problem, but a drug problem and crime problem.

Marcina Welker commented that she has lived on Richmond Road for many years, and a bullet came through her doorway from across the street. She appreciated everyone's help, but in many cases the Police Department's hands are tied.

Lance Lively, Little League President, stated that the League is made up of 100 percent volunteers, and they cannot keep the homeless people from breaking into the snack bar and Connex and they have stolen \$3,000 worth of merchandise. Last year, they found 16 needles on the property. He requested that the City Council consider moving the Little League fields to the property on Sierra Road, to get it away from the river.

Russell Bates thanked the City Council for listening, and he thanked everyone who has stood up to speak. He stated that he got a hand up at one time from Crossroads; they drug test nightly, and they provide a valuable service to those who need it. It's not just a homeless issue, it is mental illness, drug dependency, but for the people who want help, there aren't enough facilities available to help them.

Mayor pro tem Franco thanked everyone for their comments. He works at the Forest Service which is right by the river trail. People don't use the trail anymore because of the homeless camps, and he encouraged everyone to keep getting involved because it will take a group to address the issue.

Mr. Wilson stated that the City doesn't give out money or pay transient people to come to Susanville. The County receives funding from the State to provide those health and family services to the community, and they recently received \$500,000 from the State to address homelessness. Having a background and career in law enforcement, he disagrees with the statement that the police aren't able to do anything.

Russell Bates stated that a large part of the problem lies with the State, because the laws are so lax now, there aren't any consequences or accountability for people to abide by the law.

Gary Bridges stated that the river is a breeding ground for disease, and the homeless are polluting the waterway and they cannot continue to live there. He stated that the City's hands are tied in many ways, and he encouraged those present to continue participating in the meetings.

Michael Kirack stated that they are seeing a lot of vandalism and the response from the Police Department is that they cannot do anything about it. There are vacant buildings all over town, and he had to pay a \$500 bill because he didn't cut the grass on one of his lots. He stated that Crossroads is part of the problem, and they are over-crowded in their housing and it is an eye sore as people come in from the east side of town.

Teresa Mossinger agreed with the comments that everyone is making, however a large part of the problem is that law enforcement's hands are tied in terms of what is considered a crime now. The state went from three strikes you're out, and now there are people not being jailed for what they would have been before. Crossroads might look terrible, but they do a lot of good work helping people who need it.

Mr. Wilson thanked everyone for their comments and reminded the public that the Council is not allowed to take action during the public comment period.

6 **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A Approve minutes from the City Council's October 16, November 20, December 4 and 18, 2019 meetings
- B Receive and file Financial Reports: October and November 2019
- C Approve **Resolution No. 20-5747** approving Land Lease for Hangar #27

Motion by Councilmember Wilson, second by Councilmember Franco, to approve the consent calendar; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Wilson, Franco, Moore, Schuster and Stafford.

7 **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

7A **Consider Ordinance No. 20-1021 adopting by reference various 2019 Building Codes and Appendices: waive first reading and introduce** Mr. Hanner requested that the City Council open and continue the public hearing to the next meeting so that final changes could be made to the ordinance.

Mayor Stafford opened at 8:15 p.m. and continued the Hearing to February 5, 2020.

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

9 **NEW BUSINESS:**

9A **Consider approval of vendor warrants numbered 205700 through 205851 for a total of \$806,684.45 including \$468,079.62 in payroll warrants** Ms. Savage reviewed the vendor warrant report. Motion by Councilmember Franco, second by Councilmember Wilson to approve the vendor warrant as submitted; motion carried. Ayes: Franco, Wilson, Moore and Stafford. Abstain: Schuster.

9B *Consider approval of Resolution No. 20-5745 approving CAFR*

9C **Consider approval of Resolution No. 20-5746 authorizing the execution of Letter Agreement for Consulting Services with Interstate Gas Services, Inc. (IGS)** Mr. Newton reported that the letter of agreement for consulting services with Interstate Gas Services, Inc. (IGS) executed in 2013 has been updated to reflect a proposed scope of work and hourly rate.

There was a general discussion regarding natural gas prices and purchasing.

Motion by Councilmember Schuster, second by Mayor pro tem Franco, to approve Resolution No. 20-5746; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Schuster, Franco, Moore, Wilson and Stafford.

10 **SUSANVILLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY:** No business.

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

12 **CONTINUING BUSINESS:** No business.

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

14 **COUNCIL ITEMS:**

14A **AB1234 travel reports:**

Councilmember Moore complimented the Fire Department regarding their response and professionalism at the recent auto rollover accident on Fairfield. Councilmember Moore also discussed the HGTV Town Makeover contest and he encouraged people to attend the meeting scheduled at the Chamber of Commerce at 10:00 a.m.

Councilmember Schuster complimented the Public Works department for assistance with removing the Christmas lights across Main Street.

15 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Kevin Stafford, Mayor

Respectfully submitted by

Gwenna MacDonald, City Clerk

Approved on: February 19, 2020