

**SUSANVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
SUSANVILLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
SUSANVILLE MUNICIPAL ENERGY CORPORATION  
SUSANVILLE PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY**

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.**

**City Council Chambers 66 North Lassen Street Susanville CA 96130**

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Brian R. Wilson.

Roll call of Councilmembers present: Kathie Garnier, Nicholas McBride, Rod E. De Boer, Lino P. Callegari and Brian R. Wilson.

Staff present: Jared G. Hancock, City Administrator, Peter M. Talia, City Attorney and Gwenna MacDonald, City Clerk.

**1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Councilmember De Boer, second by Councilmember Garnier, to approve the agenda as submitted; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Garnier, McBride, Callegari, De Boer and Wilson.

**2 PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:** No comments.

**3 CLOSED SESSION:** At 6:09 p.m. the Council recessed to closed session to discuss the following:

- A CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS – PURSUANT TO Government Code §54956.8:
  - 1 Property: APN 103-321-02  
APN 103-321-03  
Agency negotiator: Jared G. Hancock  
Negotiating parties: City of Susanville; Nobles; Datema  
Under negotiation: Price/Conditions/Terms of Lease
  - 2 Property: APN 103-250-15  
Agency negotiator: Jared G. Hancock  
Negotiating parties: City of Susanville; Zito Media  
Under negotiation: Price/Conditions/Terms of Lease
- B PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT – pursuant to Government Code §54957:  
Approved Position list

Councilmember Garnier recused herself from discussion of Closed Session Item 3A, the negotiation of property leases at APN 103-321-02 and 103-321-03, and exited the Council chambers.

Councilmember Garnier returned to the Council chambers and resumed her seat on the dais for discussion of Closed Session Item 3B.

Closed session adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

**4 RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:** At 7:00 p.m. the City Council reconvened in open session.

Staff present: Thomas Downing, Police Chief; James Moore, Fire Battalion Chief; Dan Newton, Public Works Director; Deborah Savage, Finance Manager and Gwenna MacDonald, City Clerk.

Mr. Hancock stated that prior to closed session the agenda was approved as submitted. In closed session Council gave direction on two items and took action to amend the position list to amend the Golf Course Manager position to range 926.

Mayor Wilson provided the thought of the day.

**5**      **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:** No comments

**6**      **CONSENT CALENDAR:** Mayor Wilson reviewed the items on the Consent Calendar:

A          Receive and file minutes from City Council's December 3, 2014 meeting

Motion by Councilmember De Boer, second by Councilmember Garnier, to approve the Consent Calendar; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Garnier, McBride, De Boer, Callegari and Wilson.

**7**      **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** No business.

**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**    **Public request to install Pedestrian "Bulb Outs" on Main Street in the Historic Uptown** Mr. Newton reported that on December 5, 2014, Susanville resident Mr. Jim Reichle sent a letter to local agencies and community groups regarding the installation of "Bulb Outs" on Main Street in Historic Uptown Susanville. "Bulb Outs" are an expanded area at street corners that are designed to improve safety for pedestrians crossing the street. Caltrans is currently planning an ADA compliance project involving the installation of curb ramps at certain intersections and the coordination of the installation of "Bulb Outs" would be timely. Caltrans is willing to explore the concept and has requested feedback from the community to determine overall support prior to expending funds to study the feasibility and appropriateness of the "Bulb Outs."

Mr. Newton continued that Caltrans has indicated that traffic volumes in the Uptown area are low enough that they no longer require four lanes. They are willing to explore the concept of restriping so that there would be two travel lanes and a two way left hand turn lane, but would also like to determine what community support, if any, there would be for the concept. Mr. Newton added that there are a lot of issues to consider with both suggestions, and Caltrans would be satisfied with a letter from the City expressing support or concerns regarding the proposed pedestrian improvements.

Councilmember Garnier voiced concerns related to the issue of reduced traffic, lane reduction, and snow removal. The drop in traffic in the Uptown area is indicative of the lack of retail shops in Uptown. A revitalization of the district to provide additional shopping opportunities for pedestrians would result in an increase in traffic and a lane reduction would create additional problems for the merchants. The existing layout of traffic causes drivers to move west up a blind hill towards an immediate lane reduction at Roop Street. To further narrow the streets would be a problem, and the challenge for removing snow with the "Bulb Outs" is a big concern.

Councilmember McBride asked if the City could maintain the current four-lane traffic pattern with the installation of the "Bulb Outs."

Mr. Newton responded that it could, as the "Bulb Out" would extend into the space currently designated for parallel parking, which would result in a reconfiguration of existing parking spaces at those intersections.

Councilmember McBride remarked that he supports the installation of "Bulb Outs" as long as four lanes of traffic would remain. He observed that Caltrans plows snow to the middle on Main Street so snow removal would not be an issue, and added that he would also like to see a reduction in speed on Main Street in front of the High School.

Councilmember Callegari expressed his support for anything that would increase pedestrian safety, and asked that the maximum amount of public outreach be conducted throughout the process.

**Jim Reichle** spoke in support of the proposal, explaining the benefit for pedestrian safety as well as the visual appeal of additional landscaping points along Main Street. He has visited many communities in the past months that have successfully utilized the "Bulb Outs" and all share a few things in common including a tremendous amount of feedback and support from the community, and they increased foot traffic in the areas of installation. There are many styles and layouts to choose from, and many have been used successfully in snow country, so the advantage is that the City could be selective and use what would work for Susanville. He stated that he has been in communications with Caltrans and was notified of the curb ramp project, and as long as they are working on curb ramp improvements it is feasible they could install the "Bulb Outs" at no cost to the City.

**Jim Chapman** stated that he could see the advantages for pedestrians and supported the concept.

**David Teeter**, HUSA President, commented that he is in favor of anything that would increase pedestrian traffic in the Uptown district. Pedestrian safety has been an issue for a long time, and he encouraged the coordination of a theme to be extended all the way down Main Street to move away from the mixed-theme flavor of existing style and improvements.

Mayor Wilson stated that he has heard a consensus to move forward with a letter of support to Caltrans, and suggested incorporating it into the discussions that have been occurring regarding the Southeast Gateway project to encourage a unified theme along the Main Street corridor. The development in the middle of town with the arrival of Tractor Supply and the shopping center across the street will encourage more foot traffic in what is a blind corner as you travel east.

Mr. Hancock reminded the Council that the City can advise and suggest, but it will be a Caltrans project so the City can share and support, but will not be controlling the process.

Mr. Newton added that the concept is also on the agenda for the Lassen County Transportation Commission agenda and would be discussed at the January 12, 2015 meeting.

It was the consensus to move forward with forwarding a letter of support to Caltrans.

**13B Consider construction of Natural Gas Fueling Station for City Vehicles** Mr. Hancock explained that over the years the City has discussed the installation of a small scale natural gas fueling station that could be used for fueling City vehicles, marketing and demonstration purposes. The City has a few older vehicles that need replacement and it is a good time to readdress the concept of converting to natural gas vehicles. Staff has looked into the feasibility of implementing this idea and the associated cost of implementation. The slow fill option is the lowest cost option due to significantly lower equipment and installation costs because they do not require storage or other fast fill refueling components. Staff has looked at various locations to install a fueling location and the most practical location would be behind 606 Nevada Street. The cost of compressed natural gas vehicles is about thirty percent more than conventional gas vehicles but there would be the ability to recoup some of the costs long term through fuel savings but the operation would not be breaking even anytime soon. The monetary benefit of utilizing the fueling station as a marketing tool has not been evaluated, but the initial cost estimate includes material and construction costs of \$19,280, and \$17,785 for two slow fill fueling units which could fuel up to four vehicles. The cost of compressed natural gas vehicles ranges from \$13,000 to \$26,800. Mr. Hancock requested comments from the Council to support moving forward with the concept or re-addressing at some point in the future.

Councilmember Callegari stated that with the price of gas dropping so significantly to not pursue it at this time.

Councilmember De Boer asked if there were any fueling stations nearby.

Mr. Hancock responded that a few years ago, City staff spent a considerable amount of time exploring the idea and visited a large commercial station in Reno. There are not a lot of smaller or public systems in the region, they are largely commercial stations serving fleets such as the one in Reno. The slow fill option is one grade up from a single-nozzle garage unit.

Mayor pro tem McBride commented that the fact that the public sector is not getting involved in the business reflects a lack of interest and he agreed with tabling the concept.

Councilmember Garnier supported tabling the issue and revisiting on a regular basis.

Mr. Hancock stated that the City was always looking for ways to expand the system, but that the item would be tabled as requested and reviewed on an annual or biennial basis.

**14 COUNCIL ITEMS:**

**14A AB1234 travel reports:**

A AB1234 travel reports:

**15 ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Councilmember De Boer, second by Councilmember McBride to adjourn; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Garnier, McBride, De Boer, Callegari and Wilson.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

---

Gwenna MacDonald, City Clerk

---

Brian R. Wilson, Mayor

*Approved on: January 21, 2015*