

SUSANVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Special Meeting Minutes
August 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mayor Wilson.

Roll Call of City Councilmembers: Kathie Garnier, Rod E. De Boer, Lino P. Callegari, and Brian Wilson, Mayor. Absent: Nicholas McBride.

Staff present: Jared G. Hancock, City Administrator; Deborah Savage, Finance Manager and Gwenna MacDonald, City Clerk.

1 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

2 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

3 SCHEDULED MATTERS:

3A Consider approval of Resolution No. 15-5206 authorizing submittal of River Parkway Grant Application Mr. Hancock explained that the River Parkway Improvement project had been conceptualized in 2011, and an application for funding submitted through the State of California River Parkway Grant Program. The proposed project cost was estimated at \$5 million dollars, and included improvements from the Richmond Road Bridge east along the river corridor. The State has released another funding cycle for similar projects and there is \$7.6 million available statewide, with a project maximum of \$500,000 and an application submittal deadline of September 1, 2015.

Mr. Hancock explained that the City had entered into a contract with Melton Design Services for park design services for the preparation of cost estimates in order to complete various park improvement projects within the City. Mr. Greg Melton has worked to reduce the original project scope with consideration to the project criteria and what the State is requiring in order to prepare the most competitive application possible.

Mr. Hancock telephoned Greg Melton, Melton Design Services, who then participated in the meeting via conference call. A power point display indicating the project site was displayed, and Mr. Melton reviewed the proposed improvements which included removal of the dam located behind Lassen High School, clean-up of the concrete bank, and installing a walking path on the north side of the river which would eventually be connected to the existing trail east of the project site. The river banks would be replanted with native vegetation, and a picnic shelter and educational kiosk would be installed at the existing park on the south side of the river.

Mr. Hancock indicated on the map the focus areas, and explained that the proposal was focused on the removal of the dam to provide a more natural flow through the area and reshaping of the bank in order to provide space to expand the existing footpath into a walking trail.

Mr. Melton reviewed the application scoring criteria which included recreation, habitat, flood management, conversion to river parkways, and conservation/interpretative features. He stated that the connectivity of the river parkway to the existing Bizz Johnson trail system would score very well in the

process, as well as the improvements to flood management and recreation that would be created by the expansion of the existing park area and walking trail behind the high school. He explained that the area was chosen primarily due to the focus on recreation and dam removal would score more points than some of the other aspects of the overall project.

Mr. Hancock asked if the existence of old cars used for bank stabilization, referred to as Detroit rip-rap, was an issue with the State.

Mr. Melton responded that it had raised a few red flags, however the cleanup associated with the removal of the cars was prohibited due to the \$500,000 project maximum and while it would still be an important part of the overall project, it would not be included in the scope of this first phase.

Councilmember Garnier noted that in the summer months, many people jump off the Richmond Road Bridge into a deep spot in the river, and asked what would happen to the water level if the dam was removed downstream, noting that it could cause a safety hazard.

There was a discussion regarding the location and topography of the river bed which created the swimming hole, and that removal of a dam 400 feet downstream would allow the water level the required distance to stabilize which would not affect the water level at the location of the bridge on Richmond Road.

The Council discussed the diversion of the river caused by the installation of the dam which was designed to feed water along a shallow canal to the mill pond for the lumber mill operated by the Fruit Growers Company. Mr. Hancock explained that the City owns the property and Sierra Pacific Industries abandoned the diversion canal but there would still be a process to follow for resolving any water rights issues.

Mayor Wilson asked if vegetation would provide enough stability along the bank behind the area of the school's bus barn if the concrete and dam were to be removed.

Mr. Melton explained various methods that would be implemented to ensure that the integrity of the bank is not lost, and that they have entertained the idea of leaving some of the concrete in place downstream on the north side of the bank near Foss Street. That would be determined through the engineering process of the project. The use of natural boulders and rocks would be incorporated to maximize the recreational focus and aesthetics of the project.

Mr. Melton discussed other aspects of the project which included accessing the Bizz Johnson Trailhead by way of an access connection along Carroll Street. Councilmember Callegari expressed concerns related to pedestrian safety and the issue of obtaining trail easements from private property owners along the river. The City Council had a general discussion regarding future project features and priorities at the west end of the project.

Motion by Councilmember Callegari, second by Councilmember Garnier, to approve Resolution No. 15-5206; motion carried. Ayes: Garnier, De Boer, Callegari and Wilson. Absent: McBride.

15 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilmember Garnier, second by Councilmember Callegari to adjourn; motion carried. Ayes: Garnier, McBride, Callegari and Wilson. Absent: McBride.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Gwenna MacDonald, City Clerk

Brian R. Wilson, Mayor

Approved on: October 7, 2015