

SUSANVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2019– 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 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; Dan Newton, Public Works Director; Kevin Jones, Police Chief; James Moore, Fire Chief; Quincy McCourt, Project Manager; Deborah Savage, Finance Manager and Gwenna MacDonald, City Clerk

1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

2 PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS: No comments.

3 CLOSED SESSION: No business.

4 RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

Mike Wilson provided the Thought of the Day.

Mr. Wilson informed the Council that two of the presentations were being pulled due to a scheduling conflict.

Elizabeth Darley presented the Community Star Award to the Chief Kevin Jones and the Susanville Police Department.

5 BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Johnathan Chan spoke on behalf of a group of youth and young adults who are interested in revitalizing the Skate Park at Memorial Park. Mr. Chan discussed the positive benefits of skateboarding, and said that there are approximately 50 people in the group who would like City support for fund raising and efforts to take back the park from the criminal element that the skate park has become known for. They plan on contributing the money to improvements to the Park, and want to make it a positive place for young people to enjoy skateboarding.

Mr. McCourt commented that he attended the first meeting that the group held to discuss the fund raising effort and he understands the struggle to increase attendance at community workshops. The turnout for the group was amazing, and the positive atmosphere and enthusiasm was very encouraging to see.

Mayor pro tem Franco spoke in support of the volunteer effort to make a contribution to the community in such a positive way.

Councilmember Schuster agreed, and confirmed that the group was looking for Council support of the fundraising effort.

Gary Felt, Lassen Chamber of Commerce Board President, advised the Council that the Chamber Board has determined that the Rural America Import/Export Expo which had been planned was now being put

on hold. There were simply too many loose ends, and rather than do a poor job of hosting the event, it was decided that it would be put off a year.

Jamie Wright presented the Susanville Fire Department with the Soroptomist Community Start Award.

Thomas Herrera updated the City Council on the activity regarding the formation of a volunteer committee. As a citizen and small business owner, it is concerning to learn that the Susanville Fire and Police Departments will be at risk in 3 years unless the City can identify additional funding. He thanked the Council for their support of the volunteer effort, and spoke generally regarding options to increase play at the Diamond Mountain Golf Course.

John Rupley discussed progress on identifying the site for a future dog park. He requested that pending action to move forward with negotiations with the County for their property on North Mesa Street, if the City could continue with plans to build a park at Skyline.

Andy Rupley asked about the ADA transition for the new sidewalks that are being installed around town.

Mr. Newton explained the State and Federal funding mechanisms for street repairs, and said that the focus is normally on the blacktop. The Department has a grinder and can knock off rough edges from the sidewalks, but the responsibility for the majority of the sidewalks falls on the property owner. It is a portion of the infrastructure that can tend to be expensive.

6 **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A Approve minutes from the City Council's April 3, 2019 meeting
- B Receive and file Monthly Finance Reports: March 2019
- C Approve Resolution No. 19-5638 approving City Council Committee appointments
- D Approve Resolution No. 19-5650 approving ground lease with Brandon and Jolene Phillips for Hangar #2 at the Susanville Municipal Airport
- E Consider Resolution No. 19-5646 authorizing the Mayor to execute a quitclaim deed for the transfer of ownership for properties to the City of Susanville

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

7 **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** No business.

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

9 **NEW BUSINESS:**

9A **Consider approval of vendor warrants numbered 203616 through 203674 for a total of \$421,714.05 including \$184,785.27 in payroll warrants** Ms. Savage reviewed the vendor warrant report for the period ending April 5, 2019.

Motion by Councilmember Wilson, second by Mayor pro tem Franco, to approve the Vendor Warrant report; motion carried. Ayes: Wilson, Franco, Moore and Stafford. Abstain: Schuster.

9B **Consider approval of Temporary Summer employees for the Public Works Department** Mr. Newton reviewed a proposal to hire four summer employees from the period of June 10 through August 14 to assist with a variety of projects and routine maintenance tasks for the Water and Streets Division and the Fire Department. The City has successfully utilized an Engineering student from UNR, and has identified a number of tasks that could be performed by high school and college age workers, which

would free up full time staff to focus on other duties. Staff proposes the cost of four summer interns to be approximately \$12,000.

There was a general discussion regarding code enforcement activities, budget to fund cleanup effort through the Risk Management fund, and the necessity of cleaning up City properties as part of the Property Maintenance compliance effort.

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

9C Consider Ordinance No. 19-1015 repealing and replacing Section 15.040.090 F. of the Susanville Municipal Code Chief Moore explained that the law requires that businesses in the community are inspected by the fire department on an annual basis. There are approximately 700 businesses in Susanville that require inspections, and with increased call volumes this is becoming harder to accomplish. Other agencies have successfully implemented a self-inspection program for low impact businesses. The business owners are provided forms and guidance, and they are able to conduct an inspection of their premises and file the report with the Department. A low-risk business would be professional offices such as attorneys, insurance sales and that type of business. This would reduce the number of businesses that the Department must inspect by between 200 and 250 per year. The amendment to the Municipal Code would allow the fire department to implement this program, and non-compliant business owners would be assessed an inspection fee for failure to self-certify.

There was a discussion regarding compliance rates, the effectiveness of the program in Redding, and Councilmember Wilson asked if the building owner or tenant would be the one responsible for paying the fee for non-compliance.

Chief Moore responded that the Department typically works with the business owner, or tenant, and the program is working well in Redding. He added that the Council could amend the fee portion of the ordinance, but he supports an incentive to business owners to participate in the program. Self-certification by a business owner can be completed at their own schedule and does not represent a large amount of time for individual businesses but it is difficult to keep up with 700 businesses a year with the existing staffing levels.

Motion by Mayor pro tem Franco, second by Councilmember Schuster, to waive the first reading and introduce Ordinance No. 19-1015; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Franco, Schuster, Moore, Wilson and Stafford.

9D Consider Resolution No. 19-5647 authorizing support of SB 230 Police Use of Force and Consider Resolution No. 19-5648 authorizing opposition to AB 392, Police Use of Force Chief Jones reviewed the proposed legislation and impact on law enforcement communities throughout California, should SB230 and AB392 pass. The California Police Chiefs Association has requested the support of agencies by way of authorizing resolutions in support of SB230, and in opposition to AB392. SB230 would set use of force policing standards, policies, practices, training and reporting. AB392 proposes to remove the established 'objectionably reasonable standards' on use of force incidents. The use of force would be restricted to those situations that were deemed necessary after the fact, and would make an officer's use of force a criminal charge if the circumstances were determined to be unnecessary. This creates a dangerous situation for officers who are making split-second decisions to safeguard the lives of the community and fellow officers, and would have a devastating impact on law enforcement in California.

Motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Wilson, to approve Resolutions 19-5647 and 19-5648; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Moore, Wilson, Schuster, Franco and Stafford.

9E Consider Resolution No. 19-5649 authorizing amendment to Personnel Regulations regarding sick leave donation Mr. Wilson explained that the City's existing policy as adopted in 1990 allows the donation of sick leave time to employees who are ill or have experienced an off-the-job injury is limited to the donation by members of the same Department. The City's workforce is relatively new, and with diminished staffing levels, it is proposed to allow employees from any Department to contribute sick leave to an employee who may be in need. No more than fifty percent of the leave bank can be donated and whatever is unused would revert to the original employee after the ill or injured employee has returned to work.

Motion by Mayor pro tem Franco, second by Councilmember Schuster, to approve Resolution No. 19-5649; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Franco, Schuster, 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:

13A Weed Abatement Deadline Chief Moore reported that the City's weed abatement deadline has been established as June 24th for the upcoming fire season. After June 24th, any condition determined to pose a hazard will be abated according to Section 8.28 of the Susanville Municipal Code, and occupants or property owners may be cited for failure to comply, and may be charged for any fire suppression costs.

13B Police Department Update Chief Jones presented information and statistics for the period of Juan through April 2019, comparing the first quarter of 2018 with the first quarter of 2019. He reviewed information related to staffing levels from 1999 through the present, noting the number of sworn officers in 2006 dropped from 23 to 17 current sworn officers. He reviewed Services provided by the Department, Focused Goals, Facility Improvements, public outreach events and provided an update regarding the K-9 program.

13C Police Records Management System Update Chief Jones discussed the bids submitted and the review committee was in the process of evaluating the information, contacting other existing customers and would be preparing a presentation to the City Council. The Council would be making the final decision and of course the cost to transfer data is going to be significant. The City is only one of three agencies who are still utilizing this system, with the Sheriff's Department being the second.

14 COUNCIL ITEMS:

14A AB1234 travel reports:

15 ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Kevin Stafford, Mayor

Respectfully submitted by

Gwenna MacDonald, City Council

Approved on: June 5, 2019