

Minutes of the Blythe City Council Meeting July 14, 2020

The July 14, 2020 meeting of the Blythe City Council was called to order at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers by Mayor Reynolds. Also in attendance were Vice Mayor Egan and Council Members DeConinck, Rodriguez and Halby. Staff in attendance included: Interim City Manager and City Clerk Crecelius, Finance Director and City Treasurer Elms, Police Chief Coe, Interim Public Works Director Ojeda, Chief Building Official Brown and Deputy City Attorney Roberto.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Reynolds. The Invocation was led by Vice Mayor Egan.

CONSENT CALENDAR: *Items on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted with one motion of the Council. If any item requires individual consideration, it will be removed from the consent calendar and acted upon separately.*

1. Posting of the Agenda.

The summary of agenda items were posted on the bulletin boards on the outside of the public entrance to the Council Chamber and near the inside entrance of the Council Chamber on Friday, July 10, 2020.

2. Approval of the Warrant Register.

Recommendation: Approve **07/14/2020**, warrants numbered 71861 through 71930 and Utility Billing Refund warrants numbered 71931 through 71939 in the amount of \$260,515.29; **07/14/2020**, warrants numbered 71940 through 71971 in the amount of \$160,114.19 and **07/14/2020**, warrants numbered 71972 through 71978 in the amount of \$138,364.04.

3. Approval of the Payroll Register.

Recommendation: Approve **7/14/2020**, warrants numbered 51737 through 51749 and Direct Deposits numbered 47825 through 47880 in the amount of \$224,490.11; **07/14/2020**, warrants numbered 51750 through 51777 in the amount of \$102,892.52; **07/14/2020**, warrants numbered 51778 through 51782 and Direct Deposits numbered 47881 through 47986 in the amount of \$87,770.07 and **07/14/2020**, warrants numbered 51783 through 51796 and Direct Deposits numbered 47987 through 48046 in the amount of \$222,206.96.

4. Minutes of the June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting.

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the June 9, 2020 meeting.

5. Minutes of the June 30, 2020 Special City Council Meeting.

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the June 30, 2020 Special Meeting.

6. City of Blythe Permits issued for the Month of June 2020.

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

7. City of Blythe Fire Department Monthly Activity Report for June 2020.

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

8. City of Blythe Police Department Monthly Activity Report for June 2020.

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

9. Amendment 3 to MOU between City and Riverside County Transportation Commission.

Recommendation: Authorize the Interim City Manager or her designee to execute Amendment No. 3 to the MOU between RCTC and the City to trade STIP funds for Measure A funds.

10. Investment Report for Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2019-20.

Recommendation: Accept and file this quarterly report.

11. License between City and Riverside County Office on Aging.

Recommendation: Authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the License with Riverside County for their use of the Community Center for a Senior Nutritional Lunch Program.

12. Levy of Special Taxes within Community Facilities District No. 2004-1 (Hidden Beaches).

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2020-030 authorizing the levy of special taxes within

Community Facilities District 2004-1 for FY 2020/21.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-030. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL ACTING AS THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2004-1 (HIDDEN BEACHES) OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE AUTHORIZING THE LEVY OF SPECIAL TAXES WITHIN COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2004-1 (HIDDEN BEACHES) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021.

13. Special Assessment for Prior Year Delinquent Utility Charges.

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2020-031.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-031. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE ADOPTING THE REPORT OF THE DELINQUENT UTILITY ACCOUNTS AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO FILE SAID REPORT WITH THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE AUDITOR AND REQUEST THE AUDITOR TO PLACE THE DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS ON THE TAX ROLL.

14. Continuing the Local Emergency Due to COVID-19.

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2020-032.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-032. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA, DETERMINING THE NEED TO CONTINUE THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PROCLAIMED ON MARCH 20, 2020 AND PREVIOUSLY CONTINUED ON MAY 12, 2020.

15. Cannabis Ordinance Amendment- Location of Cannabis Business.

Recommendation: Conduct the second reading of Ordinance No. 901-20 by title only, waiving further reading establishing the location of cannabis businesses except dispensaries.

ORDINANCE NO. 901-20. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE AMENDING MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 17.63E.40 ("LOCATION OF COMMERCIAL CANNABIS BUSINESSES- ALL TYPES OTHER THAN DISPENSARIES- CULTIVATION, MANUFACTURING, TESTING FACILITIES AND DISTRIBUTORS") OF CHAPTER 17.63E ("COMMERCIAL CANNABIS RELATED USES AND ACTIVITY") OF TITLE 17 ("ZONING") OF THE BLYTHE MUNICIPAL CODE.

City Clerk Crecelius stated due to a clerical error there are three Resolutions on the Consent Calendar, 2020-030, 2020-031 and 2020-032, that will be renumbered. The Levy of Special Taxes Resolution will be renumbered to 2020-031, the Special Assessments Resolution will be renumbered to 2020-032 and the Continuing Emergency Resolution will be renumbered to 2020-033. Resolution 2020-018 previously adopted by Council will be renumbered to 2020-030.

No public comment. Councilman DeConinck moved approval of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Egan with a unanimous aye vote. City Clerk Crecelius read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Major Zoning Variance- Lina Escobedo. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated this Public Hearing has been canceled as the applicant has withdrawn her request for the Variance.

Notice of Exemption- Dollar General Store Project. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated the Dollar General Store project includes the construction of a single-story retail store at the southwest corner of W. Hobsonway and North Solano Avenue. The 0.79 acre site is presently vacant and consists of two parcels that will be merged into a single parcel. The parcels are zoned C-G (General Commercial) which allow for retail development. The proposal includes construction of a 9,100 square foot single story building approximately 16 feet tall. Surrounding properties include two hotels, two self-storage operations, and an Ace Hardware. Grading and construction is expected to be completed in four months. Based upon review of the CEQA Guidelines, the City has determined that the proposed project qualifies

for an Urban Infill Exemption from CEQA as it meets each of the five criteria set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, section 15332:

- (a) The project is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and all applicable general plan policies as well as with applicable zoning designation and regulations.
- (b) The proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than five acres substantially surrounded by urban uses.
- (c) The Site has no value as habitat for endangered, rare, or threatened species.
- (d) Approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water supply.
- (e) The Site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services.

Therefore, subsequent to the Public Hearing it is recommended Council adopt a Notice of Exemption for the Dollar General Store Project located at 121 N. Solano Avenue and direct staff to file the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk.

No public comment. Vice Mayor Egan moved approval of staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez with a unanimous aye vote.

ORAL REPORTS:

Interim City Manager Crecelius reported on the nomination period for the General Municipal Election to be held on November 3, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ronnie Hasler of 921 N. Eucalyptus stated he is the new CEO of the Fairgrounds. They have moved their meetings so they can attend City Council meetings. All events have been moved to the fall. They are staying in contact with the State and plan to hold the Blue Grass Festival in January and the Fair March 18th -21st.

James Schlueter of 9400 18th Avenue asked about waiving fees for cannabis applications submitted by Blythe residents, the status of the Have A Heart Dispensary license and stated Blythe should consider adding a dispensary license or lounge license.

Juan Ramirez with the Census Bureau gave an update on Blythe's count for the 2020 Census.

ADJOURN: The City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm.

Dale Reynolds, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mallory Crecelius, City Clerk