

**Minutes of the Blythe City Council Meeting  
August 10, 2021**

The August 10, 2021 meeting of the Blythe City Council was called to order at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers by Mayor Reynolds. Also in attendance were Council Members Rodriguez, Halby and Burton who joined the meeting during Continued Business. Vice Mayor DeConinck participated in the meeting via teleconference. Staff in attendance included: Interim City Manager and City Clerk Crecelius, Finance Director and City Treasurer Elms, City Attorney Roberto, Chief Building Official Brown, Fire Chief Hasler and Acting Police Lieutenant Dale.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Reynolds. The Invocation was offered by Councilman Rodriguez.

**REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION:** City Attorney Roberto stated as to items #1, #2 and #3, Council disused each item and provided direction. No actionable items were taken.

**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.*

No Public Comment. Councilman Rodriguez moved approval of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burton with a unanimous aye vote.

**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, August 6, 2021.

**2. Approval of the Warrant Register.**

Recommendation: Approve **8/10/2021**, warrants numbered 73650 through 73700 in the amount of \$229,824.32; **8/10/2021**, warrants numbered 73649 and 73701 through 73729 in the amount of \$51,042.55; **8/10/2021**, Utility Billing Refund warrants numbered 73730 through 73742 in the amount of \$1,262.95; **8/10/2021**, warrants numbered 73743 through 73754 in the amount of \$67,415.65 and **8/10/2021**, warrants numbered 73755 through 73790 in the amount of \$267,955.08.

**3. Approval of the Payroll Register.**

Recommendation: Approve **8/10/2021**, warrants numbered 52380 through 52394 and Direct Deposits numbered 50774 through 50834 in the amount of \$226,046.19; **8/10/2021**, warrants numbered 52395 through 52396 in the amount of \$99.23; **8/10/2021**, warrants numbered 52394 through 52408 and Direct Deposits numbered 50835 through 50892 in the amount of \$205,982.49; **8/10/2021**, warrants numbered 52409 through 52427 in the amount of \$15,726.10; **8/10/2021**, warrants numbered 52428 through 52432 and Direct Deposits numbered 50893 through 50997 in the amount of \$87,295.31.

**4. Minutes of the July 13, 2021 City Council Meeting.**

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the July 13, 2021 Meeting.

**5. City of Blythe Permits issued for the Month of July 2021.**

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

**6. City of Blythe Fire Department Monthly Activity Report for July 2021.**

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

**7. City of Blythe Police Department Monthly Activity Report for July 2021.**

Recommendation: Receive and file this monthly report.

**8. Design of the Wells/Willow Street Rehabilitation Project.**

Recommendation: Award design of the Wells/Willow Street Rehabilitation Project to The Holt Group and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute an agreement in an amount not to exceed \$28,800 for the design; Authorize the Interim City Manager to enter into an agreement with LandMark in an amount not to exceed \$1,200 for the Geotechnical Report; and establish a project budget of \$37,000 which includes \$7,000 for engineer review and contingencies.

**9. Amending Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Years 2020/21 and 2021/22.**

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2021-027, amending the Appropriations Limit for fiscal year 2020-2021 and fiscal year 2021-2022.

*RESOLUTION NO. 2021-027. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AND FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022.*

**10. Adoption of an MOU for the Sworn Unit.**

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2021-035, an addendum to the Sworn Unit's MOU.

*RESOLUTION NO. 2021-035. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA ADOPTING AN ADDENDUM TO THE SWORN UNIT'S MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023.*

No public comment. Councilman Rodriguez moved approval of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilman Halby with aye votes from Reynolds, DeConinck, Rodriguez and Halby.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Ordinance No. 908-21, Amending Section 17.08.010 of the Blythe Municipal Code.** Interim City Manager Crecelius stated at the last meeting, Council conducted the first reading of Ordinance No. 908-21, amending Section 17.08.010 of the Blythe Municipal Code. This Ordinance stemmed from a request of Benno Pabst and Manual Martinez to remodel a motel property into an apartment complex. As the proposed use is not consistent with the City's Zoning Code, staff recommended the applicants submit a Zoning Text Amendment application to allow for multi-family dwelling units such as apartment buildings in a General Commercial Zone by way of a Conditional Use Permit. Staff supports this request as it could help revitalize the downtown by creating redevelopment opportunities for those properties. Allowing apartment complexes in a commercial zone could encourage mixed-use neighborhoods which is consistent with the City's General Plan. It should be noted that this change will not allow multi-family dwelling units in the General Commercial Zone by right. The property owner would be required to apply for a Conditional Use Permit. The CUP process requires a Public Hearing, notice to surrounding property owners and Council approval with findings and conditions. As a change to the City's Zoning Code requires two public hearings, it is recommended subsequent to the Public Hearing, Council conduct the second reading by title only, waiving further reading of Ordinance No. 908-21.

No public comment. Councilman Rodriguez moved approval of staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Halby with aye votes from Reynolds, DeConinck, Rodriguez and Halby. City Clerk Crecelius read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

*ORDINANCE NO. 908-21. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 17.08.010 (USES PERMITTED IN EACH ZONE) OF CHAPTER 17.08 (PERMITTED USES) OF DIVISION II (ZONES) OF TITLE 17 (ZONING) OF THE BLYTHE MUNICIPAL CODE.*

Councilman Burton joined the Council meeting.

**CONTINUED BUSINESS:**

**Cannabis Dispensary License Conditionally issued to HAH 1, LLC.** Interim City Manager Crecelius stated the applicant provided the required project update, including the status of the bus stop and Caltrans permit. As the current extension expires on August 25<sup>th</sup>, it is recommended Council authorize staff to prepare Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement with Ryan Kunkel granting an additional 60-day extension to October 24, 2021.

Public Comment. Jill Madsen with High Times gave a brief update on the property.

Councilman Rodriguez moved approval of the additional 60-day extension. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burton with aye votes from Reynolds, DeConinck, Rodriguez, Halby and Burton.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 909-21, Repealing and Replacing Chapter 12.08 of the Blythe Municipal Code.** Interim City Manager Crecelius stated while working on the design of the Lovekin/Barnard Street Rehabilitation project it was brought to my attention that some cities have a moratorium on pavement cuts and excavations for a specified period following the construction or rehabilitation of City streets. As the City does not have anything like this in place, I asked the City Attorney to research the City's options and she prepared Ordinance No. 909-21. If adopted, the Ordinance would repeal and replace Chapter 12.08 of the Blythe Municipal Code, establishing a prohibition against pavement cutting and excavations for a period of five years from completion of street construction. This will help protect the City's investment in our street and roadways and preserve the useful life of our streets. The City will work with the utility companies to identify upcoming street projects to coordinate their work with our street construction projects. This will eliminate the need to cut into a brand new or newly repaved street except for some clearly defined emergencies. As chapter 12.08 was adopted in 1953, the Ordinance also updates the provisions of the chapter and clarifies the requirements relating to encroachments in the City's right-of-way. Therefore, it is recommended Council conduct the first reading of Ordinance No. 909-21 by title only, waiving further reading.

No public comment. Councilman Rodriguez moved approval of staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burton with aye votes from Reynolds, DeConinck, Rodriguez, Halby and Burton. City Clerk Crecelius read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

***AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA, REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 12.08 (EXCAVATIONS) OF TITLE 12 (STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC PLACES) OF THE BLYTHE MUNICIPAL CODE***

**Request to Waive Fees-Blythe Chamber of Commerce.** Interim City Manager Crecelius stated the Blythe Chamber of Commerce requests Council waive parking fees at Quechan Park for their river float scheduled for September 11th. This is a fundraiser for the Chamber. All participants are asked to park at Quechan Park with PVVTA transporting them to Mayflower Park to start the float, which ends at Quechan Park. The float will start at noon and take 2-3 hours to complete. All participants will be asked to exit the park by 6pm that evening. To assist the City in determining which vehicles are exempt from the parking fee, all participants will be given a parking placard identifying their participation in the event. The Chamber will be

required to apply for a Park Use Permit and supply the required event insurance. Staff recommends Council waive the parking fee at Quechan Park for participants of the Chamber's Float on September 11<sup>th</sup> .

No public comment. Councilman Rodriguez moved approval of the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burton with aye votes from Reynolds, DeConinck, Rodriguez, Halby and Burton.

**ORAL REPORTS:** None

**MEMBER COMMENT:**

Councilman Burton reported on the Water Extravaganza event hosted by Riverside County Probation. It was very nice, and great see everyone working towards one cause, the kids having fun. I want to give kudos to those that put it on.

Mayor Reynolds stated it was the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the event. It was the biggest turnout of agencies and support staff that I have seen. It was a great event and look forward to next year.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ADJOURN:** The City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.

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Dale Reynolds, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Mallory Crecelius, City Clerk