

**CONCURRENT REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE
SONOMA CITY COUNCIL
&
SONOMA CITY COUNCIL AS THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE
DISSOLVED SONOMA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

Community Meeting Room, 177 First Street West, Sonoma CA



Monday, July 20, 2015

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

City Council

David Cook, Mayor

Laurie Gallian, Mayor Pro Tem

Madolyn Agrimonti

Gary Edwards

Rachel Hundley

OPENING

Mayor Cook called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Jason Walsh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Edwards, Gallian, Hundley, Agrimonti and Mayor Cook.
ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Giovanatto, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Johann, Associate City Attorney Nebb, Planning Director Goodison, Finance Director Hilbrants

1. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Gary Hermes, Bonnie Joy Kaslan and Lin Marie deVincent spoke regarding the importance of the City's mobilehome park rent control ordinance and their desire to continue discussion of the changes proposed by the Tri Park Committee.

Jack Wagner reported he spoke to the Board of Supervisor about the issue of a public bank.

David Eichar commented about an article in the San Francisco Chronicle about the lack of affordable housing in Healdsburg.

2. MEETING DEDICATIONS

Councilmembers Gallian and Edwards dedicated the meeting in the memory of the five victims of last week's shooting rampage in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The four Marines who lost their lives were Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 40; Lance Cpl. Squire K. "Skip" Wells, 21; Staff Sgt. David Wyatt, 35; and Sgt. Carson Holmquist, 25. Also lost was Navy Petty Officer Randall Smith, 26. A moment of silence was observed in honor of the fallen.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Item 3A: Proclamation entitled "Sonoma Courage: A Proclamation to End Bullying in Honor of Adam Kizer"

Mayor Cook read aloud the proclamation entitled Sonoma Courage: A Proclamation to End Bullying in Honor of Adam Kizer and presented it to Mr. & Mrs. Kizer.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR/AGENDA ORDER – CITY COUNCIL

Item 4A: Waive Further reading and Authorize Introduction and/or Adoption of Ordinances by Title Only.

Item 4B: Approval of the Minutes of the June 15 and June 22, 2015 City Council Meetings.

Item 4C: Approval of the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem Laurie Gallian as the City's representative on the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District Board for a four-year term.

Item 4D: Approval and ratification of the appointment of Bill Essert as the alternate commissioner on the Design Review & Historic Preservation Commission for an initial two-year term.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR/AGENDA ORDER – CITY COUNCIL, Continued

- Item 4E:** Approval and ratification of the reappointment of Chip Roberson to the Planning Commission for an additional two-year term.
- Item 4F:** Approval and ratification of the reappointment of Bill Willers to the Planning Commission for an additional four-year term.
- Item 4G:** Approval of a waiver of commission attendance rules for Community Services and Environment Commissioner Mary Piasta Valluzzo.
- Item 4H:** Approval and ratification of the reappointment of Chris Rateaver to the Community Services and Environment Commission for an additional four-year term.
- Item 4I:** Approval and ratification of the appointment of Ken Brown to the Community Services and Environment Commission for a two-year term.
- Item 4J:** Approval and ratification of the appointment of Christina Cook to the Community Services and Environment Commission for a two-year term.
- Item 4K:** Approval and ratification of the appointment of Denise Wilbanks as the alternate commissioner for the Community Services and Environment Commission for a two-year term.
- Item 4L:** Consideration and Possible Action to Accept the Final Report on the 2014-15 City Council Goals.
- Item 4M:** Approval of an amendment to the Special Events Policy Requiring Responsible Beverage Training. (Res. No. 22-2015)

The public comment period was opened and closed with none received. It was moved by Clm. Agrimonti, seconded by Clm. Edwards, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR/AGENDA ORDER – CITY COUNCIL AS SUCCESSOR AGENCY

- Item 5A:** Approval of the Portions of the Minutes of June 15 and June 22, 2015 City Council Meetings Pertaining to the Successor Agency.

The public comment period was opened and closed with none received. It was moved by Clm. Gallian, seconded by Clm. Agrimonti, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously; except that Clm. Edwards abstained from voting on the June 22, 2015 minutes.

6. PUBLIC HEARING - None

7. REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL AS THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY

- Item 7A:** Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Adopt a Resolution of the City Council as Successor Agency to the Former Sonoma Community Development Agency approving the issuance of refunding bonds and other related actions.

Finance Director Hilbrants reported that staff was recommending that the City Council, serving as the Successor Agency to the dissolved Sonoma Redevelopment Agency, approve the issuance of refunding bonds. She explained that the purpose of refunding the callable bonds was to take advantage of lower interest rates in the current bond market which would reduce debt service payments. Once approved, the issue would go to the Oversight Board, then to the State Department of Finance and ultimately back to the Council as Successor Agency for approval of additional documents, including a preliminary official statement and a bond purchase agreement to be executed with Stinson Securities, the bond underwriter.

The public comment period was opened and closed with none received. It was moved by Clm. Gallian, seconded by Clm. Edwards, to adopt the Resolution No. 23-2015 entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE FORMER SONOMA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS IN ORDER TO REFUND CERTAIN OUTSTANDING BONDS OF THE FORMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF SONOMA, APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A SUPPLEMENT TO INDENTURE OF TRUST RELATING THERETO, APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN ESCROW AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE BONDS BEING REFUNDED, REQUESTING OVERSIGHT BOARD APPROVAL OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE REFUNDING BONDS AND THE APPROVAL OF SUCH PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS, REQUESTING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS BY THE OVERSIGHT BOARD, AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO. The motion carried unanimously.

8. REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL

Item 8A: Discussion, consideration, and possible action to Increase regulations on the use of leaf blowers.

City Manager Giovanatto stated that on March 2, 2015 at the request of Clm. Gallian the Council considered if it wanted to once again take up the matter of leaf blowers. By a vote of three to two, the Council decided to consider the matter at a future meeting. She reported that since 2010, the regulation of leaf blowers had been an on-going subject of discussion by the City Council. In the most recent review which occurred in 2013 the Council directed staff to prepare an ordinance banning the use of gas-powered leaf blowers within city limits. This ordinance was subsequently introduced by the City Council, but a motion for adoption, held at the meeting of October 21, 2013, failed on a vote of two to three, and the matter was dropped. Giovanatto added that the City's leaf-blower regulations were last amended in 2011, at which time more restrictive hours were established and the maximum allowed decibel level had been reduced.

Mayor Cook invited comments from the public. The following persons spoke in favor of a ban of leaf blowers: Georgia Kelly who submitted a petition with close to seven hundred signatures supporting a ban, Bernie Krouse, Josette Eichar, David Eichar, Tom Wright, Matt Mitzler, Joyce Parkens, Sarah Ford, Caroline Wampole, Lisa Summers, Cathy Gurgetch, Tamara Unger, Cecelia Ponicsan, Pat Coleman, Jane Zukowski, Paul Maysonave, Daryl Ponicsan, Connie Rhoades, Jack Wagner, Bob Edwards, and Mark Janofsay.

Speaking in opposition of a ban on leaf blowers were: Connie Gustafson owner of Scandia Landscaping who stated that the rules that were in place were good enough; they just needed to be enforced, landscaper Edmond Joseph, Joel Victor, Dennis Astrubel, Jeff Resendz, Thomas Cannard, and Bill Boteef,

RECESS: The meeting recessed from 7:55 to 8:00 p.m.

In response to an inquiry by Clm. Edwards, City Manager Giovanatto reported that during an eighteen month period in 2012 and 2013 the Police Department received one hundred fifty-seven noise related complaints of which sixteen were attributed to leaf blowers. No citations relating to leaf blowers had been issued.

Clm. Agrimonti stated that whichever direction the Council took she wanted to see a transition period and she suggested that the town be divided into sections with leaf blowers being allowed on different days of the week in each area. She also was concerned with the City's ability to enforce the regulations.

Clm. Hundley summarized the issues as quality of life, freedom to maintain property and execute a business in the manner one chose to, air quality, and sustainability. She stated that in applying a cost benefit analysis she did not see an overriding benefit to the use of leaf blowers.

Clm. Edwards stated he did not support a ban and felt that neighbors should respect and talk to each other to work out their differences. He pointed out that the wind also blew around dust and pollen around, that motorcycles also made loud noises, and that a ban would be a slippery slope to go down.

Clm. Gallian stated her continued support for a ban and that she had heard the call from her constituents.

Mayor Cook stated it took money to enforce a ban and he would prefer to reduce the days and times that use of leaf blowers were allowed to operate.

Clm. Agrimonti stated she would like to see the Chamber of Commerce put together a packet of information for the landscapers and would also like the ordinance to make property owners, in addition to the landscape companies, liable for infractions of the ordinance.

Clm. Hundley stated that she was leaning towards a complete ban but was concerned about the effect on the Public Works Department.

Associate City Attorney Nebb led the Council through a list of issues and options that had been mentioned upon which they conducted straw votes providing direction to staff on what to include in the draft ordinance when it came back for Council consideration. A Council majority was in favor of a complete ban on gas powered leaf blowers and a ban on electric leaf blowers in residential. The issue of the use of electric leaf blowers in public parks and commercial business areas would be considered further when the ordinance came back for review.

9. COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Clm. Hundley reported attendance at the Legislative Committee and Sonoma Clean Power meetings.

Clm. Gallian reported attendance at the SCTA & Regional Climate Protection Authority, SCC Stakeholders meeting, and a Water Webinar.

Mayor Cook announced that the next meeting of the City Council would be held on August 17, 2015.

10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INCLUDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM SUCCESSOR AGENCY STAFF - None

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Daryl Ponicsan, Thomas Cannard, Bob Edwards, Connie Rhoades, Cecilia Ponicsan and Georgia Kelley made additional comments regarding the leaf blower issue.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Sonoma City Council on the 17th day of August 2015.

Gay Johann
Assistant City Manager / City Clerk