

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 95476

Wednesday September 4, 2013
6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

City Council
Ken Brown, Mayor
Tom Rouse, Mayor Pro Tem
Steve Barbose
David Cook
Laurie Gallian

Be Courteous - **TURN OFF** your cell phones and pagers while the meeting is in session.

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL (Gallian, Cook, Barbose, Rouse, Brown)
REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

1. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. It is recommended that you keep your comments to three minutes or less. Under State Law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the City Council at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public will be invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Council consideration. Upon being acknowledged by the Mayor, please step to the podium and speak into the microphone. Begin by stating and spelling your name.

2. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Item 2A: Councilmembers' Comments and Announcements

3. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INCLUDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM SUCCESSOR AGENCY STAFF

4. PRESENTATIONS

Item 4A: Presentation of Annual Report of the Sonoma Tourism Improvement District

5. CONSENT CALENDAR/AGENDA ORDER – CITY COUNCIL

All items listed on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of the Council, staff, or public request specific items to be removed for separate action. At this time, Council may decide to change the order of the agenda.

Item 5A: Waive further reading and Authorize Introduction and/or Adoption of Ordinances by Title Only. (Standard procedural action - no backup information provided)

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

Item 5B: **Approval of the Minutes of the August 12 and August 19, 2013 Meetings.**
Staff Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

Item 5C: **Approval and ratification of the appointment of Harry Blum to the Community Services and Environment Commission for a two-year term.**
Staff Recommendation: Ratify the nomination.

Item 5D: **Request for Proposals (RFP) for the preparation of updates to the Housing and Circulation Elements of the General Plan.**
Staff Recommendation: Authorize the circulation of the RFP.

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

All items listed on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of the Council, staff, or public request specific items to be removed for separate action. At this time Council may decide to change the order of the agenda.

Item 6A: **Approval of the portions of the Minutes of the August 12 and August 19, 2013 City Council / Successor Agency Meetings pertaining to the Successor Agency.**
Staff Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

Item 7A: **Review and Consideration of a Refuse Rate Adjustment with City Franchisee Sonoma Garbage Company, Inc. to be effective on October 1, 2013.** (City Manager)
Staff Recommendation: Adopt resolution approving of a rate increase of 2.38% effective October 1, 2013.

8. REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL

(Matters requiring discussion and/or action by the City Council)

Item 8A: **Discussion, Consideration and Possible Adoption of a Resolution in Support of Sonoma Developmental Center, requested by Mayor Brown.** (City Manager)
Staff Recommendation: Adopt the resolution.

Item 8B: **Discussion, consideration and possible action on the question of whether to revisit the regulation of leaf-blowers, including consideration of a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers.** (Planning Director)
Staff Recommendation: Provide direction to staff.

Item 8C: **Discussion of 2013-14 City Council GOALS “Report Card”.** (City Manager)
Staff Recommendation: Receive status report on Council Goals.

Item 8D: **Discussion, consideration and possible action relating to the Alcalde Selection Policy.** (City Manager)
Staff Recommendation: Should Council desire to entertain revisions to the Alcalde Selection Policy, staff recommends that it appoint a subcommittee to meet with Mr. Evans, past Alcaldes, and other interested parties to consider revisions of the Policy and if there are, place them before the entire City Council for consideration.

8. REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL, Continued

Item 8E: Consideration and Possible Action to Appoint an Alternate Representative to the Sonoma Clean Power Agency [SCPA] Board. (City Manager)
Staff Recommendation: Appoint Alternate.

9. REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL AS THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY

(Matters requiring discussion and/or action by the Council as the Successor Agency)

10. COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS AND FINAL REMARKS

Item 10A: Reports Regarding Committee Activities.

Item 10B: Final Councilmembers' Remarks.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

12. ADJOURNMENT

I do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing agenda was posted on the City Hall bulletin board on August 29, 2013. GAY JOHANN, CITY CLERK

Copies of all staff reports and documents subject to disclosure that relate to any item of business referred to on the agenda are normally available for public inspection the Wednesday before each regularly scheduled meeting at City Hall, located at No. 1 The Plaza, Sonoma CA. Any documents subject to disclosure that are provided to all, or a majority of all, of the members of the City Council regarding any item on this agenda after the agenda has been distributed will be made available for inspection at the City Clerk's office, No. 1 The Plaza, Sonoma CA during regular business hours.

If you challenge the action of the City Council in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described on the agenda, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk, at or prior to the public hearing.

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk (707) 933-2216. Notification 48-hours before the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.



City of Sonoma
City Council
Agenda Item Summary

City Council Agenda Item: 4A

Meeting Date: 09/04/2013

Department

Administration

Staff Contact

Carol E. Giovanatto, City Manager

Agenda Item Title

Presentation of Annual Report of the Sonoma Tourism Improvement District

Summary

The Sonoma Tourism Improvement District (TID) is a benefit assessment district established to help fund marketing and sales promotion efforts for Sonoma lodging businesses. TID includes all lodging businesses (hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfasts, and vacation rentals) located within the boundaries of the City of Sonoma. The Council approved the formation of the District Management Plan on April 2, 2012 with an effective date of July 1, 2012. In accordance with the Plan, the TID board is required to present an annual report at the end of each year of operation to the City Council pursuant to Streets and Highways Code §36650. Upon review of the annual report Council may request additional financial documentation of expenditure of assessments which may include audited financial statements, federal or state non-profit corporate tax returns or be in any other form that may provide the requested information.

In accordance with Council policy on Presentations, the TID Board has been requested to limit their presentation to ten (10) minutes.

Recommended Council Action

Accept annual report.

Alternative Actions

Request additional financial information.

Financial Impact

TID collections provide an estimated \$4,400 (1%) administrative fee payable to the City of Sonoma

Environmental Review

- Environmental Impact Report
- Negative Declaration
- Exempt
- Not Applicable

Status

- Approved/Certified
- No Action Required
- Action Requested

Attachments:

N/A

cc's via email:

Sonoma Tourism Board c/o Bill Blum, MacArthur Place

Wendy Peterson, Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau



CITY OF SONOMA
City Council
Agenda Item Summary

City Council Agenda Item: 5B

Meeting Date: 09/04/2013

Department

Administration

Staff Contact

Gay Johann, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager

Agenda Item Title

Approval of the Minutes of the August 12 and August 19, 2013 Meetings.

Summary

The minutes have been prepared for Council review and approval.

Recommended Council Action

Approve the minutes.

Alternative Actions

Correct or amend the minutes prior to approval.

Financial Impact

N/A

Environmental Review

- Environmental Impact Report
- Negative Declaration
- Exempt
- Not Applicable

Status

- Approved/Certified
- No Action Required
- Action Requested

Attachments:

Minutes

**ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SONOMA CITY COUNCIL**

*Community Meeting Room, 177 First Street West
Sonoma CA 95476*



**Monday, August 12, 2013
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

City Council
Ken Brown, Mayor
Tom Rouse, Mayor Pro Tem
Steve Barbose
David Cook
Laurie Gallian

OPENING

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Derek Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Brown and Councilmembers Barbose, Gallian, Cook and Rouse
ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Giovanatto, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Johann, City Attorney Walter and Planning Director Goodison.

1. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Darryl Ponicsan stated he had been trying for eight months to get the Council to take up the issue of leaf blowers. He stated that his faith in the Council was waning and he may have to go the voter initiative process.

David Eicher stated that the Council should loosen up regarding the three-minute limitation on public comments.

2. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Item 2A: Councilmembers' Comments and Announcements

Mayor Brown dedicated the meeting in the memory of Michael Hinton and Reva Metzger.

3. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

4. REGULAR CALENDAR

Item 4A: Discussion, consideration and possible action to receive the Impact Reports as described in Elections Code section 9212 (and any others identified by the Council) of the proposed Hotel Limitation Measure.

City Manager Giovanatto reported that at the July 15, 2013 meeting, Council directed staff to order an impact report regarding the Hotel Limitation Measure at a cost not to exceed \$17,500.

She stated that staff had contracted with Keyser Marston Associates who prepared a report entitled "Assessment of the Large Hotel Growth Management Initiative's Potential Impact on Development Opportunities". Giovanatto added that Planning Director Goodison had also prepared a report addressing the initiative's relationship with the City's General Plan and Development Code.

Debbie Kern, Keyser Marston Associates, stated that a key provision of the initiative was a limitation on the development of hotels over twenty-five rooms and on the expansion of existing hotels to exceed a total of twenty-five rooms unless an annual occupancy rate of 80% was achieved. She reported that information utilized in evaluating the impact of the initiative included the conditions of the lodging market in Sonoma, the experiences of other lodging markets in California, and the underwriting criteria of new institutional investment-grade lodging development. The data in the report regarding Sonoma's hotel inventory, occupancy rates and transient occupancy tax revenue had been provided by the City. Information regarding other lodging markets had been obtained from data published by nationally recognized firms. Ms. Kern provided data and statistics relating to room supply, occupancy rates, room revenues, and Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). She explained that Sonoma was considered a leisure-driven market area with peak occupancy occurring during the summer and fall crush.

Ms. Kern stated that the lodging stock in Sonoma had not achieved the 80% threshold in any year during the past decade and the stock's peak annual rate of 66% was far below the initiative's 80% threshold. The average annual occupancy rate over the past decade was 62% and the annual average rate in 2012 was 65%. It was her judgment that it was highly unlikely that Sonoma's existing lodging properties would achieve the 80% average annual occupancy prescribed by the initiative. As a result, if the initiative was approved by the voters, it would be unlikely that any hotels over 25 rooms would be built in Sonoma.

Ms. Kern stated that if the ballot measure was approved and the 25 room cap became effective, it was likely that new lodging development would continue to be comprised of independently operated small inns and hotels. She pointed out that the depth of the investor pool for these types of properties was limited.

Planning Director Goodison reported on the potential impacts of the proposed initiative with respect to existing land use and development planning policies. The revisions to the General Plan were consistent with its existing structure and formatting although they appeared to run counter to the objectives of Policy 1.5 of the Community Development Element which established the Urban Growth Boundary developed to "*protect the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life of the residents of Sonoma by concentrating future residential, commercial, and industrial growth in areas already served by urban services*" by forcing development of any new large hotels to occur outside the City limits. Goodison stated the proposed initiative would also undercut policies in the Local Economy Element.

Goodison reported that the two key regulatory thresholds established by the measure 1) defining Large Hotel as having more than twenty-five guest rooms and 2) the 80% annual occupancy threshold seemed arbitrary and no rationale had been offered to support them. The annualized occupancy rate of 80% was unlikely to be achieved; resulting in a ban on any new hotels of twenty-six rooms or more. In response to the statement included in the initiative that "*one of the biggest development pressures facing the City of Sonoma and surrounding areas has been large hotel developments*", Goodison presented a list of lodging facility applications for the last ten years indicating that three applications had been made that met the initiative's definition of Large Hotel. Of those, two had been withdrawn and one approved. The one

application approved allowed expansion of an existing nineteen-room hotel by the addition of eight rooms.

Goodison also provided information regarding trip generation and noted that hotels were in the lower range of traffic generation among uses normally expected in commercial and mixed use zoning districts. He then compared the effect of the initiative to the planning process in existence and stated that the existing planning process has several advantages for allowing a case-by-case review of development applications as well as multiple opportunities for public input and participation.

Clm. Rouse, referring to a proposed fifty-nine room hotel on West Napa, confirmed that if the initiative were approved, it would be possible to construct a twenty-five room hotel with the same scope and size as the proposed fifty-nine room hotel and could incorporate mixed-uses.

Clm. Barbose confirmed that the limitation on existing large hotels to add an additional use component that would occur if the initiative passed, could be eliminated by amending the Development Code.

Mayor Brown invited comments from the public. Bob Edwards stated that hotel occupancy and room rates were governed by the law of supply and demand. According to Smith Travel Research, year-to-date occupancy rates had risen 11.8% over the previous year in Sonoma County. Without the addition of large hotels, a stabilized inventory within good economic tidal forces would result in a steady rise in annual occupancy rate, thus an increase in TOT. Cities had attempted to stabilize budgets that suffered from the loss of redevelopment funds and rising staff salaries and operational costs by building new hotels and increasing TOT revenue. That was an act of desperation that Sonoma need not join because its finances were stable.

Karla Noyes stated that the consultant's report referenced Average Daily Rates (ADR). Under current visitor demand with 527 rooms available in Sonoma, adding one new hotel with 25 rooms would reduce the annual occupancy rate by 2.9 percentage points. A 60-room hotel would drop the occupancy rate by 6.6 percentage points. As occupancy rates drop, the drop in ADR accelerates which decreases the TOT collected.

David Eicher stated that the sudden increase in room inventory would risk lowering TOT. The risk of over-building was a drop of ADR and TOT lasting many years. Yountville was an example of this.

Ned Forrest disputed the consultant's statement that only three cities had reached an annualized occupancy rate of 80% and stated that Pasadena, Santa Monica, Las Vegas, Santa Clarita and others had reached it. He said the consultant's report was inadequate and misleading. Hotels under 25 rooms carry common characterizations such as restaurants but not gyms and event centers. They were not generally developed by large development companies.

Gerry Bernhaut stated that large development-grade hotel developers build to sell cash cows. He stated that The Lodge was developed by a local couple with a vision to create a local hotel for locals even allowing close-by neighbors to use the pool and with low family-style room rates. Some who lived here cautioned it was too large and unfortunately, The Lodge eventually came under the ownership of Marriott International which is not a local business and whose profits leave Sonoma.

DRAFT MINUTES

Ed Clay stated that the consultant's report ignored the topic of untapped sources of TOT. At present, only the room rate was included in TOT calculation and he suggested that the formula be changed to include parking fees, mini-bar sales, spa use, in-room movies and other incidentals customarily part of the charges paid by guests.

Norma Barnett stated that another TOT opportunity ignored by the consultant were the illegal vacation rentals. At least twenty-one were currently advertising on the internet. She stated that the City had not developed a methodology or strategy to capture past taxes due or penalties, unlike the County.

Jim Kent stated that neither the consultant or staff covered the potential financial impacts of a Large Hotel. They included: Noise, traffic, overuse of the Plaza, water and public works department costs, road and park maintenance, police and fire services, increased operating costs for Plaza merchants, and the seasonal nature of tourism and its effects on worker's income.

Georgia Kelly stated that the issue of how Large Hotels would fit in had not been addressed. The recently adopted Plan Bay Area recognized that some communities were more appropriate for increased development than others. High level development and job growth were being directed to Priority Development Areas (PDA) while low PDA areas were designated for low or very limited development and job growth. She stated that Sonoma had been designated as a non-PDA area, ABAG's lowest level of development.

Helen Marsh stated they would be following up with more detailed analysis. She stated there was an apparent bias on the part of City staff who appeared to be campaigning against the initiative and she hoped the City would correct that. She went on to state that the City Manager's report did not include any positives and the Planning Director's not pointing out the increased pedestrian traffic seemed argumentative in nature. Information regarding vacation rentals and B&Bs should not have been included in the consultant's report and the report included the misinformation that only three cities had ever reached the 80% occupancy rate.

Marilyn Goode stated one of their greatest frustrations was the difficulty in trying to be heard. Their request for a block of time to present their analysis was denied which required them to break up their statements into three minute segments. She commented that it appeared the Council's minds were already made up.

Larry Barnett stated that the fact that the Hotel Limitation Measure would slow growth was intentional. Unless limitations were established, it would destroy the very reasons that visitors want to come to Sonoma. He said he and his group were pleased to create the condition that placed this matter on a ballot. He stated that he had heard the consultant had a relationship with someone who had an application before the City and he would like to find out more about that.

Rosemary Pedranzini stated the project was wrong for the City and would cause too much additional traffic.

Tina Shone stated that hotel project applications would fall within the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance which directed development towards the downtown. It would require traffic mitigation but that would be paid for by the developer. Hotels and restaurants create jobs and the benefits spill over onto other merchants.

Linda Moore stated she visited Napa and was appalled by the development there. She chose to move here because of the character of the City.

Bill Blum, MacArthur Place, stated that the impact report clearly showed that the City would never achieve the 80% occupancy. Sonoma tourism was seasonal and occupancy dropped to very low levels in the late fall and winter months. He stated the report also showed that there was not a hotel problem and there had not been one new hotel in the last ten years. Sadly, if the initiative was passed it would not allow an existing hotel to expand however, an out of town developer could come in and build right next door. He stated that the existing sales tax measure would expire in a few years however, the costs for public services would continue to increase. Blum stated that the Visitor Bureau, Vintners and Growers Association, Tourism Improvement District all agreed the initiative would not be good for Sonoma.

Nancy Simpson questioned the concerns stated by the initiative proponents that hotels of more than twenty-five rooms would ruin the quality of life and destroy Sonoma. She said this disrespect caused one to question the motives of the proponents. Under existing regulations all developments were reviewed which demonstrated the authenticity of Sonoma. She questioned what other development would replace hotel projects on available sites. If the measure passed there would be an imbalance in the way developments were handled and the best way to manage growth was to utilize the General Plan and existing regulations.

It was moved by Clm. Rouse, seconded by Clm. Gallian, to receive the impact reports. The motion carried unanimously.

RECESS: The meeting recessed from 7:30 to 7:40 p.m.

Item 4B: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action on the Hotel Limitation Measure including:
a. Adopt an Ordinance amending the Sonoma General Plan and Development Code, or
b. Adopt resolutions calling for a Special Election, and if so, identifying authors and signers of ballot argument and directing measure to City Attorney for impartial analysis.

City Manager Giovanatto explained that the Council had two options. It could adopt the proposed ordinance or call for a special election. If a special election was called, the Council could then identify the authors of a ballot argument and direct the City Attorney to prepare an impartial analysis.

Clm. Barbose confirmed that the preparation of a ballot argument was optional. He inquired if the Council were to prepare an argument if it would be unbiased. City Attorney Walter responded that an argument would advocate a particular position based on facts and state why the Council believed the ordinance should be supported or not supported. He said that it had been incorrectly stated that the City was precluded from taking a position.

Mayor Brown invited comments from the public. Larry Barnett urged the Council not to prepare a ballot argument and added that individual councilmembers would be allowed to sign arguments for or against. Otherwise, the Council would be taking a position and place itself in opposition with a majority of its constituents. It would also make it a race against City Hall. He said that people were already suspicious and felt the "fix was in".

DRAFT MINUTES

Bob Edwards questioned if Councilmember Cook could participate since he, as the President of the Chamber, had already taken a position against the initiative.

David Eichar stated that the City Council could take a position but staff reports would have to be fair and not argumentative.

John Dunning stated the issue should go to a vote. Anderson's first and second proposals looked pretty good and he wanted to see the third proposal. He stated he wanted to see more affordable hotel rates and felt the addition of some rooms would keep the price in check. Adding more parking spaces downtown would improve things too.

Mayor Brown requested the City Attorney to address the issue brought up by Mr. Edwards. City Attorney Walter explained that he and Councilmember Cook had discussed the issue of his vote as the Chamber President and it was his belief that Cook had not participated in that vote. He added that this action was a ministerial duty, not a discretionary act and the fact of whether Cook participated in the Chamber vote did not affect his ability to participate in this ministerial act; so, unless Cook believed he suffered from actual bias it was not a significant issue. Clm. Cook stated he did participate in the Chamber vote but did not believe he was biased and that he came to the meeting with open arms. He felt he could be fair.

City Attorney Walter cited a Supreme Court case in which the City Manager of the City of Salinas had prepared impact reports and the City was sued by initiative proponents who claimed that taxpayer funds had been used to campaign against their measure. He stated that the Court's decision did not preclude the City from publicly expressing an opinion or prevent staff from preparing factual analysis of the ballot measure.

Clm. Barbose questioned if Clm. Cook should be allowed to vote on this matter. City Attorney Walter stated he did not see a nexus between Cook voting against the initiative as the Chamber President and voting on whether the Council should prepare a ballot argument.

It was moved by Clm. Rouse, seconded by Clm. Gallian, to adopt Res. No. 31-2013 entitled A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Sonoma California Calling for the Holding of a Special Municipal Election for the Submission to the Voters of a Proposed Ordinance and Requesting That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma Authorize and Direct Its Election Department to Conduct Said Special Election on Tuesday November 19, 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Walter stated that the next step was to determine if the Council would author an argument.

Clm. Barbose strongly urged the Council to not put an argument on the ballot. He said this situation arose because a large number of people felt they could not trust the Council and if they place an argument on the ballot, it would only encourage that belief. He said the people of the City of Sonoma needed to decide the matter. Clm. Rouse disagreed. He said it was the Council's right and duty to present their argument against the measure. Clm. Gallian stated her agreement with Clm. Barbose.

It was moved by Clm. Rouse, seconded by Clm. Cook, to adopt Resolution No. 32-2013 entitled A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Sonoma, California, Setting Priorities for Filing Written Arguments Related to the November 19, 2013 Special Municipal Election and Directing the City Attorney to Prepare an Impartial Analysis, directing that an argument against the

measure and rebuttal argument be authored by Mayor Brown and Mayor Pro Tem Rouse. The motion carried three to two, Barbose and Gallian dissented.

Item 4C: Providing Information About a Ballot Measure by a Public Agency.

City Attorney Walter presented information regarding the activities allowed and not allowed to be conducted by the City in relation to the ballot measure. He said an individual could do anything they want on their own time and on their own dime.

The public comment period was opened and closed with none received.

5. COUNCILMEMBERS' FINAL REMARKS

Item 5A: Final Councilmembers' Remarks.

Clm. Barbose stated a mistake had been made and it was ironic that the Council would make the other people's case for them. Clm. Gallian stated she was happy the measure would be placed on a ballot and she sat there representing both sides. Mayor Brown stated he was adhering to the fact that the measure was not about a particular hotel and he did not see any reason his support for placing an argument on the ballot would degrade confidence in the City Council.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Larry Barnett said he was disappointed in Council's decision and stated he would mount as vigorous of a campaign as he could. He said his was a grass root effort not supported by development or business. Council's decision just gave his campaign a big boost. The perception coming out of this meeting was that the Council just approved every big hotel coming down the line.

Gary Edwards stated he had served as President of the 1999 Hillside preservation committee and that he agreed with Mayor Brown's comments. It was about the process not a particular hotel and he did not want his job as a Planning Commissioner to be taken away. Edwards offered to sign the argument against the measure.

Teresa Parks said it was sad that Barnett came to trash the Council and that she supported the position taken tonight.

Bob Edwards stated that some had said that the initiative would take away the public's ability to participate in the process but it would not. Another comment was that there was no hotel problem but he said the \$400,000 TID was a problem.

David Eichar stated that the consultant did not disclose the source of the information included in the impact report.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. in the memory of Michael Hinton and Reva Metzger.

DRAFT MINUTES

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Sonoma City Council on the ___ day of _____ 2013.

Gay Johann, MMC
City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager

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 95476



Monday, August 19, 2013

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

City Council
Ken Brown, Mayor
Tom Rouse, Mayor Pro Tem
Steve Barbose
David Cook
Laurie Gallian

OPENING

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Angela Wilson, of HomeGrown Bagels, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Brown and Councilmembers Barbose, Gallian, Cook and Rouse
ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Giovanatto, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Johann, Assistant City Attorney Nebb, Planning Director Goodison, Public Works Director Takasugi.

1. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Police Chief Sackett and Deputy Sherman introduced the new Canine Unit, a two year old named Dickie. Deputy Sherman described the training that they had already received and announced Dickie had been released to duty.

Daryl Ponsican commented on the ill effects of leaf blowers and once again requested the Council ban them. Cecelia Ponsican stated that leaf blowers caused asthma and reported that one in five children in Sonoma County had asthma.

2. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Item 2A: Councilmembers' Comments and Announcements

Cm. Rouse proudly announced the birth of his first granddaughter and dedicated the meeting to Sonoma's newest resident - Amelia Michelle Barker.

Cm. Barbose requested that the issue of modification of the Montini Management Plan come before the Council as soon as possible. He added that he was in favor of allowing dogs on the trail.

Cm. Cook requested that the issue of leaf blowers be placed on a future agenda.

Mayor Brown dedicated the meeting in the memory of Patricia Wiggins.

3. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INCLUDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM SUCCESSOR AGENCY STAFF

City Manager Giovanatto announced the following: The draft Library JPA would be before Council for review in October, staff would provide a Council Goal Report Card at the next meeting, the public was advised that an error that occurred in processing the August water bills had been corrected and they would be receiving corrective notices, the management plan for 32 Patten would be considered by the Successor Agency and Oversight Board in September, the Veterans Cemetery expansion project had begun, CFAC was seeking nominations for 2013 Treasure Artist of the Year, and due to the Labor Day holiday, the next Council meeting would be held on Wednesday September 4, 2013.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Item 4A: Recognition of Carole Latorre’s service on the Community Services and Environment Commission (CSEC)

Mayor Brown presented Carole Latorre a certificate recognizing her service on the CSEC from March 2008 through June 2013.

Item 4B: Ledson Hotel Ten-Year Anniversary Proclamation

Mayor Brown read aloud a proclamation recognizing Steve Ledson and the tenth anniversary of the Ledson Hotel on the Plaza.

Item 4C: HomeGrown Bagel Thirty-Five Year Anniversary Proclamation

Mayor Brown read aloud a proclamation recognizing the thirty-fifth anniversary of HomeGrown Bagels and proprietor Stuart Teitelbaum’s contributions to the community.

Item 4D: Presentation regarding the Sonoma County Food System Alliance Food Action Plan

Phina Borgeson reported that Food System Alliance was a county-based coalition of diverse stakeholders working to address food system needs. Convened in partnership by Ag Innovations Network and the County of Sonoma in 2009, FSA is a powerful tool working to bring the community together to deal with countywide issues. She provided details about FSA activities and programs.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR/AGENDA ORDER – CITY COUNCIL

Item 5A: Waive Further reading and Authorize Introduction and/or Adoption of Ordinances by Title Only.

Item 5B: Approval of the minutes of the June 24, July 1 and July 15, 2013 City Council Meetings.

Item 5C: Approval and Ratification of the Appointment of Bill Willers to the Planning Commission.

Item 5D: Approval and Ratification of the Appointment of James Cribb to the Planning Commission as the Alternate Commissioner.

- Item 5E:** Approval and ratification of the appointment of Christopher Rateaver to the Community Services and Environment Commission.
- Item 5F:** Approval and ratification of the appointment of Kate Schertz to the Cultural and Fine Arts Commission as the Alternate Commissioner.
- Item 5G:** Approval and ratification of the appointment of David Brigode to the Mobilehome Park Rental Review Board.
- Item 5H:** Approve the granting of “Free Days” at the Sonoma Valley War Memorial Veterans Building to Chicuchas Wasi, Sonoma Community Center and SVHS Music Program. Approved subject to applicants’ compliance with the City’s standard insurance requirements.

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

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

- Item 6A:** Approval of the portions of the Minutes of the June 24, July 1, and July 15, 2013 City Council / Successor Agency 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. Cook, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

7. PUBLIC HEARING – None Scheduled

8. REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL

- Item 8A:** Discussion, consideration and possible action to appoint a representative to the Sonoma County Health Action Board.

City Manager Giovanatto reported that Patricia Talbot had been the City’s representative on the Health Action Board for several years but recently announced that she would step down to allow for a Councilmember to be the City’s representative. Mayor Brown stated that he would like to serve on the Board. It was moved by Gallian, seconded by Clm. Barbose, to appoint Mayor Brown to the Health Action Board. The motion carried unanimously.

- Item 8B:** Discussion, consideration and possible approval of an exception to the Special Events Policy in order to allow the display of a banner on the Plaza Horseshoe lawn on September 21, 2013, in conjunction with the Plein Air event.

Planning Director Goodison reported that the Special Events Policy provided that banners meeting specific criteria could be placed in the Plaza upon approval by the City Council. The policy restricted the size of banners to six square feet and did not allow them on the Plaza horseshoe lawn. Sonoma Plein Air requested placement of a 3’ x 10’ banner within the lawn area of the Plaza Horseshoe on the day of their event, September 21, 2013. The Community Services and Environment Commission (CSEC) approved the Plein Air Event application at their

July 10, meeting and recommended approval of the placement of the banner to the City Council, as the Council had previously authorized a similar exception to the banner policy for this event last year. He stated that as presented, this request did not comply with the established criteria in the Special Events Policy as it related to size and placement of the banner. Goodison added that if the Council approved an exception for this event, it may also wish to consider directing staff and the CSEC to revisit banner criteria of the Special Events policy.

Mayor Brown invited comments from the public. Ellen Hoover stated that she had been Co-Chair of the event for five years and that she did not understand why they were being singled out regarding their request for a banner since it had been approved in previous years.

CIm. Barbose stated he had no problem approving this exception but that it would be appropriate to revisit the policy in light of all the exceptions that had been made. It was moved by CIm. Barbose, seconded by CIm. Cook, to approve the exception subject to staff approval of the specific location and means of securing the banner and to direct staff and CSEC to revisit the policy. CIm. Gallian stated she was not singling this event out but felt that the horseshoe was a protected zone and she did not support placement of banners on it. The motion carried with four affirmative votes, CIm. Gallian abstained.

Item 8C: Discussion Regarding a Proposed Sidewalk Trip-Hazard Repair Policy.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Takasugi reported that California Street and Highways Code, and the City Municipal Code places responsibility on the abutting property owner for maintaining the sidewalk fronting or adjacent to their property in safe condition. Historically, the City of Sonoma had enforced the sidewalk repair ordinance by complaint only and had not actively inspected sidewalks for trip hazards. He stated that staff was proposing a phased inspection and repair program, with a cost share component. It was conceptually planned over a period of 11 years, but could take longer depending upon the extent of trip hazards discovered and the degree to which abutting property owners choose to participate in the cost share component.

Takasugi provided additional details about the proposed policy including the cost share component, contracting and budgeting. CIm. Rouse stated that tree roots caused most of the sidewalk issues and asked how that would be addressed. Takasugi stated that they would be dealt with on a case by case basis.

The public comment period was opened and closed with none received. Councilmembers Rouse, Gallian and Barbose stated their support for development of the proposed policy. City Manager Giovanatto thanked Takasugi for developing the policy and stated that REMIF also supported it.

9. REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL AS THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY

10. COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS AND FINAL REMARKS

Item 10A: Reports Regarding Committee Activities.

CIm. Barbose reported on two recent meetings of Sonoma Clean Power.

Clm. Gallian reported on the Cittaslow Sonoma Valley, SCTA, M & C, and Ag and Open Space meetings.

Clm. Cook reported that Friends of the Library raised over \$10,000 at their last book sale.

Mayor Brown reported on the Disaster Council meeting.

Item 10B: Final Councilmembers' Remarks.

Clm. Gallian stated that Senator Wiggins would be missed.

Mayor Brown encouraged all to participate in the upcoming Vintage Festival parade.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m. in memory of Pat Wiggins and in celebration of the birth of Clm. Rouse's granddaughter.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Sonoma City Council on the ___day of _____ 2013.

Gay Johann, MMC
City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager



CITY OF SONOMA
City Council
Agenda Item Summary

City Council Agenda Item: 5C

Meeting Date: 09/04/2013

Department

Administration

Staff Contact

Gay Johann, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager

Agenda Item Title

Approval and ratification of the appointment of Harry Blum to the Community Services and Environment Commission for a two-year term.

Summary

The Community Services and Environment Commission (CSEC) consists of nine members and one alternate who serve at the pleasure of the City Council. Of the nine members, one is designated as a representative of the youth in the community. Five of the members and the alternate must be City residents.

This appointment will be to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Michael Thomas. Harry Blum has served as the CSEC Alternate since January 28, 2013 and Mayor Brown has nominated him for appointment as a regular member for a two-year term.

Recommended Council Action

Ratify the nomination.

Alternative Actions

Council discretion.

Financial Impact

N/A.

Environmental Review

- Environmental Impact Report
- Negative Declaration
- Exempt
- Not Applicable

Status

- Approved/Certified
 - No Action Required
 - Action Requested
-

Attachments:

None

Alignment with Council Goals: N/A

cc: Harry Blum, via email



City of Sonoma
City Council
Agenda Item Summary

City Council Agenda Item: 5D

Meeting Date: 09/04/13

Department

Planning

Staff Contact

David Goodison, Planning Director

Agenda Item Title

Request for Proposals (RFP) for the preparation of updates to the Housing and Circulation Elements of the General Plan.

Summary

Sonoma, along with all other jurisdictions in the Bay Area, has received updated fair share housing allocations for the planning period of 2014-2022. Under State law, the Housing Element must be updated to reflect the new allocations and the deadline for completing this work is January 31, 2015. In addition the Circulation Element needs to be updated to comply with the provisions of AB 1358, "The Complete Streets Act". While there is no hard deadline in the legislation, compliance with the Complete Streets Act is becoming a major factor in the award of transportation funding from the MTC (the Metropolitan Transportation Commission). The update of the Housing Element and the Circulation Element is a complex task that will require considerable time as well as specialized technical expertise. For these reasons, the City Council, as part of its FY 2013-14 Budget, allocated 150,000 for consultant assistance. Attached for the City Council's review is a draft request for consultant assistance that is intended to identify a process and key outcomes necessary to accomplish this work. In addition to the basic tasks of updating the Housing and Circulation Elements, the RFP includes the preparation of a downtown parking study as an optional task.

Recommended Council Action

Authorize the circulation of the RFP.

Alternative Actions

Direct changes to the RFP.

Financial Impact

The City Council, as part of its FY 2013-14 Budget, allocated \$150,000 for consultant assistance for the update of the Housing and Circulation Elements.

Environmental Review

Status

- Environmental Impact Report
- Negative Declaration
- Exempt
- Not Applicable

- Approved/Certified
 - No Action Required
 - Action Requested
-

Alignment with Council Goals:

The update of the Housing and Circulation Elements relates to the "Policy and Leadership" goal, as it responds to the requirements of State legislation while emphasizing local control through the planning process.

Attachments:

1. Request for Proposals
-

cc:

City of Sonoma Housing and Circulation Element Update Request for Proposals

September 4, 2013

Summary

The City of Sonoma is seeking proposals from qualified consulting firms to update the Housing and Circulation elements of its General Plan. The City desires to produce updated Housing and Circulation elements that reflect local policies and priorities, comply with State law, and, with respect to the Housing Element, achieve certification by the HCD. In this update, the City would like to leverage its 2009-2014 Housing Element (which was certified by the HCD), as a means of minimizing the costs and time associated with the update of that element. Similarly, the technical information, goals, policies and implementation measures of the Circulation Element of the City's 2020 General Plan should be used as the starting point for the update of that element.

Background

The City of Sonoma (population 10,731) is a historic community located in south Sonoma Valley, in the southeastern corner of Sonoma County, away from the Highway 101 corridor. The town has an area of approximately 2.4 square miles. Laid out by General Mariano Vallejo in 1835 around an eight-acre central plaza, Sonoma is the home of the last and northernmost of the Spanish missions and was the birthplace of the State flag. The town serves as a gateway to California's world-class wine industry, attracting many visitors wishing to experience its unique historic and visual character. The city is surrounded by rolling hills and agriculture (mainly grazing lands and vineyards), providing a greenbelt that helps to define Sonoma's visual character. As is the case in much of the San Francisco bay area, land costs and housing prices are high, making the provision of affordable housing difficult and expensive.

Description of the Project—Base Scope of Work

A. *General Services.* The Consultant shall provide the following services:

- Prepare an updated Housing Element pursuant to State law that achieves certification by HCD.
- Prepare an updated Circulation Element that complies with State law, including "Complete Streets" requirements and related legislation. (See the "Update to the General Plan Guidelines: Complete Streets and the Circulation Element", OPR, 2010.)
- Meet with City staff to gain a complete understanding of the Housing/Circulation element Update project.
- Coordinate public outreach efforts. At a minimum, the Consultant should schedule two public/community workshops or study sessions. Planning Commission members and/or City Council representatives may participate in these sessions.
- Consult and collaborate as necessary with State and local agencies.
- Submit plans, documents and drawings both in printed and electronic formats acceptable to the City.
- Provide staff support during public and staff meetings as needed.
- Prepare background analyses, staff reports, resolutions and ordinances related to the Housing/Circulation element.
- Attend public hearings before the Planning Commission and the City Council.

- Submit all documents, tables, graphics, etc in a format suitable for duplicating and for posting on the City’s web site.

B. *Housing Element Update.* The Proposal shall address the methodology to be used for each of the following:

- Complying with State law regarding the preparation and content of housing elements.
- Addressing mixed-use housing, inclusionary housing, redevelopment.
- Analyzing the City’s current zoning controls and regulatory practices with respect to meeting the estimated housing needs and the economic/environmental impact of rezoning to meet those needs.
- Developing policy recommendations addressing affordable housing needs (very low, low, and moderate income), including the City’s updated Regional Housing Needs Allocation:

| Sonoma’s Regional Housing Needs Allocation | | | | |
|---|-----|----------|----------------|-------|
| Very Low | Low | Moderate | Above-Moderate | Total |
| 24 | 23 | 27 | 63 | 137 |

- Updating policies and programs to address the loss of redevelopment funding.

C. *State Housing Element Legal Requirements.* The Proposal shall demonstrate the following:

- The consultant’s knowledge of Housing Element State law and how it applies to this project.
- The consultant’s knowledge of the Housing Element certification requirements and process of HCD.
- Substantial applicable experience, including a list of California cities and contacts where the consultant has recently prepared a Housing Element and environmental document.
- Understanding and experience in working with HCD staff for Housing Element preparation and certification.

D. *Circulation Element Update.* The Proposal shall address the methodology to be used for each of the following:

- Provide updated traffic counts and intersection LOS for the street segments and intersections addressed in the current Circulation Element.
- Provide updated traffic projections for the year 2020 and the year 2030 based on updated land use information and the Sonoma County Traffic Model.
- Identify needed intersection and roadway improvements.
- Develop updated information on bicycle use and bicycle facilities.
- Develop updated information on transit use and transit facilities.
- Develop updated information on pedestrian use and pedestrian facilities.
- Analyze existing polices and programs in the Circulation Element and identify needed revisions and additions.
- Prepare a specific analysis of the intersections of Broadway/West Napa Street and West Napa Street/First Street West with respect to traffic and pedestrian safety conditions and develop options for improving those intersections.

D. *Existing Housing and Circulation Elements as Starting Point.* The City’s existing Housing Element, adopted in July 2010, was certified by HCD. The existing Circulation Element was adopted as part of the *2020 General Plan* in October of 2006. The City intends that the existing Housing and Circu-

lation elements shall serve as the basis for this update as a means of minimizing the scope of the update and expediting its completion.

Project Option—Downtown Parking Study

In addition to meeting the requirements of State Law with respect to the preparation and content of a Housing Element and Circulation Element as set forth in the base scope of work, the City may wish to incorporate the preparation of a downtown parking study, as follows:

Study Area. The study area is defined as the three-hour parking zone of downtown Sonoma. This area is centered on the Plaza and the historic downtown, collectively designated as a National Historic Landmark. The Sonoma Plaza is an eight-acre park, framed by historic buildings, with City Hall at its center. The downtown encompasses a lively concentration of small businesses, including restaurants, bookstores, specialty retail, and offices. A cluster of historically significant buildings on the north side of the district, including the Mission and the Barracks, are managed as a State Park. The scenic and historic qualities of the downtown, along with its shopping and dining opportunities, make it attractive to both residents and visitors.

Overview of Parking Conditions and Issues.

Much of the historic development within downtown Sonoma occurred prior to the advent of the automobile. As a result, many commercial properties in the downtown area have little or no off-street parking. This lack has been compensated by the striping of the angled on-street parking around the Plaza and, in more recent years, by the development of two off-street public parking lots, one of 164 spaces and the other of 44 spaces. To encourage parking turnover, most of the on-street parking in the downtown area has a three-hour limit. The public off-street parking lots have no daily time limit. In its parking regulations, the City has traditionally addressed the lack of off-street parking in two ways. First, existing commercial buildings adjoining the Plaza have been assigned a parking credit of one parking space for every 300 square feet of building area. This ratio supports many common commercial uses, including retail, general office, and personal services. This parking credit allows uses to change within buildings without the need to provide off-street parking, as long as the use is consistent with that parking ratio and there is no increase in building area. Second, existing uses with a parking requirement greater than one parking space per 300 square feet of building area--restaurants being the typical case--are assumed to be "grandfathered in" at their existing intensity. This means that one restaurant use can replace another without triggering parking requirements, as long as there is no increase in seating. However, when there is a proposal to expand building area or increase restaurant seating, the normal off-street parking requirements come into play. Although the use of the parking credit has been reasonably successful in allowing uses to change within existing buildings, it limits the intensification of uses and does not allow for business expansion.

Objective: Assess existing parking resources and community needs to determine future parking needs and goals for a parking management plan.

- Conduct an inventory/survey of existing off-street parking and on-street parking supply, utilization and duration/turnover (usage) within the study area.
- Determine current needs and deficiencies related to multiple uses, and future parking demand generated by future development potential in study area in consideration of multiple uses, and assess each segment according to parking need.

- Conduct public outreach to identify and prioritize parking issues/problems as they relate to: 1) residents, businesses, and employees; 2) adopted economic development goals; 3) support/opposition with regard to potential programs such as parking meters and options for funding parking improvements; 4) law enforcement and public safety issues; and 5) disabled access.
- Work with the Police Department to assess existing and projected law enforcement and public safety issues.
- Evaluate spillover effect on surrounding neighborhoods.
- Incorporate public input into recommendations for PMP goals.

Objective: Develop a range of parking recommendations and options for the PMP which provide for efficient and effective parking strategy for the study area.

Tasks/Deliverables:

- Identify an optimum and realistically achievable peak period parking space vacancy rate.
- Recommend policy, funding and legal frameworks for managing, maintaining and developing downtown parking facilities.
- Determine if there is a need for new parking facilities, including but not limited to installation of parking meters and development of public parking lots/structure(s).
- Create budget and proformas to detail the cost of implementing new parking facilities.
- Develop recommendations for implementation and ongoing maintenance of existing and proposed parking improvements.
- Prepare an itemized cost estimate for the implementation of the aforementioned programs and improvements.
- Identify any recommended changes in the City's parking standards with respect to both dimensional requirements and requirements for on-site parking.
- Draft a report to be submitted for review by City staff summarizing the study methodology, analysis, findings, conclusions, and recommendations.
- Present draft report to the City Council for feedback in a public meeting.
- Complete final report based on direction received from the City Council and present to Council for adoption in a public meeting.

Resources Available to the Consultant

The following resources shall be made available to the selected consultant:

- 2009 Housing Element (Policy Document and Background Report).
- City of Sonoma 2020 General Plan and Final EIR.

- City of Sonoma Development Code.
- City of Sonoma Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.
- The City's Geographic Information System (<http://www.lynxgis.com/sonoma/>).
- Staff time and resources will be made available to the consultant.

Note: Many of the documents listed above are provided with this RFP in digital format.

Proposal Requirements

Proposals shall include the following components:

- A letter of introduction.
- Work Program. A description and sequence of anticipated tasks, presented as a work program, based on the scope of work, **with any optional tasks clearly identified as such and budgeted separately.**
- Schedule. Availability to begin work and the time estimated to complete each phase of the project as described.
- Experience and Qualifications. Information detailing the qualifications of the consultants and any subconsultants and a list of previously completed projects similar to that proposed and their locations. Provide the names and address and telephone numbers of each contact for each referenced project.
- Budget. An itemized cost estimate for all tasks identified in the work program, including costs for meetings, printing, travel, etc.
- Representative examples (not to exceed two) of similar projects prepared by the firm, preferably by the team that would be assigned to this project.

It is anticipated that consultants may team or joint venture with other firms in order to provide all of the resources necessary to carry out the project. For joint ventures, the lead or prime consultant must be identified.

Budget

The City Council has allocated \$150,000 for this task, including the optional parking study.

Selection Process

Proposals will be evaluated and the consultant selected by a committee comprised of City representatives, potentially including but not limited to the City Manager and Planning Director. Respondents may be asked to an interview by the selection team. Selection criteria will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The experience and professional competence of the consultants and subconsultants, particularly key staff members, in similar projects.
- The quality, readability and organization of the proposal.
- The responsiveness of the proposal to the RFP.
- The satisfaction of the staff within communities for which the consultant team has completed previous work. Key issues in this regard include the quality of the work, the success of the project, and the ability of the consultant to complete projects on time and within budget.
- The ability of the consultant team to express themselves clearly and effectively in writing and in oral presentations.

- Availability to start and to implement the project in a timely manner.
- The perceived fit of the team with City staff.

The City reserves the right not to make a selection or award a contract.

Eight copies of your proposal, along with a PDF version, should be submitted by XXX, XXX, 2013, to:

David Goodison, Planning and Community Services Director
City of Sonoma
No. 1 The Plaza
Sonoma, CA 95476

If you have any additional questions, please contact David Goodison at (707) 938-3681, or by e-mail at dgoodison@sonomacity.org.



CITY OF SONOMA
City Council/Successor Agency
Agenda Item Summary

City Council Agenda Item: 6A

Meeting Date: 09/04/2013

Department

Administration

Staff Contact

Gay Johann, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager

Agenda Item Title

Approval of the portions of the Minutes of the August 12 and August 19, 2013 City Council / Successor Agency Meetings pertaining to the Successor Agency.

Summary

The minutes have been prepared for Council review and approval.

Recommended Council Action

Approve the minutes.

Alternative Actions

Correct or amend the minutes prior to approval.

Financial Impact

N/A

Environmental Review

- Environmental Impact Report
- Negative Declaration
- Exempt
- Not Applicable

Status

- Approved/Certified
- No Action Required
- Action Requested

Attachments:

See Agenda Item 5B for the minutes



CITY OF SONOMA
City Council
Agenda Item Summary

City Council Agenda Item: 7A

Meeting Date: 9-4-2013

Department

Administration

Staff Contact

Carol Giovanatto, City Manager

Agenda Item Title

Review and Consideration of a Refuse Rate Adjustment with City Franchisee Sonoma Garbage Company, Inc. to be effective on October 1, 2013

Summary

The City's franchise Refuse Hauler, Sonoma Garbage Company, Inc. [SGC] has submitted the proposed rate increase for the 2013-14 fiscal year. The proposal is based on the calculation of the Refuse Rate Index [RRI] to establish the increase in the base rate. No additional changes to the Franchise Agreement or services are requested. One additional category has been added to address future options for local businesses to use 2 YD Refuse Compactors. SGC has been contacted by local businesses inquiring about a rate for a compactor system. This new category is in line with the charges at Central Landfill to accommodate compacted refuse.

Proposed Rate Adjustment to be effective on October 1, 2013 is requested as follows:

Residential, Commercial and Debris Box Rates: 2.38% [RRI + tipping fee adjustment]

Vehicle Replacement Program Update: In 2011 the Council allowed SGC to temporarily dispose City waste in Napa County. This generated additional funds for SGC's Vehicle Replacement Fund. This fund is earmarked for use in replacing aging equipment thereby mitigating the cost of future rate increases to customers. The use of the Napa disposal site ended on December 31, 2012 with SGC succeeding in adding funds to their Vehicle Replacement Fund.

Recommended Council Action

Staff recommends Council adopt the resolution approving a rate increase of 2.38% to be effective October 1, 2013

Alternative Actions

- 1) Defer action pending receipt of additional specified information
-

Financial Impact

The combined rate increase for the typical residential customer in Sonoma [32 gallon container] will be \$.30 per month [from \$12.50 to \$12.80]. Franchise fee revenue is estimated to increase by approximately \$1,000

Attachments

Resolution
Letter from SGC regarding Vehicle Replacement Fund

cc:

Sonoma Garbage Collectors via email

CITY OF SONOMA
RESOLUTION NO. ____ - 2013

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SONOMA APPROVING REFUSE RATE ADJUSTMENTS**

WHEREAS, the City of Sonoma has a franchise agreement with Sonoma Garbage Collectors, Inc., to perform solid waste collection services in the City of Sonoma; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said agreement, Sonoma Garbage Collectors, Inc. ("SGC") is entitled to seek certain adjustments in the rates it charges its customers for such services; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City that said agreement be amended in certain respects; and

WHEREAS, SGC has made application for adjustments in the rates it charges to its customers to become effective October 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, based on the financial data submitted by SGC, rate adjustments are justified:

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Sonoma resolves as follows:

For the reasons specified in the staff report (and attachments) submitted to the City Council at its meeting on September 4, 2013, pertinent to SGC's request for refuse rate adjustments, effective October 1, 2013, the rates that SGC charges its residential customers may be increased 2.38%. The rates for the various services provided by SGC as approved herein are set forth in **Exhibit A** incorporated herein by this reference.

ADOPTED this 4th day of September, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

Ken Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gay Johann, City Clerk

Effective October 1, 2013

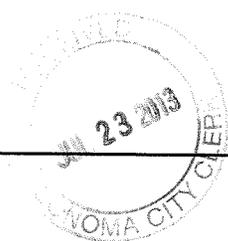
Monthly Rates for Weekly Curbside Pick-up

| Service Level | Adopted Rates effective January 2013 |
|---|---|
| Rate for refuse collection once each week | |
| 20 gallon can | 7.80 |
| 32 gallon can | 12.80 |
| 64 gallon can | 27.78 |
| 90 gallon can | 42.62 |
| 2 cubic yard bin | 165.27 |
| 3 cubic yard bin | 247.70 |
| 4 cubic yard bin | 330.54 |
| Rate each pickup for refuse bins on a variable pickup schedule | |
| Each 2 cy bin | 38.36 |
| Each 3 cy bin | 57.54 |
| Each 4 cy bin | 76.72 |
| Compacted Refuse | |
| Front-Load Compactor 2 yd [1,000 lbs maximum weight] per pickup | 160.00 |
| Debris Box | |
| Debris Box 20 yd (includes 2 tons of waste) | 430.87 |
| Debris Box 30 yd (includes 3 tons of waste) | 578.68 |

An additional charge of \$10 per month for each bin will be applied to bin service. Bin service includes curbside collection of food scraps and green waste, up to two additional containers (32, 64, or 94 gal.) provided. Waste in debris boxes above the included quantity will be charged at the prevailing Sonoma County waste disposal rate.

FLOYD A. MOSES

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT



920 FIRST STREET WEST
SONOMA, CALIFORNIA 95476
TELEPHONE (707) 996-6781

July 23, 2013

Carol E. Giovanatto
City Manager
No. 1 The Plaza
Sonoma, CA 95476

Re: Sonoma Garbage Collectors
Vehicle (Truck) Replacement Fund

Dear Carol:

It is nice to know that the action taken by the City Council which allowed the Sonoma Garbage Collectors to dispose of solid waste (not to exceed 3,000 tons annually) at the Napa Devlin Road Transfer station during 2011 and 2012 has had the desired savings result of making funds available for vehicle replacement.

Accordingly, the company has funded its vehicle replacement fund in the amount of \$180,000 which is taken from the operating profit of the company for 2012. With this provision, the 2012 profit ratio for the company is 9.808% which is within the perimeters set forth in the Refuse Rate Index methodology relating to profit margins.

The total amount funded into the vehicle replacement fund for the two year period is as follows:

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| For: 2011 | \$ 74,000 |
| 2012 | <u>180,000</u> |
| | <u>\$ 254,000</u> |

This exceeds the projected amount of \$210,000 that was estimated when the disposal change was made.

The goal is to achieve purchase of a new collection truck without a significant impact on garbage collection rates. These amounts that have been funded will go a long way in accomplishing that goal.

Sincerely,


Floyd Moses, CPA

FAM/as



CITY OF SONOMA
City Council
Agenda Item Summary

City Council Agenda Item: 8A

Meeting Date: 09/04/2013

Department

Administration

Staff Contact

Carol E. Giovanatto, City Manager

Agenda Item Title

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Adoption of a Resolution in Support of Sonoma Developmental Center, requested by Mayor Brown.

Summary

The Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) faces an uncertain future. In June, the State Health and Human Services Agency formed a "Task Force on the Future of the Developmental Centers". The Task Force was charged with developing a Master Plan to be completed by November, 2013, that addresses:

- The service needs of all developmental center residents
- The fiscal and budget implications of the declining population
- The aging infrastructure, staffing, and resource constraints
- The availability of community resources to meet the specialized needs of residents now living in developmental centers
- A timeline for future closures

First District Supervisor Gorin has established the Sonoma Developmental Center Coalition, which includes representatives from various County Departments and Agencies as well as representatives of the Parent Hospital Association (PHA).

As a result of receiving requests from several members of the community, Mayor Brown placed this item on the agenda and requests Council support of adoption of the resolution in support of SDC.

Recommended Council Action

Adopt the resolution.

Alternative Actions

Council discretion.

Financial Impact

N/A

Environmental Review

- Environmental Impact Report
- Negative Declaration
- Exempt
- Not Applicable

Status

- Approved/Certified
 - No Action Required
 - Action Requested
-

Attachments: Resolution

Alignment with Council Goals: Vision Statement:

• *The City enjoys productive relationships with neighboring communities to effectively address regional issues, including planning, service provision and capital improvements.*

cc: N/A

CITY OF SONOMA

RESOLUTION NO. __ - 2013

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SONOMA IN SUPPORT OF SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

WHEREAS, Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) is woven into the fabric of Sonoma Valley having provided services since 1891; and

WHEREAS, Approximately one thousand acres of land, lakes, and various structures encompass the Sonoma campus, including a residential campground, store/cafeteria, post office, petting farm, sports fields, swimming pool, plant nursery, and picnic areas; and

WHEREAS, SDC has proven to be a leader in meeting the needs of people with developmental disabilities by providing an extensive array of services that promote ongoing health, learning, self-advocacy, and increased independence. Innovative social, recreational, educational, vocational, and other programs are continuously offered. This is accomplished through the knowledge, innovation, creativity, and enthusiasm of our highly experienced staff; and

WHEREAS, The most significant issue is the people who are served by SDC. The rights of the patients need to be protected and the rights of the families who need the care of their loved ones need to be protected; and

WHEREAS, SDC should remain open in order to continue providing its specialized, 24-hour care to California's most vulnerable developmentally disabled individuals, who for reasons of medical frailty, mental, emotional or behavioral issues, or other profound disabilities cannot function or survive in community care homes; and

WHEREAS, The Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, known as the "Lanterman Act," is an important piece of legislation that was passed in 1969 establishing that people with developmental disabilities and their families have a right to the services and support they need to live like people without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The State of California should view SDC as an asset that should continue to serve people with developmental disabilities including residents and nonresidents. The State should explore improving SDC's financial viability by making its specialized services available to all individuals with disabilities. For example, personalized wheelchair, shoe and equipment construction, occupational therapy and counseling; and

WHEREAS, As the provider of 1,200 good paying jobs, closing of SDC would have a severe impact on Sonoma Valley's and Sonoma County's economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Sonoma supports the continuing operation of SDC and requests that the State Task Force on Development Centers focus on the critical patient care supplied by SDC and that the ban prohibiting new admittances to SDC be lifted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Sonoma recognizes that the professional staff at SDC make a great contribution to the "quality of life" of the patients.

ADOPTED this 4th day of September, 2013 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Ken Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gay Johann, City Clerk



City of Sonoma
City Council
Agenda Item Summary

City Council Agenda Item: 8B

Meeting Date: 09/04/13

Department

Planning

Staff Contact

David Goodison, Planning Director

Agenda Item Title

Discussion, consideration and possible action on the question of whether to revisit the regulation of leaf-blowers, including consideration of a ban on gas-powered leaf-blowers.

Summary

The City's current regulations on the use and noise levels associated with leaf-blowers were adopted in 2011. Recently, there have been several presentations to the City Council (including a petition) requesting that the regulations be revisited, with the specific suggestion that gas-powered leaf-blowers be banned. Councilmembers Barbose and Cook requested that this question be placed on an agenda to determine whether there is majority interest in amending the current regulations. The attached supplemental report provides background information on the leaf-blower regulations adopted in 2011, the issues and concerns raised with respect to the use of leaf-blowers, the cost to the City of switching to battery-powered leaf-blowers, and related matters.

Recommended Council Action

Provide direction to staff.

Alternative Actions

N.A.

Financial Impact

The Public Works Director has researched the cost of switching to battery-powered leaf-blowers and estimates it to be approximately \$10,000. In addition, the City contracts out for the maintenance of eight of its sixteen parks and for its two affordable senior apartment projects. In the event that a ban on gas-powered leaf-blowers is adopted, it is possible that contract maintenance costs could increase. If a ban on all types of leaf-blowers were imposed, it is highly likely that maintenance contact costs would increase.

Environmental Review

- Environmental Impact Report
- Negative Declaration
- Exempt
- Not Applicable

Status

- Approved/Certified
 - No Action Required
 - Action Requested
-

Alignment with Council Goals:

While revisiting the regulations pertaining to leaf-blowers is not directly related to any of the Council's adopted goals, if there is majority interest in doing so, it can be accommodated as part of the normal workload.

Attachments:

1. Supplemental Report
 2. Annual letter to landscape contractors
 3. Summary of Police Calls
 4. Correspondence/Petition from Darryl Ponicsan (Note: 61 people signed the on-line petition. A paper petition was also circulated. This will be distributed to the Council when it becomes available to staff.)
-

cc: Dan Takasugi, City Engineer/Bret Sackett, Police Chief
Darryl Ponicsan
Mailing list of local landscape contractors

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

Discussion, consideration, and possible action on the question of whether to revisit the regulation of leaf-blowers, including consideration of a ban on gas-powered leaf-blowers

For the City Council meeting of September 4, 2013

Background

For the past several months, the issue of banning gas-powered leaf blowers been raised in correspondence to the City Council and during public comment period at Council meetings. In response to the continuing requests from the public, Councilmembers Barbose and Cook have placed the issue on the City Council agenda for discussion and possible action. As background for this discussion, staff has prepared a summary of the process that led to the current regulations on leaf-blowers, adopted by the City Council in 2011:

- At its meeting of July 7, 2010, the City Council agreed that it wished to explore establishing additional regulations on leaf blowers, including a possible ban. After taking public testimony and discussing the item, the Council referred the matter to the Community Services and Environment Commission (CSEC) for investigation.
- A preliminary overview of issues related to the use of leaf blowers and the City Council's direction on the matter was presented to the CSEC at its meeting of August 11, 2010. Background information was developed, including the existing use of leaf blowers on the part of the Public Works Department; outreach to communities that restrict or prohibit the use of leaf blowers to learn from their experiences; air quality standards applicable to leaf blowers.
- The CSEC conducted a community forum on September 20, 2011 to hear from interested parties on options and alternatives. In preparing for the forum, a mailing list was developed of persons and companies with an interest in the matter, including both landscape contractors and proponents of additional regulation.
- The CSEC then developed specific recommendations to the City Council at its meeting of October 13, 2010, which were reviewed by the Council at its meeting of October 20, 2010.
- After receiving feedback from the City Council's review of October 20th, the CSEC developed a set of specific amendments to the Noise Ordinance that were reviewed and endorsed by the Council at its meeting of January 5, 2011. At that meeting, the City Council directed staff to process an amendment to the Noise Ordinance implementing the CSEC's recommendations.
- The Planning Commission reviewed the draft amendments to the Noise Ordinance concerning the regulation of leaf-blowers at its meeting of February 10, 2011, at which time it voted to recommend their approval on a vote of 6-1.

- The Noise Ordinance amendments were reviewed by the City Council in a public hearing held on March 4, 2011. At the conclusion of the public hearing the City Council voted unanimously to introduce the ordinance. The ordinance was subsequently adopted at the City Council meeting of April 18, 2011.

The table below compares the former regulations pertaining to leaf-blowers with the regulations adopted in 2011.

| Leaf Blower Regulations | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|--|------------------|---|
| | Residential | | Commercial and Mixed Use | | Parks and Public | |
| | Former | Current | Former | Current | Former | Current |
| Hours/ Days | M-F: 8 to 6 Sat.: 9 to 6 Sun: 10 to 6 | M-Sat: 9-4 Banned Sun- days and holidays | M-F: 7 to 11 | Banned Sun- days and City- recognized holidays | Unlimited | M-F: 7-4 Banned Sat- urdays, Sun- days and holidays |
| Decibel Level | 90 dba at property line | 70 dDA at 50 feet | 90 dba at property line | 70 dDA at 50 feet | No limit | 70 dDA at 50 feet |

Note: With respect to noise limitations, the former standard of 90 decibels measured at the property line was lowered to 70 decibels, measured at 50 feet, with the revised standard applicable to all forms of residential power equipment (e.g., lawnmowers, chain saws, weed-eaters, etc.).

In summary, the current regulations represent a compromise that was developed over the course of nine-month process that included outreach to persons on all sides of the issue and hearings before the City Council, the Community Services and Environment Commission and the Planning Commission. While the use of leaf-blowers was substantially restricted under the new regulations, the City Council ultimately declined to impose a complete ban. In part, this was because of the fact that, due to limited staffing and growing maintenance responsibilities in the form of increased parkland, Public Works staff relies on the use of gas-powered leaf-blowers, especially after storms and strong wind events. The City Council did not wish to impose rules on private property owners and businesses that it would not impose on its own operations. That said, under the new regulations, the allowed decibel limits associated with leaf-blowers were greatly reduced and hours and days in which they may be used were substantially restricted (see table above). The Public Works Department conducts an annual mailing to local landscape contractors to inform them of the restrictions.

Defining the Problem

If the City Council does wish to revisit the leaf blower regulations, discussion and direction on the issues to be addressed would be helpful in defining an appropriate outcome. In this regard, three main concerns have been raised with regard to leaf-blowers:

1. **Noise.** Leaf blowers can be noisy, whether they are gas powered or electric. As discussed above, the newly revised decibel limits apply to all forms of residential power equipment, not just leaf-blowers. Therefore, at least to the extent that these rules are being respected, leaf

blowers are not allowed to be any noisier than a lawnmower or a weed-eater. However, it does seem likely that leaf-blowers are used more frequently than other forms of powered landscaping equipment. It is also the case that electric leaf-blowers tend to be less noisy than gas-powered varieties.

- 2. Emissions.** Gas-powered leaf-blowers typically use the same type of two-stroke engine found in a lawn mower, which makes it difficult, at least in staff's view, to single out leaf blowers as being uniquely polluting. (It should be noted that in the year 2000, emission standards were significantly upgraded for all forms of gas-powered residential power equipment.) However, as discussed above, it may be that leaf blowers are used more frequently than other forms of residential power equipment.
- 3. Dust Generation.** Leaf blowers are not unique in that they stir up dust, but they are certainly more problematic in that regard than most other types of landscaping equipment. Whether gas-powered or electric, by design leaf-blowers cause particulate matter to be blown into the air. In its previous review of this issue, staff had identified only one study that measured this effect in a quantified manner (*Determination of Particulate Emission Rates for Leaf Blowers*; Fitz, 2006). According to this study, leaf-blowers produce particulate spikes immediately upon use, as would be expected. The report also found that particulate levels subsided to normal conditions relatively quickly, reaching 90% of normal within 30 minutes. Different results were observed for different conditions. For example, blowing packed dirt produced largest spikes in particulate matter, while power blowing a lawn resulted in relatively low levels of particulates.

In the petition submitted to the City Council at its meeting of May 6th (updated version attached), the signatories request a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. This would address the issue of emissions (although, as discussed above, that problem is not unique to leaf blowers). Such a ban would likely reduce noise complaints, since battery-powered leaf blowers do tend to be quieter, but would not address the complaints about particulate generation.

Use of Leaf Blowers by City Forces

The City's Public Works Department uses gas-powered leaf-blowers for a variety of purposes, including cleaning sidewalks (and trails within City cemeteries, cleaning debris from roofs and gutters, and cleaning street surfaces as part of the preparation for striping and other painting, crack sealing, and placing asphalt patches. In the course of the previous review of leaf-blower regulations, the Public Works Department performed a comparison on the Fryer Creek bike path, which is frequently subject to debris from storm and wind events. It took two maintenance workers one hour to sweep a 400' length of the bike path. In contrast, it took one maintenance worker 6 minutes to blow 300' using a gas powered leaf blower at low idle. It was observed that the tractor/lawnmower that is used for weed abatement generated more dust than the blower did. From the perspective of the Public Works Department, the use of leaf-blowers to quickly clear Plaza sidewalks after wind events is of great importance in order to remove trip-and-fall hazards. That said, the Public Works Director has determined that it would be feasible to switch to electric leaf-blowers, although there would be some cost involved in the purchase of new equipment. The cost issue is detailed in the Financial Impacts discussion.

Landscape Contractors and Residents

Staff would simply note that in the course of the previous review of leaf-blower regulations, many local landscape contractors expressed opposition to a ban on leaf-blowers or a targeted ban on gas-powered leaf-blowers. If the Council is interested revisiting leaf-blower regulations and possibly considering a ban on certain types of leaf-blowers, outreach to local landscape contractors should be part of the process. An unknown number of residents within city limits own and use leaf-blowers. If a ban on gas-powered leaf-blowers is contemplated, staff would suggest that consideration be given to a transition period in order to provide an opportunity to educate affected parties about the new rules as well as time to secure replacement equipment.

Enforcement

As discussed above, the City attempts to achieve compliance with the current regulations primarily through education. Local landscape contractors were invited to participate in the previous review of leaf-blower regulations and, following their adoption, the City has conducted an annual mailing to the contractors reminding them of the regulations. That said, when noise complaints—including complaints about leaf-blowers—occur, it is the Police Department that responds. Recently, the Police Chief prepared a summary of noise complaints from January 2012 to July 2013 (attached) in which it was reported that out of 157 noise-related complaints, 16 were attributable to leaf blowers. In those cases where the operator was identified, they were advised of the regulations. To date, no citations have been issued for a violation of the leaf-blower regulations. While the Police Department responds to noise complaints when officers are available, during times when there are multiple calls for service, noise complaints will have a lower priority than many other types of incidents. According to the Police Chief, changing the current regulations to ban gas-powered leaf-blowers will have little or no effect on the enforcement process, neither simplifying it nor complicating it.

Financial Impacts

The Public Works Director has researched the cost of switching to industrial-grade battery-powered leaf-blowers and estimates it to be approximately \$10,000:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 6 blower units at \$300 each | \$1,800 |
| 6 quad power packs at \$500 each | \$3,000 |
| 12 additional power packs at \$200 each | \$2,400 |
| 12 rapid chargers at \$100 each | \$1,200 |
| 6 harnesses and straps at \$200 each | \$1,200 |
| Total: | \$9,600 |

In addition, the City contracts out for the maintenance of eight of its sixteen parks and for its affordable senior apartment project. In the event that a ban on gas-powered leaf-blowers is adopted, it is possible that contract maintenance costs could increase. If a ban on all types of leaf-blowers were imposed, it is highly likely that maintenance contact costs would increase.

Follow-up Item

At the time that the City Council adopted the current regulations on leaf-blowers, it directed staff to prepare an ordinance that would make it illegal to operate a leaf-blower in a manner that di-

rects dust and debris to a neighboring property. This has not yet been accomplished. If the Council decides to amend the leaf-blower regulations, staff would include such a provision as part of the implementing ordinance. If the Council declines to amend the current regulations, staff will bring the previously-requested leaf-blower use regulation to the Council as a stand-alone ordinance for its consideration.

Recommendation

This item is before the City Council for discussion, in order to determine whether there is interest on the part of a Council majority in revising the current regulations on leaf-blowers. Council should advise staff of:

1. To what extent the current regulations should be modified [total ban of gas powered leaf blowers or other hybrid model].
2. Whether or not the Council wants the CSEC to take the lead in the review.
3. Whether or not another public forum be convened.

City of Sonoma

Department of Public Works
No. 1 The Plaza
Sonoma California 95476-6690
Phone (707) 938-3332 Fax (707) 938-3240



Leaf Blower Guidelines

To Landscape Contractors working in the City of Sonoma:

This is a friendly reminder of City of Sonoma Municipal Code noise ordinance (SMC 9.56.050) for the operation of Leaf Blowers within City limits.

Anyone operating Leaf Blowers in the City of Sonoma shall comply with the following guidelines:

| | Residential Districts | Commercial and Mixed Use Districts | Parks and Public Districts |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Hours/Days Allowed | Monday – Saturday 9:00am – 4:00pm | Monday – Friday 7:00am – 11:00pm | Monday – Friday 7:00am – 4:00pm |
| Not Allowed | Sundays & Holidays | Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays | Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays |
| Noise Level | 70 decibels at 50 feet | 70 decibels at 50 feet | 70 decibels at 50 feet |

Suggested Best Practices for the use of Leaf Blowers

- Gas Powered Leaf Blowers should never be operated on full throttle unless absolutely necessary. 70 decibels at 50 feet is roughly equivalent to the sound of a vacuum cleaner.
- Leaf Blowers should not be operated when people are in the area. If you see someone coming towards you on the sidewalk, cease and wait until they pass. If you are in a business park or parking lot, move to another area.
- Landscape Businesses utilizing Leaf Blowers shall display the name and phone number of the business on their business vehicles.
- Debris should not be blown onto neighboring properties or into the street.
- Personal Protection equipment is recommended when operating Leaf Blowers.

The City of Sonoma Noise Ordinances pertaining to leaf blowers can be found at <http://www.codepublishing.com/ca/Sonoma/index.pl> Chapter 9.56.050 or you can obtain a copy at City Hall. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (707) 933-2230.

Dan Takasugi
Public Works Director

May 17, 2013

Subject: FW: Public Comment - REVISED / UPDATED

Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 1:45:59 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Carol Giovanatto <carolg@sonomacity.org>

To: David Goodison <davidg@sonomacity.org>

~Carol

Carol E. Giovanatto, City Manager
City of Sonoma
No. 1 The Plaza
Sonoma, CA 95476

[707] 933-2213 Phone

[707] 938-2559 Fax

cgiovanatto@sonomacity.org

www.sonomacity.org

From: Bret Sackett [mailto:Bret.Sackett@sonoma-county.org]

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013 12:15 PM

To: Carol Giovanatto

Subject: FW: Public Comment - REVISED / UPDATED

In response to Mr. Ponisen's comments at the City Council meeting, we researched our calls for service and discovered the following:

From January 2012 to July 2013, we had 92 general noise complaints. Of those, only 2 were attributed to leaf blowers (others were yelling, music, etc). Of those two, the results were as follows:

- 5-14-12 at 1436 – noise stopped prior to deputy arrival
- 10-30-12 at 1745 – contacted and stopped

During the same time period, we had 65 city noise ordinance complaints. Of those, only 14 were attributed to leaf blowers. Of those 14, the results were as follows:

- 6-15-12 at 1844 - Notified of curfew
- 9-16-12 at 1146 - unfounded
- 11-2-12 at 832 - completed
- 11-12-12 at 839 – advised
- 11-21-12 at 922 – contacted
- 11-26-12 at 827 - contacted
- 12-19-12 at 850 - contacted
- 5-24-13 at 1657 – contacted
- 5-25-13 at 1258 – UTL
- 7-2-13 at 842 - advised
- 7-8-13 at 844 – advised
- 7-17-13 at 844 – advised

Darcy discovered that “many of the addresses were not specific and callers anonymous, however, most of

the “before 9:00am calls” were from Mr. Ponisen for using leaf blower outside the approved hours of operation and, generally, less than 30 minutes before allowed.

We’ve made no arrests and issued no citations for violations.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thanks,

Bret

To: City Council
From: Darryl Ponicsan, citizen
175 France St., Sonoma
933-9320
August 26, 2013

The gas-powered leaf blower was not invented as a response to a need for a mechanical method to gather leaves. To that end, it is grossly ineffective. It was invented and designed to be a crop duster. The leaf blower did not solve a problem; it became a problem.

That is why leaf blowers have been banned in scores of California communities, as well as in towns across America and Canada. Carmel banned them in 1975, Beverly Hills in 1976, so this is not a new or radical notion. Twenty percent of Californians enjoy life in communities in which gas-powered blowers are not allowed, and the disasters that yard maintenance companies and blower manufacturers predicted, such as loss of jobs, increased costs, and business failures, did not occur.

What are the problems for a community that permits the use of blowers? First and foremost, there is the health issue. Leaf blowers blow more dust than leaves and at hurricane speeds. In that dust are pollen, pesticides, mold, insect eggs, and dog, rat and other animal feces. Those fine particles hang in the air and are inhaled over hours by anyone passing through them, causing and aggravating allergies, respiratory ailments, and asthma. According to the Sonoma County Asthma Alliance, one out of every five children in this county has asthma, compared to one in six, state-wide.

An hour of blower use releases as much hydrocarbons and pollutants as a car driven 55 miles per hour for 110 miles. Because blowers are air-cooled, they release 100% of their emissions into the air. Walk an area recently blown and you will smell raw gasoline in the air.

Then there is the noise problem. Because they are trigger-operated and are revved up at the pleasure of the operator, the blower creates a uniquely unpredictable and obnoxious noise. Apart from the obvious discomfort, the noise can be particularly distressing to infants, the elderly, and those trying

to recover from an illness. I personally cannot sit in my own back yard and have a cup of coffee without the probability of being driven inside by the noise of leaf blowers. I cannot have people over except on Sunday, and even then I sometimes have to endure the racket of some inconsiderate neighbor. I cannot walk my dog after 9:00 a.m. without subjecting both of us to toxic air and frightening noise.

Politically, a city council that allows all this must be seen as caring more about the convenience of a few rather than the health and well-being of the many, because convenience is the only argument for leaf-blowers. A small percentage of the population still believe that their own convenience and right to cheap labor is more important than everyone else's health and well-being.

Those with a financial interest in the sale and use of leaf blowers will say the case is overstated. Dust bazookas may not be exactly good for you, they will say, but they're not all that bad. Just stay away from them. The cigarette lobby made that same argument for years and got away with it until California led the way to a sane policy. In the interim countless people had to suffer the affects of someone else's thoughtlessness and the guile of the industry.

Land maintenance bosses will claim that they are going to have to lay off workers. They won't. They will claim that it will take twice as long to rid a lawn of leaves. It won't. I know this because I have watched them. I am 75 years old and not in the best of health, and I have challenged leaf blower operators, telling them that I can rake the leaves into a pile faster than they can blow them. No one has ever taken me up on it.

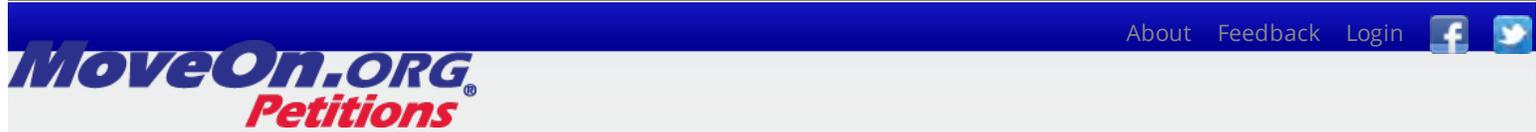
I have talked to at least a hundred people about their experiences with leaf blowers, people who have watched them at work, as I have. They start off by saying, "I hate these things!" and then tell me essentially the same story. "It doesn't make any sense," they say. "It's insane. They're just making dust and noise. They blow under cars and into bushes. Why do we have to put up with this crap?"

The answer is, we don't.

This is Google's cache of <http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/sonoma-stop-gas-powered>. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on Aug 14, 2013 00:33:32 GMT. The [current page](#) could have changed in the meantime. [Learn more](#)
Tip: To quickly find your search term on this page, press **Ctrl+F** or **⌘-F** (Mac) and use the find bar.

These search terms are highlighted: **sonoma leaf blower petition**

[Text-only version](#)



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Email*

United States

Address

Address (cont.)

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SONOMA: Stop Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

By Darryl Ponicsan ([Contact](#))

To be delivered to: **Sonoma** City Manager

===== **PETITION** STATEMENT =====

In order to provide for cleaner air and quiet neighborhoods, the use of gas powered leaf blowers should be banned in city limits

Petition Background

There is an alternative to the air pollution and noise pollution continually imposed on the many by the few: turn off the **leaf blower** and pick up a rake.

There are currently 61 signatures



NEW goal - We need 100 signatures

Previous **petition** signers

Start a **petition** | Find a **petition** | Frequently Asked Questions | Victories | Feedback | Media Inquiries | Organizations | About

To: Council Members, City of Sonoma
From: Darryl Ponicsan
175 France St., Sonoma



I beseech the council to initiate a ban on the use of all gas powered leaf blowers within the city limits, with exceptions for the Plaza, public parks, and industrial areas.

Numerous California cities have for some time enjoyed this kind of ban, with universally positive effects. Sonoma is promoted as a haven in the North Bay, but in fact where I live on the east side, my wife and I have a difficult time having a conversation while walking the dogs; we cannot sit in our own back yard without being driven back inside by the racket of leaf blowers; an afternoon nap is impossible.

The deleterious effects of gas powered leaf blowers are well known and fall into three general categories:

Harmful to the environment

According to the California EPA, a leaf blower emits 8 to 49 the particulate matter exhaust emissions as a light duty vehicle; hydrocarbon emissions from one-half hour of leaf blower operation equals about 7700 miles of driving at 30mph; carbon monoxide released from one-half hour of leaf blower operation equals 440 miles driven at 30mph.

Harmful to the health of the operator and anyone nearby

Leaf blowers emit nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds which react to sunlight to create ground level ozone, and they can exacerbate existing allergies. Sonoma is famous for seasonal allergies.

Harmful to ones quality of life

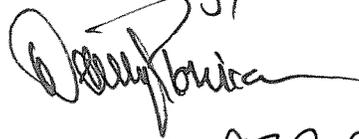
Everyone has his own definition of noise pollution, but the leaf blower is uniquely annoying, obnoxious, and inconsiderate. It kills both concentration and relaxation.

These unwelcome effects are debatable only in the matter of degree. I might add a fourth effect of leaf blowers: loss of property values. It is expensive to buy a home here. I can speak only for the neighborhood in which I live, but anyone selling a house on the east side is legally bound, I should think, to include on the sales disclosure that the residential area is noisier than a light industrial area, and just as subject to pollution.

The city regulates signs and loud music, outdoor and indoor burning of wood, dogs in the Plaza, and any number of other activities that might run contrary to the public good, and yet we tolerate a practice that daily shatters the peace and quiet we hoped to have had in Sonoma.

The banning of gas powered leaf blowers will one day, I am sure, be banned in residential areas. Why not now? It is a ban that can be enacted quickly and without significant cost, for the benefit of many, at the inconvenience of few.

Sincerely,



933-9320

darpan@comcast.net

5-6-13
Council Meeting

Dear Sonoma City Manager,

We are pleased to present you with this petition affirming one simple statement:

"In order to provide for cleaner air and quiet neighborhoods, the use of gas powered leaf blowers should be banned in city limits"

Attached is a list of individuals who have added their names to this petition, as well as additional comments written by the petition signers themselves.

Sincerely,
Darryl Ponicsan

Moira McGovern
Sonoma, CA 95476
May 2, 2013

Kate Polacci
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
Apr 25, 2013

Hank Snow
sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 22, 2013

Wm. C. Kirk Hinshaw
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 22, 2013

GREAT IDEA!!!

John F. Murphy
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 21, 2013

Should be allowed for large volume leaf cleanup, not the weekly handful of debris cleanup.

Chris Lose
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 21, 2013

Manuel Suarez
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 21, 2013

Mildred Nuytkens
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 21, 2013

Catherine Miley
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 20, 2013

Banning gas powdered leaf blowers in the city limits will preserve our peace and quiet and health.

Marie Dungan
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 20, 2013

Definitely Ban Them!

Steve Dungan
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 20, 2013

LCMartel
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 14, 2013

Aj Petersen
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 12, 2013

Carol Kelley
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 12, 2013

Anne Pincus
sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 12, 2013

Judy Lehner
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 12, 2013

Jennifer Miller
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 12, 2013

Thank you for your very effective and creative letter, Darryl Ponicsan

Karin Bartow
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 10, 2013

Leaf blowers are not only annoying but a health hazard especilally to those with compromised health and allergies. They ought to be banned.

Genevieve Haven
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 7, 2013

Janis Scott
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 7, 2013

Amy Ecker
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 6, 2013

Sonoma Valley is a Cittaslow terroir. Why are we supporting leaf-blowers??!

Yannick A. Phillips
Sonoma, CA 95476
Apr 6, 2013

Jesse Reisch
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Mar 31, 2013

Landscape companies think it is cheaper/faster to make their laborers use machinery are not concerned about noise or polution, it's the money thing.....

carolegailer
Sebastapol,, CA 95472
Mar 31, 2013

Cathleen Swanson
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 31, 2013

Leah Veldman
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 31, 2013

Mike Donahue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Mar 31, 2013

Gina Williams
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Mar 30, 2013

Ian McCullough
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Mar 30, 2013

Janet Saleby
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Mar 30, 2013

Nancy Comstock
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Mar 30, 2013

Quiet is nice, very nice, and that is the major reason I support this measure. Add to that some healthy exercise for some and for those unable to do it, an employment opportunity for others and its tiny but positive atmospheric impact and it seems a good thing..

Gus diZerega
Sebastopol, CA 95473
Mar 30, 2013

Kaylynne Throne
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Mar 30, 2013

Roger Brown
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Mar 30, 2013

J
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Mar 30, 2013

Ayne Shore
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Mar 30, 2013

at the very least there should be designated days of use, a model used in Marin County...would love to see this COUNTY wide.....

linda simmel
Sonoma, CA 95476-7702
Mar 30, 2013

Suzanne Shonbrun
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 30, 2013

Burn a calorie, use a rake.

robin browning
sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 30, 2013

Turn these annoying machines off forever!

tish
sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 29, 2013

Kristine B
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 29, 2013

Kathl
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 29, 2013

Leaf blowers are not tools, they are environmental weapons. Their unregulated use represents the laziest and most decadent aspect of our petroleum-dependent culture. For the sake of human and environmental health of Sonoma Valley, I support a complete ban on gas powered leaf blowers.

Lisa Summers
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 29, 2013

Rakes are good!!! Use one!

celeste winders
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 29, 2013

Annie mcKelvey
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 28, 2013

I could not agree more!

Marty Greenman
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 27, 2013

Jack Estes
Planetarium, NY 10024
Mar 27, 2013

Maggie McGovern
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 22, 2013

Maureen Cottingham
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 20, 2013

This is WAY OVERDUE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Kevin McGovern
Sonoma, CA 95476

Mar 20, 2013

Kevin W. McNeely, E.D. Sonoma International Film Festival
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 20, 2013

Gretchen Armer
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 20, 2013

and/or a broom!

Jim Callahan
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 20, 2013

Long Overdue!

Nickolai Mathison
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 19, 2013

Brady t. Brady
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 19, 2013

Cecilia Ponicsan
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 19, 2013

hillary wicht
soonoma, CA 95476
Mar 19, 2013

Lori McGovern
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 19, 2013

Darryl Ponicsan
Sonoma, CA 95476
Mar 19, 2013



City of Sonoma
City Council
Agenda Item Summary

City Council Agenda Item: 8C

Meeting Date: 09/04/2013

Department

Administration

Staff Contact

Carol E. Giovanatto, City Manager

Agenda Item Title

Discussion of 2013-14 City Council GOALS "Report Card"

Summary

On March 25th the Council held a goal-setting session which resulted in the adoption of six GOALS for 2013-2014. These GOALS were used as guiding principles for Department Managers in preparing the City Budget and are used by all staff as a road map of priorities for this fiscal year. Council GOALS are not simply words on paper, but in staff's view are words to do business by. To this end, staff has prepared a "Report Card" to provide Council and the Public written validation that the direction provided by Council is being implemented. This Report Card demonstrates that the City remains focused on accomplishing the GOALS as set forth by the City Council.

The six GOALS include 37 individual Action Items which define its purpose. The following is a recap of the cumulative accomplishments to date:

| ACTION ITEMS | COMPLETED | IN PROCESS | NOT STARTED |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 37 | 4 | 21 | 12 |

Recommended Council Action

Receive status report on Council GOALS

Alternative Actions

N/A

Financial Impact

N/A

Environmental Review

- Environmental Impact Report
- Negative Declaration
- Exempt
- Not Applicable

Status

- Approved/Certified
- No Action Required
- Action Requested

Attachments:

2013-14 Council GOALS "Report Card"

2013-14 Council GOALS list

cc:

“REPORT CARD”

2013-14 COUNCIL GOALS

BUDGET STRATEGY & FISCAL STABILITY: Balance Budget without eroding infrastructure and preserving essential services

| <i>COUNCIL DIRECTION: Focus on a budget strategy that will promote and maintain long-term fiscal sustainability in the General and Enterprise Funds through the continued application of sound budgetary policies; continue solid fiscal management to insure and maintain stable reserve level; develop a financial model which dedicates funding for Capital Infrastructure Projects; continue to ensure efficient public safety services</i> | <i>Progress as of: SEPTEMBER 2013</i> | <i>Not Started</i> | <i>In Process</i> | <i>Complete</i> |
|--|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Develop a balanced budget model which dedicates funding for Capital Improvement Projects, restores staff to previous levels and maintains service levels | Operating & Capital Budget was adopted on July 1, 2013 inclusive of the Capital Improvement Projects and restoration of staffing levels [1 position] | | | x |
| Update impact fees and service fees to assure specialized service costs are borne by the requester and not City taxpayers | Update to the 2008 Fee Schedule was initiated by Department Managers in August 2013; anticipate presentation of updated Fee Schedule to City Council in November | | x | |
| Establish dedicated Reserve Fund to address long-term pension liabilities | TBD following the close of fiscal year 2012-13 | x | | |
| Establish a K-9 program through the Sheriff's Contract to enhance public safety | The K-9 program established and released on patrol as of August 2013. | | | x |
| Continue to seek grant opportunities; assess other funding opportunities [examples: assessment districts; business improvement areas] | Efforts to date include: PG&E Grant application to support small business incubation program; CDBG grant for economic development; | | x | |
| Initiate long-term plan to address the potential phase-out of Measure J Sales Tax funds | TBD following the close of fiscal year 2012-13 | x | | |
| Prepare report on how Measure J has assisted in restoring revenue lost through the elimination of redevelopment | TBD following the close of fiscal year 2012-13 | x | | |
| Identify funding source(s) for Stormwater Program | The FY 2014 Budget includes an allocation for start-up costs of \$50,000; Stormwater Fees will be developed through the Fee Schedule update | | x | |
| Identify options for elimination of the Cemetery Fund deficit | Options being discussed with City's Audit Firm | | x | |

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Explore Economic Development Drivers to ensure preservation & long-term viability of Community Assets

| <i>COUNCIL DIRECTION: Continue to develop strategies to address the loss of revenue to the City as a result of the elimination of redevelopment; continue to facilitate business retention, recruitment and expansion of the economic base; protect local historical infrastructure</i> | <i>Progress as of: SEPTEMBER 2013</i> | <i>Not Started</i> | <i>In Process</i> | <i>Complete</i> |
|--|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Explore future options and opportunities for the preservation of the Sebastiani Theater | | x | | |
| Conclude Redevelopment processes as required by State Department of Finance and explore potential options for 32 Patten Street [old fire station] | Next Step: Property Management Plan for 32 Patton Street to be presented to the Oversight Board on September 25 | | x | |
| Explore opportunities for future State Infrastructure Financing | NOTE: Awaiting State Legislative actions | x | | |
| Work with local agencies [Chamber, Visitors Bureau, Tourism Improvement District] to assess potential economic development options | On-going efforts including: EDSC; Business recognition meeting [Chamber]; Holidays in Sonoma [TID] to increase mid-week stays; | | x | |
| Recognize & leverage the value of City utilities as economic development tool | Options being discussed by the Streamlining Committee for financing of utility/connection charges. | | x | |

POLICY & LEADERSHIP: Mission and Vision Statement for the City

| <i>COUNCIL DIRECTION: Provide continuing leadership as elected officials and residents of the community; review Mission and Vision Statement to assure that it reflects the current economic, environmental and social climate and creates a visual image for the community; take steps to assure a safe and vibrant community; respond to County, State and Federal legislative issues with a focus on retaining local control</i> | <i>Progress as of: SEPTEMBER 2013</i> | <i>Not Started</i> | <i>In Process</i> | <i>Complete</i> |
|--|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Revisit Mission and Vision Statement [2006] | | x | | |
| Track progress on Council Goals | Create a REPORT CARD to track progress; presented to the City Council quarterly | | | x |
| Continue to foster/support thriving, vital business community focused on job growth and commerce | On-going | | x | |
| Maintain strong relationship with Supervisor Gorin and the Board of Supervisors | On-going | | x | |
| Update City website to expand public resources and information; expand content | | x | | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| | staff held on August 16 to open discussions on the process | | | |
| Review Tier 1 Services to assure services align with needs of the community | | X | | |
| Encourage the creation of a Community-wide website for all youth activities, adult activities and major local events | | X | | |
| Create an inventory of all City Parks, Open Space, Walking and Bicycle Trails and designated Preserve areas | Initial meeting with Supervisor Gorin held on Aug 16 to discuss Parks Masterplan process | | X | |

WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE: Develop long-term strategies to address current and future infrastructure needs, promote water conservation while maintaining a stabilized rate structure

| COUNCIL DIRECTION: Redefine the Capital infrastructure needs with a focus on enhancing the City's local water supply; implement a sustainable utility rate structure; establish Water Fund Reserve policy; strengthen, promote and support the value of water conservation to protect local resources | Progress as of: SEPTEMBER 2013 | | <i>Not Started</i> | <i>In Process</i> | <i>Complete</i> |
|---|--|---|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | |
| Update Water Rate Structure and Rate Model | RFP for consultant to be released September 2013 | | | X | |
| Adopt Reserve Policy; Consideration of establishing a Rate Stabilization Fund | | X | | | |
| Implement Water Conservation measures and Public Education Outreach | Working with Sonoma County Water Agency | | | X | |
| Review opportunities for shared services with Valley of the Moon Water District | On-going discussions with VOMWD General Manager and City's Public Works Director/City Engineer | | | X | |
| Initiate Capital Infrastructure replacements and upgrades including options for issuing Water Bonds | Will be determined by the update to the Water Rate Study | X | | | |
| Evaluate environmental & sustainability programs [i.e. groundwater, City wells] | Groundwater information distributed at Farmer's Market; Groundwater workshop held on July 28th | | | X | |

COUNCIL GOALS 2013-2014

*“TO CREATE A LOCAL ENVIRONMENT OF FOCUSING ON THE POSITIVES
& EMBRACING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BETTERMENT OF SONOMA”*

➤ **BUDGET STRATEGY & FISCAL STABILITY: Balance Budget without eroding infrastructure and preserving essential services.**

Focus on a budget strategy that will promote and maintain long-term fiscal sustainability in the General and Enterprise Funds through the continued application of sound budgetary policies; continue solid fiscal management to insure and maintain stable reserve level; develop a financial model which dedicates funding for Capital Infrastructure Projects; continue to ensure efficient public safety services

Action Items

- *Develop a balanced [“in the black”] budget model which dedicates funding for Capital Improvement Projects [CIP], restores staff to previous levels, and maintains service levels*
- *Update impact fees and service fees to assure specialized service costs are borne by the requester and not City taxpayers*
- *Establish dedicated Reserve Fund to address long-term pension liabilities*
- *Establish a K-9 program through the Sheriff’s Contract to enhance public safety*
- *Continue to seek grant opportunities; assess other funding opportunities [examples: assessment districts; business improvement areas]*
- *Initiate long-term plan to address the potential phase-out of Measure J Sales Tax funds*
- *Prepare report on how Measure J has assisted in restoring revenue lost through the elimination of redevelopment*
- *Identify funding source(s) for Stormwater Program and elimination of the Cemetery Fund deficit*

➤ **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Explore Economic Development Drivers to ensure preservation and long-term viability of Community Assets**

Continue to develop strategies to address the loss of revenue to the City as a result of the elimination of redevelopment; continue to facilitate business retention, recruitment and expansion of the economic base; protect local historical infrastructure

Action Items

- *Explore future options and opportunities for the preservation of the Sebastiani Theater*
- *Conclude Redevelopment processes as required by State Department of Finance and explore potential options for 32 Patten Street [old fire station]*
- *Explore opportunities for future State Infrastructure Financing Programs*
- *Work with local agencies [Chamber, Visitors Bureau, Tourism Improvement District] to assess potential economic development options*
- *Recognize and leverage the value of City utilities as economic development tool*

➤ **POLICY & LEADERSHIP: Mission and Vision Statement for the City**

Provide continuing leadership as elected officials and residents of the community; review Mission and Vision Statement to assure that it reflects the current economic, environmental and social climate and creates a visual image for the community; take steps to assure a safe and vibrant community; respond to County, State and Federal legislative issues with a focus on retaining local control

Action Items

- *Revisit Mission and Vision Statement [2006]*
- *Track progress on Council Goals and establish mechanism for a CITY REPORT CARD*
- *Continue to foster/support thriving, vital business community focused on job growth and commerce*
- *Maintain strong relationship with Supervisor Gorin and the Board of Supervisors*
- *Update City website to expand public resources and information; expand content*
- *Update and/or establish City Policies and Procedures*
 - ✓ *Policy on False Alarm Responses*
 - ✓ *Update Policy on Sidewalk Repair*
 - ✓ *Establish Funding Policy for Street Maintenance*
 - ✓ *Update Reserve Policy to include revisions to designated and undesignated reserve funds and consideration of modified base level percentages*
 - ✓ *Update Investment Policy to maximize market trends*

➤ **PUBLIC SERVICE: Continue to build on customer service and business friendly mindset we as a City are pursuing and explore additional ways to exhibit that mindset in the eyes of the community**

Seek efficiencies with a focus on increasing customer service; develop a comprehensive outreach plan that fosters communication and informs and educates the public; increase the awareness of city programs and promotes community participation

Action Items

- *Resume meetings of Streamlining Committee to enhance business relationships*
- *Continued outreach to the public to assure that City procedures and processes are transparent and understandable*
- *Provide timely and accurate information about City Services*
- *Explore all options for customer convenience such as online payments, acceptance of credit and debit cards at City Hall*
- *Maintain strong City employee structure to serve the needs of the community*
- *Create customer feedback survey/input form for use in evaluating City services*

➤ **RECREATION & PARKS: Master plan Parks & Recreation opportunities**

Create a comprehensive review of Parks & Recreation facilities and infrastructure in partnership with County Regional Parks; partner with County and private stakeholders to reach consensus on the development of a community swimming pool

- *Support Community Swimming Pool facility*
- *Participate with County on a Valleywide Parks Masterplan*
- *Review Tier 1 Services to assure services align with needs of the community*
- *Encourage the creation of a Community-wide website for all youth activities, adult activities and major local events*
- *Create an inventory of all City Parks, Open Space, Walking and Bicycle Trails and designated Preserve areas*

➤ ***WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE: Develop long-term strategies to address current and future infrastructure needs, promote water conservation while maintaining a stabilized rate structure.***

Redefine the Capital infrastructure needs with a focus on enhancing the City's local water supply; implement a sustainable utility rate structure; establish Water Fund Reserve policy; strengthen, promote and support the value of water conservation to protect local resources

Action Items:

- *Update Water Rate Structure and Rate Model*
- *Adopt Reserve Policy; Consideration of establishing a Rate Stabilization Fund*
- *Implement Water Conservation measures and Public Education Outreach*
- *Review opportunities for shared services with Valley of the Moon Water District*
- *Initiate Capital Infrastructure replacements and upgrades including options for issuing Water Bonds*
- *Evaluate environmental and sustainability programs [i.e. groundwater, City wells]*

Adopted by the City Council on March 25, 2013

LEGEND:

Programs/projects funded in adopted Budget

Currently in process and/or on-going



CITY OF SONOMA
City Council
Agenda Item Summary

City Council Agenda Item: 8D

Meeting Date: 09/04/2013

Department

Administration

Staff Contact

Carol E. Giovanatto, City Manager

Agenda Item Title

Discussion, consideration and possible action relating to the Alcalde Selection Policy.

Summary

The Alcalde Selection Policy, adopted by the City Council in 1991, describes the Alcalde program including the history and the nomination and selection process. As a result of discussions about the policy and procedure, it has been suggested that the policy be revised to exclude the City Manager as a voting member of the Nomination Committee. Pursuant to the existing policy, nominations are addressed to the City Manager and the City Manager convenes and participates in the Nomination Committee meeting.

Recommended Council Action

Should Council desire to entertain revisions to the Alcalde Selection Policy, staff recommends that it appoint a subcommittee to meet with Mr. Evans, past Alcaldes, and other interested parties to consider revisions of the Policy and if there are, place them before the entire City Council for consideration.

Alternative Actions

N/A

Financial Impact

\$500 is allocated in the budget each year for the Alcalde program.

Environmental Review

- Environmental Impact Report
- Negative Declaration
- Exempt
- Not Applicable

Status

- Approved/Certified
 - No Action Required
 - Action Requested
-

Attachments:

1. Alcalde Policy
 2. List of Alcaldes
-

cc: Whitney Evans via email

Memo

DATE: July 16, 2001

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Pamela Gibson, City Manager

SUBJECT: Alcalde Selection Process, Role, Responsibilities

Background

Each December the City Council of the City of Sonoma selects a citizen of the year who is called the honorary Alcalde. This policy outlines the selection, criteria, and role of the honored person.

Origin of Alcaldes

Alcaldes in California came about through the rise of the pueblo system and the establishment of town councils (called ayuntamientos). The councils were headed by mayors (called alcaldes), and together they provided a semblance of government, hearing a wide range of issues from land disputes to criminal matters.

The annually elected alcalde was not only the chief local law practitioner, but judge, justice of the peace (if no one else filled that function), notary public, recorder, escrow agent in land transactions, boss of the town Council, jack of all trades, and was probably the town's most useful citizen.

He often had to rule on disputes over cattle, horses, branding irons, hides, horse race wagers, bankruptcy, adoption, promissory notes, barrels of wine, and vacant lands. Alcaldes were the recorders of mortgages, wills, and conveyances, and also had to deal with criminal activity including murder.

The alcalde's position and importance did not end with Mexican Rule. In his speech following the raising of the American Flag over Monterey on July 7, 1846 Commodore John Sloat restated the importance of alcaldes and invited them to continue to execute their duties. The function of alcaldes did not legally change until after the state Constitution was adopted, and duties previously performed by one person were separated into several positions. Today the Spanish word "alcalde" literally means Mayor.

In 1975 the City of Sonoma decided to once again find "the town's most useful citizen" and bestow upon them the title Honorary Alcalde. August Pinelli, the first to be honored, began his year January 1, 1976. The Council has voted for an "honorary alcalde" every year since. The honoree is given a gold-headed cane as a symbol of the honor and appears in parades and at grand openings.

Selection Process

1. Around the first week of November, an ad will be placed in the newspaper announcing the nomination period for Honorary Alcalde of the City of Sonoma. A summary of the criteria shall also

be published with a deadline of Thanksgiving. Persons submitting a nomination will do so in a letter format, addressing as many of the criteria as possible, and sending the letter to the City Manager.

2. Early in December the City Manager will convene the nominating committee who shall be the three most immediate past alcaldes available, the current Mayor, and the City Manager. This committee will review the nominations and will select three candidates to be forwarded to the new Mayor prior to the second meeting in December. The Mayor will then make the nomination and the Council will vote to ratify at this meeting or the first meeting in January.

Criteria for Selection

Nominee shall embody several of the following:

- Broad spectrum of voluntary community service to Sonoma Valley
- Has served in a leadership role in at least one non-profit organization
- Has spearheaded at least one community-serving project without compensation
- Is well-known for consistent behind-the-scenes good deeds
- Does not seek public accolades or recognition for work done
- Adheres to a high standard of moral and ethical values

Role and Responsibilities

- Participates in Alcalde Luncheon
- Participates in other public events, as requested
- Agrees to use Council's Code of Ethics as a guideline

Past Alcaldes

| Name | Alcalde Year | Comments |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| August Pinelli | 1976 | deceased |
| Henri Maysonnaave | 1977 | deceased |
| Jerry Casson | 1978 | deceased |
| Bob Lynch | 1979 | deceased |
| Dan Ruggles | 1980 | deceased |
| Paul & Adele Harrison | 1981 | Both Deceased |
| Gail Fehrensen | 1982 | deceased |
| Chet Sharek | 1983 | deceased |
| Evelyn Berger | 1984 | deceased |
| Alan & Sandy Piotter | 1985 | |
| Nell Lane | 1986 | deceased |
| Jim Metzger | 1987 | deceased |
| Helen Shainsky | 1988 | deceased |
| Jerry Tuller | 1989 | |
| Ernest & Loyce Power | 1990 | both deceased |
| Jo Baker | 1991 | deceased |
| Lee Booker | 1992 | |
| Jim Vanderbilt | 1993 | deceased |
| Nancy Parmelee | 1994 | |
| George Watson | 1995 | deceased |
| Bob & Carolyn Stone | 1996 | |
| L. C. "Pete" Peterson | 1997 | deceased |
| Peggy McAleese | 1998 | |
| Helen Fernandez | 1999 | |
| Howie Ehret | 2000 | deceased |
| Robert Cannard, Sr. | 2001 | deceased |
| Mitch Mulas | 2002 | deceased |
| Ellie Baker | 2003 | deceased |
| Sue Holman & Susan Weeks | 2004 | |
| June Sheppard | 2005 | |
| Al & Kathy Mazza | 2006 | Al deceased |
| Phyllis Carter | 2007 | |
| Sy Lenz | 2008 | |
| Elizabeth Kemp | 2009 | |
| Niels Chew | 2010 | deceased |
| Mary Evelyn Arnold | 2011 | |
| Whitney Evans | 2012 | |
| Les & Judy Vasdez | 2013 | |



City of Sonoma
City Council
Agenda Item Summary

City Council Agenda Item: 8E

Meeting Date: 09/04/2013

Department

Administration

Staff Contact

Carol E. Giovanatto, City Manager

Agenda Item Title

Consideration and Possible Action to Appoint an Alternate Representative to the Sonoma Clean Power Agency [SCPA] Board

Summary

On July 15th the Council approved Resolution No. 30-2013 appointing Councilmember Steve Barbose as the City's representative to serve on the Sonoma Clean Power Board. The City has received a request from Geof Syphers, Executive Director, Sonoma Clean Power for the Council to appoint an Alternate Board representative. Councilmembers should discuss and appoint an Alternate to the SCP Board.

Recommended Council Action

Council appointment of Alternate Boardmember for Sonoma Clean Power.

Alternative Actions

N/A

Financial Impact

N/A

Environmental Review

- Environmental Impact Report
- Negative Declaration
- Exempt
- Not Applicable

Status

- Approved/Certified
- No Action Required
- Action Requested

Attachments:

cc:



CITY OF SONOMA
 City Council
 Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Item: 10A
Meeting Date: 09/04/2013

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Department Administration | Staff Contact Gay Johann, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager |
|-------------------------------------|--|

Agenda Item Title

Councilmembers' Reports on Committee Activities.

Summary

Council members will report on activities, if any, of the various committees to which they are assigned.

| MAYOR BROWN | MPT. ROUSE | CLM. BARBOSE | CLM. COOK | CLM. GALLIAN |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| AB939 Local Task Force | ABAG Alternate | Cittaslow Sonoma Valley Advisory Council, Alt. | Cemetery Subcommittee | ABAG Delegate |
| Oversight Board to the Dissolved CDA | City Audit Committee | North Bay Watershed Association | City Facilities Committee | Cemetery Subcommittee |
| Sonoma Community Center Subcommittee | City Facilities Committee | Sonoma Community Center Subcommittee | LOCC North Bay Division Liaison | Cittaslow Sonoma Valley Advisory Council |
| Sonoma County Health Action | Sonoma County Mayors & Clm. Assoc. BOD | Sonoma County Transportation Authority & Regional Climate Protection Authority, Alternate | Oversight Board to the Dissolved CDA, Alt. | City Audit Committee |
| Sonoma County Mayors & Clm. Assoc. BOD | Sonoma County M & C Assoc. Legislative Committee, Alt. | Sonoma County Waste Management Agency | Sonoma County M & C Assoc. Legislative Committee | LOCC North Bay Division Liaison, Alternate |
| Sonoma Disaster Council | Sonoma Disaster Council, Alternate | Sonoma County/City Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAG) | S. V. Library Advisory Committee | Sonoma County Transportation Authority & Regional Climate Protection Authority |
| Sonoma Housing Corporation | Sonoma Housing Corporation | VOM Water District Ad Hoc Committee, Alternate | | Sonoma County/City Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAG), Alt. |
| S. V. Citizens Advisory Commission | Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Comm. Alt. | Water Advisory Committee, Alternate | | LOCC North Bay Division, LOCC E-Board, Alternate (M & C Appointment) |
| S.V.C. Sanitation District BOD | S.V.C. Sanitation District BOD, Alt. | Sonoma Clean Power (7/15/13) | | Sonoma County Ag Preservation and Open Space Advisory Committee (M & C Appointment) |
| S.V. Economic Development Steering Committee | S.V. Economic Development Steering Committee, Alt. | | | VOM Water District Ad Hoc Committee |
| S.V. Fire & Rescue Authority Oversight Committee | S.V. Fire & Rescue Authority Oversight Committee | | | Water Advisory Committee |
| S. V. Library Advisory Committee, Alternate | | | | |
| Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition | | | | |

Recommended Council Action – Receive Reports

Attachments: None