

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

Community Meeting Room, 177 First Street West, Sonoma CA



**Monday, October 5, 2015**

**6:00 p.m.**

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**MINUTES**

City Council

David Cook, Mayor

Laurie Gallian, Mayor Pro Tem

Madolyn Agrimonti

Gary Edwards

Rachel Hundley

**OPENING**

Mayor Cook called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Former Mayor Ken Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Giovanatto, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Johann, City Attorney Walter, Planning Director Goodison

**1. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Ken Brown spoke about the need for affordable housing.

Bonnie Joy Kaslan, Gary Hermes, John Kyle and Ann Colichidas (GSMOL) spoke of the importance of Council's efforts to maintain the affordability of manufactured housing.

Shelly Richey, Mario Castillo and Dave Ransom spoke about the need for affordable housing and requested that the council endorse their group's resolution declaring a housing emergency in Sonoma.

**2. MEETING DEDICATIONS**

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

**Item 3A: Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation**

Mayor Cook read aloud the proclamation and presented to Ms. Lopez, a representative of YMCA Sonoma County.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR/AGENDA ORDER – CITY COUNCIL**

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

**Item 4B: Approval of the Minutes of the September 21, 2015 City Council Meeting.**

**Item 4C: Adoption of an ordinance relating to the automatic appointment of commission alternates. (Removed from Consent, see below)**

**Item 4D: Approval of the allocation of a City funded rental at the Sonoma Veteran's Memorial Building as requested by Sonoma/Petaluma State Historic Parks Association.**

**Item 4E: Adoption of a Resolution for the Amendment and Restatement of VALIC Retirement Services Company Retirement Plan for Government Employers. (Res. No. 39-2015)**

**Item 4F: Adoption of an ordinance amending the Development Code to define "Prescribed Grazing" and identify it as a conditionally-allowed use in the Park zone. (Ord. No. 08-2015)**

**Item 4G: Adoption of a resolution upholding the Planning Commission's decision to deny the application of Richard Konecky for an Exception to the garage setback requirements associated with a residence located at 753 Third Street East. (Res. No. 40-2015)**

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

Clm. Hundley removed Item 4C from the Consent Calendar. The public comment period was opened and closed with none received. It was moved by Clm. Gallian, seconded by Clm. Edwards, to approve the items remaining on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

**Item 4C: Adoption of an ordinance relating to the automatic appointment of commission alternates.**

Clm. Hundley stated that she would not support the ordinance because she felt that automatic appointment should apply to all positions. The public comment period opened and closed with none received. It was moved by Clm. Agrimonti, seconded by Clm. Gallian, to adopt Ordinance Number 07-2015 entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SONOMA AMENDING SECTION 2.40 OF THE SONOMA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS. The motion carried four to one, Clm. Hundley dissenting.

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

**Item 5A: Approval of the Portions of the Minutes of September 21, 2015 City Council Meeting Pertaining to the Successor Agency.**

**Item 5B: Adoption of a Resolution of the City Council as Successor Agency to the Former Sonoma Community Development Agency approving the execution and delivery of a preliminary official statement and bond purchase agreement in connection with refunding of 2003 Tax Allocation Bonds (TAB) and other related actions. (Res. No. SA 04-2015)**

The public comment period was opened and closed with none received. It was moved by Clm. Gallian, seconded by Clm. Hundley, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **6. PUBLIC HEARING - None**

#### **7. REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL**

**Item 7A: Discussion, consideration and possible action to conduct the first reading and introduction of an Ordinance adding Chapter 9.60 of the Sonoma Municipal Code to regulate and prohibit the use of leaf blowers within the City limits.**

City Manager Giovanatto provided the background and a summary of the major provisions of the draft ordinance.

Mayor Cook invited comments from the public. Ken Brown, Phil Busalacchi, Vickie Mulas, Laurie Sebesta, Mike Fannucchi, and Larry Audiss spoke in favor of placing the matter on the ballot.

The following spoke in support of a ban on leaf blowers: Georgia Kelly, Josette Eichar, Fred Allebach, Sarah Ford, Cecelia Ponicsan, David Eichar, Bob Edwards, Mara Lee Weskamp Ebert, and Lynn Clary.

The following spoke in opposition to a ban: Patty Dufern, Stan Pappas, Owen Wooler, Bill Botiff, Joel Bickford, Rocco Lucero, Rosemarie Pedranzini, Rick Loesser, Peter Hodgson, Pete Saibene,

Clm. Hundley thanked the public for all their input. She stated that on a personal level she felt the world would be a better place without leaf blowers. As the controversy of this issue grew she began to hear from many more people on both sides and recognized that even those supporting a ban did not all come from the same direction. Although she had spent countless hours in conversations she could no longer find a consensus in what people wanted and she had reached the point where she felt the issue should be decided by the voters. Clm. Hundley stated that she would support moving towards enhanced code enforcement and restrictions on blowing debris on to other's properties.

**Item 7A:      Regulate and prohibit the use of leaf blowers within the City limits, continued**

Clm. Gallian, acknowledging that Clm. Hundley had represented the third vote necessary to adopt the ordinance, stated she was very disappointed as this was the third time on the precipice of doing something to benefit the health of community. She said she had survived many discussion points and three separate sessions reviewing the facts on both sides and did not believe a vote was the answer. She said it was a leadership issue and she wanted to go ahead and support the community. She added that she had endured being disrespected for the viewpoint she represented and that it was doubtful the Council could agree on the language for a ballot measure.

Clm. Agrimonti stated that she, too, had heard from many on both sides of the issue and had changed her stance somewhat and was willing now to accept electric or battery pack leaf blowers because she did not feel a total ban was fair to homeowners. She added the directive should come from the voters, those who will be affected by it.

Clm. Edwards stated his pleasure at being able to move on to discuss affordable housing and other important issues.

Mayor Cook stated that it scared him that Sonoma was becoming a complaint driven society. He stated that thousands of dollars of City staff time had been wasted, not on affordable housing or living wage, but on leaf blowers and he agreed the matter should go to the ballot.

It was moved by Clm. Gallian, seconded by Clm. Agrimonti, to table the ordinance. The motion failed with the following vote. AYES: Gallian, Agrimonti. NOES: Edwards, Cook, Hundley.

It was moved by Clm. Hundley, seconded by Clm. Edwards, to direct staff to bring the issue of putting the ban on the ballot back at a future date. The motion carried unanimously.

**RECESS:** The meeting recessed 8:00 to 8:05 p.m.

**Item 7B:      Request for Proposals for the preparation of a housing impact fee nexus study, as called for in the City of Sonoma Housing Element.**

Planning Director Goodison reported that the 2015–2023 Housing Element adopted in March included several implementation measures aimed at compensating for the loss of redevelopment funds which had been the City’s primary source of funding for its affordable housing programs. One measure suggested establishment of a housing impact fee that could be levied upon various types of commercial and residential development. Under State law any such fee would need to be validated through a nexus study demonstrating that proposed fees were reasonably related to development impacts. Goodison stated that \$45,000 had been allocated in the budget for preparation of that study and staff was seeking authorization to circulate a request for proposals.

The public comment period was opened and closed with none received. It was moved by Clm. Gallian, seconded by Clm. Agrimonti, to approve the request. The motion carried unanimously,

**8.      REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL AS THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY**

**9.      COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Clm. Gallian reported attendance at the Sonoma Music Festival and Vintage Festival.

Clm. Agrimonti reported attendance at the North Bay Watershed and Health Action meetings.

Clm. Edwards reported meeting with a Healdsburg councilmember and will be meeting to discuss housing and banking relationships in each other’s cities.

Clm. Hundley reported attendance at the Economic Development Steering Committee meeting.

Mayor Cook reported attendance at the Blessing of the Grapes, Vintage Festival, and the Music Festival.

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

**11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Bob Edwards inquired when there would be follow up to a previous Council directive to staff to issue an RFP to conduct a minimum wage study.

Cecilia Ponicsan stated she was not a complainer; that she and her husband gave very generously to Sonoma.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Sonoma City Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2015.

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Gay Johann  
Assistant City Manager / City Clerk