

**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 December 7, 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. Ed Kenney 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, Public Works Director/City Engineer Takasugi, Associate Planner Atkins

**1. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Patricia Cullinan reported an effort to establish the El Camino Real as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and urged the Council's support in the future.

**2. MEETING DEDICATIONS**

Mayor Cook dedicated the meeting in the memory of Chuck Williams (creator of the Williams-Sonoma stores) and David Lumpy Williams (Santa Claus for many years).

Clm. Gallian dedicated the meeting in the memory of Col. Harry Douglas Pratt, USMC Retired.

Clm. Edwards dedicated the meeting in the memory of Father Mike Kelley.

**3. PRESENTATIONS – None Scheduled**

**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 November 16, 2015 City Council Meeting.

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

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

**Item 5A:** Approval of the Portions of the Minutes of the November 16, 2015 City Council Meeting 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. Hundley, to approve the consent calendar as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

## 6. PUBLIC HEARING

### **Item 6A: Discussion, consideration, and possible introduction of an ordinance amending Title 18 of the Sonoma Municipal Code (Sign Regulations).**

Associate Planner Atkins reported that the Design Review and Historic Preservation Commission (DRHPC) worked with sign makers, real estate community, and the Sonoma Valley Economic Vitality Partnership (SVEVP) to develop sign regulations that were more business-friendly by streamlining the sign review process and allowing for more administrative review of sign applications. The proposed ordinance would allow businesses located within an alley to submit an application for the placement of a business-related portable freestanding sign within five feet of the entrance of the alley business. It also provided for administrative review and approval of certain freestanding sign applications.

Mayor Cook invited comments from the public. Jeannette Fung, owner of Sox Devine, stated her appreciation to the City for the more business-friendly regulations.

Laurie Decker, SVEVP, stated that the proposed ordinance would allow over the counter review, provided additional clarity and addressed the special challenges that businesses not located on a street have in drawing foot traffic off the Plaza.

It was moved by Clm. Gallian, seconded by Clm. Hundley, to introduce AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SONOMA AMENDING TITLE 18 OF THE SONOMA MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING THE SIGN REGULATIONS AS THEY PERTAIN TO PORTABLE FREESTANDING SIGNS. The motion carried unanimously.

## 7. REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL

### **Item 7A: City Council Reorganization (Selection of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem).**

Mayor Cook called for nominations for Mayor and nominated Clm. Gallian. Clm. Edwards nominated Clm. Agrimonti. There were no comments from the public. Being put to a vote, the nomination of Clm. Gallian was approved four to one, Clm. Edwards dissented.

Mayor Gallian called for nominations for Mayor Pro Tem and nominated Clm. Agrimonti. Clm. Edwards nominated Clm. Hundley. There were no comments from the public. Being put to a vote, the nomination of Clm. Agrimonti was approved four to one, Clm. Edwards dissented.

**RECESS:** The meeting recessed 6:19 to 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING MAYOR:** Mayor Gallian thanked outgoing Mayor Cook and noted the Council accomplishments during his term. She presented him with a ceremonial Mayor's gavel and Councilmembers expressed their gratitude for the Mayor's service.

### **Item 7B: Discussion, consideration, and possible action to approve a preferred alternative to the City Watersheds Proposition 1E Grant for Drainage Improvements.**

Kent Gyle and Greg Guensch, Sonoma County Water Agency, reported that areas of Sonoma Valley were at risk of flooding during large storms such as the 2005/2006 New Year's Storm. Recent stormwater studies concluded that portions of Fryer Creek had the potential to overflow and cause flooding during large storms. The City Watersheds of Sonoma Valley Project, which received \$1.9 million in Proposition 1E (Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006) grant funding, was a multi-benefit project being developed to help address local flooding, promote groundwater recharge, and enhance habitat along Fryer Creek. The project was co-sponsored by the Water Agency, Sonoma Ecology Center, and the City. A major portion of the City Watersheds project was a groundwater recharge basin on the Montini preserve; however, during the planning process, engineering data showed that the groundwater recharge value at that site was poor. Other sites for groundwater recharge were explored, but rejected for various reasons. With preliminary approval from DWR, sites with flood prevention value were then explored. One of the more flood-prone sites in the City resulted from the stormwater constrictions along First St. West. This area also presented concerns for safety and pedestrian access. They stated that public comment on the drainage improvement options had been received at public meetings held on February 4, 2015 and November 19, 2015. Mr. Gyle explained that the deadline to substitute another grant-compliant project in place of the Montini recharge basin was at hand and that even with Council agreement of a drainage improvement alternative, the \$1.9 million grant may still be subject to rescission by DWR.

**Item 7B: City Watersheds Proposition 1E Grant for Drainage Improvements, Continued**

Mr. Guensch provided detailed information on the three alternatives summarized below:

Alternative 1 (~\$4.7M):

- 6 acre-foot underground stormwater detention basin at the Veteran's Center to mitigate a 100-year storm event.
- Minor channel improvements along First St. West.

Alternative 2 (~\$5.6M):

- 3 acre-foot underground stormwater detention basin at the Veteran's Center to mitigate a 25-year storm event.
- A 54-inch buried stormwater conveyance pipe along First St. West between Depot Park and the Trash Grate, effectively eliminating the deep roadside channel and trash grate.
- Pavement Rehabilitation of First St. West.
- A Class 1 Pedestrian/Bicycle pathway connecting the existing sidewalk ending at the Trash Grate to the City bicycle path at Depot Park.
- A Low-Impact Development swale separating the Pedestrian/Bicycle pathway from the traffic along First St. West, while filtering/recharging stormwater and enhancing habitat.

Alternative 3 (~\$3.2M):

- 3 acre-foot underground stormwater detention basin at the Veteran's Center to mitigate a 25-year storm event.
- Minor channel improvements along First St. West.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Takasugi, stated that staff supported Alternative 2 and explained how it would address the following concerns:

- Flooding caused by constrictions in the open channel. There are several constrictions in this channel, caused by the trash grate, undersized culverts, and impinging tree structure. The localized flooding caused by these constrictions extends further south along the west side of the Plaza and south of West Napa St., adversely affecting businesses and residential properties.
- Safety of pedestrians, vehicles, and maintenance staff due to channel flows. During moderate storm events, the stormwater flow in the channel is quite fast and the top-of-bank in the channel is not clearly visible when the floodwater tops its banks. Pedestrians, vehicles and maintenance staff could accidentally fall into this fast-flowing channel, unable to visibly see the top-of-bank.
- Maintenance of the trash grate at the lower end of this open channel. Without continuous clearing of this trash grate during a storm event, the grate will become significantly obstructed with debris and will accentuate the flooding to the street.
- Lack of safe pedestrian connectivity between Depot Park and the Plaza on the east side of First St. West. The existing condition presents only a very narrow shoulder between the edge of pavement and the top of the open channel bank. If two pedestrians are walking side-by-side, one pedestrian would likely be encroaching into the vehicular lane of traffic. Although there is sidewalk on the west side of First St. West, there is a natural proximal desire to walk along the east side of First St. West between the Plaza and the many facilities in and around Depot Park, including the Veterans Memorial Building, Field of Dreams, the Depot Museum, the bicycle path to General Vallejo's home, Arnold Field and Sonoma Stomper games, the Overlook trail, and auxiliary parking facilities near Depot Park.

Mayor Gallian invited comments from the public. Karla Noyes stated her happiness with the process and that she would support alternative 1.

Fred Allebach suggested increasing the trash grate opening to 54 inches and added that he did not feel any of the alternatives would provide a substantial amount of recharge.

Jack Wagner encouraged the Council to look for solutions to the water and flooding issues while at the same time protect natural resources and open space.

Terry Leen suggested placing a retention pond underneath Arnold Field and using the water for irrigation purposes. He questioned which veteran group or person the Agency had spoken to about the proposal.

**Item 7B: City Watersheds Proposition 1E Grant for Drainage Improvements, Continued**

Dick Fogg stated that SCWA and City staff had been very helpful and the process had been an open and helpful one. He suggested removal of the eucalyptus trees and supported Alternative 3.

Jim Bohar stated that the neighboring property owners supported Alternative 3 and suggested removal of the trees, redesign of the trash gate and enlargement of the culvert under Depot Park.

George McKale stated that he opposed Alternative 2 and he questioned how a decision could be made until the environmental study had been conducted.

Mary Smith supported Alternative 3 and asked the Council to keep Sonoma rural.

Tom Conlon stated that it did not appear to him that the proposals met the objectives of the Prop 1 funding. He felt Alternative 1 was the most cost effective proposal.

James Cannard stated that recharge was vital to the area and he supported Alternative 3.

Rosemarie Pedranzini agreed with Mary Smith.

Patricia Cullinan and Christine Bohar also stated their support Alternative 3.

John Schantz stated that it was important to maintain the creek status and he supported Alternative 1 and 3. He suggested replacing the debris remover, removal of the eucalyptus trees and clear cutting the cemetery trees.

CIm. Hundley stated that the process has worked really well and that she found staff's concerns about safety to be very valid. She also worried about vehicles and pedestrians navigating the area during high water events and wondered if there was some way to delineate the edge of the roadway.

CIm. Edwards agreed it was a creek not a ditch and stated his support for removal of the trees and Alternative 3.

CIm. Agrimonti agreed with CIm. Edwards and suggested placement of a sign along that stretch to read "not a pedestrian right of way".

CIm. Cook stated that he would prefer Alternative 2 which would provide handicap and pedestrian accessibility but that he would go along with Alternative 3.

It was moved by CIm. Hundley, seconded by CIm. Edwards, to go with Alternative 3 and adopt the resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SONOMA APPROVING A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TO THE CITY WATERSHEDS PROPOSITION 1E GRANT FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS. The motion carried unanimously.

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

**9. COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

CIm. Cook reported on the Sonoma Clean Power and Library Advisory Board meetings. He stated that Mendocino and Lake County had expressed an interest in joining Sonoma Clean Power.

CIm. Hundley reported on the Economic Vitality Partnership meeting.

CIm. Agrimonti invited all to an event sponsored by the Sonoma Splash Committee and reported attendance at the Sonoma United Methodist Church regarding the housing issue.

Mayor Gallian stated she looked forward to the coming year and all that was ahead.

CIm. Edwards reported that Cittaslow and the Chamber were discussing a possible collaboration and that over 500 meals were served at the annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

**10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INCLUDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM SUCCESSOR AGENCY STAFF**

City Manager Giovanatto stated that the issue of the Community Fund would be before the Council in January.

**11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Rosemarie Pedranzini thanked the Council for putting up with her.

Dave Ransom encouraged Council to address the housing and financial issues facing Sonoma Valley residents.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. in the memory of Chuck Williams, David Lumpy Williams, Col. Harry Douglas Pratt, USMC Retired, and Father Mike Kelley.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Sonoma City Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 2015.

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Gay Johann  
Assistant City Manager / City Clerk