

**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



**Wednesday January 20, 2016**

**6:00 p.m.**

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**MINUTES**

City Council  
Laurie Gallian, Mayor  
Madolyn Agrimonti, MPT  
David Cook,  
Gary Edwards  
Rachel Hundley

**OPENING**

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Giovanatto, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Johann, Associate City Attorney Nebb, Public Works Director/City Engineer Takasugi, Finance Director Hilbrants

**1. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Michelle Richey spoke about homelessness and the need for an emergency shelter especially during the rainy months. She requested the Council to declare a housing emergency in the City.

Josette Eichar suggested the Council raise the minimum wage and address land use issues related to affordable housing.

**2. MEETING DEDICATIONS**

Mayor Gallian dedicated the meeting in the memory of Sheila Cole.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

**Item 3A: Recognition of Tom Anderson's service on the Design Review and Historic Preservation Commission**

Mayor Gallian presented a certificate of recognition to Tom Anderson and thanked him for six years of service on the Design Review and Historic Preservation Commission in addition to nine years he served on the Planning Commission. Mr. Anderson stated it had been an honor and pleasure to serve.

**Item 3B: Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation**

Mayor Gallian read aloud the proclamation recognizing the month of January as Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month. Katherine Hargitt, representing the Sonoma County Human Trafficking Task Force, accepted the proclamation and reported on their ongoing efforts designed to educate the community about the presence of human trafficking.

**Item 3C: National Mentoring Month Proclamation**

Mayor Gallian read aloud the proclamation recognizing January as National Mentoring Month and celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance. Lee Morgan Brown accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Alliance and spoke about the importance and need for the program.

**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 December 21, 2015 City Council Meeting.
- Item 4C:** Approval and ratification of the appointment of Amy Sandoval as the alternate commissioner for the Community Services and Environment Commission for a two-year term.
- Item 4D:** Approval and ratification of the appointment of Richard Pollack to the Community Services and Environment Commission for a two-year term.
- Item 4E:** Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Recycled Water Agreement with the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District to provide Recycled Water to a City Park at Engler Street. [Removed from Consent, see below]
- Item 4F:** Authorize the City Manager to Execute a 10-Year Lease Agreement between the City of Sonoma and the Sonoma Home Winemakers for Tex Juen Park. [Removed from Consent, and carried over]
- Item 4G:** Approve the Notice of Completion for the Napa Road Rehabilitation Project No. 1310; Federal Project No. STPL – 5114(017) constructed by Argonaut Constructors and Direct the City Clerk to File the Document.

City Manager Giovanatto removed Item 4F to be carried over to a future agenda. Mayor Gallian removed Item 4E for separate discussion. The public comment period was opened and closed with none received. It was moved by Clm. Hundley, seconded by Clm. Edwards, to approve the items remaining on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

- Item 4E:** Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Recycled Water Agreement with the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District to provide Recycled Water to a City Park at Engler Street.

Mayor Gallian stated this item represented one of the greatest achievements of the City dealing with recycled water during her time on the Council. Public Works Director Takasugi explained that the project would allow irrigation of the Engler Street Park with recycled water. The public comment period was opened and closed with none received. It was moved by Clm. Agrimonti, seconded by Clm. Cook, to approve the item. 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 December 21, 2015 City Council Meeting Pertaining to the Successor Agency.
- Item 5B:** Adoption of the FY 16-17 Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule [ROPS] for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

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

**6. PUBLIC HEARING – None Scheduled**

**7. REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL**

- Item 7A:** Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Sub-Lease of the Field of Dreams for the Sonoma Music Festival/BR Cohn Fall Music Charity Fundraiser.

City Manager Giovanatto reported that In October 2015 the BR Cohn Fall Music Charity held the first Sonoma Music Festival at the Field of Dreams in Sonoma. The purpose of relocating the event from the prior County location to the City was to bring specific benefit to the local economy and local charities, in particular, the Veteran’s organizations. The event was extremely well attended and resulted in \$200,000 being donated to local/regional charities. Pursuant to the Field of Dreams lease, any subleases of the property have to be approved by the City Council. BR Cohn has reached an agreement with Field of Dreams and were requesting Council approval of a sublease for an October 2016 music festival. Giovanatto stated that staff recommend approval subject to the following conditions: provide evidence of insurance with coverages and limits as required by the City’s risk manager; negotiate use of the Police parking lot with staff; reimburse the City for staff time necessary for management and or production of the event; contract with Sonoma County Sheriff’s Department for law enforcement services.

**Item 7A: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Sub-Lease of the Field of Dreams for the Sonoma Music Festival/BR Cohn Fall Music Charity Fundraiser, Continued**

The public comment period was opened and closed with none received. It was moved by Clm. Hundley, seconded by Clm. Cook, to approve the sublease subject to the conditions recommended by staff. The motion carried unanimously.

**Item 7B: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Prepare Ballot Language on the Use and/or Prohibition of Leaf Blowers for the November 2016 Municipal Election.**

City Manager Giovanatto reported that at the October 5, 2015 meeting, Council directed staff to bring back the issue of putting a ban on leafblowers on the ballot. She presented ballot measure options to the City Council which included the following questions:

1) Should the City of Sonoma adopt an ordinance to prohibit the use of all forms of leaf blower equipment in all areas of the City limits?

SUMMARY: This ordinance would completely eliminate the use of all leaf blower equipment within the City limits of Sonoma. Under enforcement, both the property owner or tenant and the landscaper each will be subject to the violation under the ordinance. The fine that is imposed for violation of the ordinance will depend upon whether the violation is prosecuted as an infraction, misdemeanor or administratively.

2) Should the City of Sonoma City of Sonoma adopt an ordinance to prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blower equipment and allow only electric/battery operated equipment with operating hours to be limited to Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in all areas of the City limits?

SUMMARY: This ordinance would completely eliminate the use of all gas-powered leaf blower equipment within the City limits of Sonoma. All other areas of the City would be open for use of electric or battery operated equipment during specified hours. The operation of leaf blowers shall comply with the noise ordinance. Under enforcement, both the property owner or tenant and the landscaper each will be subject to the violation under the ordinance. The fine that is imposed for violation of the ordinance will depend upon whether the violation is prosecuted as an infraction, misdemeanor or administratively.

3) Should the City of Sonoma City of Sonoma adopt an ordinance to prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blower equipment and allow only electric/battery operated equipment only in commercial, mixed-use and public areas with operating hours to be limited to Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in all areas of the City limits?

SUMMARY: This ordinance would completely eliminate the use of all gas-powered leaf blower equipment within the City limits of Sonoma. The use of all other powered leaf blowers (battery/ electric powered) to be banned in all areas of the City of Sonoma with the exception to commercial and mixed -use zones and public areas owned by the City of Sonoma and under the maintenance responsibilities of the City Public Works Department. The operation of leaf blowers shall comply with the noise ordinance. Under enforcement, both the property owner or tenant and the landscaper each will be subject to the violation under the ordinance. The fine that is imposed for violation of the ordinance will depend upon whether the violation is prosecuted as an infraction, misdemeanor or administratively.

Mayor Gallian invited comments from the public. The following spoke in favor of a compromise ordinance instead of placing the matter on the ballot: Georgia Kelly, Sarah Ford, David Eichar, Patty Dufern, Mari Lee Ebert, Bob Edwards, Daryl Ponicsan, Lisa Summers and Pat Coleman.

Phil Busalacchi stated his support for a complete ban. Lynn Clary pointed out that the Council had voted in 2011 to pass a law prohibiting the blowing of debris into the streets.

Clm. Cook stated that he did not support placing the matter on the ballot.

Clm. Hundley pointed out that there had not been any willingness for a compromise until the last attempt at adopting an ordinance failed. She stated that countless hours had already been spent on this issue by staff and Council and there were other things that Council needed to work on. She stated her continued opinion that the matter should be on the ballot to let the community decide what it wanted. She favored option 1 or just a ban on gas powered leafblowers.

**Item 7B: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Prepare Ballot Language on the Use and/or Prohibition of Leaf Blowers for the November 2016 Municipal Election, Continued**

Clm. Edwards stated that the number of complaints about leafblowers was very small in comparison to the City's population. He said he wanted to get back to the issues of affordable housing, homelessness and food for the poor. Edwards supported placing the matter on the ballot. Clm. Agrimonti stated her irritation that it took Council making the decision to place the matter on the ballot before people were willing to compromise. She said she would support a compromise ordinance. Mayor Gallian stated that the message from the public tonight was clear and she would not support a ballot measure.

It was moved by Clm. Edwards, seconded by Clm. Hundley, to place Option 1 on the ballot. Edwards added that this matter would end up on the ballot one way or another and it would be far better if the Council made the decision to place it on the ballot. The motion failed with the following roll call vote: AYES: Edwards, Hundley. NOES: Cook, Agrimonti, Gallian. ABSENT: None.

It was moved by Clm. Cook, seconded by Clm. Agrimonti, to revisit the leafblower issue with further discussion of the possibility of banning gas and allowing electric in all areas. The motion carried three to two. Councilmembers Edwards and Hundley cast the dissenting votes.

7:30 p.m. Clm. Edwards was excused from the meeting.

**RECESS:** The meeting recessed from 7:30 to 7:35 p.m.

**Item 7C: Discussion of the Progress Report on the 2015-16 City Council Goals.**

City Manager Giovanatto provided an in-depth status report on the 2015-16 Council goals. Councilmembers commented on a few of the accomplishments and expressed their appreciation to City Manager Giovanatto for the report and to Public Works Director Takasugi for moving along all the capital improvement projects.

Mayor Gallian invited comments from the public. Mr. Ransom asked the Council to keep rent control and tenants' rights on the forefront.

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

**9. COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Clm. Cook reported on the Library Advisory Committee and Sonoma Clean Power meetings. Clm. Hundley reported on the Legislation Committee meeting. Mayor Gallian reported on the SCTA/RCPC and Marin/Sonoma Mosquito District meetings.

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

**11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Ann Wrays asked the Council to devote a portion of the Transient Occupancy Tax towards the housing crisis.

Patty Dufern suggested the City have an architect or representative of the Historic Preservation Commission at Design Review & Historic Preservation Commission meetings to provide direction and information to Commissioners and staff.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. in the memory of Sheila Cole.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Sonoma City Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016.

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Gay Johann  
Assistant City Manager / City Clerk