

**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 February 17, 2016
6:00 p.m.

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. Liam O'Driscoll 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, City Attorney Walter, Finance Director Hilbrants

1. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ann Wray and Michele Richey read aloud a letter recently published as an "Open Letter to the City Council" in the Index Tribune which stressed the need for the City to address issues related to affordable housing and homelessness.

David Eichar suggested the City revise its housing goals and increase the number of affordable units required within new development.

Jack Wagner reported homeless camps in Maxwell Park and stated the need for regulations for tenant evictions.

2. MEETING DEDICATIONS

Clm. Agrimonti dedicated the meeting in the memory of Laurie Webber Hutchinson.

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 and ratification of the appointment of Robert Cory as the alternate commissioner on the Design Review & Historic Preservation Commission for an initial two-year term.

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

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING – None Scheduled

7. REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL

Item 7A: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action on Options for a Compromise Ordinance to Limit the Use of Leaf Blowers Within the City Limits.

City Manager Giovanatto reported that pursuant to the January 20, 2016 direction of City Council, staff had prepared a draft compromise ordinance which incorporated the following basic tenants of a compromise. 1. TYPE OF EQUIPMENT ALLOWED: Completely eliminate the use of all gas-powered leaf blower equipment within the city limits of Sonoma. All areas of the City would be open for use of electric or battery operated equipment. 2. HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. except on City holidays. 3. NOISE LEVEL: The operation of leaf blowers shall comply with the noise ordinance, including the decibel limits applicable to residential power equipment. 4. ENFORCEMENT: Under enforcement, both the property owner or tenant and the landscaper each will be subject to the penalty provisions 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. 5. ENFORCEMENT DATE: Ordinance shall be enforced commencing July 4, 2016.

Clm. Edwards confirmed that the police department had received between thirty and forty complaints during the past year, the prosecutor had conducted ten to twelve site hearings, and there had been no arrests related to the use of leafblowers.

Clm. Hundley confirmed that violations of the proposed ordinance would be enforced either as an infraction or a misdemeanor, or by any other remedy available to the City under state law.

Clm. Agrimonti confirmed that, although not included in the current code, the provision that debris was not to be directed into the street or neighboring properties, had been included in the best practices flyer distributed by the City.

Clm. Edwards stated that he conducted a test using a steel rake which resulted in a noise level across the street of ninety decibels.

Mayor Gallian confirmed that the new Code Enforcement Officer would be in place within sixty days.

Mayor Gallian invited comments from the public. The following persons spoke in favor of the ordinance: Jack Wagner, Sarah Ford who requested a start time of nine or ten a.m., Lyn Clary who requested the addition of a restriction that debris could not be directed into the street or neighboring properties, Georgia Kelly who suggested a nine to four time frame, Josette Eichar who requested a later start time and requested a ban on backpack style blowers, Phil Busalacchi who requested removal of the exemption for capital improvement projects, David Eichar and Lisa Summers who echoed previous suggested changes, Mark Janofski who suggested banning gas powered generators, and Caroline Wompole.

City Manager Giovanatto stated that the exemption for capital improvement projects would be removed from the ordinance.

Clm. Hundley stated that she did not feel the proposed ordinance addressed the issues that had been originally brought up. She cited studies which indicated there was no difference between the noise level of gas and electric blowers.

Clm. Cook stated he had always desired uniform regulations across the board.

Clm. Edwards stated his desire to get back to the issues that matter. He pointed out the various other activities that generate noise, emissions and pollutants and stated his disagreement with any ban of leafblowers.

Mayor Gallian stated it was time to put this quality of life issue to bed. She then took straw votes from Councilmembers on the main components of the ordinance as outlined by the City Manager. They reached majority consensus to approve them with the exception of changing the hours of operation to nine to four and to add a provision prohibiting blowing debris into the street or onto neighboring properties.

RECESS: The meeting recessed from 7:32 to 7:40.

Item 7B: Presentation of FY 2015 - 2016 Midyear Budget; discussion, consideration and possible action on Amendments to the FY 2016 Operating Budget.

Finance Director Hilbrants presented the midyear budget report and proposed budget amendments. The public comment period opened and closed with none received. It was moved by Clm. Hundley, seconded by Clm. Edwards, to adopt Resolution Number 03-2016 entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SONOMA AMENDING THE FY 2015 - 2016 BUDGET. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 7C: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Establish a Process for Determining Community Focus Per FY 2015-16 Council Goals.

City Manager Giovanatto reported that the 2015-16 Council Goals included a Key Element, suggested by Clm. Agrimonti, under City Character which stated: "Make a commitment to the community for special focus or dedication (i.e. the year of the children, the year of the neighborhoods)". She stated that in order to successfully accomplish this Key Element, staff suggested Council have a more detailed discussion on what process may be undertaken to determine how the dedication would be determined. Giovanatto posed the following two options for consideration: 1) Council could determine the designation during Goal-Setting discussions. Outreach would be solicited from the public as a part of Council Goals priority for the upcoming year. This would then also become an input tool for budget priorities or a focus area for the Community Fund grant applications. 2) The Mayor, upon appointment, could make a proposal as to their designation for Council ratification (in January). This then would become the theme for what they wish to represent for their year in office.

Mayor Gallian invited comments from the public. Fred Allebach stated that he had just realized that the Council goals served as the blueprint for the City Manager for the year. Councilmembers weighed in and reached a unanimous consensus to go with option one as presented by the City Manager.

8. REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL AS THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY

9. COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Clm. Cook reported on the Sonoma Clean Power and Library Advisory Board meetings.

Clm. Edwards wished his son Sullivan a Happy Birthday.

Clm. Hundley reported attendance at the Chamber Breakfast.

Clm. Agrimonti reported on Waste Management meeting.

Mayor Gallian reported on the Mayors and Councilmembers and SCTA/RCPA meetings and the Chamber Breakfast.

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

City Manager Giovanatto reported that recruitment was underway for three members of the Traffic Safety Committee with applications due March 16. She stated that the April 4 Council meeting, focused on the Mobilehome Rent Control Ordinance, would begin at four and would be held at the Veterans Building. She also reported the Council Goal Setting meeting would be held May 23 and the Budget Workshop on June 9.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m. in the memory of Laurie Webber Hutchinson

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

Gay Johann
Assistant City Manager / City Clerk