

**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 June 27, 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. Mark Bramfitt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Agrimonti, Edwards, Hundley, Cook and Mayor Gallian.  
ABSENT: None

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

**1. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Jack Wagner stated the need for additional affordable housing.

Cecilia Ponicsan spoke about the school's organic gardening experience and the reported harmful effects of Round Up herbicide.

David Brigode commented that, at the time the new Mobilehome Rent Control Ordinance was adopted, the City Council agreed to review and update the implementation guidelines.

**2. MEETING DEDICATIONS**

At the request of Mayor Gallian a moment of silence was observed for the Orlando community in light of the recent terror attack.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

**Item 3A: Recognition of the service of members of the Mobilehome Park Rental Review Board**

Mayor Gallian, noting that the Mobilehome Park Rental Review Board had recently been dissolved, acknowledged the faithful service of those who had served including Nancy Parmelee – 23 years, Dean Moser – 20 years, Bill Dardon – 16 years, Mark Bramfitt – 13 years, Bill D'Allaird – 3 years, David Artson – 3 years, and David Brigode – 3 years. She then presented certificates of appreciation to the members present. Bill Dardon commented that they did not meet a lot but always tried to do what was best for the park residents. David Artson thanked the Council and staff for all they do.

**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 May 23, June 6 and June 9, 2016 City Council Meetings. (Removed from Consent, see below)**

**Item 4C: Adopt the FY 2016-17 City Council Goals.**

**Item 4D: Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Request for Proposal for Professional Services for City Manager Recruitment. (Removed from Consent, see below)**

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

- Item 4E:** Approval of the allocation of City funded rentals at the Sonoma Veteran’s Memorial Building as requested by the Sonoma Community Center, La Luz, Vintage Festival, Sonoma Valley High School Boosters Club, Valley of the Moon Lions Club, Sonoma International Film Festival, Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club, and Native Sons of the Golden West.
- Item 4F:** Adoption of Plans and Specifications, Award a Contract to Argonaut Constructors, lowest responsive bidder, for the 2016 Street Rehabilitation Project No. 1502, and Authorize the City Manager to execute a construction contract in the amount of \$485,678.10.
- Item 4G:** Authorization for City Manager to Execute an Agreement to Purchase a New (Replacement) Public Works Department Pickup Truck.
- Item 4H:** Approval and ratification of the appointment of Yvonne Bowers, Nancy Parmelee, and Jeanne Camus-Boynton to the Traffic Safety Committee for initial two-year terms.
- Item 4I:** Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Funding Agreement with the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District for the Design of the Chase Street Bridge Sewer Crossing.
- Item 4J:** Consideration and Possible Action to Amend and Terminate the City of Sonoma PARS Section 457 FICA Alternate Retirement Plan. (Res. No. 18-2016)
- Item 4K:** Accept Final Progress Report on the 2015-16 City Council Goals.

Mayor Gallian invited comments from the public. Fred Allebach removed Consent Items 4B and 4D for separate consideration. It was moved by Clm. Agrimonti, seconded by Clm. Cook, to approve the items remaining on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

- Item 4B:** Approval of the minutes of the May 23, June 6 and June 9, 2016 City Council Meetings

Mayor Gallian invited comments from the public. Fred Allebach requested minor revisions to the May 23 and June 6, 2016 minutes. There were no other public comments. It was moved by Clm. Agrimonti, seconded by Clm. Cook, to approve the minutes with the revisions requested by Mr. Allebach. The motion carried unanimously.

- Item 4D:** Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Request for Proposal for Professional Services for City Manager Recruitment.

Mayor Gallian invited comments from the public. Fred Allebach stated he would like to know how and when the public would be allowed to participate in the recruitment and selection process. City Manager Giovanatto explained that this was the first step and that recruiting firms would be proposing not only their services but potential processes to be utilized. She pointed out that the Municipal Code defined the duties of the City Manager. Chris Petlock suggested starting with an ad in the local paper. It was moved by Clm. Cook, seconded by Clm. Edwards, to authorize the City Manager to issue a RFP for professional services for City Manager recruitment. 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 May 23, June 6 and June 9, 2016 City Council meetings pertaining to the Successor Agency.

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

**6. PUBLIC HEARING**

- Item 6A:** Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the Adoption of the FY 2016-17 Operating and Capital Budget for the City of Sonoma and the Sonoma Successor Agency.

City Manager Giovanatto and Finance Director Hilbrants provided Council with a detailed presentation of the budget. They emphasized that the \$31.3 million balanced budget included conservative revenue projections due to the leveling off of major revenue generators.

**Item 6A: 2016-17 Operating and Capital Budget, Continued**

Mayor Gallian invited comments from the public. Fred Allebach asked about the City's unfunded pension liability. Finance Director Hilbrants explained that the City had taken steps to reduce and hold the line on it. Chris Petlock expressed appreciation that the Capital Improvement Program had been included.

CIm. Hundley stated that the workshop had been very informative and helpful in understanding the budget. Councilmembers Agrimonti and Edwards expressed appreciation to staff for a wonderful job. Mayor Gallian noted that City residents let the Council know what their priorities were. It was moved by CIm. Cook, seconded by CIm. Hundley, to adopt Resolution No. 19-2016 entitled A Resolution of the City of Sonoma and the Successor Agency of the Former Sonoma Community Development Agency Adopting the Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17 and Waiving the Annual Allocation Equal to One Quarter of One Percent of the Budgeted General Fund Expenditures to the Public Art Fund for the Fiscal Year 2016-17. The motion carried unanimously.

**7. REGULAR CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL**

**Item 7A: Discussion, consideration and possible action to: (1) introduce ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 01-2016 (Leaf Blower Ord.); (2) adopt resolution calling for an election on Ordinance No. 01-2016 at the regular municipal election on November 8, 2016; or (3) adopt resolution calling for a special election on Ordinance No. 01-2016 on a date specified in the resolution.**

Assistant City Attorney Nebb reported that on March 21, 2016 the Council adopted Ordinance No. 01-2016 banning gas leaf blowers within the City's limits while allowing use of electric and gas powered leaf blowers pursuant to certain regulations. Thereafter the ordinance was successfully referendaed causing the ordinance to be suspended. She explained that the Council had three options: (1) repeal the ordinance; (2) submit the ordinance to the voters at the next regular municipal election; or (3) submit the ordinance to the voters at a special election to be held not less than 88 days after the Council orders that the election be held. She stated that if the ordinance was repealed by the Council or by the voters, the Council could not enact the same or substantially the same ordinance for one year thereafter.

Mayor Gallian invited comments from the public. Fred Allebach, Jack Wagner, Sarah Ford, Cecelia Ponicsan, and Karin Skoogland stated their agreement with placing the matter on the November 2016 ballot. John Fannuchi encouraged the Council to rescind the ordinance.

Councilmembers expressed a majority consensus to place the matter on the November ballot but could not reach a consensus on who should write the ballot argument in favor. CIm. Hundley suggested that either a subcommittee of Council or the Sonoma Neighbors Against Leaf Blowers (SNALB) should write it. CIm. Cook stated he did not want the Mayor to write it. CIm. Edwards stated he would not support Council writing it.

It was moved by CIm. Hundley, seconded by CIm. Edwards, to adopt Resolution No. 20-2016 entitled A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Sonoma Giving Notice of and Establishing the Policies and Procedures for a Regular Election to Adopt or Reject City Council Ordinance No. 01-2016 Prohibiting Gal Leaf Blowers and Regulating Electric and Battery-Powered Leaf Blowers in the City of Sonoma and Directing the County Elections Department to conduct the Election on the City's Behalf and authorizing SNALB to write the argument in favor. Upon being informed by Attorney Nebb that the Council could not authorize an outside group to author the argument the motion was amended by rescission of that verbiage and removal of the paragraph stipulating the author. The motion carried unanimously.

**RECESS:** The meeting recessed 7:55 to 8:10 p.m.

**Item 7B: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action on a Report of Measure J Revenue Performance, Analysis of Options of the Sunset Provisions and Direction to Staff.**

City Manager Giovanatto reported that in 2012 the City went to the voters presenting Measure J for consideration which consisted of the addition of a half-cent local transactions and use tax to fund City services. The specific text of the Ballot Measure stated "To preserve the safety, public services and quality of life of Sonoma, and provide funding for essential services such as police, fire and emergency medical services, street and road maintenance, graffiti abatement and other general community services, shall an ordinance be adopted temporarily increasing the City sales tax by one-half of one percent for a term of 5 years, with all funds to be spent locally?"

**Item 7B: Report of Measure J Revenue Performance, Analysis of Options of the Sunset Provisions and Direction to Staff, Continued**

Since its approval in 2012, Measure J has provided a total of approximately \$8 million local tax dollars and in FY 2016-17 is projected to be the fourth highest revenue source following Transient Occupancy Tax, Property Tax and General Sales Tax in the City's General Fund. The current Measure J was initially set with a 5-year sunset clause in a calculated and focused approach to (1) review the performance of the local sales tax, and (2) assure taxpayers that the City could and would demonstrate its ability to manage and use the funds in a fiscally responsible way. It also provided for the breathing room to analyze how the State would ultimately realign redevelopment activities, fund affordable housing and transfer further responsibilities to cities without benefit of additional funding. This "sunset clause" is set to expire on June 30, 2017 and to continue collection of the tax a new measure must be renewed by voter ballot in November. Absent this local tax revenue source, the City will be facing serious revenue shortfalls in the future and budget cuts to core public services will be necessary.

Giovanatto stated that staff was seeking direction from Council, whose options included: 1) Propose to extend the tax measure with a new sunset provision based on a set timeframe (5-years, 10-years, 20-years); 2) propose to extend the tax measure in perpetuity (no stated end date); or 3) Council could chose not to move forward with renewal of the local sales tax which would give staff the advance notice to begin looking at future General Fund expenditure reductions equal to the loss of \$2.2 million in revenue.

Mayor Gallian invited comments from the public. Fred Allebach suggested that a portion of the Measure J funds be used to diversify Sonoma's economy.

Councilmembers expressed unanimous concurrence to seek renewal of the sales tax but differed in their opinions regarding the length of its term. Councilmember Cook and Mayor Gallian supported perpetuity. Councilmembers Agrimonti and Edwards supported a five year term and Councilmember Hundley stated her preference was for ten years but she could support five.

In response to the question by Mayor Gallian City Manager Giovanatto stated that she felt a five year term would be the best and pointed out that many of the City's plans for the future were in five year increments. The matter was slated to return on the July 6 agenda. Mayor Gallian asked staff to find out if the Council would have the ability to cancel the tax prior to the end of a five year period.

**Item 7C: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action on a Report by the Facilities Committee Regarding the Proposal by the HAVEN to Establish a Safe Parking Pilot Program for Sonoma Homeless.**

City Manager Giovanatto reported the Facilities Committee (Councilmembers Cook and Edwards) had done some research and met with staff and the project proposers. She stated that there were still unanswered questions and issues that needed to be addressed and no action had been taken by the Committee.

Clm. Edwards reported he had met with Catholic Charities and toured areas in Santa Rosa where Safe Parking programs were being used. He stated he still had questions but was willing to work towards a solution. He pointed out that Sonoma was the only small community in the County that had a shelter and was already taking on a big share of the responsibility.

Mayor Gallian invited comments from the public. Kathy King stated that the proposed program could be implemented at no cost to the City. She said that homelessness was a nationwide issue and was not going to go away and that they (The Haven) had thirty people on their waiting list with only ten beds. Cynthia Vrooman (Sonoma Overnight Support - SOS), Frank Windes (Methodist Church), and Barbara Mahon spoke in support of the program and urged the Council to move ahead quickly.

Clm. Cook stated that the issue would be better addressed in a regional or County-wide partnership. He pointed out that if the ordinance was changed to allow camping at the proposed location, it would be allowed in the entire City and residents did not want that.

Clm. Hundley stated she would like to see a meeting among all the stake holders to try and come up with a solution.

**Item 7C:      Proposal by the HAVEN to Establish a Safe Parking Pilot Program for Sonoma Homeless, Continued**

Clm. Agrimonti commented that SOS had exploded into many more services than their original mission. She stated her enthusiasm for the recent action by the Board of Supervisors to allocate additional funding for legal services for those fighting illegal evictions.

Clm. Edwards stated he would like to have more time to do his research, meet with Santa Rosa Councilmembers and try to come up with other solutions.

Further discussion ensued with Council reaching majority consensus to have the Facilities Committee continue to look into the issue and report back in September.

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

**9.      COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Clm. Agrimonti reported on the Waste Management meeting.

Mayor Gallian reported on SCTA/RCPA and the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District meetings and wished everyone a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Clm. Agrimonti invited volunteers to help with the cleanup the morning after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

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

City Manager Giovanatto reported that recruitment for the Sonoma County Library Commission representative was open until July 15 and that she would be conducting final interviews for the City Clerk/Executive Assistant position in the coming weeks. In response to the public comment made by Mr. Brigode at the beginning of the meeting, she reported that she and the City Attorney would be working on the guidelines in the next few months.

**11.     COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None**

**12.     ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 2016.

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Gay Johann  
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk