



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SOLVANG CITY COUNCIL

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Council Chambers  
1644 Oak Street  
Solvang, CA 93463

September 12, 2016  
Monday  
6:30 pm

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT: Mayor Richardson, Council Members Duus, Jamieson, Skytt, and Zimmerman

STAFF: Brad Vidro, City Manager; Roy Hanley, City Attorney; Matt van der Linden, Public Works Director, Fred Lageman, Parks and Recreation Director, Arleen Pelster, Acting Deputy City Clerk

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Mayor Richardson

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Informational report only

1. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL**

Fred Koval, Solvang Resident

- Provided weather information regarding potential rainfall
- Discussed weather forecasts and water supply matters

2. **COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS**

None.

3. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

Information only – no discussion.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

Mayor Richardson noted he had invited several interested parties to speak regarding Item No. 11, and obtained Council consensus to move the item forward on the agenda due to the importance of public participation.

5. **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF AUGUST 22, 2016**

*Motion* was made by Council Member Jamieson to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Council Member Duus, and **carried** with a verbal response of four ayes and one abstention by Council Member Skytt.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Receive and File Sheriff's Department Report for July 2016
- b. Accept the Veteran's Memorial Building Lead Abatement, Painting and Windows project as complete and direct the City Manager to execute and record the Notice of Completion

*Motion* was made by Council Member Duus to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Zimmerman, and **carried** with a verbal response of five ayes.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

7. **TAJIGUAS RESOURCE RECOVERY PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

Receive update from Santa Barbara County staff regarding the project.

A report and slide show was provided by Mark Schleich and Leslie Wells of the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department. The Council discussed the project and related matters with County staff, including territory, life of post-project landfill, property ownership, financing negotiations between the City and County, fees and rates, use of transfer stations, and the cost of constructing new landfills.

Mayor Richardson opened the item for public comment at 7:21 p.m. and, seeing none, closed the item.

The Council thanked Mr. Schleich and Ms. Wells, and accepted the report.

8. **RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA URGENCY ORDINANCE**

Discussion and direction on a potential Urgency Ordinance Prohibiting Manufacturing, Processing, Laboratory Testing, Labeling, Storing, and Wholesale and Retail Distribution of Cannabis.

Staff report by Roy Hanley, City Attorney.

Mayor Richardson opened the item for public comment at 7:25 p.m. and, seeing none, closed the item.

Mayor Richardson stated he favors adoption of an urgency ordinance. Council concurred.

*Motion* was made by Council Member Skytt to direct staff to prepare an urgency ordinance, seconded by Council Member Jamieson, and **carried** with a roll call vote of 5-0.

9. **DONATION OF AN ARTIFICIAL "ALL LIGHT" DECORATIVE TREE FOR SOLVANG PARK**

Consider and provide staff direction on the potential donation of a "mega tree," an artificial Christmas tree decorated solely with strings of lights.

Staff report by Fred Lageman, Parks and Recreation Director.

Council discussed similar trees and the difficulty with keeping a live tree in acceptable condition in the planter.

Mayor Richardson opened the item for public comment at 7:31 p.m.

Tracy Farhad, Solvang Conference and Visitors Bureau

- Noted that the Solvang Conference and Visitors Bureau partners with the City on Christmas activities, and noted that the Solvang Conference and Visitors Bureau supports use of the “All Light” tree.

Mayor Richardson closed the item to public comment at 7:33 p.m.

Mayor Richardson commented that until the drought is over, this is a good solution and that he’d like to accept the donation.

Council Member Duus commented that although he is a traditionalist, he likes the idea of a 22 foot tall tree and is willing to give it a try.

*Motion was made by Council Member Duus to accept the donation of the “All Light” tree, seconded by Council Member Skytt, and **carried** with a roll call vote of 5-0.*

Mayor Richardson called for Item No. 11 to be considered before Item No. 10.

**11. INTRODUCTION FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY, AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SOLVANG MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 9, CHAPTER 2 SEWER CODE TO ADD RESIDENTIAL WATER SOFTENER RESTRICTIONS**

Staff Report by Matt van der Linden, Public Works Director. Matt van der Linden noted that staff would be bringing 2017 water supply recommendations to the Council soon, and noted that the City is in reasonably good shape regarding water supply at this time.

Council discussed methods of reducing concentrations of sodium, chlorides, and total dissolved solids (TDS) with Matt van der Linden, and how the concentrations are affected by salt-using self regenerating water softeners. Council Member Zimmerman inquired if the 600 homes called out in the staff report were all within City limits, and Matt van der Linden replied affirmatively. Discussion ensued as to how to address concentrations in wastewater received from other agencies. Roy Hanley advised the Council that fines for violation of these discharge limits are usually very high. Matt van der Linden noted a nitrate limit will likely be imposed in the near future.

Mayor Richardson requested representatives of companies which provide water softeners to come forward as he had several questions for them.

Don Decker, Culligan Water Conditioning

- Noted many customers would be upset, as the exchange tank system runs out of soft water quickly during times of high usage, such as when guests are visiting. Costs would increase from \$39 per month to \$80-\$90. Rebate system is a positive step but follow-through is necessary. Home improvement stores sell small systems which are far worse than commercially provided systems. Noted soft water saves on overall consumption since less water is needed for household uses.

Mayor Richardson opened the item for public comment at 8:08 p.m.

Fred Koval, Solvang Resident

- Commented that the cause of the problem is the quality of City water and recommended the Council pursue development of a treatment plant. Stated no solid numbers were presented and that City is already exceeding limits.

Mark Infanti, Solvang Resident

- Inquired about effects from residences which are on septic systems, whether any consideration had been given to saltwater swimming pools since they drain to the sewer, discussed undesirable aspects of the exchange tank systems, health issues, and inquired if small drywells could alleviate the problem. Added that allowing existing systems to remain is very positive.

Gay Infanti, Solvang Resident

- Noted nitrate contamination is from agriculture uses, and inquired if the City would take the wastewater from residences in the Santa Ynez valley when they remove septic tanks systems and connect to the sewer system.

Mayor Richardson closed the item to public comment at 8:32 p.m.

Council Member Skytt noted that the City does not take wastewater from Los Olivos.

General discussion ensued regarding the need for a water treatment plant and difficulties finding an acceptable location, and the need to pursue a permanent solution in meeting the concentration limits. Council generally agreed to introduce the ordinance with some amendments, pursue a permanent solution, and reach out to Santa Ynez Community Services District to request the agency implement concentration reduction measures.

Council Member Skytt questioned how we would enforce the new ordinance. City Attorney Hanley indicated that we have a complaint generated code enforcement program and regulations for administrative citations and fines for code violations.

***Motion** was made by Council Member Duus to:*

*a. Introduce for first reading by title only Ordinance No. 16-\_\_\_\_\_, an ordinance of the City of Solvang revising the Sewer Code, with amendments to specify that existing salt-using self regenerating water softening systems are legal, non-conforming in nature and may remain, while no new such systems may be installed; and*

*b. Approve the Water Softener Rebate Program, and direct staff to implement the program for 18 months beginning January 1, 2017 with a mid-year Budget Adjustment of \$40,000; and*

*c. Direct staff to coordinate with Santa Ynez Community Services District requesting they implement sodium, chloride, and TDS reduction measures within their service area.*

*The motion was seconded by Council Member Jamieson, and **carried** with a roll call vote of 4-1 with Council Member Zimmerman voting No.*

## **10. REFURBISHING THE TURF AT SOLVANG PARK**

Staff report by Fred Lageman, Parks and Recreation Director.

General discussion ensued regarding the status of negotiations with the Vikings regarding park improvements, replacement of the Mayten trees, artificial turf, sod vs. seed, and time needed for installation and maturation of the grass.

Mayor Richardson opened the item for public comment at 9:08 p.m.

Fred Koval, Resident

- Noted that Solvang Park is in the heart of the City and the installation of grass needs to be fast-tracked.

Mayor Richardson closed the item to public comment at 9:10 p.m.

*Motion was made by Council Member Jamieson to install \$12,000 worth of sod and hardscape, utilizing the funds saved from the contract with the Sheriff's Department, seconded by Council Member Zimmerman, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.*

12. **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (Oral reports: Each Council Member will give oral reports on their activities in relation to the following committee or agencies. In addition, each member may report on items that will be included on the agenda for such committee or agency and seek guidance from the Council as a whole on such items, including on what position to take on behalf of the City)**

- Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
- Air Pollution Control Board
- Joint Wastewater Committee
- Finance Committee
- Chumash Tribe

**Mayor Richardson** discussed the funding for the expansion of the fire station and requested it be brought back on the next Council agenda.

- Indian Gaming Benefit Committee
- California Joint Powers Insurance Authority

13. **ADVANCE CALENDAR**  
Informational calendar – no action.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

  
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Lisa S. Martin, City Clerk