



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE SOLVANG CITY COUNCIL**

Council Chambers
1644 Oak Street
Solvang, CA 93463

July 27, 2020
Monday
6:30 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mayor Ryan Toussaint, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Clarke, Council Members Chris Djernaes, and Karen Waite

ABSENT: Council Member Johnson

STAFF: Xenia Bradford, City Manager, Chip Wullbrandt, City Attorney and Matt van der Linden Public Works Director/City Engineer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Pro Tem Clarke

1. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL

a. Sheriff Contract Model Presentation

Lieutenant Jeff Green stated that he did not have a full presentation, but that he is happy to answer any questions they Council may have. Kristie Velasco, Financial Officer provided an overview of the structure of the current DSO cost model.

Hank Homberg

- Spoke relative to the discussion on smart cities technologies and how it could benefit the City in other ways besides taking pictures of license plates
- Stated that the technology will be efficient and useful in crime prevention efforts
- Stated that he will be in favor of the City hiring a motor officer to help with traffic with the savings from the Sheriff’s Reserve Officer position that was eliminated a while back

Justin Rodriguez

- Made comments regarding surveillance cameras stating that they serve more than one purpose and are effective

Joan Clarke

- Spoke about the Vet Halls Memorial stating that it should remain the way it is
- Stated that Citizens need to be involved more in the decision-making specially in projects that have community wide impact

Jennifer Soni

- Thanked the Council for the steps it has taken to help businesses stay solvent
- Stated that her business is thriving and hoped the City continues to do what it has done on Copenhagen

Melony Johnson, on behalf of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Via Zoom)

- Commented that she is against the horse drawn carriages because of what it does to the horses
- Stated that cities across the country are abandoning the practice of using horse drawn carriages due to safety considerations
- She urged the Council to deny a license to DoubleTree horse drawn carriages

Callers

Nancy Emerson

- Commended the Council for putting the Vets Hall Conceptual Plan on hold
- Provided suggestions on community engagement strategies such as cherrates that will work with Council and a team of professionals
- Spoke about the importance of outreach to all segments of the community

Zack Foss

- Commented on the public surveillance system it was discussed earlier
- Stated that such systems are ineffective for several reasons including privacy and civil rights issues
- Stated that placing surveillance systems in such a small city will severely infringe upon the privacy of citizens and he believes this is not right

Jason

- Briefed the Council on projects he has worked on throughout the Country and the world on the issue of finding amicable solutions to the issue of horse drawn carriages
- Offered to be of help to the Council when and if the need arises on this subject

Rochelle Mueller and Hazel Mortensen

- Spoke in favor of abolishing the horse drawn carriages from the City of Solvang
- Spoke about the unsafe conditions of the horses who work in the intense heat and on hot surfaces

Lammy Johnstone

- Stated that she was in favor of reopening Copenhagen back
- Commented that the City might face legal challenges due to lack of handicapped parking accessibility

2. EXECUTIVE, PIO REPORTS & ADVANCE CALENDAR

City Manager Xenia Bradford provided the following highlights:

- Briefed the Council on items coming up on the August 10 agenda, including: the fourth quarter financial update, State REAP Grant Fund MOU, request from the Commission of Women of Santa Barbara County seeking Council to adopt a resolution in support of the United Nations Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, Monterey Bay Community Power request to make presentation before the City Council, and the marketing update.

Motion made by Mayor Toussaint to approve the consent calendar as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clarke, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Agenda as Presented
- b. Approval of Draft Minutes of the June 22, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting and the July 13, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting
- c. Receive and File Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office Monthly Report for June 2020
- d. Cooperative Agreement for Measure A Grant Funding of Solvang Sidewalk Project

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

4. DOUBLETREE CARRIAGES ANIMAL DRAWN CONVEYANCE LICENSE APPLICATION

Hold a public hearing to consider issuance of a horse drawn conveyance license for Doubletree Carriages per Section 4-1 of the Solvang Municipal Code.

Xenia Bradford, City Manager stated that this item will be tabled to the meeting of August 24, at the request of the applicant.

Motion made by Mayor Toussaint to defer the item to August 24, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clarke, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

5. RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOLVANG, CALIFORNIA, ACCEPTING THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE RECALL PETITION AND REQUESTING CONSOLIDATION OF THE RECALL WITH THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Adopt the following Resolutions: 1) Resolution No. 20-1116, Accepting Sufficiency of Recall Petition; 2) Resolution No. 20-1117 Calling for the Holding of a Recall Election to be consolidated with the Statewide General Election; and 3) Resolution No. 20-1118 Requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara to render specified services in connection with the Recall election.

City Manager Xenia Bradford presented the staff report briefing the Council on the actions it is requested to take and provided a specific timeline with respect to the Recall process.

Mayor Toussaint open to public comments at 7:47 p.m.

Lammy Johnstone

- Commented that this should be a lesson to any Mayor or Council Member that if you do not listen to the people of Solvang, you will be removed

Mayor Toussaint closed to public comments at 7:49 p.m.

City Attorney Chip Wullbrant clarified that with respect to the comment made by the previous speaker about the Board of Supervisors role in the recall process, that this item does not go to the Board of Supervisors, that in accordance with Elections Code provisions the Council has 14 days to act, and if the Council does not act within that timeframe, the item just goes to the County Elections Department for them to set the date of the Recall election.

Council Member Waite stated she was not happy with the way the resolution was written in that it does not list the names of those seeking to replace the recalled officer if the recall prevails. City Attorney Chip Wullbrandt explained that the only recourse the Council has in terms of the required actions, is to call for the Recall election to take place within 14 days after acceptance of the resolution of sufficiency.

The Council engaged in a brief discussion pertaining to the technicalities of a recall process with some Council members expressing concerns about the process indicating that if people were to recall every politician that says something stupid, then, no person will want to hold public office.

Council Member Djernaes commented that he has always advocated for the best interest of the majority of residents in Solvang, and that he is looking forward once again to making his case before the voters; further, Council Member Djernaes stated that if he has to do this every year with respect to educating the voters about his role and advocacy efforts on behalf the majority of residents, he will gladly do so.

Motion made by Mayor Toussaint to approve staff recommendations in the form of the three resolutions presented, seconded by Council Member Waite, and carried with a roll call vote of 3-1-1 (Council Member Johnson voting no, Council Member Djernaes abstaining).

RECESS AND RECONVENE

Mayor Toussaint called for a recess at 8:05 p.m. The assembly reconvened at 8:15 p.m. with all Council Members, present.

6. COVID-19 UPDATE

Receive and file staff report and provide with policy direction as needed

City Manager, Xenia Bradford and Scott Shumake presented the staff report briefing the Council on the most recent State and County orders and regulations as well as the closing of Copenhagen.

A substantial discussion ensued with respect to the issue of Copenhagen and its aesthetic look moving forward. IDK presented options relative to what options the Council has in the interim versus a long-term solution. Mayor Toussaint directed staff to come up with a report outlining cost and additional information.

Mayor Toussaint open to public comments at 9:25 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Toussaint closed to public comments at 9:25 p.m.

Motion made by Mayor Toussaint directing staff that for the next Council Meeting to bring back an agenda item regarding Copenhagen and incorporating the feedback received from Council at tonight's meeting, moving to approve the City Manager to approve additional cost for the rental items while Council develops a long-term strategy, directing staff to come back with a budget adjustment, and moving forward with the BDC items, seconded by Council Member Johnson, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

Motion made by Mayor Toussaint, to continue the meeting after 9:30 p.m., seconded by Council Member Johnson, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

7. MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE

Staff recommends that the City Council receive and file staff report on Media Coverage for the City of Solvang and provide with policy direction as needed.

Anna Ferguson presented the staff report and answered questions from Council.

Mayor Toussaint open to public comments at 9:37 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Toussaint closed to public comments at 9:37 p.m.

No formal motion made to receive and file.

8. UPDATE ON PLANNING & BUILDING PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

Staff recommends that the City Council receive a brief report on Planning & Building Policies and Procedures; and that the City Council consider extending Amnesty Program waiving penalties through December 31, 2020 for unpermitted building structures.

City Manager, Xenia Bradford stated that this is an information item regarding where the City is in terms of the processes of the Planning and Building Processes and Procedures; commented that given the COVID-19 pandemic there have been a lot of changes and that they will potentially be more changes in the future; briefed the Council on internal procedures prior to COVID-19, with processes being paper based and with inconsistent interpretations of the municipal code whereas currently, during the pandemic, the City has to quickly adopt to more automated remote access and provide more options online.

Motion made by Mayor Toussaint to receive and file the report and extend the Amnesty Program to the remainder of the year to December 2020, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clarke and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

9. SELECTION OF VOTING DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES – LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Appoint voting delegate to the League of California Cities Annual Conference General Assembly and select up to two alternates.

Mayor Toussaint open to public comments at 10:00 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Toussaint closed to public comments at 10:00 p.m.

Motion made by Mayor Toussaint, to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Clarke as the City's voting delegate, seconded by Council Member Waite, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.

10. AB1234 REPORT OUT, COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

There were no AB1234 reports to announce.

Council Member Waite commented that Tracy Beard was awarded the congressional woman-of-the year award and requested that a congratulatory proclamation be presented to Ms. Beard.

11. ADJOURNMENT- Mayor Toussaint adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

DocuSigned by:

Daryl Betancur

DARYL A. BETANCUR, MMC

Deputy City Clerk

In accordance with Solvang Municipal Code Section 1-4-16 (Ord. 14-305), minutes of the City Council of the City of Solvang are prepared in action style.