



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

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Council Chambers  
1644 Oak Street  
Solvang, CA 93463

August 24, 2020  
Monday  
6:30 p.m.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT: Mayor Ryan Toussaint (joined the meeting for item No. 5 only), Mayor Pro Tem Robert Clarke, Council Members Chris Djernaes, Johnson, and Karen Waite

ABSENT: None

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Council Member Johnson

*Motion made by Council Member Johnson, to move item 5 BDC appointments ahead of item No. 4 on the public hearing section of the agenda, seconded by Council Member Waite, and carried with a roll call vote of 4-0 with Mayor Toussaint absent.*

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

Mayor Pro Tem Clarke open public comments for items not on the agenda.

Phil Gerlach, Gerlach Photography in Solvang

- Expressed concerns with the crowding in front of his gallery due to patrons going to neighboring businesses
- Stated that there are large businesses in town that are destroying the small businesses
- Commented that he had observed no social distancing near Paula's Pancakes, and the businesses around do not have a plan

Mia Hartman, Owner of Mia's Beads

- Echoed what Mr. Gerlach stated earlier with respect to Paula's Pancakes overcrowding the front of their stores
- Stated that customers block the handicapped spots and this situation is impacting their business

Lansing Duncan

- Spoke against oversized development, which will change the character of the town
- Commented on the traffic circulation in the surrounding area, which receives heavy traffic

a. **PG & E Representative Power Outages Information Presentation**

- Provided an update about the recent power outages
- Commented that there were 500 lighting strikes in Northern Santa Barbara County (Los Padres Division), which contributed to the outages
- The power grid was impacted due to strikes to 116 transformers, which needed to be replaced thus delaying the restoration of service

2. **EXECUTIVE, PIO REPORTS & ADVANCE CALENDAR**

City Manager, Xenia Bradford provided the following highlights:

- Commented that for the month of September on the advanced calendar, there are several matters for the Council to consider
- Copenhagen closure resolution
- WWTP upgrade update
- Sheriff presentation on traffic enforcement recommendations
- Branding and Design Committee ordinance
- Animal-drawn conveyance ordinance
- Purchasing and budget policy
- Local business assistance NDC/EDC

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of Agenda as Presented
- b. Approval of Draft Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of August 10.
- c. Receive Quarterly Investment Report
- d. Approve Professional Services Agreement for Sewer Master Plan
- e. Approve Resolutions authorizing the City Manager to Execute FTA Section 5311 Cares Act Funding Agreement

Mayor Pro Tem Clarke asked if Council Members wished to pull any items. Council Member Waite requested consent item 3c, Investment Report be pulled for a separate discussion.

City Manager, Xenia Bradford requested that consent item 3b be removed due to an incorrect report being attached.

Mayor Pro Tem Clarke opened public comments at 7:08 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Clarke closed public comment at 7:08 p.m.

*Motion made by Council Member Waite, to approve the rest of the Consent Agenda, with the exception of items 3b and 3c, seconded by Council Member Johnson, and carried with a roll call vote of 4-0 with Mayor Toussaint absent.*

### **3c. Quarterly Investment Report (Item pulled)**

Council Member Waite posed questions relative to the city's financial investments and inquired as to who was making the City's investment decisions, and how long the City has had this investment firm in place. She requested a meeting to discuss the City's financial investment strategy. Further, she also expressed concerns relative to this particular representative and spoke about her findings through broker check.

City Manager, Xenia Bradford commented that the agreement with this firm had been in place for three years, and it was selected by the previous Administrative Services Director; stated that in light of the questions posed, a comprehensive investment policy can be brought back to Council and thus will serve as a vehicle for further discussion on this matter.

*Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Clarke to receive and file investment report, with direction to staff to bring the item back, seconded by Council Member Waite, and carried with a roll call vote of 4-0.*

### **5. BRANDING AND DESIGN COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AND MEMBER (Item heard out of order)**

Staff recommends that the City Council:

- a. Approve resolution establishing the membership, terms of office, duties, and organization of the Branding and Design Committee; and
- b. Review applications and appoint members of the Branding and Design Committee

City Manager, Xenia Bradford presented a brief report and asked the candidates to step up to the podium and brief the Council about their qualifications. (Mayor Toussaint participated remotely).

The following candidates presented before the City Council:

Linda Palmer (withdrawn), Candie Eddie (no show), Rene Kaersko, Brett Marchi, Sheila Benedict, Jeffrey Passke, Esther Jacobsen Bates, Zachary Ulrick, Halina Wyluda-Kazmierczak, Jennifer Dreyden Hess, Julie Paladino, and Carol Cordero.

RECESS AND RECONVENE

Mayor Pro Tem Clarke called for a brief recess at 8:20 p.m. The assembly reconvened at 8:30 p.m. with all Council Members, present.

Public comment

Mayor Pro Tem Clarke opened public comments at 8:35 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Clarke closed public comment at 8:35 p.m.

The City Council deliberated briefly, and based on the scoring from all candidates, the following individuals received qualifying scores to be considered for appointment to serve on the BDC: Rene

Kaersko, Jennifer Dreyden Hess, Brett Marchi, Esther Jacobsen Bates, and Halina Wyluda-Kazmierczark. (Mayor Toussaint participated remotely).

*Motion made by Council Member Waite to appoint Rene Kaersko, Jennifer Dreyden Hess, Brett Marchi, Esther Jacobsen Bates, and Halina Wyluda-Kazmierczark to serve on the BDC for a term as stipulated in the resolution, seconded by Mayor Toussaint, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.*

## **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

### **4. DOUBLE TREE CARRIAGES LICENSE APPLICATION**

Hold a hearing to consider issuance of a horse drawn conveyance license for Double Tree Carriages per section 4-1 of the Solvang Municipal Code.

*Motion made by Council Member Waite, to table the item for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic due to the street closures, which will prevent multiple conveyance operators, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clarke with Mayor Toussaint interjecting that he was in favor of deferring the item to a time certain, rather than tabling the item completely.*

*Motion amended by Council Member Waite to deny the item until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, and to direct staff to move forward with a survey of Solvang residents regarding the trolley, seconded by Mayor Toussaint, and carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.*

Public comment

Mayor Pro Tem Clarke opened public comments at 8:35 p.m.

Melanie Johnson, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

- Urged the Council to deny a conveyance license to Double Tree carriages
- Commented on the traffic circulation in the surrounding area, which receives heavy traffic

The following individuals also spoke in favor of denying a horse-drawn conveyance permit to Double Tree Carriages:

- Paula Kislek, Jodie Wiederkehr, Evin Quelberto, Janet White, Jeannine O'Connell, Jennifer, and Suzan Bott.

A brief discussion ensued relative to the merits of allowing or not allowing horse-drawn carriages in Solvang with council members expressing a desire to explore some of the recommendations stated by the public speakers in relation to for example, electric carriages and other sustainable practices; comments were also made with respect balancing the competing policy concerns and interests of all stakeholders involved.

Mayor Pro Tem Clarke opened public comments at 9:25 p.m.

*Motion made by Council Member Djernaes to continue the meeting pass 9:30 p.m., seconded by Mayor Toussaint, and carried with a roll call vote of 3-0 with Mayor Toussaint and Mayor Pro Tem Clarke voting no.*

**REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA**

**6. MARKETING UPDATE (IDK)**

Receive monthly marketing update and provide policy direction as needed.

The Team from IDK presented about the on-going gathering data gathering, final survey results, website activity, advertising campaign result, new reporting capabilities, website update, social media interactions and public relations success stories. IDK answered questions from Council accordingly with respect to the data collection process.

Public comment

Mayor Pro Tem Clarke opened public comments at 10:06 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Clarke closed public comment at 10:06 p.m.

There was no formal motion to receive and file. Therefore, my unanimous consent, item is received and filed.

**7. AB1234 REPORT OUT, COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS**

There were no AB1234 reports to announce.

Council Member Waite announced that her mother Nancy Waite recently passed away, and commented that her mothers' favorite event was to attend the Veterans Memorial celebration, thus, she will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia next to her family members who also served in the military.

**8. ADJOURNMENT- Mayor Pro Tem Clarke adjourned the meeting at 10:09 p.m.**

Minutes Prepared by:

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*Daryl Betancur*  
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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.