

CITY OF SOMERTON
MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL

7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Council Members:

Staff:

M. Porchas, Mayor	(P)	B. Lee, City Manager	(P)
A. Magaña, Vice-Mayor	(P)	L. Galaviz, Park & Rec. Dir	(P)
L. Ramirez	(P)	B. B. Cotman, Chief of Police	(P)
G. Anaya	(A)	S. Palacios, Int. Public Works Dir	(A)
M. Villalpando	(P)	G.W. Hunt, City Attorney	(A)
L. Galindo	(A)	M. Figueroa, City Magistrate	(A)
J. Yepez	(P)	G. Halford, Admin. Svcs. Dir	(A)
		VACANT, Com. Dev. Dir	(A)
		P. De Anda, Fire Chief	(A)

Mayor Porchas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

The City Clerk took Roll Call. Council members Galindo and Ramirez were absent.

PETITION OR COMMENTS BY THOSE CITIZENS PRESENT

Call to the Public:

Gloria A. Rodriguez-637 W. Calle de Paz. I'm here to address a concern. At first, it was a complaint, but now, it's more of a concern. I cut two (2) trees about four (4) weeks ago. The tree branches are extremely dry. I called the City and I was told I needed to talk to Francisco Soto, who's in charge of Public Works. I spoke to him on Thursday and he said I had a couple of options. He said they're not picking up right now, but we can make a special pick up for \$25. The other option was bring a container to my house to put in the dried branches in the container, container being inside the property. I left him my work number to get a hold of me. He did go and spoke to my husband. My concern is if anybody was to drive by lights up those branches, we're going to have a fire on our hands. Mr. Soto's response was that I have a home and homes usually carry insurance and that the insurance might cover. I'm trying to prevent somebody getting injured. I wasn't satisfied with Mr. Soto's response. He told my husband to water the branches to prevent a fire or wait until we pick up the trash. I felt that we as citizens of Somerton, we're trying to maintain the city as beautiful as we can and for someone to give me that response, just push it to the side.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Cash Balance for September 2010.
2. Check Register for September 2010.
3. Arizona's State Treasure's Report LGIP for September 2010.

Mayor Porchas requested a motion on the consent agenda. Vice-Mayor Magaña moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Council member Ramirez seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Councilman Yepez abstained to Consent Agenda due to a check issued to his business.

OLD BUSINESS

All items are for discussion and possible action.

1. Update on Sales Tax and General Fund Revenue.

Gary Halford-I'm little concerned with the Sales Tax. We've only received \$29K for the month of October in sales tax. I'm not sure why. If it doesn't improve next week, I'm going to make some phone calls and make inquiries. There was a question that was post by councilman Yepez last city council meeting. The question was of the current sales tax rate that was approved by city council, which is 3.3% versus the old one, which is 2.5%. To generate the total of \$304,790.00 that we've gotten in sales tax, \$9.2M has to float through the city to generate that sales tax. If our sales tax was at 2.5%, rather than the \$304,790.00, we would have received \$230,901.00.

Councilman Yepez-For our business, this last month, has been very slow. I don't know if that's reflecting the other businesses also.

Gary Halford-The second chart is our total general fund revenue. Through today, was \$815,546.00. For the month of October so far is \$174,551.00. General Fund Revenue that's everything from sales taxes, property tax, state revenue, some of the fees we get for Parks & Recs.

2. Monthly Report on Waste Water Treatment Plant Construction.

Jim Conlee-Our last update was the 29th of last month. These are items that are currently under construction. The drawing bids have gone away. The de-watering pumps are still there. We thought that we might be able to take those watering pumps off-line and reduce the rent on them. We talked to our Geo technical engineer with the fact that we got a lot of water going out on the fields. He was afraid that the water table might come up too high before we get the slabs in on the clarifiers. We're going to continue to de-water until we get those slabs in.

Mayor Porchas-Are you going to keep the de-watering pumps for a while? Jim Conlee-We spoke to Cortney Arviso from JTS, he's our Geo-Technical engineer, and once we get the slabs poured, we'll check with Courtney again to see what he says about the water level. What I wanted to do was to take one, we have 4 pumps, pump a day off-line so we can gradually see how fast the water level raises.

Councilman Yopez-How deep are we there? Jim Conlee-The water table was at sub-grade and when we started, it was about 4 ft. below sub-grade and we pumped it down. It's about 10-12 ft. below sub-grade right now. Those pumps are running 24-7.

NEW BUSINESS

All items are for discussion and possible action.

1. Arizona Game and Fish Presentation.

Louie Galaviz-For the past year, the Arizona Game and Fish has been partnering with our parks & Rec. Department on our fishing clinics. We've had over a thousand kids participate. Arizona Game and Fish has provided reels, rods and the bait for this program.

Pat Barbara-I want to briefly talk about these events and the success and things we can do in the future. With the level of enthusiasm, it makes it easy for us to collaborate and makes it really rewarding. The reason we do these events and other activities is to try to give an opportunity for kids and families to get outside and engage nature.

Bill Lee-Would a fishing license be required by the kids with this year-round fishing? Pat Barbara-For events we can waive the fee. Children under 14 years of age don't have to have a license to fish. This is not part of the urban program. It would be a regular state-wide fishing license.

Bill Lee-Do you guys have a program that might coincide with our summer programs? Pat Barbara-Absolutely. We had just organized and advertized the Quail Hunting Camp for kids that have never hunted.

2. Vacant Communications Specialist position.

B.B. Cotman-I come before you to ask to fill a vacant communication position in our dispatch center. On August the 28th, we lost a dispatcher, resigned. Right now it's pretty hard to fill the void. We're pulling from other positions and moving people around a lot and it's starting to cost us a lot. Currently, there were 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Right now, we only have 6 that are there with one supervisor. It makes it hard to go around the 24 hours shift without pulling one out of the reception. We've had some volunteers come in. They're not really guaranteed to be there all the time.

Mayor Porchas-How long has it been opened? **B.B. Cotman**-She left on the 28th of August. We tried our best to keep it going, but now, it's starting to cause a problem.

Councilman Yopez-Is this department under Furlough or 40 hours? **B.B. Cotman**- They work 40 hours a week, but it's already been deducted out of their salary made a reduction of 4.62%.

Mayor Porchas entered a motion advertize and hire a Communications Specialist. Vice-Mayor Magaña moved to approve the advertizing and hiring. Council member Ramirez seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

3. *Vacant Police Officer Position.*

B.B. Cotman-We don't have one of the positions in the Yuma County Narcotics Task Force Field. That position was paid completely by grants from ACJC and HAIDA. It's 100% reimbursable. If I put somebody in that spot, their salary is paid. Normally, we don't send the new guy over, we send over an experienced officer and we put the new guy on the street.

Mayor Porchas entered a motion to approve contingent on whatever happens with that particular employer. Council member Villalpando moved to approve contingent. Council member Yopez seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

4. *Yuma County Housing Rehabilitation request to waive or defer fees associated with home to build at 274 W. Adams Street.*

Bill Lee-The County has some funds for the rehabilitation for some homes. They have approximately \$50K. They're looking to use much of that money for the home itself. They ask the council to waive the fees associated with the construction of this home. Replacing that home would be beneficial for the overall neighborhood. The owner of the home is receiving unemployment and is her only income.

Councilman Villalpando-Was there one home on that particular lot? It's an R-1-6. **Carmen Juarez**-It is an R-1-6. There are 2 units in this property. We need to talk to the property owner to see if the second dwelling is being occupied at this point.

Yolanda Galindo-I'm the administrator for Yuma County Development Services. I'm currently working with this family on our rehab program. We're actually asking for donations. This would be a way for the City of Somerton can assist this family by deferring the fees. The amount of money that will take to rehab exceeds our allocation of \$50K. Our goal is build them a 1,200 sq. ft. home, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths and our bids came in for \$60K. We're trying to get a local fire department, the public department or the city to use that home as a demolishing exercise.

Vice-Mayor Magana-If the new house is built are you going to remove the storage or is it going to stay there? **Yolanda Galindo**-Our code official said it does need to be removed.

The way our program works is that we build them a new house. Our maximum is \$50K and Yuma County does become the first lean holder on the house. It's our way of revitalizing the neighborhood.

Councilmember Villalpando-To me \$750 to clean up that lot in that area and get rid of some of those run down homes it's a small price to pay. If we defer it or waive it, I'm ok either way.

Mayor Porchas entered a motion to waive the fees up to \$750. Councilman Villalpando moved to approve the waiver. Councilwoman Ramirez seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

5. *Proclamation on Chile rescue success.*

Bill Lee-It's a good idea to recognize the efforts of the Chile government and the rescued made on those 33 miners.

Jerry Hunt-The Proclamation is the same, but there's one for the President of Chile and there's also one for all 33 miners.

Mayor Porchas entered a motion to approve Proclamation on the Chile rescue success. Councilman Yepez moved to approve Proclamation. Mayor Porchas seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Summary of current events by Mayor, Council Members, and or City Manager, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02(K) provided that the public body does not propose, discuss, deliberate or take legal action on any matter in the summary.

A motion to ADJOURN was made by Mayor Porchas. Motion approved 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P. M.



MAYOR MARTIN PORCHAS

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of Tuesday, October 19, 2010.



CITY CLERK