

CITY OF SOMERTON
MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

6:30 P.M.

Wednesday March 10, 2010

Council Members:

Staff:

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Martin Porchas called meeting to order at 6:41pm.

Vice-Mayor Arturo Magana, council member Ramirez and Galindo were absent.
Council member Galindo arrived at 6:50 pm.

Call to the Public - None

NEW BUSINESS

All items are for discussion and possible action

1. Discussion and possible direction to staff related to the State of Arizona RFP for locating a 5,000 bed minimum/medium prison.

Bill Lee- Met with the Cooley family which owns about 2,000 acres just outside of city boundaries and talked about the prison and their involvement, how we thought that would help them develop the rest of their property in years to come. After meeting with them left with a positive feeling, but received a call today saying they were not interested. The RFP requires 200 acres. Meet with three of the potential bidders that will be putting bids for the prison and two of them talked to me about coming down to Somerton and look at our sight, one actually did and at that point I was showing them the Cooley property but at this point that's not to be done. They were interested in the fact that we have a recycling program and their employees would be able to work at the facility. This will be

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a medium prison. Our attorney Gerry Hunt has been talking to San Luis concerning their prison. This will have a huge economic impact on the City.

Rob – talked about the big economical impact a prison would bring to the City of Somerton. Would like to ask council to formally make a statement to everyone that we want to embrace the prison.

Council Member Villalpando- The economic study that we were given was that done independently? Rob – was paid by Correction Corp. of America. Villalpando- You said it was a public traded company? Has their stock dropped my concern is, is it going to go under? Heard they had a financial problem back in 2001. Rob – If we look at supply and demand I don't think we have a problem. Villalpando- Mr. Hunt with us proceeding with this RFP does it bind us to build it. Mr. Hunt – What we are doing is responding to an RFP other words Arizona Department of Corrections RFP we are deciding whether or not we should respond to the RFP. Something to take into consideration is do your residents want a prison?

Villalpando – My question to Bill “To what extent are we going to be involved? Are we going to be investing man hours? Or are they going to be doing all the work? Bill – We would be looking to work with Rob and the locator for one of the prisons. What I'm interested is “Are you interested in pursuing this project?” And let the community know. What we are asking tonight does council want to pursue this RFP?

Mr. Hunt- One of the things that were done positive so far from this is that the Cooley family has indicted that they would like their 2,000 acres annexed into the city and you should go ahead and do it. Council Galindo – Where is this property? Bill – CO 17 and Avenue G in and around those streets almost backs into our wastewater facility.

Villalpando- So the extend of the RFP is limited? Bill – Rob and I will work together on it.

Mayor Porchas – the most important thing here is location? In order for me to support it, it has to go that direction and I would support it 100%. Bill – There is a property at the corner of Avenue H and HW 95 with 220 acres and is that something you would support. Council Member Yopez- In my eye I think we are putting the carriage in front of the horse, location is the key thing here, I would feel more comfortable knowing the location of the project. There are locations out there especially out in the mesa area county 19 or 20 and hopefully we could connect Somerton Avenue all the way to the Port and attract traffic this way. Also we talk about 5,000 beds and what does that do to our sewer system. There is still homework to be done!

Council Member Anaya – The key right now I don't feel there is enough information I saw the economic study and I haven't seen why other communities have denied it. You existing communities I would like to have a list of contacts city manager so we can discuss the impact and how they are doing. Also location and a good distance from existing development. Would like to make the best decision for the Somerton residents.

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Villalpando- also would like to know the Police department's opinion.

Fernando Villegas – by doing this we are not following our General Plan the goals and adjectives especially if it's going to be build on Ag land and if we are using Ag land cause it's a Heavy Industrial project. Rezoning will be required. We need to adopt the General Plan first before making this decision.

Mayor Porchas entered a motion for direction to staff for the RFP of a prison. Council member Yepez entered a motion to guide the City Manager of County 19 and Avenue F or G Somerton Avenue. Council Member Villalpando seconded 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.


MAYOR MARTIN PORCHAS

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Council Meeting for Wednesday March 10, 2010.


CITY CLERK