



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Winters City Council Held via Teleconference
(Zoom) on April 20, 2021

Mayor Cowan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Council Members Harold Anderson, Jesse Loren, Pierre Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Bill Biasi, Mayor Wade Cowan

Absent: None

Staff: City Manager Kathleen Tropa, Director of Financial Management Shelly Gunby, Chief John Miller, Chief Brad Lopez, and City Clerk Ashley Bussart

Legal: Joanna Gin

Shelly Gunby, Finance Director, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

Mayor Cowan asked that Resolution 2021-15 Approving a Construction Contract with Ample Electric, Inc. to Design and Install Car Charging Stations be moved to Discussion as item #5.

Mayor Pro Tem Biasi asked for clarification on the timeframe for Resolution 2021-16 Modifying the Traffic Closure Schedule for Main Street Between Railroad Avenue and First Street and Authorizing the City Manager to Permit Additional Closures for Holidays.

City Manager Tropa explained that it is a 6-month extension to October 2021, we will revisit this item then.

Eric Lucero, Director of Public Works, requested that the time on Resolution 2021-16 Modifying the Traffic Closure Schedule be changed from 3:00 PM to 3:30 PM. Public Works employees are off at 3:30.

City Attorney Joanna Gins recommended amending Resolution 2021-16 to accommodate the time change. Mayor Cowan and City Manager Tropa agreed, item was moved to Discussion as item #6.

Motion by Council Member Neu, second by Council Member Loren to approve agenda items 1, 2 and 5 with items 3 and 4 moved to Discussion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, Mayor Cowan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS:

Verbal updates were provided by Council Members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Winters City Council Held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021
2. Second Reading of Ordinance 2021-01 Amending Section 16.12.010 of the Winters Municipal Code and Authorizing the Dedication of Streets and Easements Pursuant to the Subdivision Map Act
3. Resolution 2021-17 Celebrating May 2021 as Older Americans' Month

City Manager Trepa provided an overview of the consent calendar items. Motion by Council Member Neu, second by Mayor Pro Tem Biasi to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, Mayor Cowan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Valley Clean Energy (V.C.E.) Update on Strategic Planning

Councilmember Loren is excited about the program and hopes Yolo County can implement something similar ensure things continue to run during outages.

Taylor Buley, Winters Express, was curious about the utilization rate for Winters Participants.

Richard Cassavechia, a resident, inquired about the grid.

Alisa, VCE, explained that Winters Participant Utilization is around 91%, which is about average, there is a lot of demand response in terms of the grid.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Resolution 2021-18 SB 1 FY 2021/22 Road Rehabilitation Project List

Kate Laddish, a resident, wanted to clarify that Morgan Street is on the list. Kate Laddish also wanted to know if bike lanes will be added to Morgan St.

Taylor Buley wanted more info on street striping in neighborhoods, specifically on Walnut.

Corrinne Martinez, a resident, asked about the plan at Railroad Avenue and First Street

Eric Lucero, Public Works Director, responded that Morgan Street is on the list and they will consider tying bike lanes into the plan, although striping is not typical in neighborhoods; he will check with Engineering to see what can be done. He also noted that the Main Street overlay will be in the travel lanes only and there will be no interference with the barricades and outdoor dining areas.

Motion by Council Member Neu, second by Council Member Loren. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, Mayor Cowan
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

2. Annual Fireworks Show and Booth Sales

Ashley Bussart, City Clerk, read Public Comment submitted via email.

Councilmember Anderson supports the booths for fundraising for the swim team and baseball. His children went through the programs and there is a lot of effort that goes into making this all happen. Anderson wants to remind everyone to keep water nearby when using fireworks.

Councilmember Loren asked for clarification on the deposit, and the cancellation notice policy. She believes the firework show is part of our long tradition but, we need to do whatever is most cost effective for the City. Loren was part of the greater Winters fire relief effort; things have changed, and fire is more prevalent, and she believes that home fireworks can be dangerous due to drought and climate change. Loren stated that the county should consider phasing out personal use of fireworks all together, but also supports the fundraising aspect of the booths. If we phase out the booths, there should be conversations about how to replace the funds for the youth. Councilmember Loren wanted confirmation on why the fireworks show would be cheaper on July 3rd vs. the 4th and what costs were associated with checking body temps, covid test results etc. if required.

Neu wants it made very public that we will enforce the safe and sane fireworks in our community to deter people from bringing outside fireworks into the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Biasi appreciates all comments and recognizes the topic may be controversial. He agrees that the fireworks show has been an integral tradition for Winters and would also like to have staff to consider planning the show without a formal gathering. He believes that the booths are a great fundraising activity and wants Chief Lopez to continue looking at updating ordinances and the possibility of a lottery. Biasi wants to

know if cancellation happens if we can roll over our entire deposit instead of receiving 35% refund.

Mayor Cowan wanted to know if deposit can be rolled over to a different show, we should have deposit on the books with them from a few years ago (2017/2018). Mayor Cowan is in favor of bringing back the firework show, he does agree that there are some issues, and we may need to look into having a show without gathering. The show brings people to the city producing revenue. Mayor Cowan believes that the current booth ordinance allowing two booths is sufficient. The money raised helps keep the participation rates to the lowest in the area allowing children from all economic backgrounds to participate in swim and Little League. Mayor Cowan does not support the lottery system, he believes that if we open the lottery for the booths, we will have to open it for all fundraising activities. Mayor Cowan would like to see the show be bigger with the City covering a portion and if the community donates, we should just go as big as possible.

Sally Brown, a resident, wanted to share that she is against the fireworks booths. There is too much fire risk, especially given our recent wildfires. Communities around us have already banned them. Sally agrees that the public show should happen, but not the booths.

Corrinne Martinez, a resident, supports the firework show. She would like to verify if July 3rd will be cheaper than the 4th this year. Corrinne also wanted to know if consideration can be given to not having people gather for the fireworks, most of the City of Winters can see the fireworks from their property to adhere to gathering restrictions. Corrinne supports the booths; they support local nonprofits and would hate for us to lose those opportunities.

Jack Vickrey, a resident, believes that this event has a great economic impact on our Community. Jack supports the booths and the fundraising that is provided for baseball and swim team is very important. Jack Vickrey thinks lottery system would not be a good idea, it would not be fair for fundraising groups in the Community.

Richard Casavechia, a resident, also supports looking into not gathering at the high school.

Taylor Buley, Winters Express and a resident, would like the fundraising models to stay the same this year.

Kate Laddish, a resident, thinks that having the fireworks may draw others to our community, which may bring in a higher rate of covid-19.

Tina Lowden, a resident, loves the fireworks and wants all fireworks activities to continue.

City Manager Tropa explained we need 30 days' notice to get deposit back. She clarified that revenue in the staff report is gross not net, the net is about 25-30%. She responded that there has not been a staffing plan developed for complying with potential COVID regulations, like health screenings or COVID testing, and would likely rely on volunteers to assist. We would look at high school activities like prom to understand the time needed

for temperature checks. City Manager Trepa thinks unoccupied shows are a good alternative. She will report back on the cost difference and all other suggestions mentioned and keep everyone updated.

Shelly Gunby, Finance Director, explained that the deposit that had been carried forward has been refunded already, we have no outstanding deposit with the company at this time.

Fire Chief Lopez explained that the fire code ordinances are being reviewed to make sure we are being safe; the lottery is not mandated but he does believe it is something we should look into if there are an excessive number of permits. The current ordinance limits the number of booths per population and the lottery could increase the potential of permits given for booths. He also explained that there is a limited amount of licensed pyrotechnicians, and most shows happen on the 4th, the 3rd is less in demand and companies tend to provide lower rates.

Chief of Police, John Miller, assures the community that there will be upstaffing Independence Day weekend.

3. Update on Pool Operations and Programming

Ashley Bussart, City Clerk, read Public Comment submitted via email.

Councilmember Anderson supports the pool.

Councilmember Loren supports the staff report.

Councilmember Neu supports the pool being open and lowering costs, \$5 daily and \$50 monthly. If we must open before lowering fees, he supports that and lowering fees as our economic condition improves and possibly keeping the pool open longer.

Mayor Pro Tem Biasi thinks that the direction in the staff report is a good way to look at things and that we should discuss the lap swim fees. He would like to reinstitute the \$50 monthly fee. Biasi supports monthly pass, punch card idea, and other ideas submitted by the community, the pool is very important.

Mayor Cowan agrees with the other comments. He thinks we need a monthly pass or fee, multi-use swim card and senior rates are a good idea also. Mayor asked Shelly if the school is coming close to paying their share of the pool expenses.

Kate Laddish, a resident, is excited that aquatics is on the agenda. Kate appreciates all of staff's work. Kate is in favor of bringing the monthly pass back. Paying the daily rate is over \$200 a month, Kate requests that fees are brought back to usual especially if other activities are going back to usual rates. Daily pass may be an option too, but still more expensive than usual fees.

Sally Brown, a resident, supports lowering the fees and discounted swim for regulars.

Patty, a resident, would like to model Esparto and supports monthly pass.

Shelly Gunby, Finance Director, shared that during the summer the City pays 100% of maintenance costs, and in the off season the School pays 50% we pay 50%. She also shared that Bobbie Greenwood asked the City to take over management of the swim team and its finances. As part of doing that the City took over staffing, there is a fund in Bobbie's name that helps with registration and swimsuits for the swim team.

4. Mayoral Appointment of a Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee Related to Modifications to the Development Agreement with Homes by Towne

Motion by Council Member Loren, second by Council Member Neu. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, Mayor Cowan
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

5. Resolution 2021-15 Approving a Construction Contract with Ample Electric, Inc. to Design and Install Car Charging Stations

Mayor Cowan would like to know if the City is paying for the power being supplied, if so, he is not in favor of the car charging stations.

Mayor Pro Tem Biasi would like clarification on whether this is a onetime charge to bring electricity to the charging stations. He would also like to know who determines the rate?

Tina Lowden would like to know about the chargers at the community center.

Public Works Director Eric Lucero explained that the \$10,000 was budgeted to pull power out of the alley, the other \$150,000 is grant funded. The user would be responsible for paying for use of the chargers. The car charging company sets the rate and the charging stations are programmable; the City is not covering the cost of individuals charging their vehicles. He also explained that the car chargers at the Community Center will be replaced and will no longer be free. City Manager Trepa indicated that staff will get more information about how the rate is set and whether an additional fee can be included to cover City costs to maintain the chargers.

Motion by Council Member Loren, second by Council Member Neu. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, Mayor Cowan
NOES: None

ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

6. Consider Resolution 2021-16 Modifying the Traffic Closure Schedule for Main Street Between Railroad Avenue and First Street and Authorizing the City Manager to Permit Additional Closures for Holidays

Amendment made to Resolution 2021-16, changing the closure hours from 3:30 PM to 3:00 PM.

Motion by Council Member Neu, second by Council Member Loren. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, Mayor Cowan
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Public Hearing and Presentation on State Community Development Block Grant Program and Funding and Solicit Citizen Input on Community Needs

OPENED AT 9:12 PM CLOSED 9:13

Kate Laddish, a resident,

Councilmember Neu wants to use money towards low-cost housing if possible.

Mayor Pro Tem Biasi believes Senior funding is a great use. He would like to know if there are other areas that the funds can go \$350,000 to Seniors leaves the possibility of \$150,000. Mayor Pro Tem would like us to apply for the full amount. Councilmember Loren agrees.

2. Resolution 2021-19 Approving a Grant Application under the California Community Development Block Grant Program for Program Services for FY 21/22

OPENED 9:26 CLOSED 9:27

Tina Lowden, a resident, is excited and appreciative of staff's efforts.

Mayor Pro Tem Biasi thinks that the City should apply.

Motion by Council Member Loren, second by Council Member Neu. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, Mayor Cowan
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Tina Lowden, a resident, shared that the seniors applied for funding through AARP.

3. Resolution 2021-20 Implementing the Authorized Adjustments for Capital Improvement Facilities Fees for General Government, Fire, Parks and Recreation, Public Safety, Wastewater, Water and Transportation Improvements

OPENED 9:33 CLOSED 9:34

Councilmember Loren stated that this is part of their fiduciary duty.

Mayor Pro Tem Biasi commented that no one likes to see the fees go up, but the annual increase was approved in 2018 and it has been postponed already due to last year's circumstances. Mayor Cowan agrees.

Shelly Gunby, Finance Director, explained the fees are being increased to pay for projects. Without the increase the projects will be delayed.

Motion by Council Member Loren, second by Council Member Neu. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, Mayor Cowan
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

4. Resolution 2021-21 Adopting Fees and Charges for Certain Services Provided by the City of Winters

Councilmember Neu wants to recommend change pool fees: \$5 daily, \$50 monthly and a 10-use pass of \$40.

OPENED 9:43 CLOSED 9:46

Residents Sally Brown, Tina Lowden and Kate Laddish would like the pool fees lowered, monthly passes available and swim passes to be added.

Motion by Council Member Neu, second by Council Member Loren. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, Mayor Cowan
NOES: None

ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

City Manager Kathleen Trepa had no updates at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

10:00 PM

CITY OF WINTERS



Wade Cowan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ashley Bussart, City Clerk