

MINUTES OF THE INFORMATIONAL SESSION
OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
THE CITY OF VERNON HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 14,
2009, AT 9:06 A.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OF THE CITY HALL LOCATED AT 4305 SANTA FE
AVENUE, VERNON, CALIFORNIA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gonzales, McCormick, Davis, Maisano, Newmire

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gonzales.

The Mayor stated that the zip code in Resolution No. 10,118, Exhibit "A" needed to be corrected from 90068 to 90058.

The Chief Deputy City Attorney announced that this was time for public comments.

Mayor Gonzales asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address the City Council.

There was no one in the audience who wished to address the City Council at this time.

Ms. Erin Kelly of the Los Angeles Metro Chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) thanked the City for supporting the MDA and thanked the fire department for raising \$21,000 to help the MDA provide healthcare and support services for families living with a neuromuscular disease.

Fire Chief Whitworth informed the Council that Captain Todd Hewitt was in charge of the MDA Fill the Boot campaign.

It was moved by McCormick, seconded by Davis that the Minutes of the Informational Session of the Regular City Council Meeting held November 30, 2009, be approved and adopted as submitted. Motion carried. 5-0

Resolution 10,118 of the City Council of the City of Vernon Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Indemnity Agreement with Kern County in Connection with the Red Rock Wind Project and a Consistency Zone Change, was read by title.

It was moved by Maisano, seconded by McCormick, that **Resolution No. 10,118** be approved and adopted. Motion carried. 5-0

The Consent Calendar was presented.

CITY COUNCIL

1. Request from Mayor Pro Tem McCormick to cancel the Regular Council Informational Session Meeting scheduled to be held on December 28, 2009.

COMMUNITY SERVICES & WATER

1. Building Permit Report for the month of November 2009.

FIRE

1. Activity Report for November 16 through November 30, 2009.

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

1. Monthly Report for the month of November 2009.

POLICE

1. Activity Log and Statistical Summary of Arrest and Activities Report from November 16 through November 30, 2009.

TREASURER

APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTERS - December 1 through December 7, 2009:

1. No Wire Transfers for Warrant Register No. 1295.
2. Ratification of the issuance of early checks for Warrant Register No. 1295, totaling \$288,002.55.
3. Warrant Register No. 1295, totaling \$97,801.72.
5. Ratification of wire transfers for Light & Power Warrant Register No. 260, totaling \$1,517,513.79.
6. Ratification of the issuance of early checks for Light & Power Warrant Register No. 260, totaling \$20,123.35.
7. Light & Power Warrant Register No. 260, totaling \$25,545.32.
8. Ratification of wire transfers for Gas Warrant Register No. 50, totaling \$129,878.63.
9. Ratification of the issuance of early checks for Gas Warrant Register No. 50, totaling \$10,577.50.
10. Gas Warrant Register No. 50, totaling \$2,576.96.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by McCormick, seconded by Newmire, that the items listed on the Consent Calendar be approved as recommended. Motion carried. 5-0

STAFF DISCUSSIONS

A. Discussion with Mr. Chris Norton of Latham & Watkins on SB 375, the delegation of certain responsibilities to the Gateway Cities COG, and seeking for direction from the City Council on the matter.

Mr. Norton reported on the recently adopted SB 375 law passed in September 2008 and which became effective in January 2009, intended to reduce air emissions and the implementation of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment Process. He also explained the different roles of the Southern California Association of Governments "SCAG" and the Gateway Cities Council of Governments "COG" and the potential implications of the Gateway Cities COG assuming the responsibility for allocating housing obligations among the cities that are members of COG. He informed the Council of the meeting to take place on December 17, 2009, to which the City Administrator will attend and that he believes that SCAG is the best agency to handle SB 375 issues.

Legal Counsel further explained SB 375 and also provided an update of the General Plan that determines housing units needed to accommodate an increase in population in an area. He explained that many cities do not want to accommodate housing due to lack of revenue generation.

The Mayor commented that the City of Vernon wants to stay with SCAG, because they are familiar with the City.

The City Administrator informed the Council that they will be updated after the December 17, 2009, meeting that he will attend on the City's behalf.

B. Discussion with the City Administrator and City Attorney regarding progress on the Red Rock Wind Project.

The City Administrator introduced Eric Fresch to provide an update to the Council on the project in Kern County. Mr. Fresch briefly reported that the City is in the process of exploring options for partnering with possibly two other private sector parties to develop the land for the purpose of developing clean, wind generated power. The City is looking at a mid-January to close on the deal and if the closing is successful this project will generate a return on capital investments and create new revenues.

The City Administrator reported that Barclay's is running the auction process. He also stated that the proposal looks promising and that the City should have the numbers between Tuesday and Friday of this week.

Mayor Gonzales called a short recess at 9:37 a.m.

The City Council reconvened in regular session at 9:45 a.m., all members present before the recess again being present.

The Chief Deputy City Attorney announced that this was the time to go into closed session.

Regular City Council Meeting
Study Session Minutes
December 14, 2009

It was moved by McCormick, seconded by Davis, to go into Closed Session, the time being 9:45 a.m. Motion carried. 5-0

It was moved by McCormick, seconded by Newmire, that the City Council go out of closed session and resume open session, the time being 10:43 a.m. Motion carried. 5-0

OPEN SESSION

Closed Session Reports: The City Attorney reported that a settlement was approved with Bicent (California) Power, LLC regarding disputes arising from the purchase and sale of the City's electrical generating facility.

There being no further business to come before the City Council at this time, it was moved by McCormick, seconded by Davis, that the meeting be adjourned, the time being 10:43 a.m. Motion carried. 5-0

Hilario Gonzales, Mayor

ATTEST:

Manuela Giron, City Clerk