

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE CITY OF VERNON HELD MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2010,
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER 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 at 9:09 a.m. by Mayor Gonzales.

The City Clerk announced that there were no changes to the agenda.

The City Clerk announced that this was the time allotted for public comments.

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

Mr. David Sanchez, PHD, introduced himself because he is running for Congress. He stated that he would love to be the City's representative and that he is very concerned with increasing employment in the respective communities. He stated that he lives just outside of Vernon on the other side of the railroad tracks.

Mayor Gonzales asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the City Council. No one responded.

It was moved by Davis, seconded by Maisano, that the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held March 15, 2010, be approved and adopted as submitted. Motion carried. 5-0

It was moved by McCormick, seconded by Davis, that the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held March 22, 2010, be approved and adopted as submitted. Motion carried. 5-0

It was moved by Maisano, seconded by McCormick, that the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held March 29, 2010, be approved and adopted as submitted. Motion carried. 5-0

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-50 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Vernon Authorizing the City Administrator to take Appropriate Actions to Reduce Total General Fund Governmental Activities Expenses in the Police Department and Fire Department, Including a Reduction in Force, was read by title.

It was moved by Newmire, seconded by Maisano, that Resolution No. 2010-50 be approved and adopted.

The Police Chief, Mr. Steve Towles, asked if this was an opportunity for comments with respect to the proposed resolution, and the Mayor replied that it was.

The Police Chief addressed the City Council and stated that he meant no disrespect to the Council in raising his question, but wanted to be sure that the Council understood the impact of the reductions discussed. He advised that the Police

Department worked very diligently on working with the City to meet the initial goal reduction amount of \$3,479,034, and while a significant reduction was achieved, it did not come close to meeting the goal. After a secondary review, the goal reduction amount was restated as \$3,344,002. Chief Towles stated that a pretty good reduction can be reached if there is free reign to look at reductions in all areas of the department's budget, including Group 2 personnel. He advised that the reduction of \$1,711,814 the department was looking to have to make from its current budget, equates to the salaries of his position, two captains, four lieutenants, all records personnel, and the court officer. He stated the significance of the amount and the fact that the department cannot operate without a management structure. Chief Towles stated that neither himself, nor the department, was looking to undermine the budget reduction/balancing process, but that because the impact of these actions are critically important to the community, members of the department, and the City, he wanted to give the matter every opportunity to be reviewed to help ensure that all parties are working in the same direction to identify the best solution. He believes that, with cooperation among all the entities involved, there may be a way to accomplish the \$1,711,814 reduction without significant layoffs. He expressed his hope that the Council explores all options before moving to a significant reduction in personnel. He feels that should be last step/last option considered. Chief Towles expressed his appreciation for having the opportunity to address the City Council on this matter and offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Gonzales called for questions, but no questions were raised. Mayor Gonzales thanked Chief Towles for his comments.

The earlier motion to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2010-50 was carried unanimously, 5-0.

Councilman Newmire stated that after all the actions that are being taken or considered with respect to trimming the City's expenditure budget, the City will still be left with a shortfall of over \$14 million. He said he would like to explore ways the City can cut back in some of its expenses to avoid taxes that cause the City's businesses to fold. Councilman Newmire asked that a discussion item be placed on the following week's agenda to examine the possibility of the City contracting out certain services in certain departments as a possible means of reducing costs. He thought this might help provide a solution to address the Police Chief's point. He expressed an interest in establishing a cohesiveness that allows the City Council to discuss the matter with all Department Heads.

Mayor Gonzales thanked Councilman Newmire for his comments and asked if there were any further comments on this matter. No one responded.

The Consent Calendar was presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Community Services & Water Department

1. Building Department Report for the month of March 2010, to be received and filed.

Fire Department

1. Activity Report for the period of March 16 through March 31, 2010, to be received and filed.

Personnel Department

1. Ratification of the reclassification of Maryam Farajzadeh, Associate Engineer in the Light & Power Department, from full-time employment status to part-time employment status.

Police Department

1. Activity Log and Statistical Summary of Arrest and Activities for the period of March 16 through March 31, 2010, to be received and filed.

Treasurer's Department

1. Ratification of wire payments processed through the following Bank of New York Mellon (BNY) accounts as detailed below:
 - a. BNY Account No. 800452, totaling \$15,356,000.00, covering the period of November 10, 2009 through April 12, 2010;
 - b. BNY Account No. 800457, totaling \$200,000.00, covering the period of August 4, 2009 through April 12, 2010; and
 - c. BNY Account No. 800878, totaling \$20,758,286.00, covering the period of September 24, 2008 through April 12, 2010.
2. Ratification of the following warrant registers to record the following voided checks:
 - a. Warrant Register No. 1306 for voided check no. 329291 in the amount of \$266.20, issued 3/22/2010.
 - b. Light & Power Warrant Register No. 260 for voided check no. 507063 in the amount of \$72.86, issued 12/14/2009.
3. Approval of the following Warrant Registers covering the period of March 30 through April 12, 2010.
 - a. Warrant Register No. 1309, totaling \$2,289,941.29, which consists of the following:
 - Ratification of wire transfers totaling \$315,614.84;
 - Ratification of the issuance of early checks totaling \$121,243.73; and
 - Authorization to issue pending checks totaling \$1,853,082.72.
 - b. Light & Power Warrant Register No. 274, totaling \$1,300,025.32, which consists of the following:
 - Ratification of wire transfers totaling \$1,195,918.31;
 - Ratification of the issuance of early checks totaling \$92,406.16; and
 - Authorization to issue pending checks totaling \$11,700.85.
 - c. Gas Warrant Register No. 62, totaling \$58,565.87, which consists of the following:
 - Ratification of the issuance of early checks totaling \$40,479.41; and
 - Authorization to issue pending checks totaling \$18,086.46.

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2010

It was moved by Davis, seconded by Maisano, that the matters on the Consent Calendar be approved as recommended. Motion carried. 5-0

The City Clerk announced that this was the time for the election matters listed on the agenda.

The City Clerk delivered the Certificate of Election and Oath of Office to Richard J. Maisano, and congratulated him on his election to the office of City Council Member.

Each of the City Council Members individually congratulated Councilman Maisano on his election.

The City Clerk called for a motion for the election of Mayor. It was moved by Davis, seconded by Maisano, that Hilario Gonzales be appointed to serve as Mayor. Motion carried. 5-0

The City Clerk called for a motion for the election of Mayor Pro Tem. It was moved by Davis, seconded by Newmire, that William Michael McCormick be appointed to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion carried. 5-0

The City Council recessed into closed session to discuss the items listed on the closed session agenda.

Closed Session Reports: The City Attorney reported that the City Council unanimously voted to terminate a Dispatcher and authorized the Risk Manager to settle a claim in the amount of \$10,000.

The City Administrator/Director of Light & Power, Mr. Donal O'Callaghan, reported that an outage occurred on April 18, 2010, around 11:30 p.m. as a result of a car that struck a power pole in the area of 47th Street and Boyle Avenue.

It was moved by McCormick, seconded by Newmire, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 a.m. Motion carried.

Hilario Gonzales
Mayor

ATTEST:

Willard G. Yamaguchi
City Clerk