

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2014

7:00 P.M. Mayor Vierra called the September 22, 2014 City Council Meeting to order with the following in attendance:

ROLL CALL Council Members Durossette, Kline, Lane, Ryno, Mayor Vierra

INVOCATION by Mr. Len Shepherd

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to the flag led by Mayor Vierra

PRESENTATIONS

A. Stanislaus County Animal Services.

Stanislaus County Animal Services presented a loving pit bull available for adoption.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the Study Session of August 11, 2014 and the Council Meeting of August 25, 2014.

ACTION: It was moved by Kline/Seconded by Durossette to approve the Minutes of the Study Session of August 11, 2014 and the Council Meeting of August 25, 2014 with corrections. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Durossette, Kline, Lane, Ryno, Mayor Vierra

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

- Carol Blomquist, Ceres Librarian, updated Council on the October activities planned for the Library including Lego days, paper bag monsters, Halloween story time, extreme couponing and more. The Library now has audio books now available for downloading through Hoopla.
- John X. Mataka – Grayson, CA, spoke disapprovingly about the City's handling of Internal Affairs Investigations which been gaining attention in the local newspapers.
- Monica Ventura, NAACP, feels the City is covering up information about the Internal Investigations which have recently been gaining attention in the local newspapers. She further commented that she is offended by a comment issued by the City stating the NAACP presented rumors and half truths.
- Frank Johnson, NAACP President, thanked Toby Wells for assisting him with the NAACP Stop Gap Health/Nursing Program. Mr. Johnson further commented that while there is an on-going Internal Affairs Investigation, the victim should be put on paid administrative leave. He also asked why the City has not posted any openings for Police positions since some of them are leaving for jobs elsewhere.
- Len Shepherd, resident, commented that he loves the charm of downtown Ceres. He is disappointed with the intersection of Service Rd. and Mitchell Rd. where all the buildings look similar.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS POSTED (OR AMENDED) AND CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

ACTION: It was moved by Durossette/Seconded by Kline to approve the Agenda as posted (or amended) and certification of posting. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Durossette, Kline, Lane, Ryno, Mayor Vierra

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS/COMMISSIONS – None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION – None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. General Correspondence – **Information Only**
 - a. Public Works Dept. Monthly Report for August 2014.
 - b. Redevelopment and Economic Development Division Monthly Report (8/15 – 9/15).
2. Register of Audited Demands for period covering September 3 – 10, 2014.
3. **Resolution No. 2014-118** approving the purchase of an Easement Machine and Trailer from 3T Equipment Company and Authorize the City Manager to sign the purchase order. PULLED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.
4. **Resolution No. 2014-119** approving the purchase of two (2) Ford F150 Regular Cab Pickups and three (3) Police Interceptor Ford Explorers from Country Ford Trucks and authorize the City Manager to sign the purchase order.
5. **Resolution No. 2014-120** awarding the Construction Contract for the City of Ceres Sewer Extension - Service Road (Moffett Rd. to Mitchell) Project to Mozingo Construction, Inc., authorize a 10% Contingency, and authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract.
6. **Resolution No. 2014-121** adopting the 2014 update to the Sewer System Management Plan.
7. **Resolution No. 2014-122** approving the purchase of a John Deere 215 H.P. Tractor with Implements for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, authorize a budget amendment and authorize the City Manager to sign the purchase order.
8. **Resolution No. 2014-123** authorizing acceptance of the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and Fiscal Year 2014/15 Budget Amendment to appropriate funds.
9. Set public hearing date of October 13, 2014 for the City Council to consider a proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment (14-07 ZOTA) for the modification of Code Section 18.42.100 – Definitions – of the City of Ceres Sign Ordinance (regarding sign area calculations and adding an architectural feature definition).

ACTION: It was moved by Lane/Seconded by Ryno to approve Consent Calendar Items 1-2 and 4-9 as recommended by Staff. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Durossette, Kline, Lane, Ryno, Mayor Vierra
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

CONSIDERATION OF ITEM(S) REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

3. **Resolution No. 2014-118** approving the purchase of an Easement Machine and Trailer from 3T Equipment Company and Authorize the City Manager to sign the purchase order.

Item pulled by Ceres resident, Don Donaldson, who asked how the Easement Machine would be used.

Staff responded that the City would more easily be able to maintain pipes that are in tight confined spaces.

ACTION: It was moved by Kline/Seconded by Durossette to approve **Resolution No. 2014-118** approving the purchase of an Easement Machine and Trailer from 3T Equipment Company and Authorize the City Manager to sign the purchase order. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Durossette, Kline, Lane, Ryno, Mayor Vierra
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

PUBLIC HEARING – None.

NEW BUSINESS

10. **Resolution No. 2014-124** approving the following:
- a. Retention plan for six SAFER grant funded firefighters,
 - b. Authorizing a budget amendment to fund the retention plan,
 - c. Authorizing the execution of a side letter with Ceres Professional Fire Union 3636 regarding the retention plan.

City Manager, Toby Wells, presented an overview to Council. Staff is recommending the following:

Alternate Staffing Plan for Retention

Three man staffing at Fire Stations 1, 2 and 4; with two man staffing at Fire Station 3. The City will brown-out station three to provide relief staffing to cover vacant shifts, resulting in a reduction of overtime expenditures for a savings of \$20,000 to \$25,000 per month.

Union Side Letter

Under the terms of the existing SAFER grant, the City and Ceres Professional Firefighters Local 3636 executed a side letter delineating the terms and conditions related to the temporary nature of the firefighters hired by the SAFER grant. The side letter needs to be changed to reflect the changed conditions of the employees related to the grant process.

Fiscal Impacts

In order to fund the retention of the six SAFER Grant employees, the allocation of additional funding is required. Staff is recommending the use of \$100,000 in Measure H funding.

The additional allocation of \$100,000 from Measure H, the reduction in overtime expenditures and the use of the salary savings associated with the currently long time vacant position will provide the necessary funding for the proposed plan. Staff is recommending the plan be implemented for the balance of the current fiscal year through June 30, 2015.

After considerable discussion, Council agreed to the plan with the following conditions:

- a. Elimination of strike teams;
- b. Eliminate overtime by browning out Station No. 3 to back fill;
- c. The Firefighter's must understand if the City does not receive the SAFER Grant, we will not be able to keep all six firefighters.
- d. All SAFER Grant employees must sign the amended side letter to reflect the changed conditions of the employees related to the grant process.
- e. Council stressed that they did not want to see this item before them again, if the City does not get funding this round or in two years; do not come back to Council asking to be retained.

Councilmember Kline further stated that City employees need to be more professional with what they post on social media.

The following spoke in support of the plan:

- Len Shepherd, resident
- Don Donaldson, resident
- Ken Groves, resident
- Eileen Pratt, resident commented that if the plan passes, would the Fire Department take down the signs they have placed in yards all over town. She felt is making the City look trashy.

After further Council made the following motion:

11. **ACTION:** It was moved by Durossette/Seconded by Ryno to approve **Resolution No. 2014-124** approving the following: a) Retention plan for six SAFER grant funded firefighters, b) Authorizing a budget amendment to fund the retention plan, c) Authorizing the execution of a side letter with Ceres Professional Fire Union 3636 regarding the retention plan.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Durossette, Kline, Lane, Ryno, Mayor Vierra
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None

COUNCILMEMBER REFERRALS - None

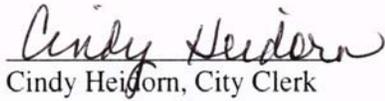
REPORTS

Staff and Council reported on upcoming events including the Highway 99 Cleanup on Sunday September 28th and the Special Council Budget Study Session on September 29, 2014.

7:50 P.M. There being no further business, Mayor Vierra adjourned the City Council Meeting.



Chris Vierra, Mayor



Cindy Heidorn, City Clerk