

CITY OF BISHOP
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
May 14, 2007

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Crom called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

INVOCATION The invocation was given by Lt. Rob Lawler from the Salvation Army followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Cullen.

COUNCIL PRESENT Griffiths, Cullen, Dishion, Connolly, Crom

COUNCIL ABSENT None

OTHERS PRESENT Richard Pucci, City Administrator
Denise Gillespie, Assistant City Clerk
Peter Tracy, City Attorney
Ray Seguine, Fire Chief
David Grah, Public Works Director
Gary Schley, Public Services Officer
Bob Kimball, City Treasurer

PUBLIC COMMENT The Mayor announced the public comment period. Dick Noles representing Advocates for Access to Public Lands provided copies of the AAPL guide and educational pamphlet for Inyo County.

PROCLAMATION The Mayor issued a proclamation designating the week of May
National Emergency Medical 20-26, 2007 as National Emergency Medical Services Week in
Services Week May 20-26 the City of Bishop.
(1)

CONSENT CALENDAR A motion was made by Councilmember Cullen to approve the
(2) Consent Calendar as presented:

Motion/Cullen

FOR APPROVAL AND FILING

- (a) Council Minutes – 4/23/07
- (b) Council Retreat – 4/25/07
- (c) Special Council Meeting – 5/5/07
- (d) Adjourned Special Council Meeting – 5/6/07
- (e) Personnel Status Change Report
- (f) Warrant Register – 4/07
- (g) Fund Transactions – 7/1/06 – 4/30/07

FOR INFORMATION AND FILING

- (h) Water and Sewer Commission Agenda – 5/8/07
- (i) Planning Commission Minutes – 4/24/07
- (j) Public Works Report – 4/07
- (k) Public Works Permit Report – 4/07
- (l) Fire Department Activity Log – 4/07

Motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on the Train Program
By Owens Valley Railway
Committee
(3)

Jerry Core from the OVRC presented an update and video presentation on the status of the Committee's project to construct the Red Apple rail line to run the restored Brill Car from Laws to Bishop. He indicated the T.E. grant money is still there but the environmental process on the project needs to move forward. The Committee is looking for people who understand the process and have ideas on ways to save money on the environmental requirements. Following Mr. Core's request Mayor Crom directed staff to draft a letter of support for the train program.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-06
Opposing S. 493 The Wild
Heritage Act of 2007
(4)

Staff read the City's draft Resolution No. 07-06 written in opposition to Senator Boxer's proposed legislation to designate areas throughout California and the Eastern Sierra as "wilderness".

Below is a summarization of comments made by the following people speaking on the wilderness issue and the City's resolution in opposition to S. 493:

- Frank Stewart, general contractor, 1417 Birchim Lane, Bishop, stated that wilderness and tourism are linked. The City should not be opposing the wilderness proposals now but get involved with Boxer's staff to resolve citizens concerns.
- Greg Weirick, 40-year resident of Inyo and Mono Counties also representing Eastern Sierra Quail Unlimited, AAPL, and off-road users expressed his strong support for the opposition to S. 493. He is a supporter of wilderness but the "where and when" need to be resolved by both sides getting together as a committee working on the issues before the proposal becomes a real bill.
- Paul McFarland, Executive Director of Friends of the Inyo, stated that portions of the new California Wild Heritage Act reflect years of compromise and communications between organizations and individuals. He felt sides should sit down, look at the facts, and figure out what ideas can be supported together.
- John C. Williams read and presented a letter stating that S. 493 is in fact only a placeholder referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources to be investigated and revised before being scheduled for debate. The majority of placeholders never make it out of committee. Mr. Williams reported that there is no way to determine what this bill will look like compared to the current placeholder. He criticized the Council on several points and for not waiting to have a clearer understanding before putting the City on record in opposition to a bill in its infancy.

- James Wilson, 2689 Highland Drive and local business owner, stated the resolution continues the polarization which has characterized the debate over the last few years. He feels compromise is possible if both sides sit down in good faith to discuss what they do not agree on in order to have a single voice from the Eastern Sierra.
- Allan Pietransanta, 30-year resident of the Owens Valley and multiple-use participant, stated that no access to favorite roads in the Eastern Sierra will be denied by Boxer's proposal. He felt the Council's "blanket" resolution is in opposition to a non-existent bill and will not benefit the economic health of the City. He urged each Council member to understand what they are voting for.
- Dave Mattovich, Bishop resident, stated he opposes the proposed legislation and supports the Council's resolution which will reinforce the City's position on the need for roads to be permanently preserved for multi-use recreation.
- Dick Noles, Chairman of the Advocates for Access to Public Land, stated he supports the opposition to Boxer's Bill S. 493 that would designate another 530,000 acres in Inyo and Mono Counties as new wilderness and the continuous threat to close roads. He felt it is important for citizens to take a position as soon as bills are proposed. The position of AAPL is that everyone who comes to this area should be able to enjoy the recreation opportunities.

Councilmember Griffiths stated he recreates in the Eastern Sierra and has studied the philosophies of those on the sides of wilderness and access which he feels are similar in many ways. His views included:

- It is in the best interest of residents to have input regarding public land use issues.
- Stakeholders should have input on any designation.
- Residents have strong feelings on all sides on this issue.
- Traditional access to federal public lands should be maintained.
- Historically important federal land should be protected.
- Land ethics on both sides seems the same.
- Compromise and consensus are possible.

He stated he felt the California Wild Heritage Act of 2007 does not include the views of the motorized-access community. He also felt the City's resolution falls short because it does not express what we want which should be a local consensus that incorporates the views of the vast majority of the people who live in this area. He stated that if the City is going to participate in this debate it should be in a manner that is effective and takes into account the views of all sides.

Councilmember Dishion felt that past experiences working on designations have not been met with equal compromise on the part of legislators. He did not feel “letting go” is the right thing to do and opposed the proposed legislation by Senator Boxer.

Councilmember Cullen stated Griffiths had many good ideas but she agreed with Councilmember Dishion.

Mayor Pro Tem Connolly, in response to John Williams, stated he felt the Council is doing the right thing as Senator Boxer has not responded in the past and does not want to work together.

Motion/Crom

Mayor Crom reported that in 2005 the Desert Mt. Division sponsored a similar resolution for the League of California Cities conference encouraging Boxer to seek local input on wilderness designation. The League adopted the resolution and sent it to Senator Boxer. No contact has ever been made asking for our area’s input. He stated he felt there is enough wilderness and some of the past proposed designations are extreme. He did not believe in waiting to take action and is opposed to what she is proposing.

The Mayor then moved to adopt Resolution No. 07-06 by title only, “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BISHOP, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, OPPOSING S. 493 ENTITLED THE “CALIFORNIA WILD HERITAGE ACT OF 2007” AND COMPANION BILLS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO H.R. 860 ENTITLED THE “CALIFORNIA WILD HERITAGE ACT OF 2007”. The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Crom, Cullen, Dishion, Connolly
Noes: Griffith

PRESENTATION OF
PRELIMINARY BUDGET
Fiscal Year 2007-2008
(5)

The City Administrator reported that the Preliminary Budget for fiscal year 2007-2008 was developed to maintain costs and maintain services provided to the citizens of Bishop.

Motion/Connolly

Mayor Pro Tem Connolly made a motion to receive the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. Motion passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Budget Hearings – June 4,
2007
(6)
Motion/Griffiths

Councilmember Griffiths made a motion to approve the agenda prepared for the Budget Hearings scheduled for June 4, 2007 beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Motion passed 5-0.

REQUEST FOR STREET
CLOSURE – B.U.H.S.
Graduation – June 8, 2007
(7)

On a motion by Mayor Crom, the Council voted 5-0 to approve the street closures as follows for the Bishop Union High School graduation ceremony scheduled for Friday, June 8, 2007:

Motion/Crom

- Fowler Street between the intersections of Church and Pine Streets
- Academy Street between the intersection of Fowler and Hammond Streets.

JPIA MEMBERSHIP
Approval of City of Los Alamitos
(8)
Motion/Connolly

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Connolly to approve the membership of the City of Los Alamitos into the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority. The motion passed 5-0.

REQUEST TO GO TO BID
South Street Curb and Gutter Project – Public Works Dept.
(9)
Motion/Crom

On a motion by Mayor Crom, the Council voted 5-0 to approve the request from the Public Works Department to go to bid for the South Street project which will construct new curb and gutter on the south side of a portion of East South Street between South Main and Sneden Streets.

REQUEST TO SURPLUS
1970 Galion Grader – Public Works Department
(10)
Motion/Dishion

Following discussion, Councilmember Dishion made a motion to surplus the 1970 Galion Grader, VIN 160ICC02726, which is surplus to the needs of the Department and authorized staff to dispose of the equipment in the best interest of the City. Motion passed unanimously.

FIRE TRAINING FACILITY
INFRASTRUCTURE
Contract Change Order 1
(11)
Motion/Cullen

Councilmember Cullen made a motion to approve Contract Change Order 1 with Sierra Nevada Construction for the footings and slab work for the placement of the training tower structure in the amount of \$139,860.00 which will be funded by the Rural Fire District. Motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

CLOSED SESSION
CANCELLED

The Mayor announced that the closed session scheduled on the agenda relating to the appointment of the Community Services Director had been cancelled.

Conditional Appointment of Community Services Director – Keith Caldwell
Motion/Crom

Mayor Crom made a motion to appoint Keith Caldwell from Winder, Georgia as the Community Services Director conditional upon the successful completion of the required background check and physical examination with terms as follows:

- Start date will be June 11, 2007
- Starting salary - \$7,694.00 per month
- A 3% cost of living adjustment (per the management employees' contract) effective on July 1, 2007 will increase the salary to \$7,925.00 per month.
- After six months of satisfactory performance with the City the salary will be brought into parity with the other department heads or \$8,434.00 per month.

Motion passed on a 5-0 roll call vote.

COUNCIL REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m. to the next Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

FRANK CROM, MAYOR

Attest: Richard F. Pucci, City Clerk

By: _____
Denise Gillespie, Assistant City Clerk

Approved by Council June 11, 2007