

CITY OF BISHOP
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 24, 2008

CALL TO ORDER	Mayor Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
INVOCATION	The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Cullen followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Dishion.
COUNCIL PRESENT	Griffiths, Crom, Dishion, Cullen, Connolly
COUNCIL ABSENT	None
OTHERS PRESENT	Richard Pucci, City Administrator Denise Gillespie, Assistant City Clerk Peter Tracy, City Attorney Kathleen Sheehan, Police Chief David Grah, Public Works Director Gary Schley, Public Services Officer Bob Kimball, City Treasurer
PUBLIC COMMENT	The Mayor announced the public comment period. No public comment was given.
PROCLAMATION	
Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April 2008 (1)	The proclamation designating April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City was presented to representatives of Wild Iris by Mayor Connolly. Skye Powell, Program Manager, gave an update on upcoming activities to bring awareness to this important issue.
CONSENT CALENDAR (2)	A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cullen and passed unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar as presented:
Motion/Cullen	FOR APPROVAL AND FILING (a) Council Minutes – 3/10/08 (b) Personnel Status Change Report (c) Investment Portfolio – 1/08 (d) Investment Portfolio – 2/08 FOR INFORMATION AND FILING (e) Planning Commission Agenda – 3/25/08 (f) Water and Sewer Commission Minutes – 3/11/08
PUBLIC HEARING	
CDBG Fiscal Year 2008-09 General Allocation for Housing (3)	The Mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments on the City's proposed application for up to \$1 million for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) General Allocation for Housing – New Construction.

Daniel Steinhagen, Executive Director of the Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action, reported that IMACA's first attempt to obtain land from the LADWP and construct assisted living housing on the corner of Spruce and East Yaney was unsuccessful and they are again moving forward on the project. When the application process began the City was requested to partner with IMACA to apply for Community Development Block Grant funding. Mr. Steinhagen recently learned that the DWP has changed from negotiating land sales to long-term leases for 50 or more years which will eliminate the need to apply for funding for the land purchase. IMACA will be working with the Department of Water and Power for the long-term lease.

The Executive Director reported that the project focuses on housing for those seniors who are between living at home and a full-time care facility. It will include three structures with 8, 10 and 18 units plus a community building, laundromat, office and living quarters for a full-time manager. All 36 units will be handicapped accessible. He thanked the City Council for their support of the project and will return with updates.

Councilmember Griffiths stated that affordable senior housing is a critical need in the area and many people are faced with leaving the area for housing.

Motion/Cullen

Mayor Pro Tem Cullen made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

STREET CLOSURE – First United Methodist Church – August 16, 2008
(4)
Motion/Griffiths

The Police Chief reported that the First United Methodist Church has requested a street closure from 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 16, 2008 to hold an event to celebrate the centennial of the Sanctuary building. The section requested to be closed is North Fowler between Academy and Church Streets. The neighbors affected have been advised and there is no controversy to the request.

On a motion by Councilmember Griffiths, the Council voted unanimously to approve the request to close North Fowler between Academy and Church Streets from 3:00-8:00 p.m. on August 16, 2008 for the First United Methodist Church celebration.

REQUEST FROM BISHOP PAIUTE TRIBE for Designation of City Street as Part of the Indian Reservation Road System
(5)

Bruce Klein, Grant Writer and Planner, and Carlos Hernandez, Transportation Planner for the Bishop Paiute Tribe made a presentation on a request to incorporate certain city streets into the Indian Reservation Road System. They reported that the State of California has the highest population of Native Americans in the United States and the highest number of recognized tribes but only 406 miles of reservation roads. Federal monies for road

projects and maintenance, coming through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is minimal and B.I.A. has changed the procedures to allow tribes to conduct reservation road inventories to include other streets that are used by tribe members for commuting to schools, work, shopping or for services out of the area. Inyo County has more roads than the other counties in the State used for those purposes. Adding city and county streets would increase the number of miles in the reservation system and increase the money coming in for road construction and maintenance on the reservation. Mr. Klein reported that Bishop could benefit but presently the Tribe is applying for Safe Routes to School funds for sidewalks from Barlow Lane to the location of the DMV office on West Line with plans for other projects outside the city limits.

He stated that both Inyo County and Caltrans have signed the agreement and as stated in the letter from the Tribal Administrator to the City of Bishop, "adding city roads or bridges to this system will have no impact on the rights or ownership of the City of Bishop. There is no exchange or transfer of ownership, jurisdiction, or right-of-way. The City of Bishop is not relinquishing any roads in its system or granting any ownership rights, property rights, easements or dedications to the Bishop Reservation."

Mr. Klein stated the basic request is that the City of Bishop authorize the addition of certain streets in the city into the B.I.A. Indian Reservation Road Inventory.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Klein reported that the method used to determine which roads should be included were developed by an engineering firm from Eureka and were those roads used for employment, social purposes, education, and cultural (all uses of roads for transportation were sufficient).

The City Attorney responded that he did not question the representations that were being made but had concerns about the short timeline and what the federal regulations state. He requested more time to research the issue in order to determine exactly what is involved for city streets to be included in the reservation roads inventory and what effect it may have in the future.

Mr. Klein stated that even though there are time constraints he urged the City not to proceed until those concerns are addressed. He will provide the City Attorney contact information for the State offices.

The issue was tabled until further notice from the City Attorney. No action was taken at this time.

RELEASE OF RFP'S –
CDBG Environmental
Constraints Grant.
(6)

The Public Works Director reported the City has been awarded a \$35,000 CDBG grant that will be used to hire a consultant to survey environmental constraints on land in and adjacent to the City. This information will help identify land that is most suitable for release by DWP and development for affordable housing. The grant requires a match by the City in the amount of \$8,750.00.

Motion/Griffiths

Councilmember Griffiths made a motion to authorize the release of the Request For Proposals to hire a consultant to survey environmental constraints that exist on undeveloped LADWP land in and adjacent to the city limits. The motion passed on the following roll call vote: Ayes: Griffiths, Crom, Dishion, Cullen, Connolly.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET
ADJUSTMENTS /
TRANSFERS – FY 2007-08
(7)
Motion/Cullen

Mayor Pro Tem Cullen made a motion to approve the budget adjustments and transfers for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 through February 29, 2008 as presented. Motion passed on the following roll call vote: Ayes: Cullen, Crom, Dishion, Griffiths, Connolly.

COUNCIL REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m. to the next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, April 14, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

MARTIN L. CONNOLLY, MAYOR

Attest: Richard F. Pucci, City Clerk

By: _____
Denise Gillespie, Assistant City Clerk