

CITY OF BISHOP
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
April 14, 2008

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

INVOCATION The invocation was given by Pastor Rusty McKinley of the Calvary Baptist Church followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Griffiths.

COUNCIL PRESENT Griffiths, Crom, Dishion, Cullen, Connolly

COUNCIL ABSENT None

OTHERS PRESENT Richard Pucci, City Administrator
Denise Gillespie, Assistant City Clerk
Keith Caldwell, Community Services Director
Ray Seguire, Fire Chief
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.

CONSENT CALENDAR A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cullen and passed
(1) unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar as presented:

Motion/Cullen FOR APPROVAL AND FILING
(a) Council Minutes – 3/24/08
(b) Personnel Status Change Report
(c) Warrant Register – 3/08

FOR INFORMATION AND FILING
(d) Fire Department Activity Log – 3/08
(e) Public Works Report – 3/08
(f) Public Works Permit Report – 3/08

PUBLIC HEARING

Fees and Charges for City Mayor Connolly opened the public hearing to receive citizen and
Services – FY 2008-2009 staff input on proposed changes to the fees and charges for City
(2) services for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

Staff reported that due to some discrepancies with changes to the Public Works Department fees and the information provided for public review, there will be another public hearing at the next Council meeting scheduled on April 28, 2008. Action on the resolution amending and restating fees and charges for City services established by resolution will also be taken at that

meeting.

The Public Works Director and Police Chief reviewed the minor changes in the fee structure requested for their departments. Revisions recommended for the Public Works Department are intended to make the wording, intent and structure of the fees more clear with minor monetary changes. The Police Department has recommended an increase in “fingerprinting rolling” from \$15.00 to \$20.00 and revision to the wording of the title for the fee.

Motion/Griffiths

Councilmember Griffiths made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL TO RELEASE
RFP’S – Consultant Work
for Water and Sewer Rate
Study – Public Works Dept.
(3)

The Public Works Director reported that on March 24, 2008, the City Council and Water and Sewer Commission met to jointly discuss water and sewer rates to determine:

1. Does the City want to do a rate study?
2. If so, should the work be contracted out or done by city staff?
3. What sort of dollar value should we target?

It was determined at the joint meeting that a study should be done and contracted out with \$20,000 estimated for the cost to prepare the study. The Director was instructed to prepare a draft Request for Proposals for Council approval.

Grah stated considerations for the study include: whether to stay with the flat rate structure; whether rates should go up or down; consideration of the recently completed Master Plan; consideration of construction costs included in the Master Plan; what method should be used for determining increases such as cost escalation or an automatic process.

The City Administrator gave a brief history on the rate structure for water and sewer fees. He stated that based on actions by prior City Councils no rate increases have been made since 1986 and the water and sewer funds were depleted and the City was not eligible for related grants. Therefore four to five years ago a rate study was done by Boyle Engineering for approximately \$85,000 and included an inventory of the systems and recommendations on amounts for new higher rates. The Council serving at that time decided the rates recommended were set too high and approved a rate structure that established a series of increases over the next four years and the requirement to do another rate study at the end of the increases to determine where we are and where we should be. No rate increases were established for July 2008 but the City is required by resolution to conduct a new rate study. The Water and Sewer Commission and staff felt that in

order to have an objective look at the fee structure it would be better to contract out for the services.

Councilmember Griffiths stated that a rate study is very important and will give the City the information to determine if the current rates being charged are accurate and the feasibility to adjust rates for inflation.

Motion/Connolly

Mayor Connolly made a motion to approve the release of the Request for Proposals by the Public Works Department for a water and sewer rate study. The motion passed on the following roll call vote: Ayes: Connolly, Crom, Dishion, Griffiths, Cullen. Noes: None.

REQUEST TO DECLARE UNCLAIMED FOUND PROPERTY AS SURPLUS Police Department
(4)

The Police Chief requested Council approval to declare the listed unclaimed found property (five bicycles) as surplus and consider the donation of these items to the Inyo Mono Association for the Handicapped.

Motion/Crom

Councilmember Crom made a motion to surplus the unclaimed found property as presented and authorized the City Administrator to dispose of the property in the best interest of the City. The motion passed on the following roll call vote: Ayes: Crom, Dishion, Griffiths, Cullen, Connolly. Noes: None

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT TO CALTRANS – Turnout on Highway 395 at Bishop Country Club
(5)

Police Chief Sheehan encouraged Council to submit a letter of support to Caltrans Director Kempton in Sacramento for funding for a turnout on Highway 395 at the entrance to the Bishop Country Club to improve highway safety. This issue has also been discussed by the Local Transportation Commission. The request is for new funding and not to be funded by the elimination of any other project.

Motion/Cullen

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Cullen, the Council voted 5-0 to approve the draft letter be sent to Caltrans headquarters requesting new funding for improvement of highway safety on Highway 395 at the entrance to the golf course.

REQUEST TO SURPLUS PROPERTY STORED IN CITY HALL BASEMENT Community Services Dept.
(6)

The Community Services Director reported that an inventory of property that has accumulated and been stored in the City Hall basement over the last 30 years needs to be surplus and disposed.

Motion/Connolly

On a motion by Mayor Connolly, the Council voted unanimously to surplus the miscellaneous items stored in the basement as presented and authorized the City Administrator to dispose of the items in the best interest of the City.

REPLACEMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO ANTENNA – Fire Dept.

The Fire Chief reported that the public safety radio antenna located on the roof of the police and fire stations is starting to fail and requested permission to proceed with its replacement through

(7) the current contract with ComSerCo and fund with monies received through the Indian Gaming Grant Program.

Motion/Cullen Mayor Pro Tem Cullen made a motion to waive the formal bid/proposal requirements and authorize ComSerCo Inc. to perform the replacement and necessary service of the described antenna in the amount of \$4,468.91. The motion passed on the following roll call vote: Ayes: Cullen, Crom, Dishion, Griffiths, Connolly. Noes: None.

SET DATE FOR PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARINGS – FY 2008-09 (8) Motion/Crom Councilmember Crom made a motion to set May 14, 2008 to conduct the annual Preliminary Budget Hearings for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS / TRANSFERS – FY 2007-08 (7) Motion/Griffiths Councilmember Griffiths made a motion to approve the budget adjustments and transfers for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 through March 31, 2008 as presented. Motion passed on the following roll call vote: Ayes: Griffiths, Crom, Dishion, Cullen, Connolly. Noes: None.

COUNCIL REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. to the next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, April 28, 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

APPROVED BY COUNCIL APRIL 28, 2008