

**SONORA CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SONORA  
August 3, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Sonora was opened this date in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 94 North Washington Street, at 5:00 p.m. with the following Members present: Mayor Matt Hawkins, Mayor ProTem Mark Plummer, Councilmember Ann Sergerstrom, Councilmember Jim Garaventa, Councilmember Colette Such; City Attorney Douglas White City Administrator Mary Rose Rutikanga.

**REPORT ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

**City Administrator Mary Rose Rutikanga** advised the Council that at 3:30 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020, the Agenda for the City of Sonora Council Meeting was posted outside City Hall for public view.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

1. **City Administrator Mary Rose Rutikanga** to move item H Unfinished Business after New Business. Councilmembers approved.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**(Video Time 2:13)**

1. Introduction of Officer - Michael Paulsen

**Chief Turu VanderWiel** introduced and swore in Office Michael Paulsen (via prerecorded video)

2. Recognition of Denny Moore's donation of a new flag for City Hall

**City Administrator Mary Rose Rutikanga** gave recognition to Denny Moore's donation of a new flag for the City Hall to the Council and the Public.

3. Recognition of Megan Bressel's Eagle Scout service Project

**Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg** gave recognition to Megan Bressel's Eagle Scout Service Project. She identified she would like to clean all the Head Stones at the old City Cemetery for her Eagle Scout Service Project. On July 11<sup>th</sup> Megan and 48 other volunteers cleaned all 450 Head Stones.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

**(Video Time 16:16)**

- Nikki Coleman wanted to have the Council have a timeline for the Social Equity Committee applications, clear up how many community members will be chosen for the Committee and the selection process.
- Tyler from Tuolumne County Transit a virtual public meeting to weigh in on the Dragon Gulch connector trail on Thursday August 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm
- A member of the public agrees with Nikki's suggestions for the Social Equity Committee

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**(Video Time 24:00)**

1. Approval of disbursements in the amount \$222,361.14 for payroll, inclusive of employee salaries, employer and employee taxes and retirement contributions and miscellaneous voluntary employee deductions.

**Motion by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Plummer, unanimously carried on a vote of 5-0 to approve item 1 on the consent calendar.**

2. Adopt Resolution 08-03-2020-A approving the employee salary schedules for Cost of Living and Salary Adjustments for the Sonora Firefighters Association, Part-Time/Relief Employees and Sonora Management Employees Association. Councilmembers discussed.

**Motion by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Plummer, unanimously carried on a vote of 5-0 to approve item 2 on the consent calendar.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**(Video Time 30:16)**

1. Consider and adopt a resolution declaring a special municipal election to be held on Tuesday November 3, 2020, for the submission of a ballot measure to City voters to approve an increase in the Transient Occupancy Tax from ten percent (10%) to twelve (12%) and applying the tax to campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks; requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Tuolumne to consolidate the election with the statewide general election; and permitting the County Registrar of Voters to render the election services.

**City Administrator Mary Rose Rutikanga** this TOT tax will expand to campground and RV parks. Asking the City Council to recognize a fiscal emergency which will allow us to put this on the November ballot.

- A member of the public asked how much it would cost to put on the November ballot.
- Jeff Michels has a few concerns with the TOT tax. Councilmembers discussed with Mr. Michaels about his concerns.
- A member of the public feels raising the TOT will not bring in as much revenue as the City may think.

Councilmembers discussed.

**Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Plummer, second by Councilmember Garaventa, unanimously carried on a vote of 5-0 to adopt a resolution declaring a special municipal election to be held on Tuesday November 3, 2020, for the submission of a ballot measure to City voters to approve an increase in the Transient Occupancy Tax from ten percent (10%) to twelve (12%) and applying the tax to campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks; requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Tuolumne to consolidate the election with the statewide general election; and permitting the County Registrar of Voters to render the election services.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**(Video Time 1:04:30)**

1. Consideration to appoint councilmember to a subcommittee of two (2) members of the City Council to file arguments in favor of, and rebuttal arguments submitted against, ballot measures.
  - a. To change the positions of the City Clerk and City Treasurer from elected positions to appointed positions.
  - b. An increase to the City Transient Occupancy Tax from ten percent (10%) to twelve percent (12%) and applying the tax to campgrounds and recreational vehicles.

**City Administrator Mary Rose Rutikanga** is asking for direction from the council on items A and B. Mayor Hawkins appointed Councilmember Such and Councilmember Segerstrom to write the arguments in favor of the two ballot measures A and B.

**Motion by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Plummer, unanimously carried on a vote of 5-0 to approve Mayor Hawkins appointment of Councilmember Such and Councilmember Segerstrom to a subcommittee to write the arguments in favor of items A and B.**

**(Video Time 1:22:19)**

2. Consideration to assign the Mayor's appointments to the City Committees and Community/Government Committees and Commissions.

**City Administrator Mary Rose Rutikanga** is asking the Mayor to present his list of recommendations as to which Councilmembers will serve on which committees. There is one correction on the Governmental Committee Page Parking and Traffic Commission City Administrator Mary Rose Rutikanga submitted Councilmember Jim Garaventa and Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Plummer, the Mayor has requested it be himself Mayor Matt Hawkins and Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Plummer with Councilmember Jim Garaventa being the alternate. Councilmember Jim Garaventa cannot be the alternate for Cable 8 (Access Tuolumne) due to a conflict of interest. Councilmember Ann Segerstrom will be the alternate for Cable 8 (Access Tuolumne). Energy Action Committee alternate is

**Motion by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Plummer, unanimously carried on a vote of 5-0 to approve Mayor Hawkins Committee assignments.**

**(Video Time 1:35:35)**

3. Approve an amendment to the Consultant Services Agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to include the proposed additional services under the scope of work and increase the total-not-exceeded amount payable under the Agreement to \$387,763.38.

**Community Development Director Rachelle Kellogg** gave an update on the new transit program. Staff is asking the Council to approve the amendment to the Consultant Services Agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to include additional services. Daniel Carley provided an update. Councilmembers discussed. Darren Grossi advised that if the Council does not go forward with the project the City could be liable to pay the funds back.

- Jeff Michels is for the City to go forward with the transit project
- A member of the public is not for this transit project going forward.
- Laurie Lehmann Vision Sonora Committee point of view was to have great bus stops
- A member of the public would like the transit project to be paused and we should have an individual traffic engineer.
- A member of the public is not for using Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Councilmembers discussed.

**Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Plummer, second by Councilmember Garaventa, carried on a vote of 3-2 (Councilmember Segerstrom and Councilmember Such voting no), to approve an amendment to the Consultant Services Agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to include the proposed additional services under the scope of work and increase the total-not-exceeded amount payable under the Agreement to \$387,763.38.**

1. Consideration of authorization to advertise for public bids the FY 2020-21 City of Sonora Street Striping Project.

**Community Development Director Rachele Kellogg, Jerry** is purposing to go out with the thermoplastic with just the longitude and longitudinal striping of four-inch double yellow center line, four-inch white line and right edge fog lines and eight-inch channelization lines at turn lanes and intersections. The crosswalks stop bars and other pavement markings will be done by public works crews. Asking council for authorization to go to bids to move forward with this project. Councilmembers discussed.

No public comment.

**Motion by Councilmember Garaventa, second by Councilmember Such, unanimously carried on a vote of 5-0 to approve to advertise for public bids the FY 2020-21 City of Sonora Street Striping Project.**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

(Video Time 2:53:30)

1. Informational item to discuss Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20 requiring all citizens to stay at home unless needed to maintain operation of essential critical infrastructures.

**City Administrator Mary Rose Rutikanga** gave an update on Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20. Tuolumne County is not currently on the watch list and urges the community to continue to follow the guidelines. Councilmembers discussed.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. None

COUNCILMEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

**Fire Chief New** reported a structure fire off Sonora Avenue behind the fairgrounds off Southgate on Saturday. All occupants made it out of the house, but they did lose their dog. The home was destroyed in the fire. Firefighters did an excellent job. **City Administrator Mary Rose Rutikanga** reported herself and **Financial Director Chris Gorsky** met with Municode to start implementation of our new agenda management system. Goal is to have in place by our first meeting in September. **Councilmember Segerstrom** thanked the City Administrator and City Staff for all they do. **Councilmember Such and Councilmember Segerstrom** had a meeting to find additional funding for the porta potties. Liked what Niki Coleman said earlier and would like to have a total of 9 people on the Social Equity Task Force. **Councilmember Garaventa** reported the TCTC meeting was cancelled and gave an update on the Visitors Bureau meeting he attended. **Mayor Pro-Tem Plummer** has had a few merchants ask if the Council could have an ordinance that would limit amplified music on Washington Street. It has been disruptive to some of our newly outside oriented restaurants and other merchants who cannot escape. **Mayor Hawkins** did a radio interview. Thankful to be apart of this City.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sonora City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date