



Special City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 3:00 PM

33 Church Street, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

The Agenda can be found on the City's Website: www.cityofsuttercreek.org

The City of Sutter Creek City Council Meeting was available via Zoom and in person.

IN ATTENDANCE: Riordan, Gunselman, Feist, Swift

ABSENT: Sierck

STAFF: DuBois, LaFontaine, Peters, O'Connell, Cole

1. Call to Order and Establish a Quorum for Special Meeting

Meeting called to order by Mayor Gunselman

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Led by Mayor Gunselman

3. Public Forum

None

4. Administrative Agenda

A. City Manager Introduction to Priority Setting Session

City Manager DuBois reviewed the agenda

B. Council Self Evaluation Discussion

Mayor Gunselman led a discussion on Council self evaluation.

CM Gunselman

Getting items a week in advance which helps. Spreads out asking questions

Open to new ideas - thinks we're pretty good, can be tricky sometimes.

Do well listening to each other.

Try not to introduce new complex items

CM Riordan

Trying to avoid adding new items each week

Packet a week ahead of time is a plus

CM Swift

Agrees with comments on behavior, appreciates it

CM Feist

Working with county, most of the property tax goes to them

CM Sierk joined via zoom at 3:17 PM

C. City Challenges and Priorities Discussion

Review existing priorities and discuss changing/editing/adding for 2025

Streets - good progress. Well on way to being complete. ACTC opportunities, grants will be part of it.

Two years before we can apply benefits of sales tax. CIP is good.

LaFontaine - Big roads or more little roads?

Budget - major steps, new tax here as well, ERP

Dan - cost cutting, Jim - PD options, Claire - feels like we made the most progress,

Wastewater plant - Off the list in a couple of years, getting it done in 5-7 years, lots of things that could go wrong, unknowns can kill a project.

Claire - trigger points, fixing things we don't need, other entities. Water board involved.

Dan - Sewer rate increase, all worked together.

Economic development - County tourism, partner with them. Tourism

Susan - wine industry risk, tasting rooms - can we support them more? Younger audience, 20-40 yr olds

Wine on 49. Have some mixed use? Some apartments

Julia - important priority to keep going. work with BPA and County - how do we increase housing to keep people working here, not just commuters. Local employment opportunities working with the county.

Jim - advocating with state reps, ranked low as business friendly. Try to change that. Be responsive and process is streamlined.

Dan - stick with 4. Round out, add some performance metrics.

Susan - wants to add as subtext economic developments - trails, things for people to do.

Julia - Keep them, sensible growth in staged progress. Roads - bike / ped safety. Recreational opportunities for economic development.

Workforce development - sustainable budget, more on cost cutting and innovation

Add bike / ped to street

Trails - recreation.

Add some subtext. Leave as is

PUBLIC -

Craig Baracco - Econ dev is a priority, Housing is needed, population growth, working on small tax base, customer base, employer base.

Wastewater - Wicklow way specific plan, adjacent to Martell service district, part of ARSA, quite large, hundreds homes, more commercial, coming back to county in the second half of this year.

Tourism - design guidelines for development, design review committee, wants the county to have design review standards, not going there yet. Considering it in the next few months. Sutter Creek has a stake in urging the county to adopt design standards to make it more attractive. County agreed to consider as part of a legal settlement with the Conservancy.

D. Operations and Performance Management Discussion

Legal

Like to be more proactive on Code enforcement

Planning

Costs to develop - is it excessive?

Quantify number of handouts, when produced, how distributed

Reduction in processing time.

Finance

Front desk, metrics taking some things off of finance.

Public Works

Maintenance vs New Projects - Parks - does it look good. Breakdown between maintenance and capital. 25% to do overall improvements.

Do people contribute to the overall? Siloed vs incentivized to do things out of there lane.

Can we limit time spent on ARSA

Calendar list - annual checklist. Keep quantifying when things are done. Checklist,

Dan Lafontaine commented that deal with a lot of emergencies, more communication because things are fluid. Team puts out fires

Susan - Do we have a checklist? Have list of team activities, background list.

Julia - Some monthly metrics? more seasonal list in Dan's head. Useful for evaluations.

Susan - checklist, just note what didn't get done if there is an emergency.

Dan - Some opportunity for reporting using MMS stats

Claire - If people are hit by truck, are things documented? Figuring some things out, documenting things is important.

Jim - work more with fire district on weed abatement.

POLICE

Chief O'Connell requested that Council do a ride along to see activity at night.

Presented daily activities, discussed mutual aid. Directed enforcement as needed.

20 places where they go, checklist? Have a daily log. Not a lot of free time, want them on the streets.

Low collisions - safe drivers, and car stops

Dispatch costs - smaller amount is for car computers. linked to county services.

Complaints - calls to PD office are going unanswered for days. Have 6 volunteers - trying to get them to answer the phones.

Julia - What is difference in total incidents vs officer initiated? Difference is calls for service.

Susan - app to connect the phone to turn into a text. don't want to use their personal phone for work. Have one patrol phone. Route voicemail to the one phone. Also goes to sergeant and Chief via email.

Response times - single officer, depending on situation do not wait for backup

Goals

Like to increase staffing - wants +1 officer and 3 reserves.

Track wellness - walk and weights.

Improve service to community - maintain response time

Julia - like a substitute teacher? Reserves not compensated. If they take a shift, then they are paid.

Dan - Already 4 x better than county, not sure response time needs to be improved. Legally have to be 24 x 7? Jim answered that is up to Derek. Things don't stop at 6PM.

Claire - Wants to respond more quickly to non-emergency issues. Paying for community police. Want to call our department for help.

Susan - has to be a way to get calls to people in the field. Call back with blocked numbers

Claire - Traffic, can't have great effect on traffic control. Should we consider alternative staffing - more staff during day and less at night?

Chief - Other agency won't be cheaper

Dan - IS our budget percentage of police costs of general fund normal for cities our size? Like answer later.

Julia - look at the trend of PD costs, close to 50% of GF. Up from 45% Concerned about trend.

Want to be more visible during day time.

IF we grow and have a need, then increase staff.

Dan - Many small cities seem to be working with County.

Susan - Data stops in monthly reports - concern about racial profiling. Gets reported to state.

E. Council Advocacy Discussion

Council discussed helping with fundraising efforts, meeting with state officials, county, etc.

5. Adjournment

ADjourned at 5:25 PM

The next regularly scheduled meeting is at 6 PM today.