



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
SIGNAL HILL CITY COUNCIL**

January 12, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Signal Hill City Council was held in the Council Chamber of City Hall on January 12, 2016.

CALL TO ORDER – 6:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: MAYOR FORESTER
VICE MAYOR WOODS
COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

CLOSED SESSION

- a. A closed session was held pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2), potential litigation in an undisclosed matter.
- b. A closed session was held pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8, real property negotiations, regarding real property located at 2745 Walnut Avenue, APN: 7212-008-913 and 7212-008-914.
- c. A closed session was held pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8, real property negotiations, regarding real property located at 3100 California Avenue.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There was no public business from the floor.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION – 6:02 P.M.

Council Member Wilson entered closed session at 6:11 p.m.

Council Member Hansen entered closed session at 6:41 p.m.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING – 7:02 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Forester led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Debra Russell, Signal Hill Petroleum representative, announced the newly formed Signal Hill Police Foundation will hold an Inaugural Membership Event on January 28, 2016, 6:30 p.m., at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, and encouraged memberships, volunteers, and corporate sponsorship for the coming year.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

Assistant City Attorney reported on closed session items. Status reports were given, City Council gave directions to staff, and no reportable actions were taken.

PRESENTATIONS

- a. Mayor Forester presented a proclamation to Randy and Dale Kemner, Co-Owners of The Wine Country in recognition of 20 years in business in the City of Signal Hill.

Mr. Kemner thanked the City and Council Members for their long time support, encouraged others to do business in the City, and commented on being a long time resident of the City.

- b. Mayor Forester and Police Chief Michael Langston presented retiring Signal Hill Police Lieutenant Melvin “Mel” Krizo a proclamation from the City of Signal Hill, and recognitions from the California Governor’s Office and Congressman Alan Lowenthal,

Lieutenant Krizo expressed honor and privilege to have worked with the City Council and staff, and to serve the community.

INTRODUCTION

- a. Mayor Forester and Police Chief Langston introduced recently promoted police officers: Police Sergeant Kelli Brown, Senior Police Officer DeAngelo Gossett, and Police Lieutenant Brian Leyn.

Senior Police Officer Gossett, Police Sergeant Brown, and Police Lieutenant Leyn introduced family members from the audience and thanked the Police Department and the City Council for the opportunity to serve and work in the Department.

Police Sergeant Brown, Senior Police Officer Gossett, and Police Lieutenant Leyn jointly recited the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.

PRESENTATION

- c. Mayor Forester and Senior Police Officer Gossett presented a proclamation and award to the SRO-Student of Character Award recipient, Natalia Rios.

Senior Police Officer Gossett asked Ms. Rios, Jesse Elwin Nelson Academy Principal Sparkle Peterson, and Jesse Elwin Nelson Academy Interventions Specialist Joan Russell to come forward.

Ms. Rios expressed thanks to Principal Peterson and Senior Police Officer Gossett for the award.

Debra Russell, on behalf of the newly formed Police Foundation, came forward to present a Certificate of Recognition and award to Ms. Rios.

Principal Peterson recognized Ms. Rio's mother for her hard work and thanked the Signal Hill Police Department for the program recognizing the students of the school.

Mayor Forester expressed that meeting presentations and introductions are what makes being a Mayor enjoyable.

PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Public Hearing – Regulations to Prohibit the Commercial Cultivation and Delivery of Medical Marijuana

City Manager introduced Community Development Director who presented the staff report.

Mayor Forester asked Council Members if there were any questions of staff.

Council Member Wilson asked about the zoning designations of the City.

Community Development Director addressed the question posed by Council Member Wilson.

Mayor Forester opened the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor Forester invited anyone wishing to speak in favor of or opposed to the ordinance amendments to please come forward.

Jason Aula, proponent of the Medical Marijuana Initiative came forward and spoke in opposition to the proposed zoning ordinance amendments.

Maria Harris, Signal Hill resident did not speak in favor of or opposed to the proposed ordinance amendments and commented on people who depend on marijuana for pain relief.

Tom Benson, Signal Hill resident came forward and spoke in favor of the ordinances and asked for clarification regarding the prohibition wording of the ordinances.

Community Development Director addressed and clarified the questions and concerns posed by the public speakers.

Mayor Forester closed the public hearing at 7:59 p.m.

Mayor Forester asked Council Members for any comments.

Council Members asked about zoning, clarification on the wording of the delivery prohibition, and discussed in agreement that the ordinances allow for the opportunity of local control and the ability for future modifications.

Assistant City Attorney and Community Development Director clarified the questions posed by Council Members.

Mayor Forester spoke in favor of the ordinances.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL and seconded by VICE MAYOR WOODS to waive further reading and introduce Ordinance No. 2016-01-1484 approving Zoning Ordinance Amendment 15-03 amending Title 20 of the Signal Hill Municipal Code by prohibiting medical marijuana cultivation in all commercial and industrial zoning districts including specific plans and as a home occupation and revising the definition of medical marijuana dispensary to include mobile delivery services.

Assistant City Attorney read the title of Ordinance No. 2016-01-1484:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 15-03 AMENDING TITLE 20 OF THE SIGNAL HILL MUNICIPAL CODE BY PROHIBITING MEDICAL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION IN ALL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICTS INCLUDING SPECIFIC PLANS AND AS A HOME OCCUPATION AND REVISING THE DEFINITION OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY TO INCLUDE MOBILE DELIVERY SERVICES

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
VICE MAYOR WOODS
COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN
COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

It was moved by VICE MAYOR WOODS and seconded by COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL to waive further reading and introduce Ordinance No. 2016-01-1483 approving Ordinance Amendment 15-06 amending Title 9 of the Signal Hill Municipal Code by adding Chapter 9.50 prohibiting mobile medical marijuana dispensaries and delivery services citywide.

Assistant City Attorney read the title of Ordinance No. 2016-01-1483:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 15-06 AMENDING TITLE 9 OF THE SIGNAL HILL MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 9.50 PROHIBITING MOBILE MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES AND DELIVERY SERVICES CITYWIDE

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
VICE MAYOR WOODS
COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN
COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

a. Amendment to Agreement for Labor Relations Counsel

City Manager presented the staff report.

Mayor Forester asked Council Members if there were any questions of staff.

Council Member Wilson asked about the expiration of the existing contract, billable hours, and the possibility to pursue a bidding process in the future.

Mayor Forester asked for any public comments.

There was no public comment.

Council Member Noll commented on his positive experience working with Filarsky & Watt LLP while serving on the Civil Service Commission in the past and the value of the firm to the City.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL and seconded by COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN to approve an amendment to the Contract Services Agreement for Special Council Legal services between the City of Signal Hill and Filarsky & Watt LLP, establishing the hourly rate for legal representation at \$280.00 per hour.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
 VICE MAYOR WOODS
 COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN
 COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL
 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

b. Water Rate Workshop

City Manager introduced Public Works Director and Public Works Management Analyst who presented the staff report.

Mayor Forester asked Council Members if there were any questions of staff.

Council Member Wilson asked about GASB 68 costs being projected forward.

Finance Director addressed the question posed by Council Member Wilson.

Council Member Hansen left Council Chamber at 8:45 p.m.

Vice Mayor Woods asked about additional staffing requirements for Well No. 9, loan repayment, and effective dates of increase.

Public Works Director address the questions posed by Vice Mayor Woods.

Council Member Noll complimented staff for the presentation and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate on the Water Rate committee.

Mayor Forester announced upcoming dates for the next Community Workshop, Resolution to set Proposition 218 Public Hearing of February 9, 2016, Proposition 218 Public Hearing of April 12, 2016, and projected rate effective date of June 1, 2016.

City Manager clarified the Community Workshop date is to be determined in order to allow for proper public notice.

Mayor Forester asked for any public comments.

Tom Benson, Signal Hill resident asked about capital improvements and funding for existing wells, and carryover of un-pumped water resource.

Maria Harris, Signal Hill resident asked about projected growth of future revenues and specific details regarding the costs of operating Well No. 9 versus existing wells.

Public Works Director addressed each question posed by the public.

Mayor Forester recognized the retired City Manager Kenneth Farfing and the current City Manager for their work securing vacant aquifers and unused water rights for the City.

Council Member Noll asked about the impact fees of new City residential developments.

Public Works Director addressed the question posed by Council Member Noll.

City Manager commented about the challenge of hiring qualified staff in the competitive water industry.

City Council each voiced their preference on the two rate increase options and discussed directions to provide staff.

Mayor Forester concluded the workshop and asked staff to move forward and conduct a community workshop, assess community's preference on the two rate increase options, provide the community with more detailed analysis of cash flow for each option, and bring back the findings to Council.

CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Warrant Register Dated January 12, 2016

Summary: The Warrant Register is a listing of all general checks issued since the prior warrant register and warrants to be released upon City Council approval.

Recommendation: Authorize payment of Warrant Register dated January 12, 2016.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON and seconded by VICE MAYOR WOODS to approve Consent Calendar item (a).

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
 VICE MAYOR WOODS
 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL

b. Minutes of the Following Meeting

Regular Meeting of December 22, 2015.

Recommendation: Approve.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON and seconded by VICE MAYOR WOODS to approve Consent Calendar item (b).

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
 VICE MAYOR WOODS
 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL

COUNCIL AGENDA--NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Wilson announced he will be participating in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in Long Beach on January 16, 2016 and encouraged the community to attend and participate; and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

City Council discussed the absence of City Attorney at the meeting.

Vice Mayor Woods announced the Signal Hill Rotary Club will also be participating in the Long Beach Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade

Council Member Noll announced he will be absent at the February 9, 2016 City Council Meeting as he will be away to celebrate his birthday.

Mayor Forester announced he will miss the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade for the first time in many years due to a trip to Florida to visit his father, commented on year 2016, congratulated and appreciated Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti for reaching out to all Los Angeles County mayors in a recent event funded by the Getty Foundation.

Terry Rogers, Signal Hill Chamber of Commerce President extended invitations to the Signal Hill Chamber President Installation and Out-Going event at The Grand on January 28, 2016, 11:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL and seconded by VICE MAYOR WOODS to adjourn tonight's meeting to the next regular meeting of the City Council on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
 VICE MAYOR WOODS
 COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL
 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

MAYOR FORESTER adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Larry Forester
Mayor

Attest:

Robert D. Copeland
City Clerk