

Gridley City Council – Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2015; 6:00 pm
Gridley City Hall, 685 Kentucky Street, Gridley, CA 95948

Approved as Submitted

“Our purpose is to continuously enhance our community’s vitality and overall quality of life. We are committed to providing high quality, cost-effective municipal services and forming productive partnerships with our residents and regional organizations. We collectively develop, share, and are guided by a clear vision, values, and meaningful objectives.”

Mayor, Frank Hall
Vice Mayor, Bruce Johnson
Council member, Jeff Draper
Council member, Owen Stiles
Council member, Ray Borges

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hall called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Council members

Present: Draper, Stiles, Borges, Johnson, Hall
Absent: None
Arriving post roll call: None

Staff present: Dean Price, Chief of Police/Interim City Administrator
Tony Galyean, City Attorney
Matt Michaelis, Finance Director
Bruce Nash, City Engineer

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Draper

C. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FORUM

The forum was opened and seeing no one present wishing to speak, the forum was closed.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Council minutes dated August 17, 2015

Motion to approve the consent calendar by Councilman Stiles, seconded by Councilman Draper

Motion passed, all in favor

E. ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

2. Approval of Resolution No. 2015-R-024: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Gridley Accepting a Report of Weed Abatement Costs and Assessing Liens on Affected Parcels for Said Costs

Matt Michaelis briefly stated that this is a routine item that is presented once a year to deal with properties that were abated by the Public Works Department. Most owners complied with the notice they received to destroy weeds and remove rubbish, refuse and dirt. Those that did not had their property abated by the City and this resolution is presented to assess the cost of such abatement.

Sean Norman of Cal FIRE gave a brief description of the notification process.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-R-024 made by Vice Mayor Johnson, seconded by Councilman Stiles

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Draper, Stiles, Borges, Johnson, Hall

Motion passed, 5-0

3. Approval of Resolution No. 2015-R-025: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Gridley Authorizing the Finance Director to enter into a future Professional Services Agreement to provide a Fee Study for Time-Based General Fund Fees

Matt Michaelis reviewed the staff report. He reminded Council that the City is operating on a projected general fund deficit and that staff is working on multiple cost saving measures to reduce the deficit, including furloughs, layoffs and reduction of operating costs. Another option mentioned at the time of budget discussions was the implementation of a comprehensive fee study which would address those General Fund department fees that do not fully capture the cost of the service provided. Many of the fees have not been increased in decades and are much lower than similar fees of surrounding municipalities. Michaelis pointed out that this poses two problems for the City: 1) the General Fund is subsidizing the services that the fees are intended to reimburse and 2) the City will not have an appropriate response should the rationale for these charges be made.

Two proposals for a fee study were collected and staff recommended Council's approval and authorization to complete a user fee study to determine if the City is capturing the full cost of services being provided.

It was pointed out that some fees hadn't been increased in 10 years or more and the General Fund is taking a hit to cover the cost of services provided. Councilman Borges stated he didn't think we could justify increases at this time, especially with the housing market drop in 2008. Councilman Draper said the fees need to be brought current so that we can continue to function as a City. Councilman Johnson stated his main concern is the cost to have the study done. Michaelis pointed out that an estimated \$15k would be captured within the first year of implementing the results of the study.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-R-025 by Councilman Draper, seconded by Councilman Stiles

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Draper, Stiles, Hall

Noes: Borges, Johnson

Motion passed, 3-2

4. Approval of Resolution No. 2015-R-026: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Gridley Authorizing the Finance Director to Write off \$17,126.92 in Delinquent Utility Accounts From May 2014 to June 2015

Matt Michaelis reviewed the staff report, highlighting the decrease in the amount to be written off due to changes made and implemented since 2008. Total write-offs as a percentage of billing has gone down from 0.7% to 0.2%, a huge accomplishment. The resolution tonight will allow the amount to be formally written off of the books in time for the audit.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-R-026 by Councilman Stiles, seconded by Councilman Draper

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Draper, Stiles, Borges, Johnson, Hall

Motion passed, 5-0

F. VERBAL DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Mayor Hall pulled item #6 to be discussed prior to #5. He expressed his condolences to the family of Yamara Elizondo.

5. Matt Michaelis, Finance Director
 - a. Department of Energy Grant – Gridley Bio Fuels Project Update

Matt Michaelis gave an update on the biofuels grant being worked by REII. The DOE has identified that the City was incorrectly awarded \$2.1 million in project activities. REII has performed over \$3.4 million in what they perceive as cost share for the project. The DOE has determined that \$1 million of that is not justified. The City now has to look for substantiation for the \$2.1 million received as well as work with REII to provide justification for the \$1 million cost share. DOE was asked if the City could get out of the grant. They said yes, but if the \$2.1 million that was spent could not be justified, then the City would have to pay that back.

This was a verbal update only, no action was taken.

6. Dean Price, Chief of Police
 - a. Discussion on Pedestrian Crossing at Fairview Drive & E. Gridley Road

Chief Price reviewed the events surrounding the accident that took place near Fairview Drive on September 4th resulting in the death of Yamara Elizondo. He stated that the incident is being investigated with the help of the CHP. He has been contacted by many concerned residents and school officials regarding the situation and what can be done to make the area safer. As a police force, they have already increased their presence in the area for greater traffic enforcement.

Electric Superintendent Daryl Dye spoke to the possibility of installing lights at the crosswalk similar to what was done near the hospital.

Councilman Stiles suggested a few things such as posting the area as a 25MPH school zone.

Many members of the public stood to speak, expressing concern over the safety of the intersection, making suggestions for improvement and sharing their memories of Yamara. Those speaking were: Rick Rubino, Megan Tupen, Kathleen Turner, Christine Menchaca, Robert Miller and Erica Padilla.

Councilman Stiles made a motion that items suggested be put in place, such as repainting, lights, etc. Motion seconded by Councilman Draper

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Draper, Stiles, Borges, Johnson, Hall

Motion passed, 5-0

7. Dean Price, Interim City Administrator
 - a. Update on Costs for Feasibility Study for locating Chamber of Commerce in City Hall

Interim Administrator Price gave Council details pertaining to a feasibility study regarding the Chamber of Commerce using office space in City Hall. He stated he approximated \$1,000 to \$1,500 in order to draft the necessary contracts etc. to get the Chamber housed in City Hall.

Kari Wheeler, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, spoke in favor of Council donating \$1,500 in lieu of arranging the working space in City Hall.

Motion to donate \$1,500 to the Chamber of Commerce made by Mayor Hall, seconded by Councilman Borges

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Draper, Borges, Johnson, Hall

Noes: Stiles

Motion passed, 4-1

G. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

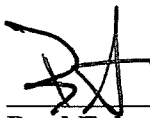
There were no committee reports

H. CLOSED SESSION

8. **Conference with Legal Counsel - Pending Litigation**
Hadley vs. City of Gridley, Butte County Case No. 159314
9. **Public Employment (GC: 54957 (b)(1))**
Position: City Administrator

Council came out of closed session with no reportable action.

I. ADJOURNMENT



Paul Eckert, City Clerk

