

ACTION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020 COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 215 E. BRANCH STREET ARROYO GRANDE, CALIFORNIA

In compliance with the State and County Shelter at Home Orders due to the coronavirus pandemic, and as allowed by the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, which allows for a deviation of teleconference rules required by the Ralph M. Brown Act, this meeting was held by teleconference.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ray Russom called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference.

2. ROLL CALL

City Council: Council Members Lan George, Jimmy Paulding, Kristen Barneich, Mayor Pro Tem Keith Storton, and Mayor Caren Ray Russom were all present via teleconference.

Staff Present: Acting City Manager Bill Robeson, Acting Deputy City Manager Whitney McDonald, City Attorney Timothy Carmel, Administrative Services Director Mike Stevens, Accounting Manager Nicole Valentine, Recreation Services Director Sheridan Bohlken, Chief of Police Beau Pryor, and Five Cities Fire Authority Fire Chief Steve Lieberman were present via teleconference. Director of Legislative and Information Services/City Clerk Kelly Wetmore and Information Technology Manager Walt Cuzick were present in the Council Chambers.

3. MOMENT OF REFLECTION

4. FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Ray Russom led the flag salute.

5. AGENDA REVIEW

5.a. Closed Session Announcements.

None.

5.b. Ordinances Read in Title Only.

Mayor Ray Russom moved, Council Member Barneich seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote that all ordinances presented at the meeting shall be read by title only and all further readings be waived.

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

6.a. Update Regarding Countywide COVID-19 Efforts.

Recommended Action: Receive update, accept public comments, discuss, and provide direction, as necessary.

Acting Deputy City Manager McDonald, provided an update on the County's current COVID-19 efforts. She reminded residents to visit www.readyslo.org for current information on the shelter at home order, and provided the general information and enforcement phone numbers. She reported

that the County is pivoting away from the START Plan and would be implementing the State's Plan (Resilience Roadmap) as the State would not allow the County to move forward with the START Plan. She reported that the County is working with the State to move into the next phase for reopening and provided a brief overview of business sectors that will be allowed to start reopening. She announced that State sponsored testing clinics are open in Grover Beach and Paso Robles.

Acting City Manager Robeson reported that the Recreation Services Department is anticipating reopening the City tennis and pickleball courts on Monday, and reviewed social distancing guidelines that would be put in place.

Staff responded to questions from Council.

Mayor Ray Russom reported that the League of California Cities is putting together a Statewide coalition to work with the League to ask the State and Federal government for fiscal relief for cities; in particular, for cities with populations under 50,000. She noted that cities under 50,000, which includes all cities in San Luis Obispo County, are not currently included in the allocation of the State's CARES Act funding for cities to help offset the unanticipated expenses related to COVID-19.

Mayor Ray Russom invited public comment. Speaking from the public via teleconference was Lori Ralls, who expressed concerns about the County's request to the Governor to reopen ahead of the State, the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, the number of visitors coming from areas where COVID-19 cases are more prevalent, businesses who are not following any protective procedures or social distancing requirements, spoke in support of the City of Pismo Beach's requiring face coverings in public buildings, and stated she hoped all South County cities would consider implementing the same measures. No further comments were received.

No action was taken on this item.

7. COMMUNITY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Mayor Ray Russom invited public comment. No public comments were received.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Ray Russom asked the Council if there were any questions or any items to be pulled from the consent agenda for further discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Storton referred to Item 8.b. (Consideration of a Side Letter of Agreement to the Arroyo Grande Police Officers' Association Memorandum of Understanding), and stated that he appreciated the AGPOA coming forward to acknowledge the City's current physical and financial situation and thanked them for extending their MOU for a one year period. Mayor Ray Russom also expressed appreciation and acknowledged that she had reached out to the POA President who responded that the Association understands that these are challenging times for the City and they wanted to do what they could to help out.

In response to questions from Council Member Paulding regarding Item 8.f. (Consideration of an Amendment to the Consultant Services Agreement with Verdin Marketing for Tourism Marketing Services), Acting City Manager clarified that the additional funding of \$1,500 is for updates to the Visit Arroyo Grande website.

Jocelyn Brennan, President/CEO, South County Chambers of Commerce, via teleconference, confirmed that improvements to the Visit Arroyo Grande website are needed to make it more user friendly, that the website is very slow, and the interest to purchase an arroyogrande.com URL. Mayor Ray Russom invited public comments on the Consent Agenda. Speaking from the public via teleconference was Julie Tacker, regarding Item 8.b. stating that the POA was very considerate to continue their current agreement for another year and noted that the Five Cities Fire Authority is not as considerate as the agreement with the Fire union is being considered on Friday which includes a 2% increase with a \$1,000 retroactive payment to all represented employees, and stated that the City Council should discuss this. No further public comments were received.

Action: Council Member Barneich moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 8.a. through 8.f., with the recommended courses of action. Mayor Pro Tem Storton seconded, and the motion passed on the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Barneich, Storton, Paulding, George, Ray Russom
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

8.a. Consideration of Cash Disbursement Ratification.

Action: Ratified the listing of cash disbursements for the period April 16, 2020 through April 30, 2020.

8.b. Consideration of a Side Letter of Agreement to the Arroyo Grande Police Officers' Association Memorandum of Understanding.

Action: Adopted a Resolution entitled: "**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE APPROVING A SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT TO THE ARROYO GRANDE POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**".

8.c. Consideration of Approval of Minutes.

Action: Approved the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of April 28, 2020 and the Special City Council Meeting of May 1, 2020, as submitted.

8.d. Adoption of a Resolution Declaring a Continued Local Emergency Related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.

Action: Adopted a Resolution entitled: "**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE DECLARING A CONTINUED LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC**".

8.e. Consideration of Cancellation of July 14, 2020 City Council Meeting.

Action: Cancelled the regularly scheduled Council meeting of July 14, 2020.

8.f. Consideration of an Amendment to the Consultant Services Agreement with Verdin Marketing for Tourism Marketing Services.

Action: Approved and authorized the Mayor to execute the Amendment to the Consultant Services Agreement with Verdin Marketing to extend the term of the agreement to June 30, 2022, and increase the agreement amount to \$166,500 per year.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

10.a. Consideration of Further Adjustments to Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget.

Administrative Services Director Stevens presented the staff report and recommended that the Council discuss and consider utilizing additional Contingency Reserves to address the projected FY 2019-20 budget shortfall. Staff responded to questions from Council.

Mayor Ray Russom invited public comments. No public comments were received.

Action: Mayor Ray Russom moved to approve utilizing additional contingency reserves to address the FY 2019-20 budget shortfall. Council Member Barneich seconded, and the motion passed on the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Ray Russom, Barneich, Paulding, George, Storton
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

11. NEW BUSINESS

None.

12. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Council Member George referred to the Five Cities Fire Authority's consideration of the MOU and requested that the Council representative on the Board keep the Council apprised of any costs over 10,000 that the City would incur due to future possible expenditures, if possible. Mayor Pro Tem Storton stated that there is a meeting on Friday and he does not have any further information at this time. Brief discussion ensued regarding Council policy as it relates to criteria and process for Council representatives seeking Council direction or input on items being considered by regional or local boards and committees. Fire Chief Lieberman briefly explained that the budget for the Five Cities Fire Authority is required to be approved unanimously by all parties, the current JPA Memorandum of Agreement (2nd Amendment) has done that for this year and next year, and that the 2% increase that is going to the Board on Friday was already approved and placed into the budget.

13. CLOSED SESSION

a) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: One potential case.

City Attorney Carmel announced the Council would adjourn to closed session to consider agenda item 13(a), Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2): One potential case involving former City Manager Jim Bergman's employment with the City.

The Council reconvened to open session at 8:57 p.m. City Attorney Carmel reported that there was no reportable action taken.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Ray Russom adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

/s/Caren Ray Russom, Mayor/Chair

ATTEST:

/s/Kelly Wetmore, City Clerk/Secretary

(Approved at CC Mtg 05-26-2020)