

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, MAY 5, 2010

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 215 EAST BRANCH STREET ARROYO GRANDE, CALIFORNIA

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Ferrara called the Special City Council meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

City Council: Council Member Chuck Fellows, Council Member Joe Costello, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Guthrie, and Mayor Tony Ferrara were present.

City Staff Present: City Manager Steven Adams, City Attorney Tim Carmel, and Director of Legislative and Information Services/City Clerk Kelly Wetmore.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Ferrara led the Flag Salute.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments were received.

5. CONSIDERATION OF A PROCESS FOR FILLING CITY COUNCIL VACANCY:

City Attorney Carmel presented the staff report and recommended the Council consider options for the procedures to use to fill the vacancy on the City Council created by the resignation of Council Member Arnold and direct staff accordingly.

Council discussion ensued, and consensus reached, to post a Notice of Vacancy as soon as possible at City Hall and on the City's website; issue a news press release; set a deadline of May 17, 2010 for accepting applications; and to add language to the application that it is optional to include letters of recommendation and/or a resume.

Further discussion ensued regarding a public forum where applicants who want to be appointed to the Council would have an opportunity to answer questions from the public; the dates, location and time for the forum; and whether the Council should approve any questions to be presented at the public forum. Council Member Costello also noted that additional questions could be asked at a follow-up Council meeting prior to making an appointment.

Council Member Fellows suggested the following questions for the public forum: "What do you consider two or three important issues facing the City that you would like to help solve?" and "Name two or three things you like about Arroyo Grande that should be protected". Mayor Pro Tem Guthrie suggested the following question: "What do you think are the three most important financial priorities for the City?". The Council concurred with the three questions to be asked at the public forum.

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Council discussed proposed dates and locations for the forum and determined that May 19th was the preferred date and May 21st was the second choice. Staff was directed to coordinate and finalize the location, date, and time. It was also determined that the Council would make the appointment at its May 25th meeting.

Mayor Ferrara suggested the possibility of individual Council interviews with the applicants following the public forum, in an informal setting, and including it in the process or leaving it up to the discretion of each Council Member. Council Member Costello suggested that due to the short timeframe, that staff just inform the applicants that Council Members may contact them individually. The Council concurred.

Mayor Pro Tem Guthrie then described a proposed ranking process or system for identifying the top two or three candidates. Following discussion, the Council agreed to use a ranking system to determine the top two candidates from which to make a nomination for appointment.

The Council further agreed that each applicant would have an opportunity to make a three minute presentation to the Council on May 25th.

In response to a question regarding the swearing-in of the appointed Council Member, City Attorney Carmel responded he believed that could take place at the same meeting; however, he would research the matter to ensure compliance with State law.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Ferrara adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m. to the next Regular City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 2010, in the City Council Chambers, 215 E. Branch Street.

/s/ Tony Ferrara, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Wetmore, City Clerk

(Approved at CC Mtg 05/25/2010)