

Minutes of the Study Session of the
LEMOORE CITY COUNCIL
November 19, 2013

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Siegel; Mayor Pro Tem Wynne; Council Members Gordon, Neal, Rodarmel; Acting City Manager/Police Chief Laws; City Attorney Avedisian; Public Works/Planning Director Wlaschin; Finance Director Silva; Parks and Recreation Director Simonson; Administrative Analyst Apone; Chief Deputy City Clerk Austin

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no comment.

DISCUSSION – Impact Fees

Analyst Apone discussed Council's support for an impact fee deferral program with a rebate for sales tax. Council provided direction in six areas: 1) length of time for deferral – 3 years; 2) maximum percentage of deferral – 25%; 3) percentage of sales tax credited – 50/50 split; 4) charging interest – interest will be charged at the LAIF rate; 5) indexing of current fees – yes; and 6) the sunset period for program – 2 years. The program will be brought back for approval at the January 7th meeting.

CLOSED SESSION PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tom Reed spoke regarding sale of the Golf Course.

ADJOURN TO LEMOORE CITY COUNCIL CLOSED SESSION:

At 6:11 p.m., the Council adjourned to closed session regarding existing litigation and real property negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:50 p.m., Council adjourned to the Regular Meeting.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
LEMOORE CITY COUNCIL
November 19, 2013

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Siegel; Mayor Pro Tem Wynne; Council Members Gordon, Neal, Rodarmel; Acting City Manager/Police Chief Laws; City Attorney Avedisian; Public Works/Planning Director Wlaschin; Finance Director Silva; Parks and Recreation Director Simonson; Chief Deputy City Clerk Austin

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Mayor Siegel announced that the sale of the Golf Course was discussed during closed session because the City has now received a formal offer. The City will request permission to disclose the terms of the offer and will discuss the item during the Study Sessions on December 3rd and 17th.

He also reiterated that Council voted 4-1 to appoint Jeff Laws as City Manager at the last meeting and that the item on the Agenda tonight is the Employment Agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dave Brown spoke regarding the e-mail sent by Mr. Siegel and presented a written statement for the record.

Syd Smyth spoke and requested written responses to three items:

1) Who authorized the expansion from the original design of the CMC Remodel Project in the CIP Budget?

Laws, Wlaschin and Simonson made the decision to amend the original plans to the CMC remodel due to HVAC duct work installation. It was determined that adding the extra square footage at that time could be done for pennies on the dollar.

2) Will Jeff Laws publicly denounce the content of the e-mail sent by Siegel? The City Attorney has directed the City to make no comments regarding the e-mail.

3) Was the City credit card used to pay for dinner on the night of the stroll for Siegel, Laws, Gordon, Simonson and the City Attorney, and was the City Attorney on the clock?

Siegel, Gordon and Laws had dinner socially. Neither Simonson nor the City Attorney was present and the City credit card was not used.

Noor Memon spoke in opposition to the appointment of Jeff Laws as City Manager.

Kathleen Hall Elias spoke in favor of the appointment of Jeff Laws as City Manager.

Sheila Taylor spoke in favor of the appointment of Jeff Laws as City Manager.

Michael Montalbano spoke in favor of the appointment of Jeff Laws as City Manager.

Dwight Young questioned Jeff Laws' qualifications as City Manager.

Glenda Dwyer spoke in favor of the appointment of Jeff Laws as City Manager.

Mayor Siegel said that the answers to Mr. Smyth's questions would be presented as part of the minutes.

Council Member Neal spoke in opposition of the appointment of Jeff Laws as City Manager. He asked what message is being sent to the community by hiring someone who did not meet the minimum qualifications for the position. He stated our community wants someone who is qualified to do the job.

Council Member Gordon spoke in favor of the appointment of Jeff Laws as City Manager because he is addressing the Council's goals of accountability, customer service and being more business friendly.

Council Member Rodarmel spoke in favor of the appointment of Jeff Laws as City Manager based on the organizational skills and personnel leadership he has shown as Acting City Manager.

Council Member Wynne spoke in favor of the appointment of Jeff Laws as City Manager. She stated he has completed seven months of on the job testing for the position and has already made a lot of changes. She looks forward to working with him.

Mayor Siegel spoke in favor of the appointment of Jeff Laws as City Manager. He believes he has removed interdepartmental boundaries and increased morale, demonstrating his ability to do the job.

Mayor Siegel announced that he will be available in Council Chambers from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Council Member Neal requested that Items E, F, and G be pulled from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration.

It was moved by Council Member Gordon, seconded by Council Member Wynne, and carried that Council approve the following Consent Calendar:

- A. Approval – Minutes – Regular Meeting – November 5, 2013
- B. Approval – Warrant Register 13-14 – November 14, 2013
- C. Approval – Street Closure – Christmas Tree Raising Ceremony – December 1, 2013
- D. Approval – Public Nuisance and Weed Abatement – Resolution 2013-28
- H. Approval – Budget Amendment – Sewer Pump Emergency Purchase

Ayes: Gordon, Wynne, Neal, Rodarmel, Siegel

- E. Approval – CNG Maintenance Area Bid Award Correction

It was moved by Council Member Gordon, seconded by Council Member Wynne, and carried that Council approve the Bid Correction for the CNG Maintenance Area.

Ayes: Gordon, Wynne, Neal, Rodarmel, Siegel

- F. Approval – Quarterly Investment Report – Quarter Ending September 30, 2013

It was moved by Council Member Rodarmel, seconded by Council Member Wynne, and carried that Council approve the Quarterly Investment Report.

Ayes: Rodarmel, Wynne, Gordon, Neal, Siegel

G. Approval – City Manager Employment Agreement

It was moved by Council Member Gordon, seconded by Council Member Wynne, and carried that Council approve the City Manger Employment Agreement.

Ayes: Gordon, Wynne, Rodarmel, Siegel

Noes: Neal

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION – Cedar Lane and Larish Street Alignments:

David Jacobs of Quad Knopf discussed the three options available for the alignments. He stated Option 3 is the best option because it will impact the least number of residences and Caltrans will not require a median as previously thought.

Council Member Gordon asked that the item be tabled to a later meeting so that property owner James Grantham could be present.

The following spoke regarding the item:

Michael Montalbano

John Ince

It was moved by Council Member Rodarmel, seconded by Council Member Wynne, and carried that Council table the item.

Ayes: Rodarmel, Wynne, Gordon, Neal, Siegel

DEPARTMENT/CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

City Manager Laws stated that leaf pick-up began November 18th. Captain Darrell Smith of the Hanford Police Department will be filling in as Acting Police Chief starting November 20th.

COUNCIL REPORTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:

Council Member Gordon stated he will be attending a meeting at NAS Lemoore on November 20th regarding their General Plan update, along with Laws, Brandt and Wlaschin. He also would like to talk to the City Attorney about closed session information being disclosed to the newspaper. He wants anyone who discloses confidential information to be held accountable.

Council Member Neal set the matter straight regarding the dinner at Reyna's and said that Mayor Siegel, City Manager Laws and Council Member Gordon were present. He also would like to differentiate himself from the Council on the situation in the media.

Council Member Rodarmel relayed a safety concern from the American Legion regarding the Veteran's Building

Council Member Wynne commented on the Holiday Stroll and was pleased with the participation.

Mayor Siegel mentioned that a proclamation was presented to the newly formed Kings Lions Club over the weekend. He reiterated his availability to the public in Council Chambers on Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

As there were no closed session items to discuss, Council did not adjourn to closed session.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:04 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

Approved the 3rd day of December, 2013.

Full digital audio recording is available.

Attest:

William M. Siegel, Jr., Mayor

Brooke Austin, Chief Deputy City Clerk