

MINUTES OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
May 25, 2010

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mayor Baker.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Yoder led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL:**
Present: Towne, Yoder, Hansen & Baker
Absent: Holvik

4. **Agenda Review & Acceptance:**

- a) Revised agenda format, including Community Business Concerns (Item #5)

Council Member Towne stated that he would like to keep all topics under item 5 on the agenda for discussion and address each of the items at tonight's meeting. It was then **moved** by Council Member Yoder and **seconded** by Council Member Hansen to accept the May 25, 2010, agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously passed.

5. **Community Business Issues and Concerns (Introduced April 27, 2010 by "The Concerned Citizens for the City of Willows")**

This is an item that was added to the agenda at the request of a group called "The Concerned Citizens for the City of Willows". At the April 27, 2010, City Council meeting, this group expressed opinions and areas of concern to the City Council relating to several topics. At that meeting the group requested that the Council address these items at a future meeting. No specific Council direction was given to staff at the April 27 meeting to place these items on a specific future City Council Agenda for discussion. Subsequently, at the May 11, 2010, meeting, this same group was in attendance and once again expressed their concerns and disappointment that their concerns were not placed on the agenda to be addressed at that meeting. Prior to that same May 11, 2010, meeting, the group submitted a letter to the City Council dated May 5, 2010, once again outlining their concerns and stating "We will be in attendance at the next meeting on May 11th. Now that you have heard from us, we look forward to hearing from you." At the meeting of May 11, Council gave clear direction to staff to modify the agenda for tonight's May, 25 meeting in order to allow the Council Members an opportunity to address the concerns of the group, which were as follows:

- Business Friendly Indicators involving City Staff
- Economic Development Outreach
- City Council Vision Statement(s)
- Status of overall Public Works Maintenance Performance
- Pass Through Accounts
- Signs: Including the Sign Ordinance, Policy & Procedures for Permitting, Code Enforcement, Off-premises Marketing allowances and Downtown Directional Signage
- Intimidation and Lack of Respect from the Dias

Council Member Towne began discussions on the above items, addressing each of the topics of concern and he then gave his "vision" for the City of Willows. Once Council Member Towne

concluded his comments, additional comments related to the above-listed topics were heard from Council Members Yoder and Hansen and Mayor Baker, as well as their individual “visions” for the City of Willows. Upon conclusion of the Council Members addressing these topics, Mayor Baker allowed members of the audience to share their comments. Comments were heard by Rick Thomas, RaeAnn Titus, Doug Ross, Forrest Sprague, Holly Myers, Karen Roberts, and Rick Reynolds.

Once all discussions concluded, the City Council directed staff to remove all of the topics from future agendas with the exception of the “City Council Vision Statements” topic (in order to allow Council Member Holvik to state his vision for the City at a future meeting) and the “Pass Through Accounts” topic. The Council also expressed that they would like to work on putting together an overall “Vision Statement” for the City of Willows to be placed on the City’s website in the near future. This was pursuant to a suggestion made earlier in the meeting by Mr. Thomas while he was making his comments.

Oral and Written Communications / Public Comment: None

6. Consent Agenda: Prior to acting on the Consent Agenda, Finance Director Tim Sailsbery pointed out that item ‘e’ on the Consent Agenda should have read “Consider budget transfer of \$6500.00 from Professional Services-Engineering (301.4120.110) in the amount of \$3000.00, Booking Fees-Police (301.4825.100) in the amount of \$3000.00, and Travel and Meetings-City Council (301.4150.020) in the amount of \$500.00 and appropriation of an additional \$3500.00 in General Fund to go toward Professional Services-City Attorney (301.4120.020)”. It was then **moved** by Council Member Hansen and **seconded** by Council Member Yoder to approve the Consent Agenda with the aforementioned amendment. The motion was unanimously passed and the following items were adopted/approved:

- a) Approval of General Check Register (21667-21705).
- b) Approval of Payroll & Direct Deposit Check Registers (30627-30651 & Z001565–Z001604).
- c) Approval of Minutes of the City Council May 3, 2010, Special Budget Meeting.
- d) Adoption of a Resolution setting the 2010/11 Solid Waste Management Parcel Tax Assessments.
- e) Approve budget transfer of \$6500.00 from Professional Services-Engineering (301.4120.110) in the amount of \$3000.00, Booking Fees-Police (301.4825.100) in the amount of \$3000.00, and Travel and Meetings-City Council (301.4150.020) in the amount of \$500.00 and appropriation of an additional \$3500.00 in General Fund to go toward Professional Services-City Attorney (301.4120.020).

7. Presentations and Proclamations: None

8. Public Hearings:

- a) Conduct a Public Hearing to provide property owners an opportunity to offer comments regarding receipt of “Notice to Abate” cards and order those properties that have not self-abated to be abated by the City Contractor.

This Public Hearing is required to be conducted annually in order to allow protests by any property owner who has received a “Notice to Abate” card in the City and to allow the Council to hear such protests and make decisions accordingly based upon the nature of the property owner’s objections. Fire Chief Peabody indicated that this year 490 weed abatement notices were sent to property owners and he has received 229 cards back indicating that the property owners intend to “self-abate” their property. He stated that he anticipates that there will be several more properties abated by the City Abatement Contractor this year due to the fact that many homes are vacant due to foreclosures. With that, Chief Peabody asked that the Mayor conduct the Public Hearing. Mayor Baker opened the Public Hearing at 8:31 p.m. and hearing no protests, subsequently closed the Public Hearing at 8:31 p.m. No formal action was required by the Council.

- b) Conduct a Public Hearing to discuss adoption of temporary sign standards in the city and consider reading by title only and passage of first reading of a new Ordinance.

During the City Council’s meeting of May 11, staff was directed to return an Ordinance creating temporary signage regulation for the City of Willows Licensed Businesses. The Ordinance being introduced to the Council tonight includes a temporary sign limit of two signs per business and incorporates the permanent “brick and mortar” structure language within the definitions section of “licensed business”. Staff also clarified business owners’ responsibilities to obtain property owner permission prior to placement of any temporary signage. With that, Staff is recommending that the Mayor conduct the public hearing to solicit public input and consider passage of first reading of the Ordinance. Mayor Baker opened the Public Hearing at 8:33 p.m., and hearing no public comments, subsequently closed the Public Hearing at 8:33 p.m. It was then **moved** by Council Member Yoder and **seconded** by Council Member Hansen to read by title only the Ordinance next in line. The motion was unanimously passed. It was then **moved** by Council Member Yoder and **seconded** by Council Member Hansen to pass first reading of an Ordinance entitled “**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOWS ADDING SECTION 18.125.240 TO THE WILLOWS MUNICIPAL CODE CREATING TEMPORARY ECONOMIC STIMULUS REGULATIONS FOR SIGNAGE FOR CITY OF WILLOWS LICENSED BUSINESSES**”. The motion was unanimously passed.

9. **Ordinances:** None.

10. **Items introduced by City Council or Administrative Staff for discussion purposes only:** None

11. **New Business:**

- a) Award of the 2010 Abatement Contractor.

Each year the City prepares specifications for a Weed Abatement Contractor and publishes notices inviting bids to determine if there is an interest in bidding for the removal of rubbish, refuse, and weeds. This year the official bid closing date was Thursday, May 13 at 1:30 p.m. Two bids were received and staff has reviewed the bids from Ronald Riisager and Dale Myers and has determined that Mr. Riisager was the lowest responsive responsible bidder. Staff is recommending that the Council award the 2010 Abatement Contract to Ronald Riisager.

Brief discussion ensued and it was **moved** by Council Member Hansen and **seconded** by Council Member Yoder to award the 2010 Abatement Contract to Ronald Riisager. The motion was unanimously passed.

- b) Potential adoption of an Ordinance to recover costs associated with the deployment of fire Department Resources during county-wide emergency incidents.

In past years during the rainy winter season when minor flooding events have occurred it has become necessary for the Fire Department to respond to stranded motorists attempting to navigate flooded roadways that were clearly marked closed. One such serious event occurred this past winter and at that time the Council directed staff to investigate what mechanisms, if any, might be available to charge motorists for the time and materials expended on unnecessary and dangerous rescue and recovery calls. Staff has reviewed possible alternatives and has recently met with representatives from Fire Recovery USA which is a consulting firm solely dedicated to administering a cost recovery program for Fire Departments nationwide. The Council has been presented with a draft proposed ordinance that was recently adopted by the City of Rocklin specifically for the recovery of costs associated with similar activities. Staff is seeking direction from the Council on their interest in possibly establishing a similar Ordinance for the City of Willows.

Discussion ensued among the Council and the Staff and the Council indicated that they really liked the Ordinance but they suggested a few minor changes to be made to the verbiage of the Ordinance before it comes back before them for possible adoption. It was the consensus of the Council for Staff to make the changes to the Ordinance and to bring modified Ordinance back for consideration of adoption preferably during the month of June. Staff agreed that they would make the necessary revisions to the Ordinance but explained that due to the public hearing notice requirements and time-frames involved, this item would likely not come back to them for consideration until the second meeting in June.

- c) Potential renewal of the 2010-2011 Contract for Services between the City of Willows and 3CORE, Inc (f.k.a. Tri-County Economic Development).

Each fiscal year the City renews their membership commitment with 3CORE (Formerly Tri-County Economic Development) and establishes a list of priority projects. Typically City Management staff reviews the priority list, and makes any necessary updates, revisions or modifications based upon Council directives and feedback throughout the preceding year. This year, due to the dismal financial forecast, City Management believed it was prudent to include the City Council in this decision. The purpose for the discussion tonight is to seek Council consensus whether to renew the annual contract commitment, and if so, for the Council to recommend the appropriate Economic Development Strategy Priority Projects for the next fiscal year.

Discussion ensued among the Council, Staff and members of the public and several ideas were discussed as potential priority projects for the City to consider. After various potential projects were discussed, it was ultimately the consensus of the Council to renew the contract with 3CORE for 2010/2011 and that their two priority projects would be to 1) Plan and begin implementation of intersection and interchange modifications at the intersections with Highway 99 and County Road 57 and I-5 Interchanges, including signage and landscaping, and 2) Implementation of infrastructure needs to be identified through the planning process to increase economic vitality in the downtown.

- d) Appoint a subcommittee to review applications and/or conduct interviews and recommend appointments to the Library Board of Directors.

As outlined in the City's Code of Ordinances, the Library Board of Trustees consists of five members who are appointed by the City Council. Members are appointed for three-year overlapping terms and serve at the pleasure of the City Council. The terms of current Board Members Catherine Hanes and Lisa Kennedy are scheduled to expire on June 30, 2010, and city staff are currently advertising the upcoming vacancies. Staff is asking for two Council Members to volunteer to sit on a subcommittee to review applications and/or conduct interviews and to make their recommendations for appointments at the June 22, 2010 Council Meeting. Council Member Towne and Mayor Baker both volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

- e) Confirm dates and times for the next Budget Meeting and a Joint Meeting of the City Council & Planning Commission.

Staff reminded Council that there is a scheduled joint meeting between the Planning Commission and the City Council at 6:15 p.m. on June 8 in order to conduct a Public Hearing and consider formally adopting the City's Updated Housing Element. Upon Conclusion of the joint meeting, the meeting will immediately adjourn to the regular City Council Meeting scheduled for June 8 at 7:00 p.m. Additionally, staff asked for Council's availability to schedule a budget meeting during the week of June 7. Due to several Staff and Council scheduling conflicts, the time and date ultimately agreed upon was Monday, June 7 at 6:00 p.m.

12. Council Member Reports:

Council Member Towne inquired about the status of the many temporary barricades/signs that have been place throughout the City by Glenn Ride. The City Manager stated that the City is currently working with the County on this issue. Council Members Yoder and Hansen, both members of the Transit and Transportation Board, stated that the Board is also addressing this issue.

13. Executive Session: None

14. Adjournment: Mayor Baker adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Dated: May 25, 2010

NATALIE BUTLER

City Clerk

The City of Willows is an Equal Opportunity Provider