

MINUTES OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
July 26, 2011

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Hansen.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Cobb led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL:**
Present: Council Members Cobb, Hobbs, Holvik & Mayor Hansen
Absent: Yoder
4. **Agenda Review:**
 - a) It was **moved** by Council Member Holvik and **seconded** by Council Member Hobbs to accept the City Council July 26, 2011, Agenda as presented. The motion unanimously passed.
5. **Presentations & Proclamations:**
 - a) Barbara LaDoucer presented Mayor Hansen and the City Council with a Citation of Appreciation on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary for the City's support, assistance and contributions they have given to the Legion Auxiliary over the past years.
 - b) Cathy Emerson, Project Manager for the Center for Economic Development, CSU, Chico, spoke to the Council explaining that a tri-county consortium (Glenn, Colusa and Lake), spearheaded by the Center for Economic Development and Corporation for Education Network Initiative in California will be submitting a grant application to expand and boost broadband use throughout the three-county region. Currently broadband availability is very low at local schools throughout the region and typically cannot be tapped in for any other use. The grant application is intended to secure funding for a three year broadband planning project. It is anticipated widespread broadband availability would foster economic development throughout the region, as well as improve services for local hospitals, government agencies and support for the local business community. The City Manager has drafted a letter in support of applying for the grant funding and is requesting that the Council authorize him to submit the letter of support and also to approve membership in the Tri-County Broadband Consortium Project.

Some members of the audience, as well as members of the Council, had a few questions for Ms. Emerson which she addressed. Upon conclusion of discussions, Council Member Holvik **moved, seconded** by Council Member Cobb, to approve membership in the Tri-County Broadband Consortium Project and to authorize the City Manager to submit a letter of support for grant funding. The motion unanimously passed.
6. **Public Comment/Written Communications:** None.

7. **Consent Agenda:**

It was **moved** by Council Member Holvik and **seconded** by Council Member Hobbs to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion unanimously passed and the following items were approved/adopted:

- a) Approval of General Check Register (23394-23430).
- b) Approval of Payroll & Direct Deposit Check Registers (Z02687-Z02725 & 31324-31351).
- c) Approval of the Minutes of the City Council Special City Council Budget Meeting held June 28, 2011.

8. **Public Hearings:**

- a) Conduct a Public Hearing to receive public input on the cost of weed abatement for the 2011 Weed Abatement season and upon conclusion, consider adoption of a Resolution confirming the costs of abatement and declaring them a special assessment:

Prior to turning this item over to Fire Chief Peabody to introduce, the Mayor indicated that the Council had received a letter on this subject from Bruce Palmgren and he read the letter into the record as follows:

“Dear Council Members, I request a ten day extension to present my objections in writing to the invoice submitted to me by the abatement administrator. It is unjust and unreasonable. I am totally disabled and cannot attend evening events. By copy of this letter, I hereby notify Mr. Skip Sykes of my request. Respectfully submitted, Bruce Palmgren.”

At this time Mayor Hansen then turned this item over to Chief Peabody for introduction. Chief Peabody stated that on April 26 the City Council adopted a Resolution declaring rubbish, refuse, and weeds to be a public nuisance and that the City Fire Department had made a survey of the areas in town that had a nuisance and notified the property owners that they must remove this nuisance or the City would perform the task and bill the property owner accordingly. In accordance with the California Administrative Code, a hearing is required prior to the adoption of the Resolution confirming cost of weed abatement and declaring those costs a lien against those properties on which work was performed. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss only the cost of the abatement.

Mayor Hansen opened the Public Hearing at 7:26 p.m. During the public hearing, Larry Bowman of 260 S. Crawford protested the abatement charges for the property located at 921 West Laurel Street, Rick Reynolds protested the abatement charges for the property located at 680 North Shasta Street and Valerie Corkill was asking for clarification of the work that was performed at 35 Donnie Lane. Barbara LaDoucer also spoke during the public hearing to ask why a property at the corner of Lassen and French Streets hadn't been given an abatement notice. With no more people requesting to speak during the public hearing, Mayor Hansen closed the Public Hearing at 8:03 p.m. Chief Peabody and Fire Captain Skip Sykes addressed all of the speakers' questions and concerns. Council discussion then ensued and after hearing the

circumstances surrounding the nature of the protests regarding the abatements that took place at 921 West Laurel Street and 680 North Shasta Street, the Council thought it would be best to waive the abatement charges for those properties and to remove them from the list.

Council Member Holvik **moved, seconded** by Council Member Cobb to adopt a Resolution confirming the costs of abatement and declaring them a special assessment with the removal of the abatement charges for 921 West Laurel Street (APN 001-231-014) and 680 North Shasta Street (APN 005-282-005). The motion unanimously passed.

9. **Ordinances:** None

10. **Items introduced by City Council or Administrative Staff for discussion purposes only:**

Council Member Holvik asked the Police Chief about the June Police Activity Report and inquired about the difference between calls for service and self-initiated activity. Chief Spears explained that self-initiated activity is when an Officer is on patrol and witnesses a crime occurring as opposed to it being a dispatched call for service.

Council Member Hobbs announced that the Citizens for Economic Stability (CES) group will be sponsoring a Brown Act Training Workshop on August 4 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Hall. All of the Council Members thanked Holly Myers, a member of CES, for inviting the Council to attend the training, however, a majority of the Council Members indicated that they already had prior obligations or commitments and would not be able to attend the training.

The City Manager stated that the next Council Meeting to be held on August 9 is close to the anniversary of his fourth year of employment with the City. In a number of previous years, the Council has conducted an evaluation of the City Manager, which is something that is referenced in his contract. If there is no objection from the Council, he stated that he would like to schedule an evaluation to take place in Closed Session on August 9 in order to commence the evaluation process. He thinks that with some of the events of the past year, it is time that the Council formally address the performance of the City Manager. Either discussion can take place during the Closed Session on how the Council wishes to conduct the evaluation, or the Council can follow the process that has been used in past years. Since his employment with the City there has only been one formal evaluation actually completed and filed with the City. There was a second evaluation that took place, but that evaluation was never officially signed or turned over to City Staff by the Council to file, so there is currently only one evaluation on record with the City. So unless there are any objections from the Council he requested that the Council at least initiate the evaluation process at the August 9 meeting. The Mayor and Council Members all agreed and staff was directed to put this item on the August 9 Agenda as a Closed Session item. Council Member Hobbs then stated that she would like to see evaluations take place throughout the City on a regular and routine basis, as she believes performance evaluations to be a very important and valuable tool for employees as well as employers. She stated that she has heard from different employees throughout the City that they hadn't had evaluations in a long time and she would like to see evaluations conducted on an annual basis.

11. **New Business:** None

12. **Council Member Reports:**

Council Member Hobbs stated that she and Council Member Yoder will be attending an EDC seminar on Thursday in Sacramento. She also stated that the CES group is also looking into developing an EDC. She stated that as part of her and Council Member Yoder continuing to research the potential formation of an EDC for the City, she has asked the City Manager to provide her with information from other Cities of similar size whether or not they have established an EDC and find out who is involved, how are they functioning, the pros and cons of an EDC, etc.

Mayor Hansen reported that he and Council Member Yoder attended the most recent Regional Transit Commission and Transportation Committee meetings, and as he has stated at previous meetings, there have been severe cut-backs to the transit services County-Wide because of budget issues. At the most recent meeting there was a recommendation and a motion and it was approved by the Committee and the Commission to negotiate with Paratransit Services to craft a revised contract under the current contract option for a two year extension.

13. **Executive Session:** None

14. **Adjournment:** Mayor Hansen adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Dated: July 26, 2011

NATALIE BUTLER

City Clerk

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