

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

**Call to Order**

Mayor Paget called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 1111 Bailey.

**Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Edward T. Paget, M.D.; Council Members Jim Lopez (arrived at 5:07 p.m.), Linda Kidd, Tony Frazier, Terry Campbell, Tom Darcy and Shawn Gudmundson (arrived at 5:25 p.m.). Also present City Manager Rick Daniels; Acting City Attorney Tory Christensen and City Clerk Dale Jones.

**Public Appearance – None**

**Meeting Recessed for Executive Session Item**

Mayor Paget recessed the meeting for the purpose of Executive Session at 5:05 p.m.

- a) Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code §54957.6 – Personnel - City Negotiator: Attorney Tom Slovak via teleconference – Employee Organization: San Bernardino Public Employees Association (SBPEA).
- b) Conference with real property negotiators pursuant to California Government Code §54956.8 – Property: Assessor Parcel Numbers 0185-047-06, 0185-057-03, 0185-061-03, 0185-062-25, 0185-065-08, 0185-066-19, 0185-101-19, 0185-102-01, 0185-156-04, 0185-157-09, 0185-158-08, 0185-158-10, 0185-158-23, 0186-091-17, 0185-067-08 & 15, 0185-067-22, 0186-092-24 & 23, 0185-085-31 and 0185-048-12 - Agency Negotiator: City Manager Rick Daniels – Negotiating Parties: Ruth and Robert Lopez, Sierra Jenna, LLC & MPH, LLC, Michael A & Rita Miranda, Warren Pletcher, Melinda S. Andrews, William G & Janet L. Lillard, 1624 Broadway Properties LLC, Naser Taeb & Nancy Long, William R. and Anne Duke, John M. Hurley, Inc., John W. Laswell, Thomas T & Emily M. Aarup, Marc Greenlee, Raydon Family Trust and Shab Elaawar Trust, Bill West Trust, Glen & Jessie Dolan, Secured Debt Investments # 26 LLC, Ali Kharazmi and Phillip Zeiler & Kevin Carhart - Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

**Meeting Reconvened**

Mayor Paget reconvened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with all persons heretofore mentioned present.

**Report Out of Executive Session by City Attorney**

Acting City Attorney Christensen reported that there was no reportable action taken.

**Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Edward T. Paget, M.D.; Council Members Jim Lopez, Linda Kidd, Tony Frazier, Terry Campbell, Tom Darcy and Shawn Gudmundson. Also present City Manager Rick Daniels; Acting City Attorney Tory Christensen and City Clerk Dale Jones.

**Invocation** Given by Vicar Janet Hurley of St John the Evangelist Church.

**Pledge of Allegiance** Led by Mayor Paget.

**Approval of Agenda**

Councilmember Kidd moved, seconded by Councilmember Gudmundson, to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Lopez, Kidd, Frazier, Campbell, Darcy and Gudmundson  
Noes: None  
Absent: None

**Conflict of Interest - None**

**Correspondence - None**

**Introductions - None**

**Public Appearance**

Vicar Janet Hurley of St John the Evangelist Church informed Council that on Saturday, 10 a.m. their church provides free lunches to the homeless in Santa Fe Park. Last Saturday their volunteers were approached by a councilmember inquiring about what they were doing. Vicar Hurley informed Council that they have been doing this for three years and was given permission to do so by the Council and was wondering if their position had changed. Councilmember Kidd informed Council that she did ask the volunteers what they were doing and was not aware that this was ongoing.

Mr. Robert Shaw thanked the El Garces Committee for a job well done, it looks great. He informed the Council that the Friends of the El Garces are working on restoring the fountain, as he believes the Council gave them permission to sell engraved bricks to raise money for such restoration back in 1994. He distributed a two page drawing of the proposed fountain. Mr. Shaw reviewed their progress and responded to Council's inquiry that the cost for a brick is \$75.00 and recently sold 45 bricks as there is a lot of interest now that the El Garces is opening.

**1) San Bernardino County Fire Department Captain Murphy gave an overview on current fire department activities**

Captain Murphy informed Council that the County is purchasing a new water tender for the city which costs \$145,000 and will be funded through grant and County funds. The County is also replacing the heavy lifting air bags for Engine 31 at no cost to the city. He also informed Council that they are currently recruiting firefighters and can get the details at SBCFire.org.

**2) San Bernardino County Sherriff Captain Ross Tarangle reviewed the 2013 Annual Report Station Statistics and Statistical Sources and Methodology as compared to 2012**

Captain Ross Tarangle reviewed the report which was included in the agenda packet informing Council that overall the crime is down in our city as a result of the hard work of the deputies that patrol Needles on a daily basis. He responded to Council's inquiry regarding the difference between aggravated and simple assault and Part 1 and Part 2 crimes.

**3) Public hearing noticed to consider all evidence and testimony for or against proposed fares for ridership on the Needles Area Transit (NAT) Jack Smith Park Seasonal Express Route effective as of May 1, 2014 has been rescheduled by staff to April 8, 2014**

**Consent Calendar**

Councilmember Frazier moved, seconded by Councilmember Darcy, to approve the consent calendar items as recommended. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Lopez, Kidd, Frazier, Campbell, Darcy and Gudmundson  
Noes: None  
Absent: None

**4) Approved the warrants register through March 25, 2014 and hospital related payments of \$75.00 to SBEMP and \$170.00 to G&S, CPA'S**

**5) Accepted the bid from Design Center in the amount of \$21,400.00 for the Flooring Trade in the El Garces Project and authorize staff to proceed with services**

6) **Approved commencement of the Proposition 218 process for the purpose of increasing sanitation rates by 4.044739% to pay for the \$45,301.00 annual amortization of the \$447,361.00 due the County of San Bernardino as directed by that certain Landfill Closure Release and Settlement Agreement entered into and executed by the City and County in August 2013**

**End of Consent Calendar**

7) **Dissolved the hospital "Watchdog" Committee**

Vice Mayor Campbell reported that there is very little left to review and Finance Director Miledi can handle it. There is approximately \$740,000 in restricted funds from the sale of the hospital; however there is still a potential liability for unemployment benefits of approximately \$180,000. He informed Council that Councilmember Kidd was able to negotiate an early out on the CPSI contract saving the city money.

Councilmember Darcy moved, seconded by Councilmember Gudmundson, to dissolve the hospital "Watchdog Committee". Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Lopez, Kidd, Frazier, Campbell, Darcy and Gudmundson  
Noes: None  
Absent: None

8) **Recommendation to the Needles Community Enhancement Corporation (NCEC) Board to dissolve the organization**

City Manager Daniels reported reviewing the formation and the role of the NCEC as the entity holding the liquor license and the loans made from the city to the NCEC. He informed Council that the new operator of the concession at the golf course currently owns the liquor license. Considerable discussion ensued that it costs the NCEC approximately \$1,000 a year to keep the nonprofit status; that the NCEC entered into a contract with Mr. Johnson to operate the concession ; the City owns the concession and should be involved with the negotiation of the contract and a Request for Proposal to operate the concession would be the best process to follow.

Councilmember Gudmundson moved, seconded by Councilmember Darcy, to direct the NCEC Board to dissolve the organization. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Lopez, Kidd, Frazier, Campbell, Darcy and Gudmundson  
Noes: None  
Absent: None

**City Attorney's Report - None**

**City Manager's Report**

City Manager Daniels informed Council that he was notified by the employees of Bashas that the store will be closing on May 9<sup>th</sup> and will be out of the building by May 18. He voiced his concern over the loss of 40 jobs and for those who will not have access to fresh food. He informed Council that the property owner, Reliable Properties, is trying to locate a replacement store in addition to the city's efforts to secure a grocery store. The city has direct contact with national grocery chains and will be attending the Retail Live trade show to promote this location and also the International Conference of Shopping Centers.

**Council Requests**

Councilmember Lopez thanked the city manager for the update.

Councilmember Lopez inquired about a Request for Proposal for the golf course concession.

Vice Mayor Campbell reminded everyone of the NDBA Market Place on April 5 and then again on May 3 which is already booked solid with vendors.

Councilmember Darcy inquired if there is a way to paint a blue "N" on the side of the city's water tank and will donate \$100 to start it off.

Councilmember Gudmundson reminded everyone of the upcoming Rodeo on April 11 and 12.

Councilmember Gudmundson informed Council that he has met with the FMITribe keeping them informed of the grocery store situation.

Mayor Paget announced that he, Vice Mayor Campbell and Councilmember Kidd will be attending the City/County Conference on March 27 and 28.

Mayor Paget announced that he will be traveling to Washington DC on March 31 representing SANBAG.

Mayor Paget declared the regular meeting of the City Council held on the 25th day of March, 2014, adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Edward T. Paget, M.D.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk Dale Jones, CMC