

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
ADJOURNED MEETING
CITY HALL, 291 N. MAIN STREET
PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA
MAY 27, 2014, 6:30 P.M.**

Called to Order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Council Member Shelton, Council Member Gurrola, Vice Mayor Ward, Mayor Hamilton

Absent: Council Member McCracken

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Greg Shelton

Invocation – a moment of silence was observed.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Edith LaVonne, spoke in opposition to subsidizing non-producing crops; inquired about the proposed interim status, application of pesticides and snake control; and spoke of the current drought.
- John Coffee, spoke of the importance of snake and rodent control and spoke in opposition to the proposed crop cultivation.
- Teri Irish, indicated that she lived at Jasmine Ranch and had not noticed a problem with rattlesnakes, and spoke in favor of approval.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. CONSIDERATION OF A MINOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR COMMERCIAL CROP CULTIVATION ON RESIDENTIALLY ZONED LAND NORTH OF PUTNAM AVENUE BETWEEN HOLCOMB AND TULSA STREETS AND A NEW WATER TRUNK FEE FOR COMMERCIAL CROP CULTIVATION

Recommendation: That the City Council:

- 1) Approve the draft ordinance establishing water trunk fees for commercial crop cultivation; and
- 2) Adopt the draft resolution approving the minor Conditional Use Permit for commercial crop cultivation subject to conditions of approval.

City Manager Lollis introduced the item, and the staff report was presented by Community Development Manager Julie Phillips.

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:46 p.m.

- Jim Winton, spoke in favor of approval and of the ordinance's effective date.
- Greg Woodard, spoke in favor of approval, the creation of jobs, revenues to the City and planting of trees.

- Edith LaVonne, expressed concern regarding the application of pesticides/chemicals within close proximity to the school.
- Barry Caplan, inquired about the status of the applicant’s investment and the role of the City to bail out private investments at risk.

The public hearing was closed at 6:58 p.m.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Council Members Shelton and Gurrola, and Vice Mayor Ward expressed concerns regarding sufficient surface water, the identification of a secondary water source, chemical application near the school, provision of water for crop cultivation during Phase 3 of the Water Conservation Plan, and future requests of a similar nature. In response to these concerns, City Manager Lollis suggested the inclusion of a condition requiring the identification of a secondary water source, to ensure that the City’s water would be used only in cases of emergency.

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Council Member Gurrola, SECONDED by Council Member Shelton that the City Council approve the draft ordinance, being AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTERVILLE ESTABLISHING A WATER TRUNK FEE FOR COMMERCIAL CROP CULTIVATION, waive further reading, and order the ordinance to print; and adopt the draft resolution approving the minor Conditional Use Permit for commercial crop cultivation subject to conditions of approval, as amended to include language indicating that a secondary water source must be identified and pursued to maintain the City source in emergency situations only.

AYES: Gurrola, Shelton, Hamilton
 NOES: Ward
 ABSTAIN: None
 ABSENT: McCracken

Documentation: Ordinance 1813; Resolution 29-2014

Disposition: Approved, as amended.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Barry Caplan, inquired about the use of a nearby water source.

OTHER MATTERS

- Council Member Gurrola and Council Member Shelton spoke of their attendance at the recent Memorial Day service.
- Vice Mayor Ward announced that he would be resuming efforts regarding the placement of memorial banners for veterans.
- Mayor Hamilton announced Sal Gurrola’s retirement.
- City Manager Lollis extended invitation from Mr. Paul Owhadi to a groundbreaking on Friday at the development site located on Henderson and Newcomb.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 7:40 p.m. to the meeting of June 3, 2014.

SEAL

Luisa M. Zavala, Deputy City Clerk

Cameron J. Hamilton, Mayor