

**ADJOURNED CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL, 291 N. MAIN STREET
PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 27, 2015, 6:00 P.M.**

Called to Order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Council Member Reyes, Council Member Ward, Council Member Gurrola, Vice Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Stowe

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Stowe
Invocation – a moment of silence was observed.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

STUDY SESSION

1. CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF 2015 PRIORITY PROJECTS AND OBJECTIVES

City Manager John Lollis introduced the item, and presented the staff report which consisted of a review of the City's anticipated capital projects work plan and Fund activities for the 2015/2016 Fiscal Year.

Mr. Lollis began his presentation by identifying major City projects of significance, which included the following:

- Former Porterville Hotel Site – City Manager Lollis reported on the upcoming preparation of the vacant site for development; and staff addressed questions regarding an environmental review, the existing basement, the wall being used by the adjacent property owner and parking.
- New Public Safety Station – It was reported that construction of the new Public Safety Station remained on schedule and within budget, with anticipated completion in the fall, and in operation by January of 2016. In addition, ISO ratings were being adjusted which would necessitate an increase in on-shift personnel. Staff addressed questions regarding current response to structure fires, and the scheduled replacement of one fire engine.
- New Animal Shelter Facility – An update of options being considered was presented; and discussion regarding the bids received, a “storefront” adoption facility in the City, and a dog park followed.
- Centennial Plaza – Sierra View Medical Center, Porterville Transit, and the Library were identified as several tenant possibilities.
- Jaye Street Bridge Rehabilitation – The project, expected to begin spring of 2016, was approximately 90% designed, and funded.

- Murry Park Extension – Council Member Ward proposed use of the house and surrounding area as the “storefront” adoption facility and dog park. The City Manager spoke of the status of the Environmental Impact Report and funding available for development of the property.
- W. North Grand Avenue Reconstruction – It was reported that the final phase of reconstruction would begin in February.
- Downtown Improvement Projects – City Manager Lollis spoke of investment efforts being made in the downtown area, reconstruction of four parking lots, pedestrian improvements, and funding sources. Mayor Stowe spoke of his interest in seeing improved planters and landscape irrigation, and staff indicated they could look into use of funds.

The Council took a ten minute recess at 7:19 p.m. Following the break, the Mayor invited questions from the Council regarding any of the current and anticipated projects identified by the departments.

Staff addressed questions from Council Member Gurrola regarding the Receivership Program for blighted properties, and improvements to Union Street (from Indiana to Jaye).

Council Member Ward inquired about Henderson Avenue Reconstruction (Jaye to Indiana), and spoke of the poor condition of Henderson Avenue from D Street to Plano; and Mayor Stowe inquired about the costs to rehabilitate City streets in need, to which staff provided an estimated of \$48M.

Public Works Director advised the Council of the need to replace 55 miles of asbestos/cement (AC) pipe that had exceeded its 30 year lifetime, 28 miles of which was over 40 years old; and recommended an increase in water user fees to fund the replacement. Council Member Ward spoke of the importance of timing underground infrastructure projects with street improvement projects, and Mr. Rodriguez agreed that was the preferred practice when funding was available. City Manager Lollis spoke of the need to review all City utility rates, and spoke specifically of sewer rates as they pertained to tertiary treatment.

Mayor Stowe requested that staff look into the installation of bicycle sensors at lit intersections; and Vice Mayor Hamilton requested that Acting Fire Chief Glenn Irish elaborate on the proposed department reorganization and reclassifications. Mr. Irish spoke of an evaluation of the current work load to include the third station and the need to increase the number on shift by six, which could be accomplished by transferring three existing employees to shift work, and funding three additional firefighters through Measure H.

Council Member Ward inquired about staff’s previous assurance that no additional personnel would be required, and a discussion followed regarding comment made by the Fire Chief at the time. Staff stated that the additional personnel was a proposal, but should Council direct they could make it work with the existing personnel.

At Vice Mayor Hamilton’s request, Parks and Leisure Services Director Moore spoke regarding projects of significance in the coming fiscal year: Murry Park Extension development, Centennial Plaza Library Services implementation, Main Library ADA restroom improvements,

OHV Park Lease, and Dog Park development. During his presentation Mr. Moore addressed questions from the Council regarding the space available for library use at Centennial Plaza and ADA requirements.

Police Captain Kroutil spoke regarding officer body camera policies, the pros, cons and costs associated with their implementation, and possible funding available. He added that while use of the cameras was not required, there were as many as twenty pieces of pending legislation regarding the use of body cameras. He then elaborated on the proposed reorganization, which consisted of decreasing the number of captains to two and increasing the number of lieutenants to three.

Vice Mayor requested clarification regarding the presentation of ordinance updates. Staff clarified that those ordinances listed would not be brought to the Council for consideration all at once.

In response to a question posted by the City Manager, the Council briefly discussed how they preferred to be kept apprised of progress made on those projects identified.


Members of the Council then identified the following as areas of interest:

- Mayor Stowe – a recreation type building that can be rented by the public for events; and improvements to downtown planters.
- Council Member Ward – the addition of two softball fields; exploring more neighborhood parks; and the installation of wires across Main Street for Christmas lights.
- Council Member Gurrola – the installation of veteran flags on Main Street; and the replacement of infrastructure.
- Council Member Reyes – the City’s infrastructure and improvement to the downtown area.

City Manager Lollis spoke of a movement in the State to change the funding formula for the distribution of gas tax funds, which could change the split from 75-25 in the City’s favor to a 50-50 split with the State; he reminded the Council that Wall of Fame nominations were due tomorrow; and thanked Ms. Jenni Byers for the successful acquisition of 8.2 miles of rail right-of-way.

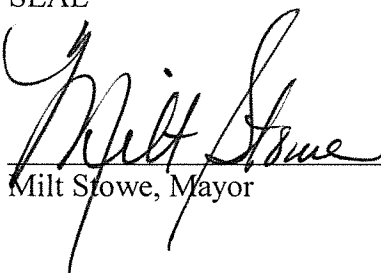
ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 8:46 p.m. to the meeting of February 3, 2015.



Luisa M. Zavala, Deputy City Clerk

SEAL



Milt Stowe, Mayor

1

2

3