

**MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Shoals called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. in the Ramona Garden Park Center, 993 Ramona Avenue, Grover Beach, California.

ROLL CALL

City Council: Council Members Karen Bright, Barbara Nicolls, Mariam Shah, Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Lee, and Mayor John Shoals were present.

City Staff: Interim City Manager James Copsey, City Attorney Martin Koczanowicz, Deputy City Clerk Channelle Hubbard, and Police Chief John Peters were also present.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor opened the floor to any member of the public for comment on any item described in this agenda. No public comments were received at this time.

BUSINESS

1. Discussion Regarding Homeless/Transient Issues in the City.

Mayor Shoals provided introductory remarks and described the informal format of the meeting to encourage public input. He read the title to the foregoing item and deferred to staff for a report. Police Chief Peters provided a brief overview of the City's current and ongoing efforts to address the concerns of Grover Beach business owners and residents regarding issues involving the homeless/transient population in the City. He noted that the Council had authorized allocating additional funds to assist the Police Department with enforcing the City's panhandling ordinance and assigning officers to the foot patrol and bicycle programs. Additionally, cameras had been installed on West Grand Avenue from Highway 1 to 13th Street resulting in a significant decrease in criminal activity. Police Chief Peters then described the City's recent partnership efforts with representatives from the County of San Luis Obispo, State Parks, and South County Sanitary Service in cleaning up the homeless encampment previously located off of North 4th Street near El Camino Real and removing approximately three tons of debris.

Mayor Shoals briefly described the City's intention to address long term solutions. He noted that the Council had recently authorized allocating Community Development Block Grant funds to provide public service and housing assistance grants, and that the 5 Cities Homeless Coalition and SLO Housing Connection were organizations that offered eviction prevention and rapid rehousing programs. He then introduced the Arroyo Grande & Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Judith Bean for comment.

Judith Bean provided a brief overview of the Arroyo Grande & Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce's active role in partnership with the City to address homeless/transient issues by being an information conduit for Grover Beach business owners.

Mayor Shoals invited comments from those in attendance at the meeting who wished to be heard on this matter.

Public comments were received from:

- (No name provided) homeless/transient man;
- Kathy Downey, Grover Beach resident;
- Stacey Downey, Grover Beach resident;
- David Smallwood, Grover Beach business owner;
- Lucas (no last name provided), Grover Beach resident;
- (No name provided), Grover Beach business owner; and
- Dee Torres, SLO Housing Connection.

Staff and Council responded to questions regarding how the City will continue efforts to address ongoing issues and concerns involving the homeless/transient population in Grover Beach.

The Council thanked all those present for attending the meeting and for providing comments and suggestions regarding the homeless/transient issues. It was noted that a follow-up meeting would be scheduled to receive further community input on this topic.

*Minutes: Special City Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 26, 2016
Page 2*

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Shoals adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

/s/ JOHN P. SHOALS, MAYOR

Attest:

/s/ CHANNELLE HUBBARD, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
(Approved at CC Mtg 04/26/2016)