

MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Shoals called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Ramona Garden Park Center, 993 Ramona Avenue, Grover Beach, California.

FLAG SALUTE The flag salute was led by Mayor Pro Tem Lee.

ROLL CALL

City Council: Council Members Debbie Peterson, Mariam Shah, Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Lee, and Mayor John Shoals were present. Council Member Barbara Nicolls was absent.

City Staff: City Manager Matthew Bronson, City Clerk Donna McMahon, Police Chief John Peters, Administrative Services Director Gayla Chapman, Community Development Director Bruce Buckingham, Public Works Director/City Engineer Greg Ray, and Parks & Recreation Program Director Kathy Petker were also present.

Also present was Fire Chief Steve Lieberman, Five Cities Fire Authority.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor opened the floor to any member of the public for comment on any items listed on this meeting agenda. No public comments were received at this time, and the Mayor closed the Public Communications segment for this portion of the meeting.

BUSINESS

1. Council Goals Workshop.

City Manager Bronson provided introductory comments and noted the workshop provided the opportunity for an interactive discussion on the status of implementing the current list of prioritized Council Goals and identifying potential changes or areas of focus for the upcoming fiscal year. He then provided an overview of the staff report, summarized funding needs for staffing, equipment, and operating costs for the 2018-19 proposed budget, and noted a funding request received from the Five Cities Fire Authority. In conclusion, he described the fiscal challenges with addressing the identified funding needs given projected baseline budget gaps over the next two budget cycles. However, the long-term fiscal horizon was anticipated to improve with projected cannabis tax revenues and potential modifications to the City's business tax certificate program and transient occupancy tax rate. At this time, staff provided brief overviews of key achievements on the Major City Goals and responded to questions from the Council.

Economic Development and Street Rehabilitation and Related Infrastructure -

Discussion ensued regarding vacation rentals, tax initiatives being considered in neighboring communities, progress achieved on street rehabilitation projects and infrastructure improvements, addressing staff resource constraints, and improving the efficient use of consultant services. Additional discussion was held on improving public communication efforts regarding City Hall contact information and available resources, and issuing periodic updates on infrastructure projects and providing more clarity on the funding sources for those improvements in addition to Measure K-14 bond proceeds.

Public Safety -

Discussion was held on equipment and staffing needs, dispatch service needs, consideration by area fire chiefs on a more regional approach to dispatching fire services, an upcoming consultant study on police and dispatch services, and the tentative schedule for further discussions regarding the Fire Authority's budget. Additional discussion was held on traffic safety, vehicle speeds on South 16th Street, bicycles on sidewalks in the downtown area, and staff resources allocated for processing background checks for cannabis use permits.

At this time, Mayor Shoals invited comments from those in the audience who wished to speak on this item.

Sharon Brown, Grover Beach resident, commented that the difference in annual traffic volume could impact the traffic citation data analysis for West Grand Avenue.

There were no further public comments received at this time.

Development Review -

Discussion was held on recent staffing changes in the Community Development Department assisting with addressing department workloads, improved response times with processing cannabis use permit applications, and the development of a more focused code compliance program. Additional discussion was held on updating General Plan elements.

Water Resources and Utilities -

Brief discussion was held on operational matters related to Lopez Lake and the Zone 3 Technical Committee.

Other Important Goals -

Brief discussion was held on achievements in traffic enforcement and traffic safety, partnering with service providers to address homelessness, park and community facility improvements, and financial management improvements with implementation of quarterly financial reports and an updated long-term financial forecast.

Recess: Upon consensus, the meeting recessed at 11:13 a.m.

Reconvene: At 11:24 a.m., the meeting reconvened with all Council Members present, except for Council Member Nicolls who was absent from this meeting.

Potential Changes to Goals and/or Key Items to Implement in 2018-19 -

City Manager Bronson noted that this was the time to provide input and direction to staff regarding changes to the current goals or direction on key items for implementing the Major City Goals.

At this time, Mayor Shoals invited comments from those in the audience who wished to speak on this item.

Sharon Brown, Grover Beach resident, spoke in support of ensuring adequate staffing levels for all City departments in order to meet public expectations regarding municipal service levels.

There were no further public comments received at this time.

Brief discussion was held on the status of the broadband fiber network, offering facility user groups wireless Internet service at the community centers, and scheduling a future Council presentation on the broadband fiber network. Discussion then ensued on refining the City Council Goals for 2018-19 and suggested text edits, due to progress achieved to date on the City Council Goals, and identifying key areas of focus for the upcoming fiscal year:

Major City Goals - revised the order of these goals to appear as follows: Public Safety, Water Resources and Utilities, Economic Development, Streets Rehabilitation and Related Infrastructure, and Development Review.

Other Important Goals - affirmed the order of the first three goals, but added "Pedestrian Safety" to the first goal to read as: "Transportation, Traffic and Pedestrian Safety"; deleted "Budget and Financial Management" from this category; and moved "Neighborhood Preservation" from "Address as Resources Permit" category to the "Other Important Goals" category.

Address as Resources Permit - affirmed this category of goals to appear as follows: Community Activities and Engagement, Public Art, and Housing Affordability.

At this time, Mayor Shoals invited comments from those in the audience who wished to speak on this item.

Sharon Brown, Grover Beach resident, inquired and received information on the status of the assessment of City facilities, which would be addressed in the Capital Improvement Program.

No further public comments were received at this time.

City Manager Bronson thanked the Council for their policy leadership in establishing a framework for preparing the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Shoals adjourned the meeting at 12:19 p.m.

/s/ JOHN P. SHOALS, MAYOR

Attest:

/s/ DONNA L. McMAHON, CITY CLERK
(Approved at CC Mtg 5/7/2018)