

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Shoals called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 154 South Eighth Street, Grover Beach, California.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

FLAG SALUTE The flag salute was led by Ashley Murphy, a 10-year-old, 6th grade student attending Grover Heights Elementary School.

ROLL CALL

City Council: Council Members Bright, Molnar, Peterson, Mayor Pro Tem Nicolls, and Mayor Shoals were present.

City Staff: City Manager Perrault, City Attorney Koczanowicz, City Clerk McMahon, Administrative Services Director Chapman, Community Development Director Buckingham, Public Works Director/City Engineer Ray, Police Chief Copsey, and Parks and Recreation Director Petker were also present.

Also present were Fire Chief Hubert and Battalion Chief Heath of the Five Cities Fire Authority.

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS City Attorney Koczanowicz read the following statement:

On Monday, April 4, 2011 after meeting in Closed Session regarding:

1. Conference with Labor Negotiators
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6.
Agency Negotiator: City Manager, City Attorney, Administrative Services Director, Assistant Administrative Services Director, Human Resources Coordinator, Police Lieutenant, Police Chief, and Fire Chief.
Employee Group: All employee groups (represented and unrepresented)

the City Council reconvened into open session and announced there were no reportable actions taken.

AGENDA REVIEW

Action: Upon unanimous consensus, the Council adopted the agenda as presented.

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR

1. **Proclamation Declaring Friday, April 29, 2011 as “Arbor Day”.**

Mayor Shoals read and presented the proclamation to Parks and Recreation Director Petker, who described the Arbor Day event to be held at Ramona Garden Park.

2. **Proclamation Declaring April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and April 30, 2011 as “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Day”.**

Mayor Shoals read and presented the proclamation to Clint Weirick, Board Member of the Sexual Assault Recovery & Prevention Center of San Luis Obispo County, who described the event to be held at Mission Plaza in San Luis Obispo.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS The Mayor opened the floor to any member of the public for comment on items of interest which were within the jurisdiction of the City Council, but were not listed on the agenda. No one responded and the Mayor closed the Public Communications segment for this portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

Prior to consideration of the Consent Agenda, in reference to Consent Agenda Item No. 6 Council Member Molnar described a previous experience with the City's Weed Abatement Program, stating that she was unaware that citizens could contact the City or the Five Cities Fire Authority with issues or concerns regarding the program.

It was m/s by Mayor Pro Tem Nicolls/Council Member Peterson to approve Consent Agenda Item Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6 as recommended. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Bright, Molnar, Peterson, Mayor Pro Tem Nicolls, and Mayor Shoals.
NOES: Council Members - None.
ABSENT: Council Members - None.
ABSTAIN: Council Members - None.

3. Treasurer's Report for the Period March 30 - April 13, 2011.

Action: Approved as submitted.

4. Minutes of the City Council Meeting of Tuesday, February 22, 2011; and Joint City Council / Improvement Agency Meeting of Tuesday, February 22, 2011.

Action: Approved the minutes as submitted.

5. Request to Destroy Records in Accordance with the Established Records Retention Schedule.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 11-28 authorizing the destruction of certain Administrative Services Department records.

Resolution No. 11-28: A Resolution of City Council of the City of Grover Beach, California, Accepting the Administrative Services Department's Recommendations for Records Destruction.

6. Resolution Declaring Weeds to be a Nuisance and Providing for Weed Abatement - An annual program to ensure that properties within the City are maintained free from weeds, rubbish, and other flammable materials.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 11-29.

Resolution No. 11-29: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Grover Beach Declaring Weeds to be a Nuisance and Providing for Weed Abatement Pursuant to Government Code Sections 39560 through 39588; Article 2 - Alternative Procedures for Weed and Rubbish Abatement.

REGULAR BUSINESS

7. Report and Recommendations Regarding Consolidation of Dispatch and Law Enforcement Services.

Mayor Shoals read the title to the foregoing item and deferred to staff for a report. For the information of those present, Police Chief Copsey briefly reviewed the Council's direction from the February 22, 2011 meeting for City staff and staff members from the Five Cities Fire Authority and City of Arroyo Grande to further review opportunities for joint dispatch of both police and fire services.

Chief Copsey provided an overview of the options, cost estimates, and potential impacts for consolidating dispatch services by: 1) contracting with the City of San Luis Obispo; 2) moving dispatch services to the City of Arroyo Grande; 3) locating dispatch services at the City of Grover Beach; or 4) consolidating fire dispatch services only at either the City of Grover Beach or the City of Arroyo Grande. He outlined initial start up costs, equipment needs, and technical issues that would need to be resolved for a consolidated dispatch

center at either Grover Beach or Arroyo Grande, as well as estimated on-going costs to operate a joint dispatch center. He noted that, although most of the identified options would negatively impact the City's General Fund, consolidating dispatch services at the City of Grover Beach would have other financial and technical challenges. He stated that, unless other options came forward that would make consolidating dispatch services financially feasible, it was recommended that dispatch services continue as they were currently being operated. He then responded to questions from the Council.

Mayor Shoals invited public comments on this matter. There was no response received and he closed the public comment period for this item.

Brief discussion was held regarding the options presented, communication issues identified during the transition period to an independent Fire Authority, and whether the Five Cities Fire Authority could solicit proposals from both cities for fire dispatch services.

Upon request, Fire Chief Hubert briefly outlined the process for dispatching emergency medical services and described some of the difficulties with coordinating the delivery of fire services from two separate dispatch centers.

Action: Upon unanimous consensus, the Council directed staff to continue dispatch services as they were currently being operated. Additionally, direction was provided for staff to: 1) continue seeking improved efficiencies for dispatching fire service calls, including identifying additional training and equipment needs; 2) continue exploring cost saving opportunities for joint dispatch services with the City of Arroyo Grande; and 3) contact the Five Cities Fire Authority to request proposals and select an agency for fire dispatch services.

Prior to discussion of Regular Business Item No. 8, Mayor Shoals declared a conflict of interest, stating that his employer was the utility company Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). He stepped down from the dais and left the Council Chambers.

At this time, Mayor Pro Tem Nicolls presided over the meeting.

8. Authorization to Submit a Letter to the Public Utilities Commission Regarding the SmartMeter Program.

Mayor Pro Tem Nicolls read the title to the foregoing item and deferred to staff for a report.

City Manager Perrault provided a brief overview of the Council's direction from the April 4, 2011 meeting for staff to prepare a draft letter to the Public Utilities Commission in support of a program to allow customers the option of having their electricity use metered without the use of SmartMeter technology and without incurring an additional charge for non-participation in the program. He noted there was a 30-day deadline to submit public comments regarding the SmartMeter option program and then responded to questions from the Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Nicolls invited comments from those in the audience who wished to be heard on this matter.

Patricia Wilmore, Local Area Manager Governmental Relations, PG&E, spoke in support of the SmartMeter program and the additional fee charged to those customers who chose to opt out of the program, rather than having that cost distributed to other rate payers. She also described a "Do Not Install" list for customers who chose not to participate at this time.

Barry Hauge, Grover Beach, expressed concerns regarding the lack of sufficient medical research regarding the biological effects from SmartMeter technology.

Tom Garino, Acting Manager Central Coast Region, PG&E, cited several reports endorsing the technology and disputing concerns that it caused negative human health impacts.

There were no further public comments received.

Brief Council discussion was held regarding the draft letter; the additional fee being perceived as a penalty; and other cities, counties, as well as the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, that have already expressed opposition to the program or raised concerns regarding equipment defects.

Action: It was m/s by Council Members Peterson/Bright to authorize staff to finalize the letter as drafted, including the optional text regarding *“the option to make an initial and informed decision early in the process prior to installation of the SmartMeter”*, and to submit it to the Public Utilities Commission. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Bright, Molnar, and Peterson.
NOES: Mayor Pro Tem Nicolls.
ABSENT: Council Members - None.
ABSTAIN: Council Members - None.
RECUSED: Mayor Shoals (due to a conflict of interest).

Additional Council discussion was held regarding outreach efforts to increase public awareness regarding the program and the “Do Not Install” list.

Mr. Garino and Ms. Wilmore described upcoming PG&E-sponsored public education events to be held in the South County area, and provided contact information for customers to speak with PG&E representatives, as well as to request being placed on the “Do Not Install” list.

At this time, Mayor Shoals returned to the dais.

Recess: Upon consensus of the City Council, the meeting recessed at 7:56 p.m.
Reconvene: At 8:01 p.m., the meeting reconvened with all Council Members present.

PULLED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

None at this time.

ORDER OF THE DAY: Upon consensus of the Council, the Order of the Day was amended to receive the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District presentation scheduled as Agenda Item No. 9.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS

9. Presentation Regarding the Operation of the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District.

City Manager Perrault introduced John Wallace, District Administrator for the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District stating that, in response to the Council’s request, Mr. Wallace would provide the Council with an overview of District operations and address recent concerns regarding plant operations.

Referencing a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Wallace provided an overview of recent personnel changes at the plant and actions taken in response to a notice of violation received from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. He reviewed actions taken in response to the significant storms that occurred in December 2010 to document the events that transpired, and then outlined projects underway to reduce system vulnerabilities and prevent future occurrences of untreated water being spilled. He also described plans to fill vacant positions, improve upon the operations and management of the plant, and announced a County-sponsored open house event to be held on Saturday, April 30, 2011 to address public concerns regarding flooding in the South County area. He then responded to questions from the Council.

Brief discussion was held regarding plant operations and the organizational structure of the Sanitation District’s Board of Directors and District staff.

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

The following individuals expressed concerns regarding plant operations:

- Jeff Pienack, Oceano resident; and
- Brad Snook, Volunteer Coordinator, Surfrider Foundation.

There were no further public comments received and the Mayor closed the public comment period for this item.

In response to the public comments, Mr. Wallace provided additional information regarding the plant.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Council Member Bright described a short-term pilot project being conducted by the Air Pollution Control District to monitor air quality and particulate matter from the Oceano Dunes, with test results scheduled to be presented this summer.
- B. Council Member Peterson inquired whether there was any interest in the City participating in an event sponsored by the San Luis Obispo County Visitor's and Conference Bureau for travel tour operators called "Taste of the Central Coast" on Friday, May 27, 2011. She noted that there would be no fee for participation, but costs would be incurred for staff time, materials, and providing tasting samples.

Mayor Shoals suggested that he and Council Member Peterson meet with City staff as the marketing subcommittee to discuss whether to participate in the event.

Council Member Peterson stated that the City was contacted by Curtis Reinhardt regarding participation in a Central Coast Train Day event; however, there was insufficient prior notification.

Mayor Shoals noted that there was a group through the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments that would be participating in the event.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS AND COMMENTS

10. Participation in the "Savor the Central Coast" Event.

City Manager Perrault briefly reviewed the City's past participation in the "Savor the Central Coast" event co-sponsored by the San Luis Obispo County Visitors and Conference Bureau and *Sunset Magazine*. Sponsorship of the historic train ride at the Santa Margarita Ranch event venue cost \$5,000 plus the development of marketing materials at approximately \$4,600, not including staff time. All costs were paid with Improvement Agency funds. The cost for sponsoring the train ride at this year's event had been raised to \$10,000. He noted that, although the marketing materials could be used for this year's event, the Improvement Agency could be eliminated before the end of the fiscal year as a result of the Governor's budget proposal. He then responded to questions from the Council.

Brief discussion was held regarding options for participating at minimum sponsorship levels.

Action: Upon consensus (Council Members Molnar and Peterson abstaining), the Council determined that the City would not participate in this year's "Savor the Central Coast" event.

ORDER OF THE DAY: At this time, the Order of the Day resumed to the agenda as posted.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Shoals reported on the meeting of the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) and additional funding amounts approved for the Grover Beach Train Station Expansion Project and the next phase of the West Grand Avenue Enhancement Project.

(Note: Council Members Bright and Peterson provided their respective Council committee reports previously in the meeting under "Council Communications".)

No other committee reports were provided at this time.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None at this time.

CLOSED SESSION

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Shoals adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

/s/ JOHN P. SHOALS, MAYOR

Attest:

/s/ DONNA L. McMAHON, CITY CLERK
(Approved at CC Mtg 06/06/2011)