

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CRESCENT CITY CULTURAL CENTER
1001 FRONT ST
CRESCENT CITY CA 95531

City of Crescent City

Monday September 19, 2005 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Burns called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Kolodner, Tynes, Scavuzzo, Enea, and Mayor Burns

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Scavuzzo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Russ Green

STAFF

THOMAS FRENCH, City Attorney; **L. DIANNE NICKERSON**, City Clerk; **JIM BARNTS**, Director of Public Works; **CAROL LEUTHOLD**, Finance Director/Treasurer; **WILL CAPLINGER**, City Planner; **SUSIE MENDEZ**, Housing Director; **DOUG PLACK**, Chief of Police

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

1. Recognition of Crescent City Police Officers for work during tsunami emergency

Police Chief Doug Plack called Officers Burke, Reno, Holt, Whisenhutt, Apperson, and Scott to the podium to commend and distribute awards to them for their work during the tsunami evacuation warning on June 14, 2005.

2. Proclamation declaring October 20, 2005 International Credit Union Day

Mayor Burns read the proclamation.

COMMUNICATIONS

Jim Snow, county resident, spoke about not giving money to the Chamber, and hiring a new City Manager.

Chris Mancini, city resident, spoke about methamphetamines, police salaries, and not enough law enforcement in the area.

Matt Methini, county resident, spoke about changing the requirement that city council members live within city limits and commented that the more intelligent people live outside city boundaries. Mr. Methini also spoke about his business, signage ordinances, painting curbs, and beautifying Crescent City.

Ted Scott, city resident, spoke about the shopping cart problem, addressing the signage problem with garage sales, and putting legal crosswalks in front of the 9th Street liquor store.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3. Approval of the regular meeting minutes of September 6, 2005**
- 4. Approval of warrant claims list for the period September 9, through September 19, 2005**
- 5. Receipt of biweekly payroll reports for the period ending September 3, paid September 9, 2005**

Council Member Tynes made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member Kolodner and so carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

REPORTS

6. Chamber of Commerce

Earl Hansen, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, deferred his report to Chris Howard, Chamber Vice President, later in the meeting.

7. Other reports relative to City of Crescent City programs, projects, and/or Council and staff travel and training reports

Doug Plack, Chief of Police, reported on receipt of a \$52,000 grant, obtained from a private foundation, for the K-9 Unit. Jim Barnts, Director of Public Works, reported on drainage work on 5th Street, boring progress for the outfall, and temporary closure of Howe Drive. Will Caplinger, City Planner, reported on bringing the landscape ordinance back to city council, and vehicular access and emergency repairs to the Preston Island access road and bluff.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. Consider Chamber of Commerce request for promotion funding and take action as necessary and appropriate

Kelly Schellong, member of the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce, read a statement separating the Chamber from comments made by Bill Stamps, Jr., speaking as a private citizen when addressing the Chamber general meeting on September 9, 2005, regarding civic leaders and the fulfillment of their duties as elected officials. Ms. Schellong then spoke about the chamber's request for funding and introduced Chris Howard, Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce, who gave a presentation to the council.

Carol Leuthold, City Finance Director/Treasurer, reported money had not been requested by the chamber to be included in the 2005/2006 City Budget. Items that were requested but not funded in the 2005/2006 budget were a \$373,000 request from the police department for additional staffing costs, and \$120,000 for street projects.

Earl Hanson, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, stated the average year-round rate for rooms is \$44.64, and the chamber believes that if this program were in place for three years, there would be an additional \$220,000 in T.O.T. revenue coming to Crescent City.

Mayor Burns opened this item to public comment and the following people spoke on the request for funding from the chamber:

Matt Methini spoke in favor.

Chris Mancini spoke against.

Debbie Methini spoke in favor.

Kathryn Murray spoke about setting priorities and asked that this item not be decided on at this meeting.

Jim Barrett spoke about developing a marketing plan that doesn't necessarily involve advertising, but improving the surrounding area.

Jesse Salisbury spoke against funding because there are too many unanswered questions in the chamber's plan and activities in the area need to be addressed.

Shirley Cook spoke in favor.

Ken Towe spoke against.

Kelly Schellong spoke in favor.

Jay Freeman spoke in favor.

Bill Stamps, Jr. spoke in favor.

Jennifer Fenswick spoke against succumbing to bullying tactics and asked that this item be tabled for a few weeks to give time to verify claims of success with this program from other counties.

Eileen Cooper performed a skit about activities for this area that are listed on the Internet.

Aaron Funk spoke in favor.

Ted Scott spoke in favor and commented on the lack of activities and the lack of signage directing tourists to various sites in the area.

Mayor Burns closed the public comment period and an extensive discussion followed among the council. Council Member Scavuzzo and City Planner Will Caplinger both commented that one aspect of economic development that needs more attention concerns increasing business efficiency, particularly in-house marketing, customer service and front-line staff training as many websites have negative comments from people who had bad experiences with customer service in hotels in Crescent City.

Council Member Kolodner made a motion to table this item until a future meeting; the motion failed due to lack of a second.

Carol Leuthold, Will Caplinger, Dave Wells and Council Member Enea were directed to meet with the county to discuss chamber funding. The subject will be addressed at a future meeting.

9. Introduce and waive the first reading of Zoning Code Amendment #ZCA 05-01, set the date for a public hearing, and take action as necessary and appropriate

Will Caplinger, City Planner, reported. Council Member Scavuzzo wanted to be sure that it was clear that people will not be denied from having vegetable gardens in their front or side yards and the definition of irrigation was included. The following people spoke:

Jim Barrett, city resident, wanted confirmation that kitchen gardens would be allowed, that food plants can be landscaping plants, and the definition of bare dirt. Will Caplinger explained that the Planning Department and the city maintain the ability to determine that something is not a nuisance, even if it fits the definition and some complaints are specious. The intent is not to allow the ground to lie fallow all year, but seasonal fallow is allowed and will be included in the landscaping ordinance.

Richard Miles, city resident, stated he was late because he had to take an antihistamine because he has a problem with asthma when neighbors don't take care of their weeds.

Ted Scott questioned the requirement to plant certain plants and trees, the Constitution, freedom of choice and citizens' rights.

Discussion followed. Council Member Enea made a motion to introduce and waive the first reading of Zoning Code Amendment #ZCA 05-01 and set the date of October 17, 2005 for a public hearing; the motion was seconded by Council Member Kolodner and so carried unanimously.

10. Consider and approve Resolution 2005 – 17, regarding declaration of intent to reimburse expenditures relating to sewer outfall line project from proceeds of indebtedness, and take action as necessary and appropriate

Carol Leuthold, Finance Director/Treasurer, reported and discussion followed.

Council Member Tynes made a motion to approve Resolution 2005 – 17 regarding declaration of intent to reimburse expenditures relating to sewer outfall line project from proceeds of indebtedness; the motion was seconded by Council Member Enea and so carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Consider and approve Resolution the new job description for the Director of Finance and take action as necessary and appropriate

Carol Leuthold, Finance Director/Treasurer, reported the job description for the Director of Finance had not been revised since she was hired 17 years ago and that she is retiring in October. Discussion followed.

Council Member Kolodner made a motion to approve the new job description for the Director of Finance as presented; the motion was seconded by Council Member Enea and so carried unanimously.

12. Consider and approve a nomination for the Police Citizen’s Advisory Committee and take action as necessary and appropriate

Doug Plack, Chief of Police, introduced Daniel Potts and recommended his appointment to the Police Citizens Advisory Committee.

Mr. Potts spoke and gave a synopsis of his background.

Council Member Enea made a motion to appoint Daniel Potts to the Police Citizens Advisory Committee; the motion was seconded by Council Member Tynes and so carried unanimously.

13. Consider and approve a temporary extension of Charter Communications Cable Franchise License Agreement, Resolution 2005 – 18, and take action as necessary and appropriate, and

14. Set public hearing for Cable TV Franchise Performance and take action as necessary and appropriate

Thomas French, City Attorney, reported on negotiations and extending the franchise until December 31, 2005. Discussion followed. The following people spoke:

Richard Miles, city resident, spoke about no new lines from the cable company, and the efficiency of Cox Cable.

Chris Mancini, city resident, stated he records council meetings on video and he and his wife show them at Addie Meedom House, The Surf, and they are available at the library.

Council Member Tynes made a motion to approve Resolution 2005 – 18, and to set a public hearing for October 17, 2007; the motion was seconded by Council Member Enea and so carried.

15. Consider and adopt a fire safe plan and take action as necessary and appropriate

Mayor Burns gave an overview of the fire safe plan and discussion followed.

Richard Miles, city resident, spoke about an area behind Safeway that belongs to Fish and Game and the need for a controlled burn because of high weed growth.

Council Member Tynes made a motion to adopt the Fire Safe Plan; the motion was seconded by Council Member Enea and so carried.

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

Reports, Concerns, Referrals

Council Member Scavuzzo asked about magnetic signs, and Council Member Enea asked about curb painting.

Mayor Burns reported he signed a proclamation that was presented at a private function and it should have read it was from Mayor Burns instead of the City Council. Mayor Burns asked Thomas French to draft a proclamation to be brought back at a future council meeting thanking Eve Endert for all her contributions to the community.

Legislative Matters

CITY MANAGER DIRECTIVES – None

CLOSED SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

L. Dianne Nickerson, City Clerk