

Special Meeting, in lieu of committee meeting, of California Borough Council, October 7, 2021, 6:30 pm

President Alfano called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE: Mr. Alfano, Mr. Bittner, Mr. Difilippo, Mr. Glab, Mrs. Gutosky, Mr. Maddiex, Mr. Mariscotti, Mayor Stetar, and JCM Caylee Winwood

ABSENT:

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA:

Mr. Agrafiotis added letter of interest from Attorney Kocevar for Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor and our second 1- year extension on County Hauling contract.

Mayor Stetar added Training for Officer Short at the end of October and another training and Guy Kuzak will be at next weeks meeting to speak to council.

Mr. Maddiex added stormwater escrow account

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MR. ALFANO

President Alfano stated council held executive sessions on Sept. 30th and prior to this meeting and both were on personnel matters.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – DR. MARTIN

Nothing to report beyond his weekly updates.

PUBLIC HOUSING – MR. MADDIEX

Mr. Maddiex stated Mike found a computer program IworQ and he will provide a package for that at our regular meeting.

Motion by Maddiex/Glab to authorize the Borough Secretary to release the Stormwater Escrow account funds in the amount of \$69,005.56 to Rose Plastics located at 525 Technology Drive duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

PUBLIC WORKS – MR. BITTNER

Mr. Bittner stated Mr. Tудay has something to ask. Mr. Tудay stated one of his crew's daughter came in contact with someone with COVID at her school and now she has to be home for so many days. He has to stay home with her because his wife is a teacher. He asked if there was any protocols in place or does he just use his sick days. He stated after three sick days you have to provide an excuse to come back. Mr. Mariscotti stated she should be in quarantine anyway and he should be also. Mr. Tудay stated she has no symptoms right now and she is getting tested in five days and wait another three days and the earliest she would go back to school is the 12th. Mr. Alfano asked if we are still on with the COVID regulations. Ms. Evans stated she believes the Governor has lifted all restrictions and protocols. Ms. Evans asked if he just wants time off without pay or does he not want to use sick time? What is he asking for. Mr. Glab asked so his

daughter is in the protocol of their school district and he is now taking care of her and he doesn't know if this would be a precedent setting thing we could just waive the requirement for him to provide a doctor's excuse but if she tests positive then he will have to be tested and have a negative result before he comes back. Mr. Alfano stated he should get tested before he comes back to work. Mr. Tудay stated he's been off the last two days.

Motion by Glab/Maddiex on a non- precedent setting basis to not require a doctor's excuse provided that the daughter tests negative and if she tests positive then he is required to have a test done prior to returning to work and he can use his accumulated sick time and if protocols are again instituted then we give him back his sick days duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

PUBLIC SAFETY – MR. DIFILIPPO

HIRE SRW STRATEGIES LLC – ACT 57 BACKGROUND CHECKS

Motion by Difilippo/Maddiex to hire SRW Strategies LLC for Act 57 background checks at a cost of \$850.00 plus mileage and travel time duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

HIRE INTERIM POLICE CHIEF/FULLTIME OFFICER

Not addressed

Mr. Difilippo stated he understands our police department did a good job on the problem we had on the corner over there.

PUBLIC HEALTH – MR. MARISCOTTI

Nothing to report

FINANCE – MRS. GUTOSKY

Mrs. Gutosky stated we need to set some dates for budget meetings and get them advertised and asked if there are any days that do not work for council. Dr. Martin stated Wednesday's are out for him. Mr. Bittner can't do third Mondays of the month. She stated it only took us four meetings last year and Mr. Alfano stated we are under a different circumstance this year with the negotiations on the police contract. Mr. Glab asked if we could do it in the daytime instead of evenings. She asked if that works and everyone stated that works for them. Mr. Difilippo stated he is free from 9:30 till 1:30. Mr. Maddiex stated he prefers to have them in the evenings. Council decided to advertise the budget meetings on Oct. 18th, 20th, 25th, and 27th and Nov. 3rd and 10th from 10 to 12 and any cancellations will be posted on the doors.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – MR. GLAB

Nothing to report

MAYOR'S REPORT – DR. STETAR
POLICE TRAINING

Mayor Stetar stated Chief Kirsch was sending officer Short to training at the end of this month but it was never approved. He stated the training is at no cost to the borough other than his wages. He stated for all weapons we purchased for borough someone needs to be certified as the armorer. Mayor stated it is a joint thing between RESA and California Borough and RESA is paying for the hotel & travel we just have to pay him his wages. It is three days.

Motion to approve Difilippo/Maddiex to approve training for Officer Short at the end of October to be certified as an armorer duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mayor stated that the other one is already on the agenda for police training on the 14th and 15th of December in Indiana and it's for the other guys. We don't know which officer will be going and the cost is \$450.00. He stated we'll wait for that one until next week. He stated the other one is an armorer for the tasers. This one will be Officer Short at a cost of \$375.00 for a voucher and can be done at any time. It is an online training. Ms. Evans asked what that is for? Mayor Stetar stated taser armory training. Motion by Difilippo/Maddiex to. Ms. Evans stated Mike is already certifying them. Mayor stated he thinks maybe it's different because of these new types of taser. Ms. Evans stated he just certified 4 officers on these new ones on Monday, unless this is something different. Ms. Evans stated just so everyone is aware when an officer goes to training not just the cost of the training but the officers wages also go into that budget line item. Dr. Martin stated which is we are already overdrawn on this line item already. Mr. Difilippo stated why don't we hold off to see if we actually need this training and if so bring it back next week. Mr. Difilippo and Mr. Maddiex rescinded their motion.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – MR. EBY

Nothing to report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Agrafiotis asked if council is interested in hiring Frank Kocevar to be the zoning hearing board solicitor. If so his hourly rate is \$85.00.

Motion by Maddiex/Mariscotti to hire Frank Kocevar as the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor at \$85.00 per hour duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

2ND 1 YEAR EXTENSION FOR GARBAGE CONTRACT

Mr. Agrafiotis stated he brought with him the 2nd extension agreement for our current municipal waste, leaf waste, and recycling contract. The rates will be the same as they are in 2021 and 2020 and this is the last permissible extension so next year we will have to bid out the contract. He stated it is signed by County Hauling.

Motion by Difilippo/Glab to extend the garbage hauling contract for its last year and authorize Council President to sign the extension duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business at this time.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS:

No citizens wished to be recognized

ADJOURNED:

Motion by Maddiex/Bittner to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 carried with all members present stating aye.