



MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2012, 6:00 P. M.
SAN DIMAS COUNCIL CHAMBERS
245 E. BONITA AVENUE

PRESENT:

Mayor Curtis W. Morris
Mayor Pro Tem Emmett G. Badar
Councilmember Denis Bertone
Councilmember John Ebiner
Councilmember Jeff Templeman

City Manager Blaine Michaelis
City Attorney Ken Brown
Assistant City Manager for Community Development Larry Stevens
Assistant City Manager Ken Duran
Director of Public Works Krishna Patel
Director of Parks and Recreation Theresa Bruns

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Morris called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Members of the Audience

There were not comments.

3. STUDY SESSION - City Council discussion and direction regarding the city's membership and participation in the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

Mr. Michaelis reported that the study session is an opportunity for the City Council to have an informal review of issues before the COG. He reviewed his staff report and the memorandum of from Mr. Delach, Interim Executive Director of the COG. He also distributed a letter addressed to the City Council regarding COG matters from Kelly Aviles that was received today. Mr. Michaelis also summarized the staff report recommendation. He added that staff considers the COG to be an effective and important organization but recognizes that there are current issues that make the organization problematic. He added that the current year's dues in the amount of \$15,050 have not yet been paid.

Mr. Michaelis also provided an update, informing the Council that the COG Board is scheduled to meet this Thursday to review recommendations from a sub-committee regarding the governance structure of the organization. He reviewed some of the recommendations in the Board report.

Councilman Badar reported that he did speak with COG Interim Executive Director Delach about this topic. He added that he has concerns that it appears that questions about the COG governance have been going on for a long time and the Executive Board has not addressed them. There was discussion on the composition of the COG Executive Board.

Councilman Ebner commented that it seems that the COG Board may be attempting to address concerns; however the question is that good enough at this time.

Mayor Morris commented that he is concerned that if Mr. Conway is acquitted of current charges will the Board have him back. He added that he does not think that would be a good idea.

Councilman Templeman asked staff for more information on what direct benefit San Dimas has had from COG membership lately. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Michaelis provided information on recent projects and programs that the COG has initiated and their benefit to San Dimas.

In response to a question Councilman Bertone stated that he attends three to five COG related meetings a month. He added that he receives a \$50 per month stipend for Board meetings. He further added that he receives a \$73 per month stipend for Rivers Mountains and Conservancy meetings. In response to a question to City Attorney Brown on whether or not Councilman Bertone had a conflict of interest in voting on an action regarding the COG, he responded that he did not feel Councilman Bertone has a material financial interest that would create a conflict under the conflict of interest codes.

Councilman Templeman expressed concern that he doesn't want the City to be penalized by losing transportation money if they are not a COG member. Mr. Stevens responded that the COG may have some influence in the distribution of Measure R money for regional projects but that should not affect San Dimas directly.

There was further discussion on the potential ramifications of the City withholding dues payment or not being a member of the COG.

Councilman Bertone expressed support for staff's recommendation of the City suspending dues payments but would add that the City Council reconsider that decision sooner than December if there are sufficient changes to the governance structure.

There was further discussion on the prior Caltrans audits of the COG, the paid leave status of the COG Executive Director and the recommendations to the COG Board. The Council also had further discussion on the best action to take to send a message to encourage change to the governance concerns.

Councilman Badar made a motion to support staffs recommendation to suspend dues payment to the COG with an explanation that San Dimas sees the need for the COG governance and operational structure to change to address the current issues, recommend that the Board refer the recommendations for change to the City Manager TAC within 30 days and the City review its position not later than December.

Councilman Ebner stated that he is opposed to the motion because it is not sending the best message. He added that he feels that they have begun to address the concerns and feels that making a partial or payment and withholding the balance would be better.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Templeman and passed on a vote of 4-1 with Councilman Ebner voting no.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.