



MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday July 8, 2014 5:30 p.m.
SAN DIMAS COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CONFERENCE ROOM
245 E. BONITA AVENUE

PRESENT:

Mayor Curtis W. Morris
Mayor Pro Tem Ebner
Councilmember Emmett Badar
Councilmember Denis Bertone
Councilmember Jeff Templeman

City Manager Blaine Michaelis
Assistant City Manager Ken Duran
Assistant City Attorney Mark Steres
Assistant City Manager for Community Development Larry Stevens
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 5:30 p.m.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Morris commented that the public will be welcome to speak during the topic discussions.

3. Review of case study to relocate outside eating areas to boardwalks adjacent to building-preliminary cost evaluation. ABC regs, ADA issues, "boardwalk" impacts, etc.

Discussion of assistance program for lighting and/or outside eating area and/or façade changes (on south side – awnings, gooseneck sign lighting, etc.)

Preliminary discussion of request for façade assistance for tenant space in Johnstone Block (former beauty supply business)

Mr. Stevens provided a recap of the actions taken from the last study session regarding downtown issues. He reported that staff is working on setting up a demo of different styles of tree lighting. He added that he is scheduling a meeting with Mr. Meyers to discuss the building lighting proposal and would only bring the item back to the council if there is a request for city assistance. He added that the discussion on changes in zoning regarding non-retail use resulted in no direction from the council to initiate changes.

Mr. Stevens reviewed his staff report and preliminary design regarding revised outside eating locations in the downtown using Pozzeto's as an example. He explained what was included in the preliminary cost estimate. In response to a question Mr. Stevens responded that under existing guidelines the owner would be responsible for the cost of the improvements but added that in discussions with the owner it may be difficult for him to afford the improvements.

Mayor Morris asked Mr. Stevens for his thoughts on what might be done to restore the Johnstone store front. Mr. Stevens responded that he spoke to architect John Sorcinelli and he feels that bringing the store front of the beauty supply store to match the two other store fronts would be an improvement. Mr. Stevens also explained the details of the previous façade improvement loan program.

Councilman Templeman expressed that he is in favor of some type of financial assistance program from the City for businesses on the south side of Bonita.

Councilman Ebner asked if a fence around the seating area was necessary. Mr. Stevens responded that he believes that ABC requires a fence around the area in order to serve alcohol.

Mr. Stevens explained the need for some type of covering over the wooden boardwalk to create a more even surface and protect the wood. Councilman Ebner commented that though he is not in favor of a piecemeal approach the wooden boardwalk could be replaced with concrete in this section. Mayor Morris responded that since this is an experiment he doesn't see the need for the expense of taking the boardwalk out.

Mr. Stevens described the landscape area adjacent to the curb that is proposed in the preliminary design. There was discussion on the landscape area.

Councilman Bertone stated that he is in favor of the changes to the outside dining area but concerned with who pays for it. Councilman Ebner commented that as long as the changes are good for the overall streetscape then he feels that the city is justified in providing financial assistance. Councilman Templeman commented that the city provided a financial assistance program for the businesses on the north side of Bonita and feels a similar program should be offered to the businesses on the south.

Cindy Williams commented that the difference is that on the south side the city is dealing with mostly tenants and not owners. Mr. Stevens responded that the tenants would have to work with their building owners to participate in an assistance program.

Mr. Stevens suggested that if the Council is interested in further consideration of a financial assistance program for façade or outside eating improvements that staff should hold a neighborhood meeting to determine the level of interest and define a program to be brought back to the Council for review. He also suggested that the program should be open to businesses on the north side up to Cataract. In response to a question he commented that staff could bring back a report within 30 days.

Mayor Morris asked for public comment.

Jack, owner of Pozzeto's, commented that ABC is happier if outside dining tables are adjacent to the building and requires a fence around the area.

Pat Meyers commented that the City should continue working with the property owners and the tenants.

Leanne, future tenant in the Johnstone Building, commented that the City needs to consider focusing on future growth of the Bonita corridor.

Mayor Morris commented that it appears the consensus of the Council is for staff to meet with property owners and businesses to determine interest and prepare a financial assistance program and bring back to the Council for consideration.

Leanne commented that she would like financial assistance with store front improvements. Mayor Morris responded that that would be considered as a part of the program that is being considered.

Mr. Michaelis reminded the Council that the original idea for the façade assistance program was to be funded by the Redevelopment Agency and when the Agency was dissolved the Council decided to continue to go forward with the program using General Funds and that any new program would be using General Funds.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. to the regular City Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken Duran, City Clerk