



MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2005, 7:00 P. M.
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
245 E. BONITA AVE.

CITY COUNCIL:

Mayor Curtis W. Morris
Mayor Pro Tem Denis Bertone
Councilmember John Ebner
Councilmember Sandy McHenry
Councilmember Jeff Templeman

City Manager Michaelis
City Clerk Rios
City Attorney Brown
Assistant City Manager Duran
Community Development Director Stevens
Public Works Director Patel
Parks and Recreation Director Bruns

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Morris called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

STUDY SESSION

- a. Bonita Avenue Corridor Committee. (Continued from January 25, 2005)

Public Works Director Patel reported that on January 25, 2005, the City Council had directed staff to identify the effects of shutting down Exchange Place. He said the timeline to close down Exchange Place could be one year or more as they go through the process. His plan included extending the curbs onto the street to narrow the street, reduce crosswalks from three to one, and to install planters.

Councilmember Templeman suggested staff have discussions with Southern California Water Company, whom he heard was opposed to the idea of closing Exchange Place.

Ron Kranzer agreed that one crosswalk was a good idea and thought bow outs were the way to bring the intersections together. He felt large planters could be used on a temporary basis. He mentioned that the intersection needed better lighting to enable drivers to better see pedestrians at the crosswalk.

Community Development Director Stevens suggested it would be helpful to know the timeline in order to decide on interim versus longer, permanent improvements.

Wally Nikowitz expressed frustration with the delay and suggested relocating the Bank of America in order to free up parking spaces.

Staff will prepare a conceptual plan for Council review in the near future.

Bill Emerson reported on the unattractive landscaping and poor lighting on the 100 block of Bonita Avenue. He expressed concern with standing water attracting mosquitoes in warmer weather, due to tree roots raising the sidewalk and interrupting the water flow.

Mayor Pro Tem Ebner suggested looking at sidewalks as part of the comprehensive plan, and re-evaluating trees. He suggested hiring a consultant to prepare a Master Tree Plan.

Councilmembers discussed several issues with existing landscaping and agreed staff should look at all landscaping to see if a change is warranted.

Paul Rippens, Historical Society, as a way to make the downtown more interesting to guests, discussed putting some posts to hang photographs showing what the downtown area looked like in 1918 - 1920.

Councilmember McHenry thought the idea had merit and suggested using some attractive mounting structure on the buildings, instead of posts.

Pat Meyers, QIP, requested hiring a consultant to put together a prototype of a landmark sign. He said there is nothing to let people know where the downtown is located.

After further discussion on signage, Director Stevens said it would be best to look at a comprehensive sign program over the long term. He indicated it would not be difficult to come up with a monument or similar entry or directional sign to the downtown.

City Council authorized staff to move forward with a steel sign design. Director Stevens said staff would come up with a design and take it to the Committee within 60 days. He added that there is money in the budget to hire a landscape architect/designer to generate activity, interest, and move into some kind of consensus of the downtown merchants.

In response to Council, Director Stevens stated that some inappropriate uses in the downtown should be re-examined to provide incentive for uses that make the downtown more viable.

Alline Kranzer asked when renovation would be completed on the Mansion. She indicated the Walker House is a treasure within walking distance of the local merchants and could be used for conferences. She suggested using banners from the freeway to the post office to lead people to the downtown.

b. Continuation of Pre-Budget Study Session

Planning Department

Community Development Director Stevens listed the department's anticipated activity for 2005-06; projects to be prioritized and completed; and projects to track for future consideration. He listed projects in need of Council direction and requested the addition of two positions to facilitate improved services in code enforcement and planning, contingent upon consideration of available office space.

In response to Councilmember Bertone, City Manager Michaelis indicated that general fund reserves will be used to acquire property needed for the Costco project. If the property is sold to Costco, money would be available for other projects. He mentioned that funds are also needed for the Walker House. He listed

other projects that take priority over the Canyon Center. He said an appraisal on the Canyon Center will take time and the Council need to make some conceptual decision on what they want to go at the site.

Mayor Pro Tem Ebiner said it is crucial to address mass and bulk standards for the downtown area.

Director Stevens said there are ways to manipulate the guidelines to make it closer to impossible to approve without having more standards.

Sheriff's dept.

Captain Curtis provided an overview of the law enforcement budget and said service will be maintained at current levels. He reported on the progress of the Sheriff's Station.

Councilmember McHenry said motor deputies have been reduced from two to one and suggested funding additional money to bring a trained deputy for use as an investigator.

Councilmember Templeman suggested cross-training a second School Resource Deputy.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 p. m.

Mayor of the City of San Dimas

ATTEST:

City Clerk