

**Minutes
Santee City Council
Council Chamber – Building 2
10601 Magnolia Avenue
Santee, California
August 26, 2020**

This Regular Meeting of the Santee City Council was called to order by Mayor John W. Minto at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor John W. Minto, Vice Mayor Laura Koval and Council Members Ronn Hall, Stephen Houlahan and Rob McNelis – 5.

Officers present: City Manager Marlene Best, City Attorney Shawn Hagerty, and City Clerk Annette Ortiz.

INVOCATION was given by Pastor Gary Lawton – Calvary Chapel of Santee.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Mayor Minto.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- (1) **Approval of Reading by Title Only and Waiver of Reading in Full of Ordinances and Resolutions on the Agenda. (City Clerk – Ortiz)**
- (2) **Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Santee City Council for the August 12, 2020, Regular Meeting. (City Clerk – Ortiz)**
- (3) **Approval of Payment of Demands as Presented. (Finance – McDermott)**
- (4) **Approval of the Expenditure of \$156,208.02 for July 2020 Legal Services and Related Costs. (Finance – McDermott)**
- (5) **Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of One New X Series EKG Monitor/Defibrillator, One New AutoPulse Automated CPR Board and Related Equipment and Supplies from Zoll Medical Corporation for an Amount Not to Exceed \$51,433.40. (Fire – Garlow)
(Reso 100-2020)**

ACTION: Vice Mayor Koval moved approval of the Consent Calendar.

Council Member Hall seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye; Vice Mayor Koval: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Aye; Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes: 5. Noes: 0.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT (15 minutes):

- (A) Karen Schroeder requested the City recirculate the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Fanita Ranch Development with the exclusion of the Magnolia Avenue extension.
- (B) Dan Bickford thanked City staff and Sheriff's department for their continued work; he stated he was happy to see the Fanita Ranch hearing delayed to allow the improvements to Highway 52 to be completed quicker.
- (C) Janet Garvin spoke regarding the proposed Fanita Ranch development changes to exclude the extension of Magnolia Avenue due to the possible conflict of interest; she requested the revised Draft Environmental Impact Report be recirculated; she requested more action related to racism in the community.
- (D) Michele Perchez commented on the conduct of Council Members; she expressed concerns that citizens voices are not being heard.
- (E) Elizabeth Walk commented on the changes to the proposed Fanita Ranch development to exclude the extension of Magnolia Avenue; she requested the revised Draft Environmental Impact Report be recirculated for public review and comment.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- (6) **Continued Public Hearing Considering a Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) Between the City of Santee and Excel Acquisitions, LLC, for Development of Real Property Known as Parcel 4 of Parcel Map 18857 Located in Trolley Square. (City Manager – Best)**

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:48 p.m. The City Manager presented the Item and responded to questions.

PUBLIC SPEAKER:

- Mary Hyder

ACTION: Council Member McNelis moved approval of staff recommendation.

Council Member Hall seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye; Vice Mayor Koval: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Aye; Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes: 5. Noes: 0.

The Public Hearing was continued at 6:53 p.m. to November 18, 2020.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT: (Continued)

- (A) Mary Hyder expressed concerns with comments made by Council regarding other government agencies such as the State of California and San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG); she also expressed concerns related to traffic and the proposed Fanita Ranch development.
- (B) Josh Schroeder stated he supports the proposed Fanita Ranch development; he commented on the parks, trails and open space in the proposed plan; he also stated he supports adding funds to Highway 52 improvements in place of the Magnolia Avenue extension.
- (C) Alan Jones expressed his support for the proposed Fanita Ranch development and urged Council to vote in favor of the project.
- (D) Lynda Marrokal spoke in favor of the open space in the proposed Fanita Ranch development; she expressed support for allowing the entire Council the ability to vote on the project; she urged Council to vote in favor of the project.
- (E) Justin Schlaefli spoke in favor of the proposed Fanita Ranch development and the issues related to traffic on Highway 52 being addressed.
- (F) Justin Barrett spoke in favor of HomeFed's proposed Highway 52 improvements related to the proposed Fanita Ranch development.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

Vice Mayor Koval reported that she recused herself from a vote at the East County Economic Development Council meeting, where the board heard arguments in favor and against Measure N on the November ballot; the board voted unanimously to not support Measure N.

Mayor Minto commented on a letter written by County of San Diego Board of Supervisors Jim Desmond and Kristin Gaspar; he stated there have been meetings with North County Mayors regarding COVID-19 and what can be done to allow businesses to reopen; he mentioned that he would like to have more autonomy to make decisions based on what is good for the community;; he elaborated on his conversations with the City Manager about collaborating with other East County cities to write a similar letter to the Governor.

Vice Mayor Koval expressed concerns with how community outbreaks are determined and how the definition varies across the state; she urged the County Health Officer to update how the trigger is determined, she stated the trigger determines the duration of the lockdown; she clarified that the County is still required to obtain the Governor's permission to open up certain businesses like hair salons; she expressed support for signing the letter.

The City Manager stated the North County cities have signed on and if the Council supports the direction, staff would draft a similar letter and circulate it to other cities in the County; she stated the letter would request the Governor consider a new paradigm

for locking down businesses.

Council Member McNelis requested that some of the verbiage of the letter focus on ways to help businesses open and not just reasons to shut them down; he stated the City doing what it can to help businesses could be the difference in that business surviving or shutting down forever; he mentioned the City does not have the ability to take care of all of the needs for every single business; he expressed support for sending the letter.

Mayor Minto stated the focus should be on businesses violating the rules, while allowing those adhering to the requirements to conduct business.

Council Member Houlahan stated the City needs to focus on how to open up safely; he expressed concerns with the increase in COVID-19 cases from opening up too quickly the previous time the County opened up; he mentioned parents not being able to go to work as a result of not having kids in school is a hardship; he suggested the importance of a tailored approach with a letter that addresses those aspects for businesses in certain industries; he expressed concerns with a blanket approach to opening everything; he concurs with Vice Mayor Koval that the definition of a community outbreak could be fine-tuned, but does not want to question the science; he expressed support for proceeding with caution.

Mayor Minto concurred with Council Member Houlahan in following the science and stated the letter would be tailored to our community's needs.

Council Member Hall stated he would like to see all 18 cities in San Diego County sign the letter and support opening up; he expressed support for the statements made by Council Members Houlahan and McNelis; he also requested the ability to read the letter before it is sent.

Mayor Minto stated the City has resources and staff to help guide the opening processes.

Vice Mayor Koval stated she does not question the science of COVID-19, but does question the data; she stated most big outbreaks happen at backyard parties and not at businesses.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

None.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

None.

CLOSED SESSION:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Date Approved: September 9, 2020



Annette Ortiz, CMC, City Clerk