

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of October 22, 2013

Present: Coleman, Dahlgren, Kroot, McInerney

Absent: Greene

7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCE ACTION TAKEN, IF ANY, IN CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Coleman announced there was no closed session.

OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Woody Weingarten, Quality of Life, Chairman, presented the Quality of Life Green Award to Alex Godbe for founding the Hungry Owl Project that has rescued, fostered and cared for up to 800 owls.

COUNCIL REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Kroot reported on the recent meeting of the Economic Development Committee. Kroot said a legislative subcommittee is researching ways on how the Town's permit process and planning/building process can work better for San Anselmo merchants.

1. CONSENT AGENDA: ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA MAY BE REMOVED AND DISCUSSED SEPARATELY. DISCUSSION MAY TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF THE AGENDA. OTHERWISE, ALL ITEMS MAY BE APPROVED WITH ONE ACTION.

(a) Approve minutes of October 8, 2013.

(b) Approve Special Event Application for Holiday Lighting ceremony to be held in Imagination Park from 5-6:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 7, closing Magnolia Avenue from San Anselmo Avenue to Library Place from 4-8 p.m. and blocking off four parking spaces on San Anselmo Avenue in front of the park.

(c) Approve Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report for the quarter ending September 30, 2013.

There was no comment from the public on the consent agenda.

M/s, McInerney/Kroot, to approve item (a) of the consent agenda. AYES: Coleman, Kroot, McInerney. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Dahlgren. ABSENT: Greene.

M/s, McInerney/Kroot, to approve the consent agenda items (b) and (c). AYES: Coleman, Dahlgren, Kroot, McInerney. NOES: None. ABSENT: Greene.

2. APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION (2 SEATS).

Kroot believes Item 2 on the agenda is an important decision and suggests waiting until a full Council is present to vote on the appointments to the Planning Commission.

M/s, Kroot/Coleman to move Item 2 of the agenda to the next Council meeting. AYES: Coleman, Dahlgren, Kroot. NOES: McInerney. ABSENT: Greene.

3. APPROVE GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MARIN AND THE TOWN FOR DISBURSEMENT OF THE TOWN'S SHARE OF THE MARIN PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX APPROVED BY MARIN COUNTY VOTERS ON NOVEMBER 6, 2012.

Director of Community Services, Dave Donery, presented the staff report. Donery stated the Measure A expenditure plan allocated 15% of the revenues from the sales tax increment to the City, Town and Special District Program "to assist Marin's municipalities and special districts in managing their parks, open space preserves, recreation programs, and vegetation to promote biodiversity and reduce wildfire risk". San Anselmo will receive 6.645% of the City and Town portion of the proceeds. The Town will receive the initial disbursement in early January 2014 for a period covering April 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013. The estimated amount San Anselmo will receive for this period is \$35,897.

The County requires that a Work Plan be developed defining the planned usage of the Measure A funding by each entity receiving funding. The Town's first Work Plan is due December 16, 2013. A few options that Council may consider for the use of the initial disbursement of Measure A funding are: allocate funds towards the purchase of the Sky Ranch property; allocate funds towards maintenance and repair of parks with projects to be recommended by staff; reserve Measure A funding for use on a larger project by accumulating multiple disbursements.

McInerney asked what the purchase of Sky Ranch would entail. He also asked if it is possible to accumulate the funds annually.

Stutsman said the purchase of Skye Ranch is at the preliminary stage. There is an agreement with the County to negotiate with the Skye Ranch property owner.

Donery acknowledged the possibility of accumulating the funds for a large project.

McInerney asked if there are recommended projects at this time for the use of the funds.

Donery said the Parks and Recreation Commission did a short study on the needs of the various Town parks and the possibilities for utilizing the current funds. The Commission came up with some small needs and they found the biggest need was for restrooms at Robson Harrington.

Public Comment

Jonathan Braun, Scenic Avenue, said if Council chose to set funds aside for the purchase of Skye Ranch it would help show support to the County that the Town is interested in purchasing the property. It would send a good signal to the County and help move the purchase forward.

McInerney would like to hear input from the Parks & Recreation Commission. He does not see a down side to waiting and banking the money.

Kroot would like to see the Town purchase Skye Ranch. He suggests banking the money and earmarking it in the direction for the Town to purchase Skye Ranch.

Dahlgren senses funds of this nature are not quite enough to support anything in this area. She would like to bank the money and earmark it for the purchase of Skye Ranch.

Coleman suggests banking the money for the time being.

Donery said the Town needs to submit a work plan to the County and that holding over of the money would need to be accompanied by a project. Donery said the Town could also delay submitting the work plan to the County.

Kroot questioned if the Town were to earmark the money for the purchase of Skye Ranch and then someone other than the Town purchased Skye Ranch does the Town then come up with a new work plan?

Donery said he thinks there is a mechanism to re-program the money as long as it fits the criteria.

McInerney asked if the Town can change its work plan once it has submitted its original work plan.

Donery will review the process of changing a work plan with the County and will report back to Council with a list of potential projects for the utilization of the 2013 funds.

M/s, McInerney/Dahlgren, to approve the grant agreement between the County of Marin and the Town for disbursement of the Town's share of the Marin Parks, Open Space, and Farmland Preservation Transactions and Use Tax. AYES: Coleman, Dahlgren, Kroot, McInerney. NOES: None. ABSENT: Greene.

4. REVIEW REPORT FROM STAFF REGARDING THE REPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE PENSION PLANS ROULETTE – A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PENSION AND RETIREE BENEFITS OF MARIN COUNTY AND ITS MUNICIPALITIES.

Town Manager Debra Stutsman presented the staff report. Stutsman said Pension Tier 1, 2.7% at age 55 was enacted by Council in 2004. In 2007 Tier 2 was introduced at 2.0% at 55. This means Tier 1 was in place for three years. Tier 1 includes people who were employed between 2004 and 2007 and were enrolled in the 2.7% at 55 plan got 2.7% for all the prior years they were employed with by San Anselmo. PERS has grouped all 129 employees into Tier 1 though not all of the 129 employees are at 2.7% @ 55. The Town is only charged with the time that the person is employed in San Anselmo. Many of the Tier 1 employees are at lower benefit plans but are listed in Tier 1 because that is how PERS handles it.

Pension analysis for San Anselmo Safety Employees reflects a small increase in retirement age from 50 to 51 years and is a cost reduction. This is a consequence of a new Tier 2 pension formula implemented in 2007, which increased the retirement age from 50 to 55 years. 90% of the safety workers are assigned to Tier 1 (as of June 30, 2011). The weighted retirement age increased by one year with little impact on pension cost.

The number of employees for Safety Tier 1 is 80 and 8 in Tier 2. Many of the 80 employees in Tier 1 were retired at the time the 3.0% at 50 became effective therefore we do not have 80 people at 3% at 50. When San Anselmo Police consolidated with Central Marin Police Authority all of our Safety Employees agreed to go to the lower plan, 3 at 55, in January of 2013. This will eliminate increased liability in the Tier 1 plan. It is important to note that not all of the people assigned to Tier 1 are in the 3% at 50 plan.

Stutsman summarized significant steps the Town has taken to reduce its retiree costs: introduced a new second tier for the Miscellaneous Group in 2007; introduced a second tier for the Safety Group in 2007. The introduction of the two second tiers in 2007 has saved the Town approximately \$1 million in reduced pension costs in 6 years. Retiree medical costs are capped at \$225 a month; employees have been paying 3% of the employee share of PERS since 2011, with no commensurate increase in salary, saving approximately \$200,000; the Town's pension side fund was refinanced last year resulting in a savings of \$600,000 over ten years; Staff reductions of 14% concluding in 2006 reduced employee benefit and pension costs, saving the Town approximately \$4-5 million in salary, benefit and pension costs over the six year period.

McInerney asked if the Town should be planning for upcoming changes in the Government Wide reporting (GASB 58).

Carrillo said that it will have to be built into the budget and we will have to see how property tax payments from the County unfold.

McInerney senses significant rate increases within the next year or two and he thinks the Town should take this into consideration now; do something about it now rather than waiting.

Carrillo said the rates for the next year will be available in November.

McInerney asked if it is possible to get a ten year forecast from CALPERS or maybe the Town's auditors.

Stutsman said the Town could pay for an independent auditor or an actuarial to make some projections.

McInerney feels projections based on assumptions would be useful to the Town.

Stutsman noted that the City of San Jose and other cities are trying to qualify an initiative to allow cities to negotiate a lower pension tier prospectively for current employees. Currently the Town cannot negotiate to lower pension benefits prospectively for current employees. This would require a change in the State law.

Public Comment

Lucy Wilson thinks a five or ten year plan is an excellent idea.

Kroot favors the idea of a five year forecast.

McInerney asked staff to report back to Council on the possibility and feasibility of a forecast.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Coleman adjourned the meeting in memory of Judith Hodgens. Hodgens was a San Anselmo Town Councilmember from January of 1995 through to January of 2003 and served as Mayor two times.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Kessel