

1. Call To Order

The special meeting of the Biggs City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Busch. Vice Mayor Frith and Councilors Arnold and Crawford were present. Staff present: City Administrator Pete Carr, City Attorney Greg Einhorn, Engineering Staff Mike Vasquez and Pauline Palmer, and City Clerk / Finance Director Deanna Carbajal.

2. SPECIAL MEETING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: City Administrator Pete Carr said he had asked California Engineering Staff to attend the meeting to provide an update on the Prop1B/Safe Routes to School construction project.

It was determined this was information only and if the need for action arose, the item could be added to the agenda.

Mike Vasquez stated this project was being called the City of Biggs Roadway Project. Mike stated some of the residents were surprised when construction started because they had not been notified. Trees had been removed throughout the town in the city right of way. Mike met with the contractor to let him know that residents needed to be noticed when work would be done that would impact their homes and yards. One complaining resident was given an extra week's time to remove landscaping. A sub-contractor damaged the street and they would repair the street when the sidewalks are completed. Mike stated if there were any disruptions to property, the contractors would repair it.

Mayor Busch asked if any resident had mentioned suing the city and Pete stated yes, last week. Mike said since that resident had received more information, the situation has de-escalated.

Mayor Busch asked why the water was off today and Pete said one well went down and the other did not kick in. The problem was under investigation.

Mayor Busch asked why B Street was being USA'd and Pete stated outside agencies were doing the work. Pauline stated they were not the engineer's contractors. Mike would check into this matter.

3. SPECIAL BUSINESS: Alternative Energy Projects. Mayor Busch stated he is no longer contracted to Thor Bailey at the present time.

Pete stated the city had been approached by several developers of alternative energy projects. Pete referred to the project summary sheet in the agenda packet.

The first developer was EnerGeon Power, Inc. with Dr. Balachandra who presented a biomass-to-power plant project in Biggs. He is not asking for any money from the city but was asking for a letter of interest. The letter did not obligate the city, but rather showed Dr. Balachandra's investors that the City of Biggs was interested.

Bridgeview Resources, LLC concept was a renewable power facility. Pete said NCPA advised this was the best thought out and most viable of the projects.

Mayor Busch stated that Thor Bailey was working with Bridgeview Resources, LLC but not in the area around Biggs.

Thor Bailey's concept was an anaerobic digester to convert WWTP sludge and non-wood biomass into fuel and other by-products.

BioEASI's concept was an anaerobic digester funded by a state grant to produce biodiesel or methane.

Seaena Solar's concept was solar power generation in Biggs using new collector technology with enhanced efficiency.

Ameresco's concept was to tap methane from Neal Road landfill to generate power.

BUCRA's concept was to grow new crops to be converted to biofuel for local use and market sale.

Councilor Crawford felt the city should be open to businesses coming to Biggs, but also be aware of the city's financial interests.

Councilor Arnold was concerned about Mayor Busch working with Thor Bailey. Mayor Busch stated he had a contract with Mr. Bailey for one month and it has expired. He did not renew the contract because there were concerns of conflict of interest.

Mr. Bailey explained his idea for an anaerobic digester. Resident Wanda Rold was concerned about the residual and exhaust from the process he proposed. It was explained some of the residual dissipates and other residual could be sold back to farmers. The exhaust would meet standards or would not be allowed.

Council agreed they needed more information before they would sign a letter of interest for any of the proposals. Council directed Pete to redraft letters, avoiding exclusivity and financial obligation with any developer

- 4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment. Pete stated the city had actually been using the National CPI but the intended practice was the Yuba City CPI. Half of the city employees were represented by the union and the union was agreeable to using the California CPI which is 3.3%. Vice Mayor Frith asked Greg if the agreement with the union should be modified since it referred to the Yuba City CPI which does not exist. Greg stated the union told Pete they did not want to bargain.

Councilor Crawford recommended using the Western CPI which is 3.2% for the represented employees and the non-represented employees.

Motion/Second to direct staff to contact the union and also use the Western US as the standard CPI. (Crawford/Busch, MCU)

- 5. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BIGGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

October 6, 2008

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Deanna Carbajal
City Clerk

John G. Busch
Mayor, City of Biggs