

Call To Order

The regular council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Frith. Vice Mayor Crawford and Councilors Thompson and Arnold were present. Staff present: City Administrator Pete Carr, City Attorney Greg Einhorn, City Planner Scott Friend, City Engineer Dave Swartz, Engineering Mike Vasquez, Code Enforcement Officer Erin Dougherty, and City Clerk / Finance Director Deanna Carbajal.

1. **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:** Bonnie Bayles expressed her support in saving the city hotel. She suggested the city purchase or work in partnership with someone to purchase the hotel.

Mike Haury asked if there was any new information on the item he brought to the last council meeting. Mayor Frith stated it would be agendaized for the next meeting.

2. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion/Action: City Administrator Pete Carr stated Council Member John G. Busch had resigned. The council may appoint an individual to this position until a special election can be held. Letters of interest would be received until February 27, 2009. A special meeting was scheduled for March 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. to make the appointment.

*RESOLUTION 2009-04* "RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIGGS EXPRESSING APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE RENDERED BY JOHN G. BUSCH AS COUNCILMEMBER FOR THE CITY OF BIGGS".  
(Frith/Crawford, MCU)

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Discussion/Action: Pete asked council to consider progress and current status of the youth activities center. Councilor Thompson stated she would like to see the youth center open longer hours but there was a problem getting adults to volunteer for service. Councilor Thompson and the after school coordinator Robin Swanson had looked at the possibility of using the city owned house at the park for the youth center. The utility costs would be about the same as it is now under the library.

Vice Mayor Crawford wanted to see more details of what was being proposed for use of the city home.

Robin Swanson stated there was not enough space under the library for desired activities. She would like to use the house at the park for the activity center. She said there was money available to staff the activity center.

Mayor Frith stated it needed to be clear how much money would be spent and make sure no council members were in conflict of interest.

City Attorney Greg Einhorn stated council had already started the process of selling the property so this issue should come back to council for further discussion.

4. **PRESENTATION:** Pete felt council should discuss the interpretation of the Code Enforcement Program. Code Enforcement Officer Erin Dougherty reviewed the code enforcement process included in the agenda packet.

City Planner Scott Friend stated there was a zero tolerance policy for refrigerators and freezers in front yards due to the hazard to children. Immediate abatement action would be taken on these matters.

Vice Mayor Crawford suggested restructuring the way the information was reported to council. He gave council a template he had prepared to better track code enforcement issues. Scott stated data was available and this template would be a good way to track it.

Councilor Arnold stated there were problems with basketball hoops in the road and felt they should be pushed back out of the danger area. Councilor Thompson felt basketball hoops should be maintained on private property. Vice Mayor Crawford stated the hoops should not be left on the street after dark. Scott stated it was difficult to enforce this problem. He suggested informing residents of this issue in the quarterly newsletter.

There were questions about violations in backyards. Scott stated when code enforcement was started, they were told not to go on private property. Mayor Frith stated code enforcement had been asked to be more forceful and aggressive. Greg stated if an individual invited the code enforcement officer onto their property to look at their neighbor's nuisance, there was no need to get an inspection warrant.

Erin showed pictures of property in violation of code and asked council for their thoughts. One photo showed furniture on a front porch and Pete stated this was a subjective call because individuals had the right to put furniture on their porches. Another picture showed trash in the yard and Scott stated the City of Biggs did not have a property maintenance code. Another picture showed a house with a chain link fence around it with boarded up windows. Mayor Frith stated if there was a project house with a temporary fence for safety, this would be appropriate use. Scott stated there was not a permit available to secure property.

Chief Keeler stated a police officer would be willing to accompany Erin onto private property for code enforcement issues.

Pete asked council if they would prefer boarded up windows to be painted to match the house or not. Vice Mayor Crawford stated it depended on how long the boards would be up; it was a judgment call.

A picture showed a detached planting strip that had not been maintained. Scott stated the owner was responsible to plant trees in the strip, but the city was responsible for the maintenance of the trees. Vice Mayor Crawford asked if the strip could be planted with only flowers and Scott stated the code did not specify. Mayor Frith asked what a reasonable timeframe was to bring an area up to standard. Pete suggested imposing fines not as punishment, but to cover costs. Mayor Frith asked council to email questions or suggestions to Erin and then revisit this issue later.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Motion/Second to approve the consent calendar. (Crawford/Arnold, MCU)

**6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

A. Public Safety. Pete showed council a Geographic Information System (GIS) utility pole map demonstration which can be used by the city for planning and emergencies.

B. Public Works. Councilor Arnold had nothing to report. Mayor Frith stated the City of Gridley's boom truck was being transferred to the City of Biggs.

C. Electric. Mayor Frith said Pete was purchasing electricity for the future.

D. BCAG/Air Quality. Councilor Thompson stated BCAG had added more bus routes to Oroville. Air Quality was discussing burn permits.

E. Solid Waste. Councilor Arnold had nothing to report.

F. Other commission reports. None

G. Planning Department.

1. Informational:

City Planner Scott Friend reviewed the Planning Department Activity Report – January / February 2009 included in the council agenda packet. The next General Plan Update public meeting had been scheduled for March 12, 2009. Scott acknowledged this was an important meeting for the public to attend.

2. Draft Cost of Services Study. Scott made the changes to the Land Development Fees council had asked for at the January council meeting and asked council to give further direction. Comments and questions could be emailed to Scott before the next council meeting. Vice Mayor Crawford suggested including a glossary to define acronyms. Councilor Thompson was an advocate for cost recovery.

3. The January 2009 Code Enforcement Activity Report was presented to council in the agenda packet.

H. Engineer:

1. Discussion/Action: 2009/2010 CDBG Grant Program. Lori Adams presented the 2009/2010 CDBG Grant Program Project Consideration included in the engineer's staff report. She said the city's income survey would expire in April 2009 so the current survey could not be utilized in this application process.

Mike Vasquez reviewed the project chosen by the public works committee which consisted of a storm drain and sewer line infrastructure project located north of E Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Approximately 3000 LF of sewer line would be replaced concurrently with other City funds as the "City Match".

Mayor Frith stated the fiscal impact was \$3,500 but there was grant money available to cover this cost.

Motion/Second to move forward with the grant application as stated in the discussion.  
(Crawford/Thompson, MCU)

2. Discussion/Action: Dave said Psomas had completed the Waste Water Treatment Facilities Plan.

Motion/Second to approve the Waste Water Treatment Facilities Plan.  
(Crawford/Arnold, MCU)

3. Discussion/Action: Pete presented potential opportunities for stimulus money. Dave stated this was not free money; it was mostly loan. Council would respond to Pete via email regarding prioritization.
4. Discussion/Action: USDA-RUS Application. Dave asked council's opinion on submitting an application resulting from the Economic Stimulus Package. Council did want to submit an application. They would like to see the maximum level of funding. Dave stated the WWTP was not yet "shovel ready". There was consensus to move forward on environmental documents.
5. Project Updates:
  - a. USDA Well Rehabilitation Project. Mike Vasquez stated the Second Street generator pad had been poured.
  - b. Safe Routes to School/TEA/Prop 1B/West Biggs Gridley Road. The project should resume in April.
  - c. Sixth Street Bridge Rehabilitation. There would be a meeting scheduled with the Public Works Committee for the second week of March to review the proposed design plan.

I. Finance Department.

Informational – City Clerk/Finance Director Deanna Carbajal reviewed the Department Activity Report – January / February 2009 included in the agenda packet.

J. City Administrator:

Discussion/Action: Pete reviewed the Mid-Year Budget Update Staff Report in the agenda packet. Council agreed with Pete's recommendations on the staff report, leaving rates and appropriations as budgeted.

Council agreed to defer items J.2, 3, 4 and 5 to another meeting.

7. **INFORMATIONAL:** None

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Adjourned to Executive Session at 10:57 p.m.

9. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION:** Resumed special session at 11:03 p.m. No announcement.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned by mutual consent at 11:04 p.m. to March 2, 2009.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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Deanna Carbajal  
City Clerk

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Roger L. Frith  
Mayor, City of Biggs