

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BIGGS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNTY OF BUTTE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

January 8, 2013

Call To Order

The regular council meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Frith. Council Members Arnold, Busch and Thompson were present. Vice Mayor Sheppard was absent. Staff present: City Administrator Mark Sorensen, City Attorney Greg Einhorn, City Engineer Steve Speights, City Planner Scott Friend and City Clerk Roben Dewsnap.

1. **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:** Resident Mirna Adams presented a list of regular B-Line bus riders that would benefit from a bus shelter. She also expressed interest in starting a community garden at the corner of Trent and Firth Street.

Fire Chief Mike Brown introduced fire fighter Aaron Wascar who had been assigned to the Biggs station for the winter. Chief Brown also informed Council that Butte County was having a new fire engine built that would be stationed in Biggs.

Resident Mary Frith stated the Biggs Library would be celebrating 105 years in April. She would be asking City Administrator Mark Sorensen to agendaize an item at an upcoming meeting to plan something special for the library from the city. Mayor Frith noted this library was possibly the longest continuous running Carnegie Library in California and possibly the nation.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Swanson Conditional Use Permit.  
This item was continued to a later date.

3. **PRESENTATION:** Feather River West Levee Project Update by Mike Inamine and Michael Bessette of the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA). The goal of SBFCA was to achieve a 200 year protection for urban areas through the Feather River West Levee Project and achieve a 100 year protection for the remaining rural, southern portion of the basin.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:** City Administrator Mark Sorensen presented a request from Waste Management to raise solid waste fees to the City of Biggs.

Mayor Frith asked Mr. Sorenson to come back with more information as to how the solid waste funds were being allocated and what the options were for passing the increase on to the customer.

Motion/Second to accept the fee increase from Waste Management pursuant to sections 7.2, 7.3, and 7.5 of the solid waste franchise agreement. (Arnold/Thompson, MCU; Absent: Sheppard)

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A. Approval of Council Minutes for Regular Meeting of December 11, 2012 and Special Meeting of December 11, 2012.
- B. Approval of warrants: #8291 – 8305; Z00756 – Z00771, and 26758– 26801 for the month of December 2012 in the amount of \$301,607.50.
- C. Acknowledge receipt of Biggs Fire Department Report for December 2012.
- D. Acknowledge receipt of City Accountant's Compilation Report for November 2012 and Recap of Discretionary Funds and Funds with Restricted Uses as of September 30, 2012.
- E. Approve Resolution No. 2013-01 "RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIGGS APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE RELATIONS OFFICER AND ALTERNATES FOR THE CITY OF BIGGS."
- F. Approve Resolution No. 2013-02, "RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIGGS APPOINTING THE REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SCORE."

- G. Approve Resolution No. 2013-03, "RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIGGS APPOINTING A REPRESENTATIVE AND AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BUTTE COUNTY ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT SERVICE AUTHORITY."
- H. Approve Resolution No. 2013-04, "RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIGGS APPROVING THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT (2CA01827) FOR SERVICES FROM JULY 1, 2012 TO JUNE 30, 2013."

Mayor Frith pointed out a correction to the December 11, 2012 regular minutes. At the bottom of the page under Employee Relations, it should read John Busch, alternate.

Resolution No 2013-01, the paragraph beginning with "Be it further resolved" should end with "as alternates".

Motion/Second to approve the consent calendar with corrections. (Frith/Arnold, MCU; Absent: Sheppard)

## **6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

### **A. Planning:**

- 1. City Planner Scott Friend reviewed the Planning Activity Report included in the agenda packet.
- 2. Mr. Friend informed council the City had received a request from property owner Chris Swanson to permit the seasonal occupancy of up to four recreational vehicles/travel trailers for temporary use on his property. A Conditional Use Permit is required for temporary use on this site. Staff identified a restriction in the City Code that would prevent staff from making a favorable recommendation on this application due to the property being designated as industrial. Staff was asking council if they would like to engage in a text amendment to allow this request by Mr. Swanson. Mr. Friend suggested council also review the code for occupancy of recreational vehicles in residential zones.

Council agreed review a modification to the municipal code for residential and industrial zones regarding occupancy of recreational vehicles.

### **B. Engineering:**

- 1. City Engineer Steve Speights gave a verbal report regarding current city projects which included the Sixth Street Bridge Replacement and the Waste Water Treatment Plant property acquisition.
- 2. Sewer Rate Adjustment: Mr. Speights explained the primary purpose of the rate adjustment was for the repayment of loans needed for the upcoming wastewater treatment plant improvement project. He was asking council to start the Proposition 218 Process which would notify all users of the proposed increase. A public hearing would be held to allow individuals to protest the increase. An ordinance would be adopted to approve the new rates.

Staff was suggesting the rate increase take effect in June 2013, January 2015 and January 2016. The combined sewer rate would increase from \$34.72 to \$58.75 this June, then to \$64.30 in 2015 and to \$74.40 in 2016.

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Mr. Sorensen pointed out that the city was being forced to upgrade the sewer treatment plant by discharging to land. This requires the purchase of property which in turn forces the city to increase sewer rates.

Resident Mary Frith, who is a member of the sewer rate committee, informed council the rate increases are the worst case scenario. The rate schedule could be adjusted down if needed.

Mayor Frith asked for clarification as to who should receive the Proposition 218 notice. City Attorney Greg Einhorn informed council that all users should receive the notice – which includes the property owners and tenants. However, only one protest counts per property.

Motion/Second to move forward with the Proposition 218 process as presented.  
(Frith/Busch, MCU; Absent: Sheppard)

- C. Public Safety: Assistant Chief Dean Price gave a brief report on police issues in Biggs. He suggested all thefts be reported.
- D. Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA). Nothing to report.
- E. Pubic Works. Mr. Sorensen stated public works was still using a temporary employee and would discuss replacement of the permanent position at the next public works committee meeting.
- F. Electric. Nothing new to report.
- G. BCAG/Air Quality. Councilmember Thompson reviewed highlights from the meetings she attended.
- H. Solid Waste. Nothing to report.
- I. Mosquito Abatement. Nothing to report.
- J. Other commission reports. Nothing to report.
- K. City Administrator:

Purchasing Authority – Plumbing Supplies: Mr. Sorensen asked council to authorize the purchase of \$2800 of plumbing supplies.


Motion/Second to approve the expenditure of up to \$2800 for plumbing supplies.  
(Thompson/Busch, MCU; Absent: Sheppard)

**7. INFORMATIONAL:**

Mayor Frith suggested the city write a resolution for the 105 year celebration of the Carnegie Library in April.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Roben Dewsnap, CITY CLERK

APPROVED:

  
Roger L. Frith, MAYOR