

**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HOLTVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Monday, July 24, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Holtville City Council was held on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 5:00 pm in the Civic Center. Mayor Ginger Ward was present, as were Council Members Murray Anderson, Mike Goodsell, and Mike Pacheco. Councilman John Munger was absent. Also present were City Treasurer George Morris, City Manager Nick Wells, Finance Supervisor Adriana Anguis, and Fire Chief Alex Silva.

CITY COUNCIL CLOSED SESSION MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The Closed Session meeting was called to order at 5:09 PM. by Mayor Ginger Ward.

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS:

(Government Code Section 54956.8)

Potential Property: APN 045-281-004 formerly held by the former Holtville RDA (S of Browning Trailer)

No Reportable Action Taken

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS:

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

No Reportable Action Taken

CITY COUNCIL OPEN SESSION MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor Ward called the Open Session meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: *Mr. Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.*

INVOCATION: *The Invocation was given by Mr. Goodsell.*

CITY CLERK RE: VERIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA:

City Manager Nick Wells verified that the agenda was duly posted on Friday, July 21, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Wells reported that, although no action was taken, direction was given to staff regarding labor negotiations.

PRESENTATION:

*Edgar Quinones & Carlos Pitones
Imperial Valley 9/11 Stair Climb Committee*

Edgar Quinones came in the place of Robert Amparano to introduce the Imperial Valley 9/11 Stair Climb Committee and explain their upcoming 10th annual fundraiser: 9/11 Memorial Event & Stair Climb. A video was played to showcase the event. He presented the available sponsorship opportunities, four levels ranging from \$343, \$413, \$911, and \$2001, each representing a significant number in the 9/11 catastrophe. Mr. Quinones was accompanied by Carlos Pitones, who answered questions for the Council and public. When asked what the fundraiser will benefit, Mr. Pitones said the proceeds will go to a 9/11 Memorial on the IV Fairgrounds, more information is on their website. Mr. Anderson raised the possibility for the City to distribute promotional flyers to each resident.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mary Helen Dollente (1925 Orchard Road) came to express multiple concerns with the appearance of the City, mainly the desert garden her mom built where Orchard Road, Fourth Street, and Cedar Avenue intersect. She feels that the garden is neglected and is a sore sight for visitors and citizens who enter the town through Orchard Road. Ms. Dollente proposed that if the City cleaned up the plot, the Woman's Club gardening group can plant a new garden in the fall. Mr. Wells informed her that the Holtville Rotary Club has been working on a presentation to bring before the council regarding the restoration of the garden. Ms. Dollente suggested that the two clubs could work together. On behalf of a friend, she also addressed damages that are potentially dangerous, caused by a water break some time ago on the 700 block of.

Mrs. Dollente also spoke to assist Angie Garcia (745 Brentwood Avenue) regarding the need to complete street repairs in front of her home caused by a water break.

1. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of Monday, June 26, 2023.**
- b. Current Demands #45640 through #45728**

A motion was made by Mr. Goodsell and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed in the form of a roll call vote.

AYES: *Anderson, Goodsell, Pacheco, Ward*

NOES: *None*

ABSENT: *Munger*

ABSTAIN: *None*

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMUNIQUES:

Ms. Anguis reported that the Finance Department is generating final numbers for the end of the fiscal year. There were 16 water shutoffs in June and all have restored service. She hosted the June CSFMO meeting in the Civic Center, highlighting discussion of finance staffing shortages across the Imperial Valley. The City was awarded a USDA Grant for command vehicles and fire equipment, matching \$50,000 for Chief Silva's pick-up truck.

Chief Silva reported that he attended a wildland conference in Riverside and the rest of the firefighters attended the ICS 300 class at Imperial Fire Station. The strike team went to Beaumont and Chief Silva was strike team leader. He detailed some of the recent events he attended with his dalmation "Chief" and gave an update regarding public swim nights in August.

Mr. Morris and Mr. Pacheco had nothing to report.

Mr. Anderson reported that IV Housing Authority went dark for July.

Mr. Goodsell attended the IVEDC Quarterly Meeting, highlighting the Lithium Valley development, which presents a need for more housing in Imperial Valley.

Mr. Wells reported that he has been busy with the Wetlands Project and provided a brief summary of developments. He shared that he recently celebrated his 34th high school reunion at Lake Arrowhead with friends from his class.

Ms. Ward had nothing to report.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: *None*

3. NEW BUSINESS:

To accommodate interested parties in attendance, the New Business section was handled in revised order from the posted Agenda.

c. Discussion/Related Action to Adopt RESOLUTION #23-21 Authorizing a Contract with IV Water Specialists, Inc., for Management and Oversight Services at the City's Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants

Nick Wells, City Manager

Mr. Wells explained that Frank Cornejo, an employee of the City for nearly twenty-two years, possesses Grade 3 certifications in Water Treatment, Water Distribution, and Wastewater Treatment that are required by state and regional regulations to operate water and wastewater facilities.

Mr. Cornejo chose to resign from his full time position as supervisor and chief operator of the water and wastewater plants, but presented the arrangement for his services as a consultant.

Mr. Wells added that the copy of the contract has a set term of service of 6 months, but proposed that it be adjusted to 1 year. For budget purposes, the Council members approved of the change.

Mr. Cornejo was given the opportunity to speak, at which time he conveyed he mainly performs administrative tasks recently and how it allows him to work remotely. There were requests to reassess the concession in the contract that would allow Mr. Cornejo to continue using his City cell phone.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Pacheco to approve the action with an addendum regarding the use of the City cell phone. The motion passed in the form of a roll call vote.

AYES: *Anderson, Goodsell, Pacheco, Ward*

NOES: *None*

ABSENT: *Munger*

ABSTAIN: *None*

b. Discussion/Related Action to Adopt RESOLUTION #23-20 Authorizing Renewal of the Exclusive Franchise Agreement with CR&R, Incorporated for the Collection, Transportation, Processing and Disposal of the City's Solid Waste, as Well as the Provision of Street Sweeping Services

Nick Wells, City Manager

Mr. Wells explained that the City has contracted CR&R for thirteen years and although there have been fluctuations in the quality of service, they have offered to mitigate trash rate hikes. The current and proposed increased rates are the lowest in the valley. The current contract is in effect until November 1st, service beyond that date would require a contract renewal. Being that there was prior discourse on this matter, the Council had nothing further to discuss.

A motion was made by Mr. Goodsell and seconded by Mr. Pacheco to approve the action as presented. The motion passed in the form of a roll call vote.

AYES: Anderson, Goodsell, Pacheco, Ward

NOES: None

ABSENT: Munger

ABSTAIN: None

a. Discussion/Related Action to Adopt RESOLUTION #23-19 Identifying the Ninth Street Improvements Projects for Use of SB1 Gas Tax Revenue Funds for the 2023-24 Fiscal Year

Nick Wells, City Manager

Mr. Wells explained that Identifying projects is a functional requirement to capture SB1 Gas Tax funds. For this purpose he proposed submitting the two Ninth Street projects for funding allocation. There was no discussion.

A motion was made by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Goodsell to approve the action as presented. The motion passed in the form of a roll call vote.

AYES: Anderson, Goodsell, Pacheco, Ward

NOES: None

ABSENT: Munger

ABSTAIN: None

d. Discussion/Related Action Regarding Sponsorship of the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Nick Wells, City Manager

Mr. Wells reminded the Council that the previous year the City sponsored the event at level 2, in the amount of \$413. Having heard the presentation from the 9/11 Stair Climb Committee, the Council did not engage in discussion.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Goodsell to approve the Level 2 sponsorship of the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb. The motion passed in the form of a roll call vote.

AYES: Anderson, Goodsell, Ward, Pacheco

NOES: None

ABSENT: Munger

ABSTAIN: None

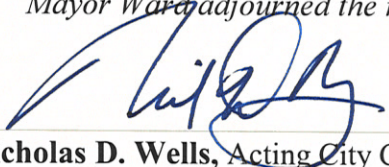
4. INFORMATION ONLY: None

5. STAFF REPORTS:

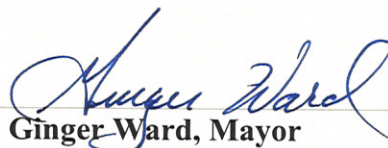
- a. City Manager Report - Nick Wells
- b. Finance Supervisor - Adriana Anguis
- c. Fire Chief - Alex Silva
- d. Police Chief - Joe Conkey
- e. Water/Wastewater Supervisor - Frank Cornejo
- f. Public Works Foreman - Alex Chavez
- g. Building Inspector - Raylene Tapiceria

6. Items for Future Meetings: WTP Closeout

7. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ward adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.



Nicholas D. Wells, Acting City Clerk



Ginger Ward, Mayor