



**CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2015**

A special meeting of the La Quinta City Council was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Mayor Evans at the La Quinta Museum, 77-885 Avenida Montezuma, La Quinta.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Franklin, Osborne, Peña, Radi, Mayor Evans

ABSENT: None

Of the 35 attendees who signed in, 21 were residents, 5 were Councilmembers, and 9 were City staff members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Mayor Evans

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC SPEAKER: Harry Shaffner, La Quinta – Mr. Shaffner stated that he is on the Haciendas of La Quinta Homeowners’ Association (HOA) Board, the entrance to which is at Avenue 50 and Eisenhower Drive. He said that the intersection has flooded numerous times and the HOA’s mission is to remind council of the suffering of the 18 homeowners due to uninsured flood damage, as well as the negative effect past flooding has on the value of all homes in the HOA.

STUDY SESSION

1. CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE CITY’S VALUES, ITS 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND 2015 INITIATIVES

Mayor Evans explained the purpose of the workshop and introduced Cynthia Henson, the facilitator.

Ms. Henson conducted a quiz on La Quinta facts whereby participants held up “A” or “B” signs to indicate their answers.

Ms. Henson reviewed the City’s five values, which are (1) customer service, (2) teamwork, (3) perseverance/problem solving, (4) integrity/professional conduct, and (5) innovation/creativity.

City Manager Spevacek provided a comprehensive history of the challenges and accomplishments of the Council and City staff over the past three years.

Ms. Henson led participant groups in discussions and exercises regarding 2015 initiatives.

Group discussions and exercises resulted in the following suggestions:

- Stronger brand
- More beautiful thoroughfares
- Streamline permits
- Proactive Code Compliance
- Entertainment facilities – all ages
- Flood control measures
- Infrastructure maintenance
- Water conservation
- SilverRock development
- Retail variety
- Diversity in high paying jobs
- Quality of life
- Drive-thru in cove
- Out from under Palm Springs shadow
- Activities for all ages to enjoy together
- Reach out to part-time residents
- Diversity, reaching out to the gay community
- Involving younger people
- Increased community involvement
- Business friendly
- Maintain financial stability
- Business license requirement for residential landlords
- Economic development importance is high, need definitive approach
- Consider pop-up businesses, streamline city approvals for them
- More diverse retail/restaurants, not all upscale
- More entertainment, concerts, community theater
- Suggest all festivals must use a certain percentage of La Quinta businesses in order to get a permit.
- Customer service in Finance re: business license and TOT
- Amphitheater
- Using revenue as efficiently as possible
- Diversify revenue sources, attract tech jobs and clean industry
- Goal of burying utility lines
- Land use should include water use, be good water stewards
- Capitalize on existing assets
- Examine disaster preparedness, e.g. egress out of cove
- Refine architectural guidelines
- “Eat, play, live” nothing unique about this branding
- Must streamline Muni Code before code compliance is proactive
- Call community meeting: “polish the gem”

Attendees provided the following feedback on their workshop experience:

- Earnest
- Encouraging
- Enlightened
- Willingness to change
- Excitement over new direction
- Positive involvement
- Enlightened
- Enhancement, revenue
- Motivating
- The future is bright
- Openness inspiring
- Thanks to residents
- Interesting
- More rocks, less sand
- Gratitude for hosting
- Diversity
- Quality of life
- Informative
- Thoughtfulness
- Great event
- Great food

Mayor Evans and Councilmembers expressed their gratitude to all participants for giving their time, and encouraged residents to stay involved, provide input to Councilmembers and staff, and to attend future workshops.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded by Councilmembers Osborne/Radi to adjourn at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Maysels, City Clerk
City of La Quinta, CA



**CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015**

A regular meeting of the La Quinta City Council was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Mayor Evans.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Franklin, Osborne, Peña, Radi, Mayor Evans
ABSENT: None

CLOSED SESSION - None

Mayor Evans led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

PUBLIC SPEAKER: Shander Sessions, La Quinta – Mr. Sessions is the Vice President of Organic Solutions in Palm Springs. He provided information on his medical marijuana dispensary including its purpose, its customers, its operation and inspections. Mr. Sessions offered to give city officials a tour of his facility. He expressed interest in finding a safe access location for La Quinta residents, and said he was willing to assist in writing the ordinance, even if his company does not open a shop in La Quinta.

PUBLIC SPEAKER: James Camper, La Quinta resident – Mr. Camper is the owner of Organic Solutions (marijuana dispensary). He said his outlet is one of three licensed in Riverside County. Mr. Camper said that he understood the Council's decision in the past to bar dispensaries in La Quinta until both federal and state laws permitted the use. He said that since things have settled down between the federal and state government on this issue, he would now like to have this medicine available to residents at the east end of the Coachella Valley.

PUBLIC SPEAKER: Phillip Bettencourt, La Quinta – Mr. Bettencourt, the liaison to the Planning Commission, said he was very proud of the new Wellness Center and salutes all who worked on the facility.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA - Confirmed

City Manager Spevacek notified the Council that after 22 years of service, the projection screen in the Council Chambers has burned out and the search so far for replacement parts has not been successful. He said that the mid-year budget will include expenditures for a new projection system as well as funds to address the audio deficiencies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Evans presented Public Works Director Jonasson with the American Public Works Association award for the 2014 Student Outreach Program, and another award for the 2013-2014 Project of Merit Award – Eisenhower Drive and Calle Sinaloa Roundabout Project.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2015**
2. **ADOPT RESOLUTION REQUESTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION [RESOLUTION 2015-004]**
3. **ADOPT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT ADDING CITY OF LA QUINTA AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CALIFORNIA HOME ENERGY RENOVATION OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM [RESOLUTION 2015-005]**
4. **APPROVE OVERNIGHT TRAVEL FOR THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEND QUARTERLY LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING IN SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA – JANUARY 16, 2015**
5. **APPROVE DEMAND REGISTERS DATED DECEMBER 19, DECEMBER 30, 2014 AND JANUARY 9, 2015**
6. **DENIAL OF CLAIM FOR DAMAGES FILED BY ANNA AND GUILLERMO VARGAS; DATE OF LOSS – SEPTEMBER 8, 2014**
7. **DENIAL OF CLAIM FOR DAMAGES FILED BY DIANE SCURLOCK; DATE OF LOSS – SEPTEMBER 8, 2014**
8. **DENIAL OF CLAIM FOR DAMAGES FILED BY JAMES AND DONNA NOWLIN; DATE OF LOSS – SEPTEMBER 8, 2014**
9. **DENIAL OF CLAIM FOR DAMAGES FILED BY JOSEPH ARSANTO; DATE OF LOSS – SEPTEMBER 8, 2014**
10. **DENIAL OF CLAIM FOR DAMAGES FILED BY JOSE OCHOA-TORRES; DATE OF LOSS – NOVEMBER 14, 2014**
11. **AUTHORIZE OVERNIGHT TRAVEL FOR PLANS EXAMINER/INSPECTIONS SUPERVISOR TO ATTEND CRW PERMIT SOFTWARE TRAINING ON FEBRUARY 2-6, 2015, IN CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA**

12. RECEIVE AND FILE TREASURER'S REPORT DATED NOVEMBER 30, 2014

MOTION – A motion was made and seconded by Councilmembers Franklin/Peña to approve the Consent Calendar as recommended, with Item Nos. 2 and 3 adopting Resolutions 2015-004 and 2015-005 respectively. Motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS SESSION

1. SELECT A REPRESENTATIVE FOR COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT'S JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTION – A motion was made and seconded by Councilmembers Osborne/Peña to select Mayor Evans to represent the City of La Quinta on the Coachella Valley Water District Joint Policy Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION – A motion was made and seconded by Councilmembers Osborne/Radi to select Councilmember Franklin as the alternate on this Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

2. APPROPRIATE FUNDING, ADD THE LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, AND APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH COACHELLA VALLEY ENGINEERS, INC.

Public Works Director Jonasson presented the staff report, which is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Councilmembers discussed polling users and library staff; damage caused by the September 2014 storm; use of photovoltaics in parking lot; developer contributions; sharing the library's public parking lot; square footage freed up due to Chamber of Commerce move; status of Americans-with-Disabilities-Act improvements; source of funding for improvements; estimates for design and inspection; expanding services to the north end of the City; researching mobile library service; use of school libraries after hours, and; ensuring facilities are used to capacity.

MOTION – A motion was made and seconded by Councilmembers Franklin/Radi to appropriate funding, add the library improvements project to the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 capital improvement plan, and approve the professional services agreement with Coachella Valley Engineers, Inc. Motion passed unanimously.

STUDY SESSION - None

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

La Quinta's representative for 2015, Mayor Evans, reported on her participation in the following organization's meeting:

- GREATER PALM SPRINGS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

La Quinta's representative for 2015, Councilmember Franklin, reported on her participation in the following organization's meeting:

- COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

La Quinta's representative for 2015, Councilmember Osborne, reported on his participation in the following organization's meeting:

- CVAG PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

La Quinta's representative for 2015, Councilmember Peña, reported on his participation in the following organization's meeting:

- ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION

La Quinta's representative for 2015, Councilmember Radi, reported on his participation in the following organizations' meetings:

- CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INFO EXCHANGE COMMITTEE
- RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
- LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES, RIVERSIDE DIVISION

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Department Reports were received and filed. Copies are available in the City Clerk's Office.

1. City Manager Spevacek reported on the proposal to form an East Valley Economic Development group. There was a consensus among the Council to hold a study session on this item.

2. City Manager Spevacek announced that the City's website is under a cyber-attack, and staff is working on a fix.

MAYOR'S AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S ITEMS

Mayor Evans thanked Lt. Walton for the quarterly police report, which assists Councilmembers in recognizing trends, and noted that overall, incidents of crime were down.

Councilmember Franklin requested consensus from Council to direct staff to investigate the possibility of adding cell service on Councilmembers' City-issued iPads. Councilmembers Osborne and Peña, and Mayor Evans agreed that cell service would be useful. Mayor Evans offered to pay for the added convenience if necessary.

Councilmembers thanked staff for the superior job done with the Wellness Center opening event and all the weekend events.

Councilmember Peña suggested painting on City vehicles the City's website, Play-in-La-Quinta website, and possibly the phone number.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded by Councilmembers Peña/Franklin to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

SUSAN MAYSELS, City Clerk
City of La Quinta, California

