

**KINGSBURG CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2016**

5:30 P.M. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- 1. Public Employee Evaluation** – Government Code Section 54957
Title: City Manager

Council Members present: Ben Creighton, Sherman Dix, Staci Smith and Bruce Blayney.

Council Members absent: Michelle Roman.

Invocation to be given by Ed Ezaki from the Kingsburg Community Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Bruce Blayney.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call – Mayor Bruce Blayney called the regular meeting of the Kingsburg City Council to order at 6:04pm.

Council Members present: Ben Creighton, Sherman Dix, Staci Smith and Bruce Blayney.

Council Members absent: Michelle Roman.

Public Comments – None.

Approve Agenda – Council Member Creighton asked that they change Regular Calendar Item Number 1 to be the Chamber update and Regular Calendar Item Number 2 to the police dispatch. Mayor Blayney said that those changes were acceptable. A motion was made by Council Member Creighton, seconded by Council Member Smith, to approve the agenda with the above mentioned changes. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote of those Council Members present.

Consent Calendar – A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Creighton, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote of those Council Members present.

- 1. Approval of City Council Minutes** – Approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on January 6, 2016 as prepared by City Clerk Abigail Palsgaard.
- 2. Check Register**– Ratify/approve payment of bills listed on the check register for the period December 29, 2015 through January 14, 2016 as prepared by Accounts Payable Clerk Grace Reyna.
- 3. Financial Summaries** – Approve Financial Summaries for the month of December 2015 as prepared by Finance Director Maggie Moreno.
- 4. 2016-2017 City of Kingsburg Budget Schedule** – Approve 2016-2017 City of Kingsburg Budget Schedule as proposed. Schedule prepared by City Manager Alex Henderson.

5. **Approve a Letter of Support for the San Joaquin Valley Transit Electrification Project**
6. **Award the Simpson Street Water Service Improvements Project** – Award the Simpson Street Water Service Improvements Project to JT2, Inc., DBA Todd Companies, in the amount of \$145,571.00. Report prepared by City Engineer David Peters.
7. **Approve Tract 5609 Subdivision Agreement Time Extension** – Report prepared by City Engineer David Peters.
8. **Appointments to the Kingsburg Planning Commission** – Affirm Mayor Blayney’s appointment of Troy Cozbey to the Kingsburg Planning Commission for the remainder of a four year term to expire in November 2018.
9. **Appointments to the Kingsburg Community Services Commission** – Affirm Mayor Blayney’s appointment of Brian Griffin to the Kingsburg Community Service Commission.
10. **California Beverage Container Recycling Payment Program Resolution** – Adopt Resolution No. 2016-010 authorizing submittal of application of payment for the California Beverage Container Recycling Payment Program. Resolution prepared by City Clerk Abigail Palsgaard.

Pulled Consent Calendar Items- None.

REGULAR CALENDAR

Chamber of Commerce Update

Executive Director Adam Castaneda notified City Council that his presentation will not be as in-depth as normal because of tonight’s agenda. Annual dinner is next Thursday. It is an opportunity for citizens and Chamber Board Members to honor citizens. Other upcoming events are the annual Car Show, Swedish Festival, 4th of July, and band concerts. The Chamber is very busy this time of year.

Mr. Castaneda stated that there is an opening for the position of assistant/bookkeeper. The Chamber feels that with goals for this year, this position will free him up so that he can focus on more things. There is also interest from the colleges for internships. Mr. Castaneda then introduced Amanda Hunter, California Map Art Company. He said the Chamber is seeking City contribution for the map project and that the proposal is included in the council packet. Council Members were then given a list of sponsors.

Ms. Hunter, from California Map Art Project, said she is working with artist Colleen Mitchall-Veyna who had previously painted murals throughout Kingsburg. Ms. Hunter stated that her job is to come in and find out about the town. There will be an original 3x4 canvas painting made by Ms. Mitchall-Veyna. All businesses that participated will get a framed signed print. Ms. Hunter said that there will be a map wrap party at the Kingsburg Historical Park, the artist will be there. There will be folded maps that will fit in hotel kiosks and realtors’ welcome baskets. On the back of the map there will be a street map along with

a full directory. Ms. Hunter thought that this would be a good tool for the blossom trail and for people that will want to visit. She said Kingsburg is a beautiful town and it has really retained the beautiful character of the city.

Council Member Dix asked if there was any way to convert the painting into digital form. Ms. Hunter said yes, they digitalize the painting and offer it to the City if they would like to put it on their website for a small fee. She said they are working on making it interactive. Ms. Hunter also said that the Chamber will have an abundance of posters and extra folding maps. She said that working with Colleen has been a pleasure.

City Manager Henderson suggested that the proposal go back to the Finance Committee for approval since it hadn't been budgeted. Mayor Blayney then referred it to the Finance Committee.

Dispatch Operation Proposal

Mayor Blayney advised the public that there was a lot of copies of facts on the back counter.

Police Chief Neil Dadian stated that with the current police dispatch staff shortages a full position is filled with per diem dispatchers from neighboring cities. The availability of per diem dispatchers has gone down due to the shortage of dispatchers at their own police departments. So, that shift has been covered by supervisory backfill and mandatory overtime shifts. Right now the cost per resident for the police dispatch is \$24.17. If we were to contract with the Fresno Sheriff's Office (FSO) it would reduce to \$14.61.

Chief Dadian also spoke about the need for updated equipment. As of right now they are not able to record phone calls or radio traffic. He is concerned that some cases are not being investigated due to not having the recording. He also spoke about how the radios are old, not commercial grade, and are an officer safety problem. FSO will purchase radios on loan for five years with no interest. Another safety concern is only having one dispatcher on duty at a time. Chief Dadian said that these dispatchers are not given proper breaks, and if they do have a real break an officer needs to come in from the field to cover the break. Because of the short staffing there is no coverage for training and there is a greater chance of burnout.

Out of the four current dispatch employees Chief Dadian said they would fill a new Police Services Technician position. This position would cover front counter traffic during lobby hours and be in charge of evidence. He said Sheriff Mims offered dispatch jobs, none were interested. Chief Dadian finished with the statement that it is vital that police officers use the 21st century technology that they deserve. He then showed a power point presentation of pictures of the current dispatch center and the FSO dispatch center.

Sheriff Mims stated that she has staff with her including Lieutenant Brandon Purcell. Lt. Purcell is a FSO dispatch supervisor and a resident of City of Kingsburg. She said that should this be approved tonight, she also has a vested interest. It is the closest city to where she lives. She shops here and she has two grandkids that go to school here. With approval of the proposal, the City of Kingsburg will not be in charge of hiring of personnel, discipline, and equipment. She also touched on the fact they have 2 back up

dispatch centers in case something goes wrong at their main center. Currently, out of 45 dispatch positions, they have 6 openings and she is willing and able to hire Kingsburg Police Department's dispatchers. Sheriff Mims spoke about the unfortunate death of an FSO Deputy that was caused by radio inoperability in Fresno County. She said if this proposal is approved, she will personally be available.

Mayor Blayney stated it might be good to discuss the process of when someone calls 911.

Sheriff Mims said a call taker will take the phone call and the caller will explain the emergency. While this is happening the call is being entered and sent to the dispatcher, and the dispatcher dispatches the call.

Mayor Blayney asked how it shows up to the officer.

Sheriff Mims said the calls will come up immediately on the officer's computer. It is the individual agency's sergeants who are in charge of dispatching the calls once they are entered.

Mayor Blayney asked, in a confirming way, if our shift sergeant will be the controlling entity of the priority of calls.

Sheriff Mims said yes, the shift sergeant can break officers from a call to respond to a higher priority call if needed.

Council Member Dix inquired about the redundancy issue Sheriff Mims spoke about and the backup dispatch centers.

Sheriff Mims said that they have had to use the backups in the past because of fire alarms and the computer server going down. She said FSO has their own IT, so it is pretty responsive. There was discussion about inoperability and the importance of cities and the counties being able to communicate at a fast pace during a pursuit or other incidents.

The Mayor stated that a major concern is having staffing. When dispatch is under staffed, it is hard to bring people in on overtime and per diem. We run into issues if you don't give people proper breaks. It results in a lot of stress. He said he has real concerns on handling our own personnel.

Sheriff Mims said the FSO brings in light duty deputies to cover shifts and budgeted overtime shifts for dispatchers.

Mayor Blayney asked Chief Dadian about technological issues up and coming and if they are expensive to address.

Chief Dadian- spoke about the base radio the Police Department received from Clovis PD as used 1980's equipment in 1992. Last time it was worked on parts were bought off of eBay and their technician told them next time it goes out there is nothing they can do about it. He said there are hardware and software issues and the handheld radios are in bad shape. The Police Department has spent a lot of money to get them repaired, sinking good money into bad radios. The radios are not a part of inter-operability and do not fall under the guidelines that the Federal Government mandates.

Council Member Dix asked the Sheriff about employment opportunities. The Sheriff said that if any dispatcher would like to apply, they would need to go through the hiring process just like any other employee.

Council Member Dix asked about the concern citizens have with response times and being putting on hold. Sheriff Mims replied that there shouldn't be a change in response time. FSO has standards they hold their dispatchers to and Kingsburg would not wait behind other cities. The Sheriff then offered City Council a tour of dispatch so they can see what the process is.

a. Public Comment

Maria Blackwell asked if the City Council went and toured FSO's dispatch. She said she believes that FSO dispatch could do a good job. She said her concern is how the City will notify the citizens of what number to call for different services. Mayor Blayney said do you have a concern that the City is not going to effectively communicate the change in procedure?

City Manager Alex Henderson said that the City would engage the newspaper, utilities bills, specific mailer, website, weekly newsletter, Facebook, and other social media outlets. He said it will be a continuous education process just as it was with water usage and water fines.

Margie Smith asked how many went to tour the dispatch center? City Council responded that only Council Member Staci Smith was able to attend. Ms. Smith then asked, how are you making an informed decision?

Mayor Blayney said that he is making an informed decision based on the evidence presented to him and on trusting his staff. As a past volunteer firefighter, he understands how hard it is and couldn't do what dispatch does. But he also understands the change in technology and that FSO is a first class operation.

Ms. Smith said dispatchers feel under appreciated. She spoke about informing the citizens about decisions and asked if the dispatchers would go at the same rate of pay. The Mayor answered that in civil service if you are qualified the pay rate is usually similar. Sheriff Mims also responded about how they have openings for lateral dispatchers.

A citizen spoke about being embarrassed that the technology is so far behind. She knows that it doesn't fall on Chief Dadian, but wanted to know if the City has looked at different options. She also wanted to know if the dispatchers will know certain landmarks and places in the City.

Chief Dadian said he found out how far behind the technology was in May of 2015. Since then he has looked at many options to move forward, and contracting with FSO is his best advice and recommendation. Mayor Blayney stated that locations are up to the responding officer. The dispatcher relays the information the caller gives. The citizen stated that she would be in favor of paying more taxes to keep dispatch local.

Mayor Blayney said that Council has considered a Public Safety Sales Tax. It is a difficult and time consuming process taking about one year to one and a half years.

Chief Dadian said the time constraint for a decision is because of the State 911 upgrade and staffing the old equipment. He said if the base radio went out he wouldn't have another option.

Council Member Creighton said that for a Public Safety Sales Tax you would need a two thirds public vote. City Council cannot make that decision.

Carl Thomas said, why does everything have to happen now, we need more Federal funded dollars. The Mayor said he understands that there is real concern. All agendas and minutes are public knowledge but the only answer to that is that we work through these things. He said we are trying to make use of social media to reach out.

The City Manager said that the idea for contracting for dispatch was first brought to the Finance Committee who then approved it to be recommended to the Public Safety Committee and City Council. He said we have been working on it for 6-8 months in these committees that are open to the public. Once the proposal was approved by the Finance Committee and was reviewed by the Public Safety Committee, it was brought to the City Council. The need for a decision now is because of staffing, 911 dispatch upgrade, and radio equipment, which makes for a small time frame.

Mayor Blayney said we have to take it or leave it. We have to make a decision. Things like this don't get better by sitting on it. When you are elected for City Council we need to work through these things. When Chet Reilly resigned we had only one applicant. People either trust us or nobody wanted the job. The public trusts the City Council to make the best decision. He said he would like to get Federal funding, but we don't qualify for grants.

Lori Sanders said she would like to thank Sheriff Mims and that she would feel safe if we contracted with FSO. She said she is sad it wasn't budgeted for and wanted to know if she had to file a police report Thursday at 2pm could we file a report? Chief Dadian said yes, an officer will come to you. Ms. Sanders then spoke about Healdsburg who was in a similar position. She gave City Council printed information for their review.

Brenda Prado asked if it was a rush because of 911 and asked how FSO dispatch would handle dog calls. Mayor Blayney said that is one the factors. Chief Dadian then said our level of customer service will stay the same. The dispatcher is going to pass on all information and his officers will decide after that. He said we will continue to keep a list in the Police Department.

b. Council Discussion

Council Member Creighton said it comes down to public safety. What is going to happen if the radio goes down now? He said he is concerned and is thinking of the safety of the people of Kingsburg.

Council Member Dix said citizens are not comfortable coming here to speak. A lot of people have a concern about the office hours of the Police Department being opened 8am-5pm. He said that maybe this is something to be thought out more in this process. He said he is concerned about the state of our equipment and about two people having an emergency at one time.

Council Member Creighton said it is an intriguing thought to use some of the savings to keep the lobby open 24/7. Chief Dadian spoke about how he has been looking to use volunteers at the front counter. He also said that police officers will always be available.

Council Member Smith said she has had a lot of difficulty with this. She said she has sat with local dispatchers and toured at FSO and she agrees that they will provide an excellent service. She stated that she is worried about the customer service side but she also recognizes the safety side. She said she is frustrated that there hasn't been a lot of community outreach. She said it is disheartening. She is trying the best she can to get the information out there. She appreciates everyone who came and spoke out and their input.

Mayor Blayney said he was contacted individually, including a written communication from Charlie Soto who expressed his concerns. He said he lives in Kingsburg and he doesn't like change but you have to trust who you are doing business with and trust your staff. He said on that bases, he trusts his staff. They have done a good job providing information and he feels they have enough information.

Council Member Creighton said he is concerned because Council Member Roman is not here. Council Member Dix said he hears the concern that they have not toured FSO's dispatch and that he will go for a more informed decision.

A motion was made by Council Member Creighton, seconded by Council Member Dix to defer the decision to no later than the next meeting, February 3, 2016. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote of those Council Members present.

Crime Statistics report for the Month of December 2015

Police Chief Neil Dadian said that stats are flat for the most part. The main problem is auto theft and that they are looking for ways to attack that. He also stated that he is looking to reformat the way his reports look and should have it ready soon. He stated that he will also give a one year overview.

Council Member Creighton asked if there has been any local arrests for the auto theft. Chief Dadian said auto thefts are spiking all over the county. He doesn't have an answer right now in regards to suspects. There have been no arrests.

Second Quarter Organization Goals Update

City Manager Alexander Henderson stated that he has given Council updates of each department's goals so they can see where they are. The Police Department has implemented Citizens on Patrol and has purchased the interceptors. He said for Community Services, Ashlee Winslow – Schmal is working really hard to make sure pool staff is trained and is about to open the hiring process for lifeguards and we can now train outside agencies. He said we are working closely with Marion Villa for more participation at the senior center. The City Manager stated for Public Works the dog park now has water, and we are looking for shade and landscaping. He said we have converted all public medians to drip irrigation to be proactive. Public Works is continuously working on wells with 4 out of 7 going down the past year. We are trying to figure out what the issue is during this low use time.

Mr. Henderson spoke about City Hall including the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, comprehensive finance report, annual financial policies, and the website enhancement. In regards to the

website he said he is hoping to go live at the end of February. It is more user friendly for citizens and staff. He said Fire has reduced the ambulance fund liability and are hoping to get Inter Government Transfer money by the end of February. He said Fire has hired 19 reserves who will assist in responses. This will also make a large pool of people to hire. All ambulance billing is done through Novato.

Council Reports and Staff Communications

- a. Community Services Commission – City Manager Alex Henderson said they haven't met because they couldn't get a quorum.
- b. Public Safety Committee – Council Member Creighton said they met last week and discussed dispatch. Conni Delinger spoke about Klass fingerprinting, set for April 30, 2016.
- c. Chamber of Commerce – Council Member Smith said there was a reorganization of the board but nothing changed.
- d. Economic Development Committee– City Manager said they are set to meet next Thursday.
- e. Finance Committee – Mayor Blayney said they are set to meet now on February 4th due to a conflict with the COG meeting and Chamber's dinner.
- f. Planning Commission – The City Manager said they met in January. The next meeting is February 11, 2016.
- g. City Manager's Report – The City Manager said that he wanted to include the invite for the Blossom Trail Opening Ceremony Invitation. Mayor Blayney said Council Member Roman will attend. Mayor Blayney and City Manager Henderson spoke about the forming of a water coalition to try to get more water on a Federal and State level through COG.

Other Business as May Properly Come Before the City Council

The City Manager said we received a nice note from KCAPS for the toy drive.

Adjourn Kingsburg City Council Regular Meeting. At 8:23pm the regular meeting was adjourned.