

**Kingsburg City Council  
Regular Meeting  
February 3, 2016**

**5:00 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, Staci Smith, Sherman Dix, Michelle Roman, and Mayor Bruce Blayney.

Invocation was given by Mayor Bruce Blayney who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**6:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING**

**Call to Order and Roll Call** – At 6:00 P. M. Mayor Bruce Blayney called the regular meeting of the Kingsburg City Council to order.

**Council Members present:** Ben Creighton, Staci Smith, Sherman Dix, Michelle Roman, and Mayor Bruce Blayney.

**Staff present:** City Manager Alex Henderson, City Attorney Michael Noland, Police Chief Neil Dadian, Finance Director Maggie Moreno, Police Department Records Supervisor Corina Padilla, and City Clerk Abigail Palsgaard.

**Public Comments** – This is the time for any citizen to come forward and address the City Council on any issue within its jurisdiction. A maximum of five minutes is allowed for each speaker. - None

**Approve Agenda** – A motion was made by Council Member Roman, seconded by Council Member Dix, to approve the Agenda, as published. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Consent Calendar** – A motion was made by Council Member Creighton, seconded by Council Member Dix, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- 1. Approval of City Council Minutes** – Approve the minutes from the regular Kingsburg City Council meeting held on January 20, 2016 as prepared by City Clerk Abigail Palsgaard.
- 2. Check Register**– Ratify/approve payment of bills listed on the check register for the period January 15, 2016 through January 28, 2016 as prepared by Accounts Payable Clerk Grace Reyna.

**Pulled Consent Calendar Items: None**

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**Dispatch Operation Proposal; Item Continued from January 20, 2016 Council Meeting** – Consider Memorandum prepared by Police Chief Neil Dadian to transfer police dispatch operations to Fresno County Sheriff (FSO)

Kingsburg Police Chief Neil Dadian reviewed a memorandum that he had prepared to address issues brought up by concerned citizens at the last Council meeting. He reviewed lobby hours, parking lot security, Federal Funds, and messaging (notifying the public).

Council Member Roman spoke about her training for the SKF Board. She said that she had a chance to visit FSO dispatch. She said that she was not at the last meeting but had reviewed the minutes and followed up with Chief Dadian and the City Manager. She has also had additional questions brought up by the public who reached out to her. She said that Lieutenant Brandon Purcell (FSO Dispatch Supervisor) is a Kingsburg resident and has a great perspective on this issue. She said that she couldn't have asked for anyone better to give her a tour.

Council Member Creighton said that Lt. Purcell gave him a tour also. He noted that Lt. Purcell lives here with his wife and three children.

Council Member Dix said that he toured FSO with Mayor Blayney and it was a great tour. He said that he thought the facilities were more than adequate. He said he had a question about Kingsburg dispatchers getting an opportunity at FSO. He said that he is looking for clarity.

Sheriff Margaret Mims said that vacancies are down to three. The Sheriff's Office will take their applications and they have till February 12<sup>th</sup> for a lateral move. Chief Dadian said that the salary would be equal or greater and all qualify for journeyman positions at \$7,000 per year more.

Mayor Blayney asked that Chief Dadian go through the dispatch procedure again.

Chief Dadian said that currently when someone calls 911 it rings into the Kingsburg Police Department (KPD). A Dispatcher will answer and get the information from the caller. Fire or medical gets transferred to Fresno County EMS and they dispatch the need. If it is a police emergency and from a local line, dispatch makes a call for service. He explained what would happen from a cell phone. It depends on whatever tower it pings; it could go to different counties.

Chief Dadian explained that what would change is the dispatch number and 911 would be routed to FSO. It would still say, "911 state your emergency". The dispatcher would create a call for service and police would be sent out. Nothing about procedure would change, just where it is located.

Council Member Creighton said that he was not clear about FSO dispatch that can ping where the cell phone is located. Also, dispatchers are sending digital messages to the PD.

Chief Dadian said that we can all see that right now because we use Sheriff's CAD system. Once dispatchers get the call they will dispatch. Right now officers routinely dispatch themselves to calls since it is all digital. Either the dispatcher or the officer has the ability to respond to a call.

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Council Member Roman asked if we can handle two calls at the same. Say a burglary and a medical aid.

Chief Dadian said that the dispatcher would have to go back and forth and put people on hold. Council Member Roman said that FSO wouldn't have to put someone on hold since they have a room full of dispatchers.

At 6:23 P. M. Mayor Blayney opened for public comment:

Gloria Mendes said that she had an incident a year ago, called 911 with a cell phone and got a county dispatcher who didn't know the address of Kingsburg Senior Center. She said that we will lose a little in that regard.

Council Member Creighton said that at FSO dispatch they had landmarks on the map. We can add places of interest to their map so that they can see it.

Nancy Thompson said that now 911 calls are being dispatched to the officer. Will the information get to KPD officers quickly?

Mayor Blayney said that this has been a concern. FSO can bring on more staff during peak times, whereas as now we do not have that possibility. Peak time dispatch issues were discussed briefly.

Margie Smith asked how many towns are on our channel. Mayor Blayney said four: Sanger, Parlier, Orange Cove, and Fowler; about 12 officers. He explained that during a special event a tactical channel is opened and officers involved change over to a dedicated line. They have a possibility of 12 dedicated lines.

Council Member Creighton said that he has concerns about Kingsburg being treated as a lower priority. Lt. Purcell said we don't answer the call with, "911, what city are you calling from"? That is a false statement.

Council Member Dix said that if we do this, he would like hiring another officer to be a priority. Having two officers on duty is his concern.

Council Member Smith stated that she had sought out people looking for advice. She spoke to an ex FSO dispatcher. She said that her biggest concern is having one dispatcher for 17%. Right now the channel is not as busy as if it is shared with 12 officers. Our dispatchers know our small community. She said that she sat in with Corina on Christmas Eve and EMS dispatching went to the wrong address. She said that she sees a real benefit in having a dispatcher local. She said that her final concern is with non-emergency calls. It is ingrained in us, if we see something, call it in. The community being so involved keeps the community safe. She said that you can be on hold 15 minutes for a non-emergency call with FSO. That kind of hold time will not help keep the community calling in suspicious activities.

Chief Dadian said that KPD's business line would take non-emergency calls in the lobby. If someone is calling in, holding is a matter of emergency priority. The availability is with the police officer and not the dispatcher. Council Member Roman said that she thinks we are talking about different phone lines.

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Chief Dadian said that having 12 or 15 people on a line isn't that much. He has worked with 50-60 officers on a line and with training and being a good teammate it can be handled.

Council Member Dix asked if Sheriff Mims could speak about the call time.

Sheriff Mims said that their emergency calls and non-emergency calls are different than an appointment line. She said that she would like to get the time of the calls so she can research the hold times. Calls are instantly dispatched.

Shannon Peterson said that she has no problem with the 911. She is wondering if there is any way we can find money to have someone at the Police Station to answer the phone.

Council Member Smith said that Lori Sanders called her with concerns about lobby hours. Is there any way to have the lobby open 7 days a week. Chief Dadian said that he has covered that in his memo. Lobby services currently provided to our residents would remain the same. The only change would be established business hours for handling routine matters such as obtaining copies of reports, parking licenses, etc. He said that this is a farming community that goes to work before 8 and comes home after 5. He said that everything is adjustable.

Coni Delinger said that she is upset that dispatching is going to be outsourced. She thinks that our dispatchers do a darn good job. She said that it would worth the money to keep it here.

Tony Redfern said that Kingsburg officers always respond first on 911 calls for medical emergencies. He has no complaints about the medical emergency side of EMS. There are exceptions but it is a great system. It doesn't matter who answers as long as someone shows up.

Council Member Creighton said that this is not an easy topic. He has looked at both sides. It boils down to the safety of the citizens of Kingsburg, and remember that he is a citizen here.

Council Member Dix asked what is the recommendation from staff.

Mayor Blayney read the recommendation from staff: Approve the proposed contract with Fresno County Sheriff's Office for the performance of law enforcement dispatch services/911 answering responsibilities.

A motion was made by Council Member Dix to approve staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Council Member Creighton

Council discussion before the vote: Council Member Dix said that we have to address the issue of funds. We are forced to be objective and he wants the best for the City. Also we have to look at the limited dispatch abilities we have. FSO has better capabilities. Technology is changing quickly and we do not have the ability to meet the demands of the people in the future.

Council Member Roman said that Council can direct the Chief on lobby hours.

Council Member Creighton said our dispatch is great. However there is only so much a person can do with the equipment they have.

Mayor Blayney said that his concern, which will be addressed later, is security. We need better lighting for vehicles parked at the Police Station; additional cameras; and Citizens on Patrol need to feel safe.

At this point the Mayor asked the City Clerk for a roll call on the motion:

Ayes: Council Members Creighton, Dix, Roman, and Mayor Blayney

Noes: Council Member Smith

Motion carried, four to one.

**Discussion Concerning Supply of Temporary Water Outside Kingsburg City Limits - Consider Staff report prepared by City Manager Alex Henderson**

City Manager Henderson introduced David Mendez from Self-Help Enterprises, the contracted drought relief agency in Tulare County and others to help rural residents whose wells have dried up. They provide water for emergency sanitary uses. Mr. Henderson explained that the amount requested to pump is a very small fraction of what the City pumps. The City resumes no liability and the City Council could end the contract at any time. He said staff is looking for direction on how to proceed and the rate for the commodity.

Mayor Blayney said he thinks this is great. Council Member Creighton spoke about how Kingsburg residents are asked to cut back and he is worried about the perception of selling water. Mr. Mendez said he would cut back on his water use if he knew it was going to people in need. He said that the water is not for outside irrigation. It is only for internal use including showers, washing clothes, and dishes. Mr. Mendez said that they will grant a little more for water coolers (AC) during the summer months.

Council Member Roman asked about how the City would be able to monitor how much water is being pumped for this purpose. Mr. Henderson said that they would have to get a meter just like any construction project. He also added that the amount of water pumped is open to discussion.

There was discussion on water use and the El Nino weather pattern. Mr. Mendez said El Nino is helping some wells, but for the people they sell water to, since their well is dry; it is going to take many years of wet weather. Mayor Blayney said that this is not for landlords but is for people who have no water and are really hurting. Mr. Mendez clarified that it is not for slumlords; they have to qualify.

City Manager Alex Henderson said that we are looking for guidance. If Council wants to pursue it we can come back with more information.

Council Member Roman moved to authorize staff to enter into further discussion and come back with more information. Mayor Blayney stated that he would amend the motion to require that the lease be for at least one year at one acre foot per month, not to exceed \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons.

Councilmember Creighton seconded the amended motion which carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Housing Allocation Declaration** - Consider Staff report prepared by City Manager Alex Henderson

City Manager Alex Henderson stated that, as outlined in his report, as part of the City's growth management ordinance, the City Council, at its first meeting in February, can direct staff to open up the housing allocation process, assuming all allocations were not previously awarded. He said that right now they are just opening it for contractors to bid but the proper procedure is for the Council to reopen the unused allocation.

Following brief discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Roman, to authorize staff to conduct a second competitive allocation process. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Report on Emergency Well Repair**- Consider Staff report prepared by City Manager Alex Henderson

City Manager Alex Henderson said, as previously discussed, wells #14 and #15 are non operational due to issues with the pump. An estimate of costs for repairs from Alta Pump Co. is just under \$65,000. He explained that due to the unexpected nature of these failings, funding was not encumbered as part of the 2015-16 budget. He explained that when an emergency situation does not permit the use of the competitive purchasing process, the City Manager may determine the procurement methodology most appropriate to the situation. He said that he had asked for recommendations from two Council Members; Blayney and Roman. Staff received written recommendations from Mayor Blayney and Mayor Pro-Tem Roman to move forward with immediate repairs. He explained that we can meet demand as it is a low use time, but another well can go down, or it can take up to a month to get it up and going. He said that he would be taking the budget amendments to the Finance Committee tomorrow and the formal amendment will come before the City Council at a later time. He explained that no action is necessary at this time.

**Council Reports and Staff Communications**

**Community Services Commission** – Council was updated on continuing improvements at the dog park including trees and drinking fountains for humans and dogs.

**Public Safety Committee** – Council Member Creighton reported that they had received approval from the Hillblom Foundation for the money for a second Klass Printathon on Saturday, April 20th. They meet next Tuesday.

**Chamber of Commerce** – Council Member Smith reported that the Chamber Board meets next Tuesday. There are 4 board members retiring and she wanted to see if Council wanted to recognize them. Mayor Blayney suggested a proclamation.

**Economic Development Committee**– Met last week and discussed the fees that came before Council. They talked about residential development and some interest in the business park.

**Finance Committee** – Mayor Blayney said that they will be meeting tomorrow and will be talking about making changes to the budget. The bottom line is that we are in better shape financially.

**Planning Commission** – Meets next Thursday at 6pm. Mayor Blayney said that if we get our Housing Element certified we get more grant money.

**City Manager’s Report** – City Manager Alex Henderson said that the Blossom Trail ceremony is this Friday in Reedley. He said that the residents have done a wonderful job with water conservation and there have been no fines. The State has pushed the conserving to October. He said that this just came out today and we will have to see if Council wants to continue with the system we have. He said that with the current method we have met our goals.

**Other Business as May Properly Come Before the City Council - None**

**Adjourn** – The Kingsburg City Council Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

**Submitted by:**

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Abigail Palsgaard, City Clerk  
City of Kingsburg