



Jerry Muenzer

Board of Supervisors

San Benito County Board Chamber - 481 4th Street, Hollister, CA 95023

REGULAR MEETING ACTION MINUTES June 11, 2012

1. Call To Order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson De La Cruz

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner St. John.

1.2 Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Jaime De La Cruz, Ed Hawkins, Paul St. John, and Jerry Muenzer.

Absent: Commissioner Dick Gallagher.

Staff present: Public Works Administrator Steve Wittry and Staff Analyst Mike Hodges.

1.3 Acknowledge Certificate of Posting

The agenda was posted on June 8, 2012 by 5:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Free Library, San Benito County Courthouse, and San Benito County Administration Building per Government Code Section #54954.2(a).

The motion to acknowledge the certificate of posting was made by Commissioner Muenzer and seconded by Commissioner St. John. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Public Comment

Jesse Garza addressed the commission regarding the rental agreement with Verizon for the Cell Tower located within the park. He was requesting the rental income of this tower be placed within the Veterans Park operating budget.

Joe Tonascia, representing Babe Ruth, requested assistance with ground squirrel abatement in the park. He offered private support with a Rodenator to assisting Public Works in dealing with the problem. Steve informed the commission that when the County first utilized its Rodenator, both City Police and County Sheriff requested not to utilize it within the park due to the loud explosion noises so close to residential neighborhoods. Commissioner De La Cruz requested an update during the next meeting.

Richard Herrera asked if the adult softball field could have priority usage to the public over the City. There is a shortage of available ball fields within San Benito County. He would also like a copy of the City of Hollister – County of San Benito usage agreement. For future agreements, he requested that the usage sections contain wording that gives Veterans priority.

3. Consent Items

3.1 Approval of Minutes of May 7, 2012 meeting

The motion to approve all consent items was made by Commissioner Muenzer and seconded by Commissioner De La Cruz. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Staff Announcements – Information Only

4.1 Steve informed the commission regarding a Scout Event this weekend at Bolado Park.

5. Commission Announcements, Introductions and Presentations – Information Only

5.1 Commissioner De La Cruz commented regarding the possibility of expanded use at Brigantino Park with possible joint City / County recreational assistance.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Park Water Supply

Staff presented the current situation regarding water supply to the park. The City of Hollister is requesting reimbursement for water supplied to the Veterans Park beginning in the next fiscal year 2012-2013. During the May 7, 2012 Veterans Memorial Park Commission meeting it was directed by the commission that staff investigate possible courses of action in management of the water usage in the park. Staff presented possible alternative action steps for consideration by the commission regarding the water supply topic including User Group billing and long term well solution.

The Public Works Department is moving forward with a capital project proposal that will install an irrigation well within the park that would supplement / replace the existing City water source. In discussion with the City representatives, they were open to the option of providing just enough water to the park to keep the grass fields alive for a year until the new well came online.

If the capital project is approved by the County Board of Supervisors in August at the County budget hearings, Public Works will manage the design and construction of a well in the park. During this time, a water monitoring program will be implemented with all user groups to ensure the specific water allocation for each field is managed appropriately. Any excess water usage in an area will be paid for by the user group. Public Works staff will meet with all involved users to ensure they understand the workings of each installed meter.

Public Works will also move forward with the implementation of a billing / invoice system to allow the recovery of energy related costs from all the user groups within the park. The possible user charges will include a low value amount for well electricity, system maintenance, and asset recovery.

Joe Tonascia addressed the commission regarding water usage strategy and possible nonprofit organizational service providers. He recommended investigation of water cost value and meter reading history be reevaluated and proportionally spread to each user group. He offered his expertise and suggested the Water District as helpful player in the project.

Commissioner Muenzer reasserted that any agreement between the City and County will need to be reviewed by County Council and approved by the Board of Supervisors. Staff is currently in the process of investigating possibilities and presenting to the commission for review.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Veterans Memorial Park Commission, Commissioner Muenzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Hawkins. Motion passed 4-0.

The next regular meeting of the Veterans Memorial Park Commission will be held on Monday, August 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Hodges, Staff Analyst
San Benito County Veterans Memorial Park Commission