

**CITY OF SELMA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 6, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Selma City Council was called to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Council chambers. Council members answering roll call were: Avalos, Derr, Niswander, Mayor Pro Tem Lujan, and Mayor Tow.

Also present were City Manager Heusser, City Attorney Hargrove, Police Chief Whiteside, Fire Chief Kestly, Public Works Director Weaver, Recreation and Community Services Director Kirchner, Finance Director Bier, Administrative Services Manager Hull, the press, and interested citizens.

The agenda for this meeting was duly posted in a location visible at all times by the general public seventy-two hours prior to this meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SBSC VISTA: City Manager Heusser introduced the City's newest VISTA in charge of the Small Business Support Center. Ms. Crystal Nash was welcomed by the Council.

PRESENTATION OF 2006 PARAMEDIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD: Mr. Nathan Williams, President of the Selma Firefighters Association, stepped forward and presented Justin Vasquez with the 2006 Selma Paramedic Scholarship Award. Mr. Vasquez was congratulated by the Council.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Ms. Nancy Alexander, 3231 Mulberry, stepped forward to suggest various new mottos for the City.

Ms. Linda Binder, 2432 B Street, stepped forward to report speeding problems on Third and East Front Streets by the I-5 Day Care Center. It was reported that the Police Department would look into the matter.

Mr. William Peyton, 15208 S. McCall, stepped forward to thank police department staff for recovering his family dog after the truck his dog was in was stolen. He also presented animal control with a \$200.00 donation. He was thanked by the Council.

Ms. Margaret Mims, 2013 E. Conejo, stepped forward to ask for the Council's support in her bid for Fresno County Sheriff.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Motion to approve the Consent Calendar was made by Council member Niswander and seconded by Council member Derr. Motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Niswander, Derr, Avalos, Lujan, Tow

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

- a. Minutes of the February 21, 2006 workshop/pre-council meeting approved as written.
- b. Minutes of the February 21, 2006 regular meeting approved as written.
- c. Check register dated March 2, 2006 approved by standard motion.

CONSIDERATION AND NECESSARY ACTION ON POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF CONTRACT WITH CALIFORNIA CONSULTING: City Manager Heusser reported that the contract with California Consulting has expired and that they have submitted a new contract for lobbying services.

After discussion, motion to approve a new one-year contract with California Consulting at a cost of \$1,500 per month was made by Council member Niswander and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lujan. Motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Niswander, Lujan, Derr, Tow

NOES: Avalos

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

CONSIDERATION AND NECESSARY ACTION ON REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FEES FOR SELMA CANCER SUPPORT GROUP AND THE SELMA MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION: Motion to approve the waiver of fees for the use of Lincoln Park by the Selma Cancer Support group for the annual "Circle the City" day and the Selma Ministerial Association for Good Friday services with the understanding that both groups will pay the set rates if the park is left dirty or if there is damage was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lujan and seconded by Council member Derr. Motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Lujan, Derr, Avalos, Niswander, Tow

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

CONSIDERATION AND NECESSARY ACTION ON REPORT AND PROPOSAL BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY AD-HOC COMMITTEE: City Manager Heusser explained the history of the Public Safety Ad-Hoc Committee and introduced its Chairman.

Dr. Stan Louie stepped forward to present the committee's findings. He reported that it was the conclusion of the group that there are "serious" needs and shortcomings in the City's emergency services and that these shortcomings represent a widening gap between accepted U.S. standards and the City's current situation. He also stated that the committee feels they do not have the expertise to suggest a funding source and are therefore recommending that the City contract for a feasibility study.

Discussion then occurred regarding the definition of the word "serious".

Council member Niswander stated that she feels further study by the Council is needed before making a decision.

Mr. Pete Esraelian, a member of the Ad-Hoc committee stepped forward and stated that he feels a study would tell the Council exactly what the public wants and if a different funding source would be approved by the citizens.

Mr. Tim Nuanes and Mr. Joe Martinez, also members of the committee, stated that this is the next step in the process and that Selma can only benefit from a study.

Mr. Steve Allen and Mr. Nathan Williams, representing the fire department, stepped to the podium to let the Council know that they feel there are problems that need to be addressed.

After much and sometimes heated discussion, City Manager Heusser stated and it was the consensus of Council that an educational work session would be scheduled before the next Council meeting to review the Police and Fire departments current status and their needs. Staff was also directed to prepare cost estimates for the hiring of additional fire and police personnel.

After further discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lujan and seconded by Council member Avalos to approve entering into a contract for a feasibility study for funding police and fire services.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Council member Avalos commended the Public Works Department on their efforts during the recent storm.

Council member Niswander thanked the Fire Department for their help at the McCall Village Mobile Home Park after the storm. She also reminded everyone of Chamber Mixer at Mike Derr's State Farm office.

Mayor Pro Tem Lujan thanked the Public Works Department for the removal of the stumps on Selma Street.

Mayor Tow thanked the Public Safety Ad-Hoc Committee members for their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie A. Carter, CMC
City Clerk

Don Tow
Mayor of the City of Selma