

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Luna called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Richard C. Cook, Councilmember Donald L. Johnson, Councilmember John T. Procter, Vice Mayor Laura Flores Espinosa, and Mayor Ray C. Luna responded to roll call. Interim City Manager Paul L. Skeels, City Attorney Phillip H. Romney, City Clerk Steven J. Salas, and Deputy City Clerk Josephine G. Herrera were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Vice Mayor Espinosa, seconded by Councilmember Procter, to adopt the Consent Calendar as presented.

A discussion ensued regarding holding the Closed Session at this time due to the consultant having to catch a plane.

It was the consensus of the City Council to hold the Closed Session at this time and to move the Closed Session to the City Manager's Conference Room in order that the public not have to vacate the Council Chambers.

City Attorney Phillip H. Romney announced that the Closed Session was to discuss: Negotiations with Employee Organizations: Santa Paula Police Officers Association (SPPOA - Non-Safety Unit (CSO Unit), Santa Paula Police Officers Association/IBPO - Police Commanders Unit, Santa Paula Public Employees Association (SEIU), and unrepresented employees (management, mid-management, confidential, part-time, temporary, and seasonal employees). Name of Negotiator: Melissa Macias. Pursuant to *Government Code §54957.6. (118-2)*

Mayor Luna recessed to a Closed Session at 6:32 p.m.

Mayor Luna reconvened into Open Session at 7:19 p.m.

No action was taken during the Closed Session.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. City Participation in Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) - (182-11)

Interim City Manager Paul L. Skeels' report dated April 8, 2002.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Espinosa, seconded by Mayor Luna, that the City of Santa Paula remain in VCOG and participate with its minimal amount of contribution.

Under roll call vote, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

B. Voter Education Proposal - (80)

City Clerk Steven J. Salas' report dated April 8, 2002. Mr. Salas introduced Dr. Leo Estrada and Richard Verches from Datatrends, who provided a presentation on their proposal.

Dr. Estrada responded to a question regarding his firm's experience with voter education, registration, and redistricting by responding that Datatrends has worked with many cities, most recently with the State of California, State Assembly, State Senate, the City of Los Angeles and the City of San Diego, on redistricting. He further responded that their experience with voter education and registration has been working in partnership with others, and that they are currently working with C.A.U.S.E. in Ventura County. He further responded to a question regarding the use of local resources by responding that this would include the use of volunteers and in-kind donations. He further responded to a question regarding whether the Request for Proposals had included the amount allocated for this project by responding no; however, he expressed that he should have contacted the City Clerk to obtain the amount.

Roger Campbell, 459 Main Street, Fillmore, noted his interest in submitting a bid and encouraged the City Council to rebid the project. Mr. Campbell responded to a question regarding his work experience by stating that he is involved with public affairs with several clients, including developers, property owners, and the State Governor's Office. He further responded to a question regarding whom he believes to be the top people in the state best versed in redistricting by suggesting Bob Braitman for drawing districts; however, the Santa Paula City Council has already drawn up lines. He further stated that this project is more for voter education, outreach, and registration, and that the City Council should ensure it will be a nonbiased effort.

Bill Glenn, 128 E. Santa Paula Street, read from his prepared statement in opposition to the voter education proposal.

Rodney Fernandez, 537 Glade Drive, spoke in favor of the voter education proposal.

Mark Delgado, 105 Sonoma Lane, spoke against the \$50,000 allocation for this project, and stated that he could gather volunteers to perform this task at no cost. Additionally, he mentioned that the County Elections Division would provide this service at no cost by providing voter registration drives, voter education, forums, and outreach.

Chris Espinosa, 233 Corte Linda, spoke in favor of the voter education proposal.

Robert Borrego, 425 Fourteenth Street, representing Latino Town Hall, spoke in favor of the voter education proposal.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Espinosa, seconded by Councilmember Procter for discussion, to adopt the proposal and move forward with this in the short amount of time Council has to do so.

A discussion ensued regarding the City Council's support for voter education and concerns regarding the \$50,000 allocation.

Mayor Luna called for the question.

Under roll call vote, Councilmember Procter and Vice Mayor Espinosa were in favor. Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Cook, and Mayor Luna were opposed. The motion failed.

Vice Mayor Espinosa stated for the record, "I am very disappointed in the Council's actions tonight. Mr. Johnson, last August, may I quote you, you stated when I proposed \$50,000, 'Is that enough?' I thought at that time you were sincere, Mr. Johnson. Mr. Luna, I believe that you are sincere in your intentions, and I just believe that you submitted to some pressure that shouldn't be there. We need to be a community that is together and united. Mr. Cook, I know that you've been opposed to this, as you've said, from day one. But, this was your opportunity to bring the community together. In your last Council meeting, I listened to the tape, and you were willing at that time to come back and discuss it. You called it a waste of money. Voting is not a waste of money. It's one of the most cherished and dearest opportunities afforded to the American public. Mr. Procter, I really commend you for doing some additional research on this issue. You have really enlightened me about some of the ramifications of this. You also convinced me that this is an excellent form of government process that we should be looking at, and I applaud you for your efforts as well."

CITY COMMUNICATIONS

Interim City Manager Paul L. Skeels reminded the City Council that on May 2, 2002, Dr. Richard Garcia of RJA Management Services would be available in the afternoon to allow

the public to speak with him privately regarding the City Manager recruitment, and that appointments could be made by contacting Deputy City Clerk Josie G. Herrera at her office. Additionally, Dr. Garcia would be holding an open public forum in the evening from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

City Clerk Steven J. Salas reminded the City Council to submit the technology survey sent from the League of California Cities by April 30, 2002.

Vice Mayor Espinosa mentioned that she would be chairing the Cancer Relay kickoff at Logsdon's on April 30, 2002, at 6:00 p.m., and invited all to attend this event.

Councilmember Johnson mentioned that he would not be able to attend the forum on May 2, 2002, due to prior a commitment. Interim City Manager Paul L. Skeels noted that the forum would not be scheduled as an official City Council Meeting, and that he also does not plan to attend the forum. He further mentioned that Dr. Garcia would report back to the City Council at a future date.

Councilmember Procter mentioned that the "Imagine Santa Paula" event was held April 27, 2002, and noted that it was well attended.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Mayor Luna, seconded by Councilmember Procter, for staff to look at what can be done regarding voter registration and districting, see if we can notify some of our civic leaders and organizations, see if we can do a grassroots effort on voter registration, education, and the pros and cons of districting, and if any funds that are required for literature, to come back to the City Council.

City Attorney Phillip H. Romney responded to a questions for clarification regarding a recap of his previous staff report on what the City can and cannot do regarding this issue by stating that the issue is of neutrality and to what extent the City participates. Further, presentations regarding these issues must be educational and completely neutral.

Mayor Luna withdrew his motion in order to restate the motion. Councilmember Procter withdrew his second to the motion.

It was moved by Mayor Luna, seconded by Councilmember Procter, for staff to contact civic organizations and leaders of our community to come back with a plan on educating and voter registration and the pros and cons of districting.

Under roll call vote, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember Procter, Councilmember Johnson, and Mayor Luna were in favor. Vice Mayor Espinosa was opposed. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Luna adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Steven J. Salas
City Clerk