

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Aguirre called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Richard C. Cook, Councilmember John T. Procter, Councilmember Ray C. Luna, Vice Mayor Mary Ann Krause, and Mayor Gabino Aguirre responded to roll call. City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz, and Secretary Vanessa Camarillo were also present. City Clerk Steven J. Salas was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The was no Public Comment

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Appointment of Labor Negotiator – Vice Mayor Krause motioned to appoint City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz and Assistant to the City Manager Melissa Grisales as the City's Labor Negotiator with the Santa Paula Fire Fighters Association. Councilmember Cook seconded the motion. There was no opposition and the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Aguirre recessed the City Council to a Closed Session at 6:10 p.m. to discuss:

1. Closed Session – Conference with Labor Negotiator. Government Code Section 54957.6. City Negotiator: City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz and Assistant to the City Manager Melissa Grisales. Employee Organization: Santa Paula Fire Fighters Association.

Mayor Aguirre reconvened the City Council into Open Session at 6:20 p.m. No action was taken during the Closed Session.

Mayor Aguirre recessed the City Council at 6:20 p.m.

RECONVENE AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Aguirre reconvened the City Council at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Richard C. Cook, Councilmember John T. Procter, Councilmember Ray C. Luna, Vice Mayor Mary Ann Krause, and Mayor Gabino Aguirre from the Santa Paula City Council responded to roll call. City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz, City Clerk Steven J. Salas, and Secretary Vanessa Camarillo were also present.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation – Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation’s NeighborWorks Week Project

Jill Bangser, 194 Lang Street, Ventura, from Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, provided a presentation regarding the NeighborWorks Week Project, which is a project to rehabilitate a few houses in Santa Paula on June 5, 2004.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Aguirre directed public comments related to the Ventura County Sheriff’s Feasibility Study to be heard after the presentation by the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Feasibility Study by Ventura County Sheriff’s Department to Provide Law Enforcement Services in Santa Paula

City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz’s report dated April 26, 2004.

Cheryl Wade and Ventura County Sheriff Bob Brooks presented the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department Municipal Police Services Feasibility Study.

RECESS TO BREAK

Mayor Aguirre recessed the City Council to break at 8:00 p.m.

RECONVENE TO MEETING

Mayor Aguirre reconvened the City Council at 8:10 p.m.

Carl Barringer, 1334 Forest Lane, spoke in support of keeping the Police Department because of their sensitivity to the community.

John Wisda, 550 Monte Vista, spoke in support of keeping the Police Department because of the heritage the Police Department has and because he believes the Police Department has been underfunded.

Police Chief Robert S. Gonzales, 214 S. 10th Street, spoke in support of keeping the Police Department, requested the City Council to file the Sheriff's Feasibility Report, and spoke in support of a tax initiative that was discussed. The Chief asked to Council to invest the monies that would be paid to the Sheriff's Department into the Santa Paula Police Department to allow them to hire more officers and provide pay increases to the current officers. He also cautioned the Council that the Sheriff's Department would not hire all of the employees of the Police Department and that the officer's seniority would not transfer over.

Carroll Dean Williams, 2851 Apache Avenue, Ventura, spoke in support of the Police Department, and stated that he believes the Police Department has not been using their resources wisely.

Paul Spencer, 975 W. Telegraph Road, spoke in support of the Police Department, and stated that he believes the City will lose control of their choices and end up spending too much money in the future.

Jess Victoria, 134 Moultrie Place, spoke in support of the Police Department, and asked how much money it would take to bring the City's Police Department up to standard. He also stated that he believes the citizens are committed to providing the City with the funds to keep the Police Department.

Ken Knowlton, 70 Easy Street, spoke in support of the Police Department, and stated that he believes the City would lose the relationship between the community and the officers that service the community if the City contracted with the Sheriff's Department.

Robert Salas, 1203 Hawthorn Street, spoke in support of the Police Department, and stated that he believes that all of the Police and Sheriff Departments in the County are equal and that the City will have the funds to invest in the Police Department with the revenue generated from Fagan Canyon.

Alpidio Escobedo, 318 N. 13th Street, spoke in support of the Police Department and shared his positive experience with Officer Saviers of the Santa Paula Police Department. He also spoke in support of increases in fees to help keep the Police Department functioning.

Donna Stewart, 111 N. 8th Street, spoke in support of the Police Department and shared her positive experience with the Police Department.

Brad Tallent, 214 S. 10th Street, spoke in support of the Police Department, and stated that the Police Department already utilizes the additional services that are offered by the Sheriff's Department and that there would be many additional hidden costs if the Sheriff's Department were contracted.

Robert Borrego, 524 14th Street, spoke in support of the Police Department and shared his positive experiences with the Police Department. He stated that he believes that the Police Department can work more efficiently with more funding.

George Morgan, 231 Warren Avenue, spoke in support of the Police Department and shared his positive experiences with the Police Department during his time spent as the President of the Santa Paula Elementary School District.

Scott Rushing, Santa Paula business owner, spoke in support of the Police Department, and stated that he believes the City Council should be spending their time and resources on more important issues like Fagan Canyon and the hospital.

Steven Gonzales, 431 Center Lane, spoke in support of the Police Department and urged the City Council not to contract with the Sheriff's Department.

Rachel Bustillos, 227 S. 12th Street, spoke in support of the Police Department and asked the Council if the City or County would receive the taxes generated from the Fagan Canyon Development. City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz responded that the City would receive funds for providing law enforcement services, but not for fire services if the City annexed into the Fire Protection District.

Richard Garcia, 852 Main Street, spoke in support of the Police Department and cautioned that if the City contracts out, it would never be able to have its Police Department again.

Tom Borghi, 235 N. 8th Street, spoke in support of the Police Department.

Leonard Somdahl, 720 Yale Street, spoke in support of the Police Department.

Otto Schimmel, 1402 Woodland, spoke in support of the Police Department and recommended funding the Police Department to keep the same type of community policing that is currently being provided.

COUNCIL CONSENSUS TO EXTEND THE MEETING

As business had not concluded at 9:35 p.m., and pursuant to Section 11 of the City Council's Rules of Procedure, it was moved by Councilmember Procter, seconded by Vice Mayor Krause, to extend the meeting for one-half hour. There was no opposition, and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION BY SANTA PAULA CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Cook stated that no decision would be made tonight and assured the community that the people are the ones to make the decision with their vote in November. He also stated that he supports the Police Department and understands that those who spoke tonight want to keep their Police Department but will need to support the Department with their vote and tax dollars.

Councilmember Luna stated that he understands that the Police Officers in the Department work in Santa Paula because they care more about the Department and the Community than their own salaries.

Vice Mayor Krause stated that the audit of the Police Department was conducted to help the Council identify inefficiencies and implement recommendations before they went to the voting polls with any ballot measures. She also stated that before she was appointed as Vice Mayor, she vowed that if she ever where elected she would provide the voters with the information needed to make the right decision. Vice Mayor Krause also apologized for any misinterpretation in her statement to the L.A. Times. She also stated that she supports the Police Department and has no personal interest in contracting with the Sheriff's Department.

Councilmember Procter stated that the audit, request for a Feasibility Study, and phone poll were conducted to collect information to be better equipped to provide the highest level of service to the community. He also stated that he supports the Police Department and encouraged the Community to attend the town hall meeting. Councilmember Procter stated that he believes that having information provides the Council and the community with the knowledge to make the best decision. He also stated that he wanted to make sure that the Community knows that the City Manager was asked by the Council to pursue the Audit and Feasibility Study and did not act on his own.

Mayor Aguirre stated that the information gathered from the Audit and the Feasibility Study would help him, the Council, and the community to make the best decision for the City of Santa Paula. He also encouraged the citizens to be accountable for themselves and to vote and tell their friends and families that they need to vote.

It was moved by Councilmember Procter, seconded by Councilmember Cook, to receive and file the Feasibility Study. There was no opposition and the motion carried.

CITY COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz stated that the Community Public Workshop on ballot initiative issues concerning Fire and Police issues and potential funding options would be held on May 20, 2004, at 6:30 p.m., at the Community Center.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Future Agenda Items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Aguirre adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Steven J. Salas
City Clerk