

CITY OF BRAWLEY
May 9, 2011

The City Council of the City of Brawley, California met in an adjourned regular meeting at 6:00 PM, Lion's Center, 225 "A" Street, Brawley, California, the date, time and place duly established for the holding of said meeting. The City Clerk attests to the posting of the agenda pursuant to G.C. §54954.2.

The meeting was called to order by *Mayor Campbell* at 6:00 PM

The invocation was offered by *Mayor Campbell*

The pledge of allegiance to our flag was led by *CM Kelley*

PRESENT: Campbell, Couchman, Kelley, Miranda, Nava

ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was *approved* as submitted. m/s/c/ Campbell/Miranda 5-0

AYES: Campbell, Couchman, Kelley, Miranda, Nava

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

1. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES/COMMENTS** There was none to report.

2. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS** There was none to report.

3. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

a. **DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL USER'S UTILITY TAX AND BALLOT MEASURES.**

Staff Report – Ruby Walla, Finance Director

The purpose of this presentation and discussion is for the City Council to gather citizens' input in different forums in order to decide upon a potential Ballot Measure for 2011 for the extension of the Utility Users Tax.

CM Burroughs stated that since 1991 we are taking hits, shortfalls in the state budget, state tax revenue transfers and ERAF.

Lupe Navarro indicated that the City never got turned around.

CM Kelley stated that in 1989 development started in El Centro, sales tax in 2008 almost caught up to the UUT. If you want to maintain the same services in the City we need to extend this tax. The Brawley By-Pass and Wal-Mart Pads will help eventually but is going to take some time.

Lupe Navarro stated to the Council that this tax was first implemented for 10 years and then 5 years and again you are asking for another 5 years, downtown businesses are hurting and no one is opening any businesses because everyone is shopping at box stores that are in El Centro.

CM Miranda mentioned that Brawley was #1 and we don't want to be compared to other cities Brawley is Brawley.

CM Burroughs indicated that Utility Users Tax is a continuation, we need to do something to get away from it, 5 or 10 years is not going to fix the problem.

CM Burroughs stated about reduce there will be reductions in areas but we need to prioritization.

Art Reyes asked about zoning the area green and to give something back to the citizens.

Mayor Campbell mentioned that we are looking at our stuff to go green.

CM Kelley stated that we are starting at Fire Station #2.

CM Nava mentioned that there are a lot of state reductions and sales tax is down.

Lupe Navarro stated that ERAF of (1992) introduced the Utility Users Tax by our Finance Director so we are going 20 years with ERAF?

CM Couchman commented that it's an extension of a tax, in 1998 to July of 2008 we could have weaned from it. Once the economy starts growing maybe we can wean of it, we have potential businesses coming to Brawley and property taxes coming back up.

CM Kelley stated we have approached Count about trucks coming from Los Angeles to landfill out at Mesquite Landfill, we have someone from staff looking all the time, let's take a look at National Beef they are paying now.

Art Reyes mentioned that we have been hiring and hiring since 2008 and there is no money.

CM Nava stated that everyone needs City services.

Lupe Navarro asked why we annexed to Highway 111.

CM Kelley indicated that it's the County and they want the City to give half of the tax.

CM Couchman mentioned that ultimately tax sharing is unfair.

Gary Tackett told Council that they need to stand for themselves at the County level because nothing is being done to the North end, look spent all this money at Sunbeam Lake and what about Wiest Lake nothing. We need to start pushing County so they won't leap over Brawley enough is enough.

4. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

- a. **CM Nava** stated they presented a power point to the Soroptimist Club and gave out the fact sheet. I also attended the 1st Annual Film Festival sponsored by the Imperial County Film Commission this last weekend.
- b. **CM Couchman** mentioned he attended the services for Anthony Garcia.
- c. **CM Miranda** stated that he attended the 89th Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration at Hidalgo Hall that included a softball & horseshow tournament.
- d. **CM Kelley** also attended the Soroptimist Club presentation.
- e. **Mayor Campbell** mentioned he wanted to thank staff for hard work they did to get the Brawley Downtown Award that will be presented in La Quinta, attended the Cinco de Mayo Celebration, presented a proclamation for Nurses Week May 6-12, 2011 and visited the Florentine Development.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORT

- a. **CM Burroughs** stated to council if there was anything in particular questions for budget to let him know.

ADJOURNMENT @ 7:30 PM

Alma Benavides