

CITY OF BRAWLEY
November 17, 2015

The City Council of the City of Brawley, California met in an adjourned regular session at 5:00 PM, Council Chambers, 383 Main, 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 Nava** @ 5:00 PM

PRESENT: Campbell, Couchman, Nava, Noriega, Wharton
ABSENT: None

1. CLOSED SESSION @ 5:02pm

- a. Conference with Real Property Negotiator – (California Government Code §54956.8)

Address: Brawley Cattle Call Park
Negotiator: City Manager/City Attorney
Negotiating Parties: Brawley Cattle Call Committee
Under Negotiation: Lease Agreement

- b. Conference with Real Property Negotiator – (California Government Code §54956.8)

Address: 881 S. Brawley Avenue
Negotiator: City Manager/City Attorney
Negotiating Parties: California Cars & Credit, LLC
Under Negotiation: Dedication of Offsite Improvements

2. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION @ 6:05pm

Mayor Nava mentioned that the address for Closed Session Item b. should be 811 S. Brawley Avenue.

3. INVOCATION Father Edward Horning, St. Margaret Mary's Church

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE CM Campbell

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Noriega/Couchman 5-0

6. PUBLIC APPEARANCES/COMMENTS (Not to exceed 4 minutes) this is the time for the public to address the Council **on any item not appearing on the agenda** that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council. The Mayor will recognize you and when you come to the microphone, please state your name for the record. You are not allowed to make personal attacks on individuals or make comments which are slanderous or which may invade an individual's personal privacy. Please **direct your questions and comments to the City Council.**

- a. **Jason Zara, Brawley Chamber of Commerce Executive Director** stated that we survived another year, wanted to thank all City Staff for their continued help during Cattle Call Week from Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Police, Fire and City Manager.

- b. **Eddie Camillo**, mentioned that he had a question that dates back to 1956 where Congressman Vessey was an initiator of a proposal that the County of Imperial was exempt for water rights

On July 21, 2015, Staff and BWA presented content to address the above-described concerns. With regard to the 18% recommended increase in year 1, several changes were incorporated. First, the Admin Allocation was changed. In addition, the 15 year term re-payment of the Wastewater Fund by the Water Fund in the amount of \$102,308 annually is no longer classified as an Operations & Maintenance expense. With these adjustments, the overall proposed rate increase decreased for year 1 from an average of 18% to 11%, with an overall 5 year increase of 54%. The proposed consumption rate was reduced from \$1.63 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.53 per 1,000 gallons for all accounts. This adjustment and reclassification places the City in the financial position to meet debt service requirements for all 5 years.

To address concern number 2, the revised proposed rate schedule now makes a distinction between the base meter size for residential and commercial separately. A 2 inch meter for residential is proposed at \$62.49 instead of \$100.36 as previously proposed.

At the City Council meeting of September 15, 2015, City staff and Doug Dove of BWA provided a presentation on the Water, Wastewater and Storm water Rate Study. Prior to opening the public hearing, the City Clerk reported that the City of Brawley received forty (30) letters protesting water and wastewater rate increases, in addition to one (1) letter supporting the proposed rate structure. The public hearing was opened and public comments were entered into the record by sixteen individuals.

Upon unanimous consent, the City Council continued the Public Hearing to November 17, 2015 at 6pm at the Lions Center. Staff was instructed to perform additional outreach in local media and distribute meeting notifications in English and Spanish to all customers in the October 23rd utility bill.

Since the September 15th meeting, community announcements were placed with KXO Radio, The Desert Review, IV Weekly and El Sol del Valle. Meeting announcements were also distributed to approximately 5,600 utility billing customers with the monthly statement. Following the expanded outreach effort, an additional forty (40) letters of protest were received and one (1) was in support of the rate change.

Open Public Hearing @ 6:15pm

The following individuals provided public comments:

Tony Perez, Brawley Resident
Arthur Reyes, Brawley Resident
Sally Butler, Brawley Resident
Lori Maness in behalf of Liz Machado, Brawley Business Owner
Eddie Camillo, Brawley Resident
Chris Ferguson, Brawley Resident
Carmen Robles, Brawley Resident
Geno Moreno, Brawley Resident

Mayor Nava commented on a lot of Cities going thru what we are not dependent on State or Federal Government.

CM Noriega stated that we need to look into Senior Citizens to get a discount.

CM Campbell mentioned that thru this process that we have been dealing for several months now, there have been several suggestions on ways to achieve these projects, my question to the public is what is that you would like to see that we go out and do for infrastructure and if we really had to get

down to a decision what services would you like to see reduced to achieve the funds that are there for infrastructure and services provided to keep the City afloat because at the end of the day those are things, evidently we don't have the money for infrastructure.

CM Wharton commented on a rate structure, we have critical infrastructure, we need to dig in for projects that need to occur and use that money specifically for that. Water and Wastewater is the most precious commodity.

CM Couchman stated that he doesn't like increases but we continue to have water breaks, old equipment, old infrastructure, continuing needs to update our infrastructure. The Federal Government is also having these issues, businesses are coming into town and everyone needs to pay their fair share.

- a. Approve Resolution No. 2015-63: Resolution of the City Council of the City of Brawley, California Adopting Amended Water and Sewer Rates in Accordance with Proposition 218.

Mayor Nava motioned to Adopt the rates as proposed with an implementation date of March 1, 2016; with a 6 month financial review to follow after implementation; followed with an annual 12 month review thereafter to determine if scheduled increases may be delayed or avoided. m/s/c Nava/Campbell 5-0

9. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Noriega: Attended Civics Promotion at BUHS, Chili-Cook Off, Farmer's Market, Kiwanis Kiosk Re-Dedication, Mixer, Cowboy Poetry, Veteran's Memorial Wall Ceremony, Mariachi Night, Cowbell's Tri-Tip Dinner, Elk's Bar-B-Que and a big thank you to the Chamber of Commerce for putting on these events. I would also like to wish everyone a great Thanksgiving.

Couchman: Attended Art Walk, Chili Cook-Off, Kiwanis Kiosk Re-Dedication, Mixer, Cowboy Poetry, Mulberry School Event, Veteran's Memorial Wall Ceremony, Mariachi Night, Elk's Bar-B-Que, Rodeo Dinner and Rodeo on Sunday; thanks to the Chamber and City Staff.

Campbell: Thank you to all staff for these events and May god bless you all.

Wharton: Attended all events mentioned above as well and would like to wish everyone a great Thanksgiving.

Nava: All these events held this week are a great economic impact, thanks to the Chamber and City Staff; attended the Civics Promotion with Mr. Flores at BUHS and thanked the people that came to the meeting.

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Tree Lighting Ceremony scheduled for 12-02-2015
- b. Offices will be closed Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT None to report

12. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT None to report

13. CITY CLERK'S REPORT None to report

ADJOURNMENT @7:56 PM

Alma Benavides, City Clerk