

PRESENT: Councilmembers Mendoza, Ortiz, Martinez & G. Gonzalez Jr.

OTHERS: Lara, Waters, Aguayo, Collins & Zacarias

ABSENT: Ray

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Johnson, 33650 Road 320, Woodlake – Please see attached written statement submitted by Mr. Johnson.

Robert Johnson, 340 N. Palm, Woodlake – Mr. Johnson asked if the City of Woodlake really has a legal obligation to the current water issues regarding the pumping of water. He stated yes, but it may take years to fix this problem.

Mr. Jeff Johnson asked council if his concerns would be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting for discussion. City Administrator Lara stated Council could make a formal request and have the topic and concerns placed on the agenda for discussion.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR –ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Request Approval of the Consent Calendar Action Items (IV. A-E)

- A. Action: Approval of Minutes of the regular meeting held on April 27, 2015
- B. Action: Approval of Warrants
- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of the April 2015 Monthly Report of Investments
- D. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of the City of Woodlake’s Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Appropriations Limit
- E. Action: Proclamation from the City of Woodlake, Proclaiming the Week of May 17-23, 2015 as National Public Works Week

ON A MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY MARTINEZ, IT WAS VOTED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Information: Presentation to Cruz Dominguez
City Administrator Lara stated Mr. Dominguez will be retiring from the City of Woodlake after 9 years of dedicated service. He thanked Mr. Dominguez for his service and appreciated his commitment. Mayor Mendoza presented Mr. Dominugez with a plaque and thanked him for his committed service. Councilmember G. Gonzalez Jr. thanked Mr. Dominguez for his service to the City of Woodlake and also for the extra work he always did to ensure the children of Woodlake received many gifts through the annual Toy Drive.

- B. Action: Adoption of Resolution: General Plan Amendment 15-01, Introduction of Zoning Ordinance Amendment 15-01, Tentative Subdivision Map 15-01 and Density Bonus Ordinance 15-01
PUBLIC HEARING

City Planner Collins reported the following: after the Planning Commission had concluded their public meeting on the Self-Help project, the City received a letter from Caltrans, District 6, commenting on the Self-Help project. They recommended a number of conditions that should be applied to the project. These recommended conditions are detailed in their letter dated April 30th, which is attached to this report. Specifically, they wanted a traffic analysis for the intersection of State Route 245 and Wutchumna Avenue. This study has yet to be completed. Further, they wanted a 12-foot right-of-way dedication along the east side of Valencia Boulevard in order to facilitate future road widening. Caltrans also wishes to enter into a maintenance agreement with Woodlake for the long-term maintenance of this segment of Valencia Boulevard. Staff is recommending that the above items be continued until the traffic study has been completed on the Valencia Boulevard/Wutchumna Avenue intersection and the city engineer has had an opportunity to review the study as well as Caltrans's conditions. Councilmember Ortiz asked if there are families showing interest for these new homes. City Planner Collins stated yes, a list has been established. Councilmember Ortiz asked how many bedrooms the homes will have. City Planner Collins stated they will be both 3 and 4 bedroom homes. Councilmember Ortiz asked if the City would be able to provide adequate water to these homes with the current water situation we are facing and also make sure our current residents still have adequate water as well. City Administrator Lara stated yes. Meters will be installed in the new homes which will help control the wasting of water. Councilmember Martinez asked if this neighborhood will have street lights. City Administrator Lara stated there will be no sidewalk on Valencia St. but there will be a pedestrian trail behind the Palm trees. There will be a sidewalk on Wutchumna St.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED 7:01 PM

Armida Martinez, 648 N. Acacia, Woodlake – Mrs. Martinez asked if the subdivision would have a park. City Administrator Lara stated yes.

City Clerk Zacarias reported to council that a letter had been submitted by resident Bill Lewis, 342 N. Acacia, Woodlake and he asked that this letter be submitted into the official record as his public comments for this item. Letter is attached.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED 7:03 PM

Councilmember Martinez asked if there would be a change in the speed limit on Valencia due to the new homes and pedestrian walking on Valencia. City Administrator Lara stated city staff is currently working on a reduction in speed for this area. City Planner Collins asked Council to bring this item back at the next scheduled council meeting.

**ON A MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY G. GONZALEZ JR
IT WAS VOTED TO BRING THS ITEM BACK AT THE
MAY 26, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING.**

- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Accept the City of Woodlake Downtown Enhancement Project Phases 1, 2 & 3 and Authorize City Staff to File the Notice of Completion
- City Administrator Lara reported the following: on February 24, 2014, Council awarded the City of Woodlake Downtown Enhancement Projects Phase 1, 2 & 3 to the lowest responsive bidder, Avison Construction, Inc. The project enhanced the downtown from Valencia Blvd. north of Naranjo Blvd. to Lakeview Ave. and down Antelope to Magnolia St. This was accomplished by the construction of curb, gutter, sidewalks, curb ramps and bulbouts, and installation of landscaping, irrigation, lighted bollards, street lights, benches and trash receptacles. The project was constructed in a timely and efficient manner by the contractor and was inspected and approved by the projects resident engineering firm VSCE, Inc. The project also had oversight provided by Caltrans and all of their requirements were met. Staff recommends that the City Council accept the City of Woodlake Downtown Enhancement Project Phases 1, 2 & 3 and authorize City staff to file the Notice of Completion for the project. The project was adequately delivered within budget and on time.
- Councilmember Ortiz stated there were areas of downtown where some of the sidewalks had cracks and she wanted to know if the cracks would be repaired. City Administrator Lara stated if cracks were a caused during the construction, they would be repaired but some cracks were a result of the way some of the sewer pipes were installed downtown and those cracks in the sidewalk would not be repaired.

**ON A MOTION BY G. GONZALEZ JR. SECOND BY MARTINEZ
IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND ACCEPT
THE CIT OF WOODLAKE DOWNTOWN ENHANCEMENT
PROJECT PHASES 1, 2 & 3 AND AUTHORIZE CITY TO FILE
NOE. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- D. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Enter Into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Woodlake Lions Club for the Gift of the Doris and Francis White Lions Club Communalilty Center
- City Administrator Lara reported the following: at the last council meeting there appeared to be a misunderstanding between the City of Woodlake and the Woodlake Lions Club. After much discussion with the two groups an agreement has been reached with the following conditions listed below:
1. The Club will be leased the building for a \$1.00 annually while the new community center is designed and developed. The Club understands that during this time it will be responsible for all utilities associated with the building and will need to provide the necessary liability insurance.
 2. Once the new community center is constructed, the Club will be allowed to continue to have its weekly Thursday meetings and annual events. For example, its annual Thanksgiving dinner for seniors and Christmas party will be allowed to be held at the community center.
 3. Within the building, an area will be dedicated to pay tribute to Doris and Francis White for their donation of the Property to the Woodlake Lions Club.

4. It is also our understanding that the Club will incur no expenses in transfer of the property from the Club to the City.
5. If by July 1, 2019, the Property has not been developed for the purpose of a community center the Property would revert back to the Woodlake Lions Club at the City's expense.

It is to be noted that the current Doris and Francis White Lions Club Community Center may be demolished for the construction of the Woodlake Downtown Plaza. In the circumstance that the building is demolished and a new community center is not built by the City by July 1, 2019, the City will agree to pay the Woodlake Lions Club the assessed value of the property as of the date the property was gifted.

Councilmember Martinez asked if we knew if there was any current agreement with the seniors regarding the use of the building for their events. City Attorney Farley stated the title company will do a full search during the escrow process and if any agency or group has an agreement with the property it will come up at that time. Mayor Mendoza asked for clarification from City Attorney Farley regarding the phrase "not substantially completed" City Attorney Farley stated this is a legal term and is used to protect the City. Mayor Mendoza asked where in the agreement it says the City is in charge of the building. City Administrator Lara stated it does not need to say it does not need that phrase since the City will own the building.

ON A MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY MARTINEZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND ENTER INTO A MOU WITH THE WOODLAKE LIONS CLUB FOR THE GIFT OF THE DORIS AND FRANCIS WHITE LIONS CLUB COMMUNITY CENTER. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- E. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of Submittal of Letter of Support and Active Transportation Program (ATP) Application for the City of Woodlake North Valencia Project and Authorize the Mayor of the City of Woodlake to sign the Letter of Support
- City Employee Waters reported the following: on February 9, 2015, the City Council of the City of Woodlake approved a supplemental agreement to initiate the preliminary engineering and right-of-way for the Woodlake North Valencia Project and requested funding from the Tulare County Transportation Authority to pay for the project's preliminary engineering and right-of-way. The cost of the preliminary engineering is estimated to be \$83,000 and the cost for right-of-way is \$32,000 for a total of \$115,000. The funding would come from the City of Woodlake Bike/Pedestrian Tier 2 section of Measure R. The overall cost of the project is currently estimated to be \$920,000. While City staff has secured Measure R funds for preliminary engineering and right-of-way, staff is now looking for funds to cover construction costs. Staff has begun the preparation of an ATP application to apply for construction funds for the project. Staff has also begun to work with the Tulare County Transportation Authority and Caltrans on securing matching construction funds.

ON A MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY G. GONZALEZ JR. IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND APPROVE THE SUBMITTAL LETTER OF SUPPORT AND ACTIVE ATP

**APPLICATION FOR THE CITY OF WOODLAKE NORTH
VALENCIA PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF WOODLAKE TO SIGN THE LETTER OF SUPPORT.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- F. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of the City of Woodlake's Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget
- City Administrator Lara reported the following: the City of Woodlake, like many other governmental agencies, has had to adapt to current economic conditions and revenue streams. The City has taken a conservative approach during its budget process, while keeping in mind the wellbeing of its citizens and its employees. For Fiscal Year 2015/2016 City staff is presenting a balanced budget that allows for adequate services to be provided for its citizens. Some of the major highlights will be the continued development of the downtown projects and the continued work on the proposed water meter project. As part of the Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget, City Administration is recommending the addition of one Police Officer, one Code Enforcement Officer and one Water/Sewer Operator 1. The Police Officer position would be funded by the improved General Fund. The Code Enforcement Officer position is grant funded and the Water/Sewer Operator 1 position will be funded with the elimination of the Public Works Superintended position that was vacated. These positions have been included and funded in the proposed Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget. Mayor Mendoza asked if there was a job description for the Code Enforcement Officer. City Administrator Lara stated yes and he will supply a copy to each Councilmember. City Administrator Lara stated the Code Enforcement Officer will receive training to issue citations when a violation has occurred. Councilmember Ortiz stated the city has an ordinance to prevent trailers with work ladders and porta potties from parking within the city limits, yet she still sees them doing this. Also, there is an abandoned house on the corner of Cypress and Laurel and although house is abandoned, the doors are always open and sometimes people are hanging out there. Councilmember Ortiz asked if police officers can make sure the door is to remain closed and not allow anyone to hang out in the abandoned house. City Administrator Lara stated these are some of the issues our code enforcement officer will handle.

**ON A MOTION BY MARTINEZ, SECOND BY G. GONZALEZ JR.,
IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND APPROVE
THE CITY OF WOODLAKE'S FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016
BUDGET. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Information: Items from Staff

City Employee Waters – reported May 17-23 is Public Works Week and all public works employees should be recognized.

City Administrator Lara – reported the groundbreaking for the roundabout should start next week and construction crews will be notifying all businesses of the work to be done. Rite Aid should be pulling permits next week and will also be starting construction soon. Councilmember Ortiz asked if city staff will be assisting with Rite Aid employment. City Administrator stated no. Mayor Mendoza asked how the businesses were being notified. City Administrator Lara stated employees from VSCE were handing out flyers and notifying businesses of when project would start and what work would be done. Mayor Mendoza asked that we put the information on Facebook as well. Councilmember

Martinez commended the police department for all their hard work during the busy weekend.

Lt. Aguayo – reported no issues during the busy weekend. Charros had a big event and all went well.

Student Representative, Bladimir Sanchez – reported the Powder Puff game was cancelled last Friday due to students having prior commitments. The High School is having a play on May 14th, 15th and 16th. Varsity Baseball is playing Madera on Wednesday. Track and Swimming has started. The High School band is having a performance on May 27th at 7pm. The Gala Pop concert is May 19th at 5pm.

City Clerk Zacarias – reported the Step Up event on May 1st went well. There were over 1000 residents who attended the event. The Berry Festival at the Botanical Garden is May 30th from 8 am to noon.

Councilmember G. Gonzalez Jr. – commended staff for an awesome job this weekend. The Public Works department did an amazing job with clean up before and after the parade. Youth Soccer will start after the Softball/Baseball season has ended.

Councilmember G. Gonzalez Jr. remembers he attended a council meeting in the early 90's to do research on a paper he was writing. There was a resident by the name of Chuck Mann who spoke regarding the concerns he had regarding low water pressure in his neighborhood. Councilmember G. Gonzalez Jr. now lives in the same neighborhood as Chuck Mann and reported there is still very little water pressure in that neighborhood and asked if staff is aware of this problem. City Administrator Lara stated staff is aware of pressure issue and is looking into this problem.

Mayor Mendoza – asked if there are any plans for an addition of a crosswalk at the intersection of Naranjo and Magnolia. City Administrator Lara stated yes, it will be a part of the Roundabout. Mayor Mendoza reported he had attended a Water Commission meeting today and the discussion was that no one really knows who to address the water issues. He asked staff to bring this item back to a regular scheduled meeting for discussion from staff and public. Mayor Mendoza stated in 2009/2010, he had written an ordinance regarding issues of graffiti. He stated the ordinance was approved by council to accept as an ordinance of the city but no records can be found regarding the adoption of the ordinance. He asked staff to bring this item back for an introduction and adoption of a graffiti ordinance. Mayor Mendoza has been appointed to the Governing Advisory Board for SCE. He will bring back information to council as it becomes available.

MEETNG ADJOURNED 7:54 PM

C. Request from Council Members for Future Agenda Items

VII. CLOSED SESSION

- A. **PENDING LITIGATION** (Government Code § 54956.9). It is the intention of this governing body to meet in closed-session concerning: Conference with legal counsel – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Government Code § 54956.9(d)).

Initiation of litigation (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(4)).

Number of potential cases is: 1.

As provided in the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code sections 54950 et seq., the Governing Board may meet in closed session with members of its staff and its attorneys. These sessions are not open to the public and may not be attended by members of the public. The matters the Council will meet on in closed session are identified below or are those matters appropriately identified in open session as requiring immediate attention and arising after the posting of the agenda. Any public reports of action taken in the closed session will be made in accordance with Government Code sections 54957.1

MEETING MOVED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 8:00 PM
MEETING RECONVENED AT 8:04 PM

Mayor Mendoza reported there was nothing to report and no action was taken.

VIII. ADJOURN

The next scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at City Council Chambers located at 350 North Valencia Boulevard, Woodlake, CA 93286.

City Council:

Rudy Mendoza - Mayor

Frances Ortiz - Vice Mayor

Chuck Ray - Councilmember

Greg Gonzalez Jr. - Councilmember

Jose L. Martinez - Councilmember

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Submitted by,

Irene Zacarias

City Clerk

My name is Jeff Johnson and I am a concerned about the pumping of water out of our community. I am giving you a copy of this speech in case I flub up plus some added information you might not be aware of

I am asking that the Woodlake City Council put this water issue that the Woodlake community is facing on the Agenda for May25th and we are also asking that City Attorney be given the directive by the Woodlake City Council to pro actively get involved in the legal fight to stop this pumping that has already run wells dry in our community.

We realize the City has the deepest straws, but we also fully understand that the City of Woodlake has the most to lose in this matter which I think you know. This will affect all aspects of our community similar to what the City of Porterville is facing with the County residents of East Porterville, where it is reported on multiple news outlets about.

Granite Hills High School is providing showers at night for residents

Thousands have been spent on temporary fixes according to Tulare County employee Andrew Lockman.

Porterville Area Coordinating Council (PACC) has been delivering 300-gallon water tanks to people without water, and the City of Porterville has been filling up the tanks twice a week so people could have nonpotable water for sanitary needs.

Teachers are reporting large increase in incidents of unsanitary conditions like lice and filth

East Porterville's has 7,600 residents and financial burden that has been put on the City of Porterville and the County due to the lack of pro active policy in 2013 when these issues were first reported by its residents could be potentially eliminated in Woodlake if we just get a injunction filed to stop this pumping. The similarities between East Porterville and your County resident who have Woodlake as and address are very similar in income, employment and location.

Within this group of people are teachers, a Woodlake School Board member, coaches, farmers, business owners, but not the person who owns this property where the water is being pumped out. He lives in Tuckerman Arkansas.

We know that this ground water pumping has reduced our water levels at a substantial 12 to 15 feet every 4 days which was stated at the April 27th meeting that I would like to thank you for attending

We have roughly 10 homes on road 220 and we are being asked to carry the burden of the legal fees it will take to get this pumping stopped because we live across the street at some spots from city limits. We are literally talking about water being pumped out less than a ¼ mile from city pumps and our 10 homes are being asked to cover the legal fees. If we cannot make that happen which is likely, are you willing to risk knowing that this pumping which could have been stopped by a court ordered injunction similar to the Lower Tule River ruling that stopped a property owner from pumping water out of their area and negatively effecting the community around them. Or Woodlake could have the devastating effects similar to Porterville and East Porterville which is not a acceptable choice in my opinion if you chooses not do anything. I believe the correct choice is to get your staff and Attorney involved in filling an injunction on the behalf of our community and getting this stopped now before it is to late

Thank you for your time

The California Water Action Plan developed by the Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Food and Agriculture identifies improving groundwater management as a key priority. The Plan expresses the Governor's commitment to work with the Legislature and ensure that local agencies have the tools and authority needed for sustainable management of groundwater resources. The Governor's 2014-15 budget proposed \$618.7 million for funding various actions in the Plan, including support for improved groundwater management. Much of that funding as well as additional funding for drought response and groundwater assistance was accelerated as part of the emergency drought legislation signed by the Governor in March.

"We must work together to control groundwater overdraft to avoid impacts such as land subsidence, seawater intrusion, and migration of poor quality water", said Cowin.

As directed by the January drought emergency declaration, DWR is working to update monitoring of land subsidence in the Central Valley. DWR also has been working with county agencies to ensure that water well drillers submit required well logs for newly constructed and deepened wells in a timely manner to facilitate tracking of areas that are experiencing drought-related groundwater problems.

Additional groundwater information is available at the DWR Groundwater Information Center at <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/>. To learn more about the state's efforts to improve groundwater management, visit Groundwater.CA.Gov.

Association of California Water Agencies California Groundwater Levels at Historic Lows, Report Says

Submitted by Pamela Martineau on Wed, 04/30/2014 - 5:07pm

California's groundwater resources are at historically low levels with some basins facing potential water shortages, according to a new report released Wednesday by the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Commissioned by Gov. Jerry Brown's emergency drought declaration in January, the report details specific basins with potential water shortages and describes gaps in groundwater monitoring. This report will form the basis for future actions to address current gaps in monitoring and oversight of groundwater resources.

"Millions of Californians rely on groundwater every day," said DWR Director Mark Cowin. "Being good stewards of our groundwater basins is essential for ensuring that we can turn to them during dry years when these resources are critically needed."

According to the report, groundwater levels are experiencing record historical lows since in most areas of the state and especially in the northern portion of the San Francisco Bay Hydrologic region, the southern San Joaquin Valley, and also the South Lahontan and South Coast hydrologic regions. **In many areas of the San Joaquin Valley**, recent groundwater levels are more than 100 feet below previous historical lows.

Thirty-six alluvial groundwater basins throughout the state may possess greater potential to incur water shortages as a result of drought due to a high degree of groundwater use and reliance. The basins exist in the North Coast, Central Coast, Sacramento River, **Tulare Lake**, and South Coast hydrologic regions.

Key findings of the report include:

- Groundwater levels have decreased in nearly all areas of the state since spring 2013, and more notably since spring 2010.
- The greatest concentration of recently deepened wells is in the fractured bedrock foothill areas of Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado counties.
- **The Kaweah and Kings sub basins have the greatest numbers of deepened wells in an alluvial groundwater basin.**
- Of California's 515 alluvial groundwater basins, 169 are fully or partially monitored under the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program as of April 15, 2014.
- Forty of 126 High and Medium priority basins are not monitored under CASGEM as of April 15, 2014. There are significant CASGEM groundwater monitoring data gaps in the Sacramento, San Joaquin River, Tulare Lake, Central Coast, and South Lahontan hydrologic regions.
- Several areas of the state lack a current groundwater management plan that addresses all related requirements of the California Water Code.

The report is available at www.water.ca.gov/waterconditions, and as directed by Governor Brown's April 25th Executive Order, DWR will update this report later this year.

The report is a compilation of information available from existing sources, such as DWR's draft California Water Plan Update 2013, and from existing groundwater monitoring programs. Presented together, these data provide a compelling picture of the status of California groundwater and groundwater monitoring conditions. In an average water year, groundwater supports about 40 percent of the state's urban and agricultural water uses. Reliance on groundwater increases dramatically when drought causes shortages in surface water supplies.

Present dry conditions have exacerbated long-standing management issues in basins having a high reliance on groundwater, highlighting the need for long-term sustainable management of California's groundwater.

To: Woodlake City Council Members
Irene Zacarias, City Clerk

From: Bill Lewis
342 N. Acacia Street, Woodlake

Re: May 11, 2005 Agenda item V-B, General Plan Amendment 15-01, Zoning Ordinance Amendment 15-01, Tentative Subdivision Map 15-001, and Density Bonus Ordinance 15-01.

About six years ago, the current Woodlake City Council (sans Council Member Ray) approved an updated general plan to cover the years 2008-2028. The general plan indicated a shortage of commercial property on hand and described the need to create commercial property in the future.

About two months ago, Council had an opportunity to create commercial land when you annexed the property bounded generally by Naranjo, Road 220, Bravo Lake, and Castle Rock Ave. I personally spoke at that meeting asking you to show a vision for the area, being that it was the entrance way to the City from the east and the only way to get from the Parks and Three Rivers to the Botanical Garden. Instead, you chose to zone it rural-residential, eliminating any type of commercial area from that area.

Tonight you are being asked to remove another potential commercial area from the City with the items requested by Self Help Enterprises. For as long as I can remember, we have tried to find solutions to our "sales-tax leakage" problem. While the City has limited options, losing potential commercial development sites is something you can prevent.

I am offering two alternatives to staff's recommendation on this item.

1. Vote NO on all the items; refer the item back to staff with the direction to re-zone to neighborhood commercial.
2. Amend the zoning Ordinance to rezone from its existing zone to neighborhood commercial.

The City cannot afford to lose another commercial site to a non-commercial use. It's time to draw the line in the sand and say Commercial Property Matters.