

CORRECTED  
**CITY OF CORNING**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**



**THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2009**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**794 THIRD STREET**

**A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:33 p.m.**

**B. ROLL CALL:**

**Council:**

**Becky Hill  
 Ross Turner  
 Toni Parkins  
 John Leach  
 Gary Strack**

**Mayor:**

All Council Members were present except Councilor Parkins who was ill.

**PARTICIPATION BY PUBLIC IN MEETING**

Mayor Strack announced that members of the public could make their comments known or ask questions as the meeting progresses and the subject of interest to them is discussed.

Councilor Turner asked if, although this is a Special Meeting, is it still required to provide a delegated public comment period prior to discussing the agenda items. Mayor Strack stated yes we are supposed to, however, since there is such a small group in attendance, he suggests that audience members address the Council with their questions as they come up during the discussion.

**C. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE 2009-2010 CITY BUDGET,  
DISCUSSION AND ACTION.**

City Manager Stephen Kimbrough briefly outline the proposed budget stating that the biggest concern is the 29% decline in sales tax from the prior year which is carried over into the new year. This is how we ended up with the \$1.8 million projection, or the \$900,000 lower than last year, and \$1,000,000 lower than the projection. The most important concern is the General Fund; the other Funds are in good order.

Mr. Kimbrough stated that in the adopted budget the City planned to expend about \$377,689 of the available reserve on projects. The reason the year-end guess has been able to be dropped is because there is close to \$300,000 in savings that each of the Departments have been able to supply, about \$230,000 in the Police Department alone from Capital Improvement Projects that have been put on hold. He also stated that the City had received a one-time good fortune from NCCSIF (Northern California Cities Self Insurance Fund), this year we received our usual rebate for Worker's Compensation and Liability, but they broke free another \$300,000 plus, bringing the total amount to \$407,000 returned to the City from the Joint Powers Authority (NCCSIF). This brings the year-end guess of only going into the reserves by about \$43,000 instead of \$377,000.

Councilor Hill made the following suggestions for decreasing the City's Budget:

## CORRECTED

- **Recreation Supervisor:** Cut winter hours to 20 hours per week.
- **Tehama Economic Development Corporation** (Tehama EDC) reduce funding to \$2,500 (half of existing funding); **Tri-County EDC** fund \$2,800, and reduce funding to the **Corning Chamber of Commerce** to \$1,000 per month plus the current match.
- Councilor Hill then asked about the loan delivery fees on the First-Time Homebuyers Program; she was informed that the City Manager would obtain more information on this and report back.
- **Police Vehicles:** Police Chief Cardenas stated that the City receives some funding, not much from the County, however the City retains responsibility for maintenance. Councilor Hill stated she did not believe that the vehicles should leave the City...the City should not pay for gas, etc. for officers commuting from home to work and back home.
- **Nuisance Abatement:** Councilor Hill asked what this was and City Manager Kimbrough stated that because of the success of the City's Code Enforcement Program we have not had to utilize this funding. The remainder is for our Community Clean-up Day.
- **Safe Grant:** Councilor Hill asked what this was; she was informed that it is a grant for sexual crime related overtime.
- **Contract Service listed under the Police Department:** It was stated that we have not used this and asked what it is for. Chief Cardenas explained that this is used for overtime related to the DUI Checkpoints and is used Countywide.
- A Police Department deficit was noted and it was asked if the number should be increased to \$53,258.

Mayor Strack suggested giving the Fire Department Capital Improvement Fund \$20,000 of the fees earned from dispatching for the Orland and Capay Fire Departments. Councilor Hill agreed. Dean Cofer asked if the City hired additional dispatchers to accommodate dispatching for Orland and Capay and was informed no. Mr. Kimbrough was asked to create a revenue fund for this rather than placing it in the General Fund.

It was asked what the \$31,000 budgeted under street maintenance was for. Mr. Kimbrough stated this is for street materials funded from Prop. 42 funds (Traffic Congestion Fund 105), \$50,000 is from the General Fund.

Councilor Turner asked what the Building Official is being utilized for at this time since building has gone down. Mr. Brewer stated that he is also utilized to perform public works inspections. Councilor Hill stated that she thinks the City should hold off on hiring for the combined Public Works Meter Reader/Community Service Officer position.

Mayor Strack suggested the following:

- Looking into relocating the PAL Program to an existing City Building and getting out of the building rental contract for the existing location.
- Install the signal at Solano/Marguerite Avenue with Traffic Mitigation Funds.
- Wanted to confirm that uncollectibles, up to \$10,000, comes out of the Enterprise Funds and does not affect the General Fund.

Dean Cofer asked where the City stands on the Comfort Inn delinquent Transient Occupancy Taxes. He was informed that the City had placed a lien on the property, however the owner is paying on current accounts and the City is pursuing legal avenues on collection of past due amounts.

Councilor Leach stated he would like to see the Recreation Supervisor kept on fulltime, Mayor Strack stated his concerns that the City might not be able to continue funding this program fulltime.

Dean Cofer suggested numbering the pages of the Budget. He also stated that he can't find anywhere in the Budget where the City collects funds from Waste Management for billing, he stated if the City isn't collecting funds for providing the service of billing, why aren't we? City

## CORRECTED

Manager Kimbrough and Mayor Strack explained that by the City doing the billing we were able to reduce the fees for our residential and commercial customers, as well as saving a lot of Staff time with the process. Mr. Cofer then stated he would like to see the City Managers wages reduced.

Mayor Strack suggested reducing the City Council stipend by \$100 per month until the economy picks up and the budget situation improves.

Harry Zemansky thanked the Mayor for suggesting cutting the Council Stipend.

D. **ADJOURNED!** 8:03 p.m.

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**Lisa M. Linnet, City Clerk**