THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE HOLTVILLE CITY COUNCIL APRIL 9, 2007

The regular meeting of the Holtville City Council was held on Monday, April 9, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Civic Center. Council Members present were Mayor Colleen Ludwig, Patrick Galliher, Doug Byram and Richard Layton. Council Member Bianca Padilla was absent. Staff members present were Laura Fischer, Pete Mellinger, Steve Walker, David Lantzer, Gerry Peacher and Alberta Bowers.

CITY COUNCIL: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:
Mayor Ludwig called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. A motion was made by Council Member Byram and seconded by Council Member Layton to proceed to closed session. The motion was carried unanimously.

CITY COUNCIL OPEN SESSION MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:
Mayor Ludwig called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
Fire Chief David Lantzer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITY CLERK RE: VERIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA:
Alberta Bowers, Interim City Clerk verified that the agenda was duly posted on April 5, 2007.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ACCOUNCEMENTS:

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATIONS:
William Hogue vs. the City of Holtville
No reportable action was taken on this item.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
Cassi Depaoli, 1970 Parobi Drive, appeared before council to inquire about the January 10th incident involving her father, William Hogue. Ms. Depaoli stated that Pat Galliher had contacted her brother after learning of the incident. Ms. Depaoli stated that Mrs. Ludwig had contacted her. Mr. Galliher contacted her on March 14th. Doug Byram talked to the family after the March 26th council meeting. Ms. Depaoli referred to the letter written by Mrs. Ludwig published in the Holtville Tribune stating that no one is more interested in the just resolution of this than council and staff. Ms. Depaoli stated that they (the family) are also interested in this issue being resolved.

Tony Royer, address on file, stated that neither he himself, or Cassi Depaoli, recalls Mayor Ludwig apologizing as she had mentioned at the last meeting held on February 26th. Mr. Royer encouraged the council to clear this matter up.

CONSENT AGENDA:
Council Member Byram asked that Item #3 be moved to Item #19 on the agenda since discussion will be held on that item.

Council Member Galliher had a question regarding Item #5 regarding the reprogramming of RSTP funds for 2007. Mayor Ludwig stated that this item had been discussed at the special meeting of April 4th. The City Manager stated because the City was in danger of losing them, they were reprogrammed so that they would not be lost. They were originally to be used for the realignment of 4th and Orchard Road. The money was reprogrammed for Fern Street improvements and various other street projects.

Council Member Byram made a motion and it was seconded by Council Member Galliher to approve the consent agenda with moving Item #3 to Item # 19 on the agenda. All members present were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND COMMUNIQUES:

Justina Arce, The Holt Group, updated the council on projects with a staff report.

Pete Mellinger, City Treasurer, stated that a meeting took place with the Martinez's concerning the Wet Land Project.

The City Manager reviewed the written report prepared for Council and verbally updated the council on various items. The City has received a letter from IVAG the SCAG's transportation plan and the meeting is to be held April 12th at 8:30 a.m. in the IID Auditorum in El Centro. The 4th Annual Ice Cream Social is coming up and it will have a 50's theme. The Centennial Celebration will be next year.

A. Introduction of Police Officer of the Year, Sergeant Thomas Ray – City Manager, Laura Fischer:
The City Manager introduced Sergeant Ray and went over history with the department.

B. Introduction of Fire Fighter of the Year, Assistant Chief Alex Silva:
Fire Chief David Lantzer introduced Assistant Chief Silva and went over his history with the department.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:
None

CONTACTS BY DEVELOPERS/BUSINESS LOANS:
The City Manager went over the developer reports most of them being included in Justina Arce's reports. The Wellington Group is represented here tonight.

Council Member Galliher asked about the Bureau of Reclamation grant for the Wet Lands. The City Manager stated that the Bureau of Reclamation has requested all money to be returned by the City and IID. She also stated that they have asked for all money back regarding Wet Land Projects.

The **Public Works Manager** reported that the new fencing for the Little League field should be completed this week. Clean-Up Day flyers have been corrected and will be going out stating that the City is having a Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 28th from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Once again hazardous material will not be accepted, but City residents can dispose of hazardous materials on any Saturday from 8am to noon at I.V. Waste Management for free. The City crew will be starting on the redesigned and remodeling of the Quonset Hut; the City has set aside $15,000 for this project. Staff is working on RFP's for various projects approved by Council including the upgrading of electrical for City Hall. Includes upgrade at the corner of 4th and Orchard.

Chief Lantzer, the Fire Chief, stated the department has completed Auto Extrication Training. He reported that the child injured in the fire will be having pizza at the firehouse on Wednesday and according to his parents he is recovering. The department has been awarded a grant that allows for training over the internet for one year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
Discussion/related action to approve the amendment to the deed of trust between the City of Holtville and Clifford Douglas, trustee of the Douglas 1997 trust and Clifford Douglas, trustee of the Clifford Douglas profit sharing plan trust to outline representations and agreed upon fast relating to the desert view subdivision – Laura Fischer, City Manager:
Council Member Galliher made a motion and seconded by Council Member Layton to approve the Amendment to the Deed of Trust between the City of Holtville and Clifford Douglas. All members present were in favor; the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/related action regarding the request for a waiver of fees by Robert Chell, for the process of deeds required by the vacation of the alley 5th and 6th streets between Grape and Figueroa Ave – Laura Fischer, City Manager:
Council Member Galliher made a motion seconded by Council Member Byram to waive the fees for the processing of deeds required by the vacation of the alley between 5th and 6th streets and Grape and Figueroa Ave. All members present were in favor; the motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR LUDWIG REQUESTED TO MOVE UP THE INFORMATION ITEM #18 BEFORE BEGINNING NEW BUSINESS:

Information only regarding the airport feasibility study – Jurg Heuberger, Imperial County Director of Planning/Building:
Jurg Heuberger, Imperial County Director of Planning/Building, presented to Council information on the possibility of locating an airport near Holtville.

NEW BUSINESS:
PUBLIC HEARI NG –Discussion/Related Action regarding the certification of a Negative Declaration, and to waive the first reading and introduce ORDINANCE #456 and consider RESOLUTION #07-17 for the zoning amendments to the R-1 Single Family Zones development standards reducing the minimum lot widths from 60' to 50'- City Planner, Justina Arce
Mayor Ludwig opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm.

Council Member Galliher made a motion, seconded by Council Member Layton with the following roll call vote to waive the first reading and introduce **ORDINANCE #456** and consider **RESOLTION #07-17** for the proposed zoning amendment to the R-1 Single Family Zones development Standards for reducing minimum lot width from 60' to 50':

YEAS:	Council Members Galliher, Layton, Byram, and Ludwig
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Council Member Padilla
ABSTAIN:	None

There being no further comments the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:05 pm

PUBLIC HEARING –Discussion/Related Action regarding RESOLUTION #07-18 regarding the Environmental Impact Report & Certification of a Negative Declaration Prepared for the Proposed Land Use Plan Update and Related General Plan and Zoning Ordinance Amendments –City Planner, Justina Arce
Mayor Ludwig opened the Public Hearing a 7:10 pm.

Gary Gramling, 108 S. Plaza, Brawley appeared before the Council stating his concern for the Land Use Plan and how it will affect the Wellington project.

James Brock, El Centro stated his concern about how his property on Fern will be impacted by the changes in zoning.

Don Osborne, 2400 Sandalwood Drive, El Centro also expressed his concern to council over the changes in zoning.

Patrick Galliher, 868 Ash, Holtville stated that he has 11 acres of property in escrow and changing the zoning from commercial to residential would amount to a significant loss of value.

Pete Mellinger, 629 Maple Ave, Holtville suggested to Mr. Brock that he might consider deeding over the old hydro plant built by the city founder to the City of Holtville.

James Pace, Wellington Corporation, also stated his concerns regarding the Land Use Plan, zoning changes and other items on the agenda as they would impact the proposed Wellington Development.

Council Member Byram made a motion, seconded by Council Member Galliher, to continue the public hearing until the next council meeting. All members present were in favor; motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – Discussion/Related Action regarding the adoption of RESOLUTION #07-19 to approve the Proposed General Plan Amendments to Land Use Elements, Circulation Element, and Conversation and Open Space Elements associated with the update if the Land Use Plan – City Planner, Justina Arce
Mayor Ludwig opened the Public Hearing at 8:05 pm.

Gary Gramling, Brawley, also stated his concerns regarding the proposed changes and amendments to the General Plan, Land Use Elements, Circulation Element and Conservation and Open Space Elements, as it will impact the proposed Wellington development project.

Pete Mellinger, 629 Maple Ave Holtville, stated the obstacle and impact for the Wellington Development was Highway 115 not the proposed changes.

Council Member Byram made a motion, seconded by Council Member Galliher to continue the public hearing until the next council meeting. All members present were in favor; motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – Discussion/Related Action to waive the first reading and introduce ORDINANCE #450 and to consider RESOLUTION #07-20 regarding The amendment to the Holtville Zoning Ordinance for the establishment of a New Community Facilities Zoned associated with the update of the Land Use Plan- City Planner, Justina Arce
Mayor Ludwig opened the public hearing at 8:42 pm

Council Member Byram made a motion, seconded by Council Member Layton to continue the public hearing until the next council meeting. All members present were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – Discussion/Related Action to waive the first reading and introduce ORDINANCE #454 to consider RESOLUTION #07-21 regarding the proposed Zone Changes and Amendments to the Official Zoning Map of the City Of Holtville, associated with the update of the Land Use Plan – City Planner, Justina Arce
Mayor Ludwig opened the Public Hearing at 8:45 pm.

James Pace, Wellington Corporation, welcomed the opportunity to make their issues known to council.

James Brock stated he has not seen the EIR report but would like to discuss the hydro plant with City staff. Mayor Ludwig stated that staff would contact Mr. Brock

Don Osborne expressed his concern over land values. He questioned how long the EIR is good for. Mayor Ludwig stated that someone would also contact him.

Betty VanDerLinder, would urge council to have a positive outlook for the growth of our area and remind everyone that we are in a slump but it will come back. We will grow.

Council Member Byram made a motion, seconded by Council Member Layton, to continue the public hearing to the next council meeting. All members present were in favor; motion approved unanimously

Discussion/Related Action Regarding Commercial Water Replacement Cost & Benefit Analysis- Gerry Peacher, Public Works Manager
Information only; no action was taken. The public works manager went over a report and spreadsheet showing the increase in revenues since the change out of meters.

Discussion/Related Action Regarding the authorization of a contract with General Government Management Services Inc. for financial service – Laura Fischer, City Manager:
Council Member Galliher made a motion, seconded by Council Member Byram to approve a contract with Government Management Services Inc for an amount not to exceed $7,000. All members present were in favor; motion approved unanimously.

Information Only regarding the Neighborhood Watch Program –John Myers, Chief of Police:
Council Member Layton made a motion, seconded by Council Member Galliher to authorize $ 1,500 for the Neighborhood Watch Program. Also discussed during this item was item number #3 regarding the Neighborhood Watch Meeting schedule. All members present were in favor; motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:
There being no further business to come before council, Mayor Ludwig adjourned the meeting at 9:14 pm.

Colleen Ludwig, Mayor

Alberta Bowers, Interim City Clerk