

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of April 26, 1994

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Present: Chignell, Breen, Kroot, Yarish
Absent: Zaharoff

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTION TAKEN, IF ANY, IN CLOSED SESSION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9 (b)(2), SAN ANSELMO GARBAGE DISPOSAL, INC./SAN ANSELMO REFUSE & RECYCLING V. TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO.

Council met in closed session prior to this meeting and discussed pending litigation by San Anselmo Garbage. Mr. Ratto has resubmitted his purchase request and negotiations for the garbage franchise transfer will resume on expedited basis. Chignell and Breen, and perhaps a Solid Waste and Recycling Committee member, will work directly with Mr. Ratto's representatives.

Fred Grange, Grange Debris Box, said his company has been doing business in San Anselmo for 35 years and asked that the council consider their long service to the Town. They want to continue to serve San Anselmo.

Barbara Schmidt, 59 Austin Avenue, said she wants to keep the present garbage company.

3. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION.

Barbara Schmidt, 59 Austin Avenue, said there is a problem publicizing meeting notices in the Marin I.J. She feels this is infringing on the public's right to know and is not in compliance with the Brown Act.

John Brigham, resident, asked why the United Market was placed so far back in the agenda when most of the audience is here for that issue. Chignell said that the United Market item is actually at the top of the substantive agenda. The earlier items are routine and go quickly.

Denise Gula, Sequoia Drive paving project manager, asked for a contribution from the Town toward this neighborhood project. She also advised that the group of residents is having a yard sale at Town Hall on June 11, all proceeds to go toward the Sequoia paving project.

4. COUNCIL REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, COMMENTS AND DIRECTIONS TO STAFF; STAFF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Kroot asked to be an alternate to Zaharoff on "It's Time for a Park." He also asked to be an alternate to Yarish with the Marin County Solid Waste JPA. There were no objections.

Interim Town Administrator Pollard acknowledged the Festival of Student Art displayed in the Council Chambers and the flowers contributed by the San Anselmo community garden.

5. CONSENT AGENDA: AT THE REQUEST OF A COUNCIL MEMBER, ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA MAY BE REMOVED AND DISCUSSED SEPARATELY. OTHERWISE, ALL THE ITEMS MAY BE APPROVED WITH ONE ACTION:

- (a) Approve minutes: April 12, 1994
- (b) Acknowledge and file financial reports through March 31, 1994.
- (c) Proclaim May as *Older Americans Month*, and open nominations for San Anselmo *Senior of the Year*.
- (d) Proclaim the week beginning May 1st to be *Youth Week*.

- (e) Nominate applicants to the Planning Commission and Open Space Committee, and schedule interviews.
- (f) Announce one vacant seat and one expired term on the Library Advisory Board.
- (g) Authorize contract for a pavement management system.
- (h) Authorize contract for corporation yard design services.
- (i) Authorize agreements for financial advisory services and bond counsel services, and appropriate up to \$3,500 from Contingency.
- (j) Approve negative declaration and adoption of ordinance to rezone a portion of a 1.48 acre parcel known as 25 Rancho Drive, from R-1-C to R-1, and consideration of required infrastructure improvements: James and Elizabeth Freeman, applicants.
- (k) CONTINUE TO MAY 10, 1994: Public hearing on adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 3 of Title 10, Article 4 (Development Standards), and Article 7 (Procedures), of the zoning ordinance relative to the maximum size of dwellings on residential properties located above 150 mean sea level elevation.

M/s, Yarish/Breen, to approve the consent agenda. Ayes: All. Absent: Zaharoff

6. PRESENT PROCLAMATION COMMENDING JOSEPH A. COFFRINI FOR EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE.

The Council presented Mr. Coffrini with a proclamation honoring him for his long service to the County of Marin.

7. PRESENTATION OF CONCEPT TO RECONFIGURE THE UNITED MARKET PARKING LOT AND ACCESS, IN RELATION TO THE ISSUE OF THE CLOSURE OF JORDAN AVENUE.

Interim Town Administrator Pollard said that the Council indicated at its last meeting that they would like to hear United Market's concept to reconfigure the parking before hiring a traffic consultant.

Bill Daniels, United Market, presented the concept of splitting the United Market parking lot into two sections, divided by a fence, with 20 to 25 parking spaces in the rear portion that would be accessed by Forbes. This would create a smaller lot to be used by Forbes and Sun Valley residents, but would not permit the area to again become a thoroughfare. This concept creates some difficulties with delivery trucks exiting on Forbes and would require regrading the small hill at the Forbes exit. They have, however, come up with a second concept. This entails placing a small railroad-type gate at the constriction point behind the market that could be opened only with a token that shoppers could request while paying for groceries. This second concept would allow for Forbes and Sun Valley shoppers to exit onto Forbes, without changing the present delivery truck configuration or doing expensive regrading. Mr. Daniels said that whatever concept is finally selected, changes must be made on Sequoia to ease entrance and exit traffic to the market, plus the drainage situation in the back of the market must be addressed.

Public Works Director Bush advised that a storm drainage pipe leading to the market is deteriorated, and several storm drains are collapsed or blocked by leaves during a storm, causing water to come into the store's loading area. He advised that this project would cost approximately \$25,000. Some short term solutions could be effected by reconfiguring the catch basins on Hilldale and Jordan, for about \$5,000. This repair is the Town's responsibility.

Mr. Brendan, resident, asked why three cattle gates with spikes controlling vehicle's direction wouldn't work.

Nancy Reese, 14 Forbes, said she likes the railroad gate idea because it seems like a good compromise. She is concerned about truck traffic on Forbes with the "front lot" and "back lot" idea.

Roberta Dossick, 55 Forbes, asked if the railroad gate concept would open Jordan at Hilldale, and, if not opened, how would the "do not enter" signs be enforced. Jordan at

Hilldale would remain accessible only to delivery trucks. Police Chief del Santo said that they will be adding additional signs at that corner to reinforce the point.

Nancy Edmondson, 46 Forbes, said she likes the railroad gate idea. She feels the point where the gate would be is too small anyway for two-way traffic. She pointed out that there would be no change in the people who illegally use Jordan as a short cut. She feels there should be some way to enforce it short of having officers stationed at the corner. Regarding the "front lot, back lot" concept, she said that it is difficult to see off Jordan going onto Forbes and a stop sign at that corner seems like it would be a problem. She asked what the status is of an environmental review.

Interim Town Administrator Pollard said that if there is a permanent change in the flow of traffic an environmental review would be required. But different proposals have different requirements concerning an environmental review, and that could affect what additional work would have to be done. The scope could be smaller if the gate idea is used.

Evelyn Reese, 14 Forbes, asked what is the purpose of all this. The railroad gate will save Forbes and Sun Valley residents two minutes. It seems out of line to regrade the street for this. This is still a safety issue, as there is a lot of parking on Forbes, sometimes up on the sidewalk; semi-trucks using the same area are a problem.

Darlene Dinelli, Hilldale Drive, said she hopes the council will take into account how vulnerable her fence is along the west end of the parking lot. She has had several problems with people running into it. She asked if any trees were going to be cut down. The answer was negative.

Emil Heitner, 208 Forbes, said he still think the best solution is to close Jordan, but if that isn't done, it should be made one way down hill. He feels this would be a safe, compromise solution.

Catherine Pring, Sun Valley, presented a petition from a number of Sun Valley residents.

Dorothy Frazier, Alpine Lane, said Jordan is not an alley, it is a two way street. She said she would prefer the railroad gate if she lived in Sun Valley. She also said that leaving the market is a problem; more lane space is needed on Sequoia Drive. She worries about the safety of people up on the hills in an emergency if Jordan is permanently shut off.

Jolene Hammonds, 18 and 20 Forbes, said she can speak for Forbes residents when she says they don't mind making the U-turn at Ross Valley Drive. It seems like a lot of trouble for saving people one minute.

Paul Schwartzbach complained about the traffic problem at Sequoia and Red Hill, in addition to the U-turn at Ross Valley Drive. He said there are lots of hazardous situations involved here. There is no reason now for San Rafael people to come to San Anselmo anymore; when he moved here, Jordan was two ways.

Joel Necke, San Rafael, asked if there would be opportunity for public comment when a decision is made. Council responded that there will be ample time for public comment on a final proposal.

Gene Minimar, San Rafael, said he has shopped at United for years, but this inconvenience is sending him elsewhere. He remembers when Jordan was a two lane street and it wasn't a problem. He feels that Forbes is a thoroughfare and people who live there bought knowing that fact. Cars shouldn't be allowed to park on both sides of the street. He sees Forbes residents exceeding the speed limit of 15 mph, which he understands won't stand up in court anyway.

Barbara Heller, San Rafael, thinks the railroad gate may be an ideal solution that will work for everyone.

The public hearing was closed.

It was the consensus of council that staff should study this issue, focusing on the railroad arm approach, as opposed to the two lot approach, with thought to minimizing trucks in the neighborhood and how best to protect United's neighbor's fences. Staff should also look at how best to control cars illegally going from Hilldale to Forbes on Jordan, as well as the possibility of restriping Sequoia. This item will be addressed at the next council meeting on May 10.

8. REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 951 REGULATING THE USE OF LEAF BLOWERS.

Interim Town Administrator Pollard said that the Town adopted a leaf blower ordinance six months ago, allowing leaf blowing Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., for a maximum of 30 minutes.

Parks Superintendent Nyberg said that his crew has found that blowing activities are best suited for the morning. Afternoons are often windy, games are in progress at Memorial Park, the Robson afterschool program is in full swing, and parking lots are full. Before the ordinance went into effect, these activities were always done before 10 a.m. For these reasons he would like to ask that the Town be exempted from the ordinance.

Police Chief Del Santo said that there have been no problems associated with the ordinance. There have been only a few complaints. The 30 minute rule is hard to enforce as you have to see the blowing going on for longer than that.

Bill De Bisschop, 91 Elm, thinks the ordinance should be abandoned.

Mr. Halperin, Sleepy Hollow, said he is delighted at how well the ordinance is working.

Barbara Schmidt, 59 Austin, said she has no problem with the ordinance, but feels that if a holiday is on one of the blowing days, you ought to be able to blow on another day that week. She feels the Streets Crew should be able to use the weed eater early before cars are parked.

Mr. Frederickson, 175 Prospect, is in favor of limiting blowing time. He feels the ordinance is generous and is working well.

Sarah Nome, 77 Alder, said that in her neighborhood some of the people who complained about leaf blowers have now hired people to blow for them. She said mowers are even louder than leaf blowers.

Bill Franchini, 2 Agatha Court, said he blows when he wants to; he doesn't know what day of the week it is anyway.

Tony Grey, 7 Idlewood, said why try to fix something that isn't broken.

Howard Geisler, resident, said the ordinance is working on Yolanda Court.

The public hearing was closed.

It was the consensus of the council that the leaf blower ordinance is working, and it would be a problem to exempt the Town.

M/s, Breen/Yarish, to introduce Ordinance No. 957, extending as permanent Ordinance No. 951. Ayes by role call: Breen, Kroot, Yarish, Chignell. Absent: Zaharoff

9. CONSIDER STUDY SESSION WITH OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES SERVING SAN ANSELMO REGARDING INTER-AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS ON FINANCING MECHANISMS AND RELATED FUNDING ISSUES.
(CHIGNELL)

It was the suggestion of Planning Commissioner Jo Julin that we look into what other agencies are doing regarding exploring various funding mechanisms in a public forum. It would be useful for people to have this information early on to have time to assimilate it.

Ms. Julin has drafted a letter for Interim Town Administrator Pollard's review that would be sent to various agencies presenting the idea and setting a date for the workshop.

Sarah Nome, 77 Alder, said that before spending any more money on questionnaires, council should look at the Long Term Finance Committee's recommendations of several years ago. It suggests way to save money that someone should take a look at.

It was the consensus of council to send Ms. Julin's letter and set up a date to hold the workshop.

10. REVIEW DRAFT OF CITIZEN SURVEY.

The survey was drafted by Brian Godbe to solicit public opinion on financing mechanism for town needs. The survey is about 15 minutes long, 400 residents will be randomly telephoned and asked about 20 questions. Interim Town Administrator Pollard asked for Council comments on the draft survey.

Kroot asked about the term "minor culverts" on page 4. He also asked if the work for the Americans with Disabilities Act 8 (I) and (L) should be included in the survey.

Yarish said money figures need to be added to question 6, perhaps a high of \$200-\$250, going down in increments from there. On Page 6, Item #13, the wording should be "There are currently several *efforts* for the Town of San Anselmo to *help* purchase. . .". On Item #14, regarding a fence height ordinance proposal, something should be added to include the 20 foot setback rules.

Breen asked about Item #8, whether there should be something included about linking the Library to the Town Hall building. He noted that there is no question included on overnight parking.

It was the consensus of council that the above items should be incorporated, especially ensuring that the library and overnight parking issues are included.

Sarah Nome, 77 Alder, said some questions are not addressed. She is concerned that much more money must be raised to end up with the amount needed. She feels that should be said. She wondered how much we are paying in the long run.

Barbara Schmidt, 59 Austin, said people are talking about extending Laurel Ave. and putting in 55 homes. She feels the public should be advised if this is true.

11. APPOINTMENTS: ROBSON-HARRINGTON ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2 SEATS).

M/s, Yarish/Breen, to nominate Shirley Graves and Christopher Lee to the Robson-Harrington Association Board of Directors. Ayes: All; Absent: Zaharoff

12. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 in the memory of recently deceased resident Mimi Beall.

Debbie Stutsman