

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of December 19, 1995

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

Note: This meeting was adjourned from December 11 and 12, 1995, due to the storms and the lack of electricity in the Council Chambers. Items added to the agenda are in bold type. The agenda was amended December 18, 1995 to incorporate item 7b, which was continued from the special meeting of December 11, 1995.

7:30 p.m.

Interview with applicants to the Historical Commission and Volunteer Advisory Board.

8:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. ANNOUNCE ACTION TAKEN, IF ANY, IN CLOSED SESSION.

Mayor Breen announced that there was no closed session before this meeting.

3. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION.

There were no comments received from the public.

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

Hodgens asked about the new date for the Dine for Design fundraiser. Town Administrator Pollard said it would be held sometime in January, but not January 11 as previously announced, due to a conflict with a downtown revitalization meeting.

Hodgens said she met with the County Youth Leadership and they would like to speak to the Council on Youth Vote Marin. Breen mentioned in conjunction with this that he would like to hold a regular Council meeting at Drake High in the future.

Breen asked about the status of parking a police car in front of Town Hall to enhance visibility and traffic safety awareness. Pollard said concerns over using up an available downtown parking place have been worked out and the way is clear to begin.

Breen said he will be talking with local schools in the new year with the aim of strengthening relationships and building community.

Town Administrator Pollard said the Traffic Safety Committee has visited the corner of Melville and Vine, as requested at the last meeting, and feels stop signs are warranted. There will also be stop signs placed at the intersection of Myrtle and Tamalpais.

Pollard said the Town has begun street sweeping on Saturdays in Ross, essentially renting out the equipment. This is extra work, above and beyond what the Town would be doing here.

5. CONSENT AGENDA: ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA MAY BE REMOVED AND DISCUSSED SEPARATELY. OTHERWISE, ALL THE ITEMS MAY BE APPROVED WITH ONE ACTION.

(a) Approve minutes: November 28, 1995

(b) Acknowledge and file warrants: Nos. 20437 through 20778, in the amount of \$676,400.52.

(c) Adopt Ordinance No. 972 amending Article 6, of Chapter 3, of Title 3 of the Municipal Code relating to the abatement of fire hazards associated with flammable vegetation and other materials.

- (d) Adopt Ordinance No. 973 amending Chapters 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 13 and 14, of Title 9 of the Municipal Code adopting the Uniform Building, Mechanical, Plumbing, Housing, Solar Energy, Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Codes, and portions of the California Administrative Code, the Uniform Codes for Building Conservation and Abatement of Dangerous Buildings, and the 1993 National Electric Code.
- (e) Acknowledge and file six-month status report on dogs in Town parks.
- (f) Approve rate increase in garbage collection rates related to AB 939 Hazardous & Solid Waste Management JPA fees, effective January 1, 1996.
- (g) Approve Resolution No. 3331 setting the rental and income schedule for second units.
- (h) Authorize advance of \$75,000 from Capital Projects Fund for completion of acquisition of Cadden property for open space on Bald Hill.
- (i) Approve Resolution No. 3332 supporting federal plan to reduce smoking among children through regulation of tobacco products.
- (j) Approve Final Map for The Alameda subdivision project, James Helfrich applicant. (Resolution No. 3333).
- (k) Authorize letter of support for reconsideration of the State Water Resources Control Board's requirements on release of water during dry periods and use of Nicasio Reservoir, as presented by the Marin Municipal Water District.
- (l) CONTINUE TO JANUARY 23, 1996: Appeal of a Planning Commission denial to convert property from rental status to condominium ownership status, 865 San Anselmo Avenue.
- (m) CONTINUE TO JANUARY 23, 1996: Introduce ordinance modifying the maximum dwelling unit size regulations.
- (n) Appropriate up to \$25,000 from unprogrammed/emergency pavement projects, Measure G, for change orders in the pavement digout contract.

Items (e) and (f) were removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

M/s, Yarish/Hodgens, to approve the balance of the consent agenda. Ayes: All. Absent: Chignell, Kroot.

Regarding item (e), Barbara Schmidt, 59 Austin, asked if this item could be put off since she hasn't had an opportunity to read the report. Breen said this is just a status report to the Council and any concerns can be addressed at a future meeting.

On item (f), Town Administrator Pollard said representatives are here from the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee. This is a request from San Anselmo Refuse & Recycling for pass-through of fees assessed to operate the joint powers authority to monitor garbage disposal in the County. These fees will be assessed to the haulers. The garbage company is now asking for a rate increase to cover these new fees. A full rate increase review is scheduled in the near future. Staff recommends Council approve this 1.9% increase as it reflects new fees and the garbage company won't be making any money on this.

Yarish said the Hazardous Waste JPA is not running smoothly and is under review. These fees go for staff time for Hazardous Waste Disposal days, as well as monitoring and reporting time.

Peter Kilkus, Pine Street, said that there is intense competition in landfills which keeps fees artificially low at the landfills.

Barbara Thornton, Scenic Avenue, said SWARAC supports this request. She asked about the time frame for the Solid Waste JPA reorganization. Yarish said they will disband in June 30, and hopefully a solution will be formulated before then.

Barbara Schmidt, Austin, said the landfill people should chip up the waste.

M/s, Yarish/Hodgens, to approve consent agenda items (e) and (f). Ayes: All. Absent: Chignell, Kroot.

6. APPOINTMENTS:
(a) Historical Commission

M/s, Yarish/Hodgens, to appoint Charles Lavaroni to the Historical Commission. Ayes: All. Absent: Chignell, Kroot.

7a. REPORT ON THE DECEMBER 11-12 STORMS AND POWER OUTAGES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMEND THE WORK OF EMPLOYEES AND RESIDENTS, PURCHASE A REPLACEMENT EMERGENCY GENERATOR, APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL SLIDE REPAIR WORK AT HALPRIN PARK/ANGELA AVENUE, AND CALL FOR IMPROVED COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION BY PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY.

Town Administrator Pollard said the Town experienced great difficulty in the recent storm, primarily due to high winds and downed trees. Power outages were quite extended. The Public Works staff worked long hours to clear streets, as well as a number of volunteers and the Police Chief. Some matters have to be attended to due to the storm, including the emergency generator. The generator had troubles last week during the storm, and finally the last night it quit completely. The expert opinion is that this generator has served its useful life and needs to be replaced. This would cost up to \$25,000. In addition, \$5,000 is needed for the Halprin Park debris removal and other work. Improvement to PG&E's communication system is sorely needed. Many calls came to Town staff who could not get answers. At present there is no special coordination with PG&E to facilitate prioritizing which could be helpful to both entities. In addition, residents should be reminded to stay clear of downed wires until PG&E deems it safe.

Yarish commented that perhaps the Public Utilities Commission should be contacted and requested to look into the line staffing and necessary maintenance that might prevent this in the future.

Hodgens asked if it is correct that the generator was unable to run for three days. Public Works Director Bush said this is basically true. The generator wasn't designed for the load we put on it. In addition, it was flooded during the 1982 floods, shortening its life expectancy. The new generator will meet the challenge and will run on diesel fuel.

Barbara Schmidt, 59 Austin, said the PG&E workers should be commended. It was very difficult, however, to get through to PG&E.

Barbara Jerber, PG&E, expressed PG&E's apologies for the poor communication during the storm. She is committed to improving these communications. They have the capacity to receive 2,000 calls at one time. Last Tuesday, they received 2 million calls and couldn't handle it. The crews dedicated to the system are the same or more than before the recent company layoffs. Their first priorities are broad services, like MMWD, Sanitary District, etc.

M/s, Hodgens/Yarish, to commend the efforts of the Public Works, Police, Fire, and Parks Departments, other Town employees, volunteers, residents, and Pacific Gas & Electric line workers for their work to clear roadways for vehicle traffic, clear culverts of debris to allow storm water to drain, help with fallen trees, and respond to calls for assistance. Ayes: All. Absent: Chignell, Kroot.

M/s, Yarish/Hodgens, to authorize the appropriation of up to \$25,000 from the Capital Projects Fund to purchase and replace the emergency generator for the Police Station, Town Hall, and Library building. Ayes: All. Absent: Chignell, Kroot.

M/s, Hodgens/Yarish, to authorize the appropriation of \$5,000 from the Emergency Reserve Fund for debris removal and modifications at the Halprin Park/Angela Avenue

catchment wall. Ayes: All. Absent: Chignell, Kroot. Hodgens asked for a staff report on how much more money will be going into this particular area.

M/s, Yarish/Hodgens, to pursue efforts to improve PG&E's communication and coordination with the Town and public, and to send a letter to the State Public Utilities Commission, asking them to review appropriate PG&E staffing for ongoing and preventative maintenance, as well as emergency crews. Ayes: All. Absent: Chignell, Kroot.

It was the consensus of Council to remind residents to not touch and stay clear of downed power lines that may still be live, and to keep emergency supplies of batteries, lanterns, and water on hand.

**7b. CONTINUATION FROM ADJOURNED SPECIAL MEETING OF
DECEMBER 11, 1995, REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURE G:**

**(i) Determination on funding source for engineering services:
CONTINUE TO JANUARY 9, 1995.**

**(ii) Authorization for expenditure of non-programmed drainage funds for
slipline projects, collapsed drains, and other miscellaneous minor improvements.**

Town Administrator Pollard said this item (ii) was under discussion as the lights went out December 11. The Woodland Avenue area specifically was mentioned as needing immediate work. Staff recommends that for 1995-96 Council authorize \$50,000 be spent in high-profile drainage areas, with some quick fix items.

Public Works Director Bush said a storm drain collapsed at 37 Nokomis due to the recent storm. This is also the case on SF Drake Blvd. across from the high school. He hopes these are both slip line candidates. It is hoped that problems on Center and Timothy can be fixed with slip lining as well. Regarding the Ross Avenue and Mariposa problem, he recommends we get a television inspection of the Woodland drains. He believes there may be a problem with the slope of this pipe, causing water to flow out of drains in the area.

Pollard said this money can't be stretched very far, but will take care of some immediate problems pending the comprehensive improvement projects that are planned.

Steve Harnsberger said he and Carl Baeck and other residents are willing to get involved to brainstorm what can be done in this area.

Pollard said there are established criteria used for priority assessment, based on existing conditions for the drainage and paving work planned. The plan will be presented at a public hearing where neighbors can comment. Also, residents are welcome to come to the office and discuss this with the Public Works staff.

M/s, Hodgens/Yarish, to authorize expenditure of non-programmed drainage funds for slipline projects, collapsed drains, and other miscellaneous minor improvements. Ayes: All. Absent: Chignell, Kroot.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING ON APPROVAL OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND AN AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL PLAN
INCORPORATING THE BALD HILL AREA PLAN.**

This item was continued to the next regular meeting.

**9. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR THE PLACEMENT OF
SIGNS AT THE HUB INTERSECTION, AND THE HANGING OF BANNERS ON
SIR FRANCIS DRAKE BOULEVARD AND ON TUNSTEAD AVENUE
PUBLICIZING COMMUNITY EVENTS.**

Assistant Recreation Director Dorey said she has prepared a resolution incorporating the recommendations of the Council at the last meeting, including specifications for

organizations that want to request a full or partial fee waiver. She has also suggested criteria for fee waivers.

Hodgens said she would like staff to look into the criteria and evaluate requests before they come to Council.

Yarish said he would like to add to the fee waiver criteria a statement that recognizes the leverage of funds for organizations where participants are volunteers and raising money for community causes.

Breen said he is concerned about the term "aesthetically pleasing". Dorey said she understands his concerns and feels she will let it play out and see if it becomes a problem. Town Administrator Pollard said it would be helpful for Councilmembers to give staff feedback on signs they see as aesthetically poor.

Dorey said the Hub sign will be reserved for San Anselmo organizations only, but since bookings are taken a year in advance, we will honor the ones taken already.

M/s, Yarish/Hodgens, to adopt Resolution No. 3334 and the suggested criteria for free waivers, adding a statement that recognizes the leverage of funds for organizations where participants are volunteers and raising money for community causes. Ayes: All. Absent: Chignell, Kroot.

10. REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FEES TO HANG BANNER AND SIGN PUBLICIZING THE BLACK AND WHITE NIGHT, ROSS VALLEY COMMUNITY FOR SCHOOLS.

Ellen Purdom, Ross Valley Community for Schools, said this organization serves 1700 school children in San Anselmo and Fairfax. They would appreciate the fee being waived so this money can go back into their arts programs. The Town would receive thanks and goodwill from RVCS for their assistance.

Hodgens said it isn't appropriate to evaluate this against the new criteria, but it would be interesting to do so. This is a good example of the leveraging of funds.

M/s, Hodgens/Yarish, to approve the request to waive fees to hang banner and sign publicizing the Black and White Night, Ross Valley Community for Schools. Ayes: All. Absent: Chignell, Kroot.

11. REQUEST FROM THE MARIN COUNTY ASSESSOR FOR SAN ANSELMO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD REVIEW PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY IMPROVEMENTS NOT BEING ASSESSED.

Town Administrator Pollard said that the County Assessor's office would like an indication of Council's feeling about this concept for planning purposes.

Breen said in Fairfax they voted to oppose it. It was feared that residents would feel we were going after them. Homes turn over about every seven years anyway and would be inspected at that time. Towns would be supporting the County to generate revenues, but it seems the revenues would not be offset by the negative feelings generated.

Pollard said staff would recommend a process for looking at this issue from an equity standpoint. Property taxes on improvements are lost in the time spent waiting for turnover. The County would foot the bill for the six month pilot project.

It was the consensus of Council to not support the Neighborhood Review Program to identify improvements not being assessed due to the negative implications and lack of support from other Marin towns and cities.

Pollard said she will notify the County that the Council was concerned about the program itself and the financing, and won't bring it back until an alternative arrangement is in process.

12. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POLICY ON MEMORIAL AND OTHER COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS.

Town Administrator Pollard said this resolution has been tricky; it is a balance between memorializing peoples' lives and having the appearance that the Town is covered with plaques. This new policy takes into account Council's previous comments and includes a provision for gifts to honor persons who are still alive and plaques may or may not be allowed. It is thought that perhaps a central plaque location may best serve the purpose. The resolution takes into account downtown revitalization concerns and it may be helpful to have a plan in place as the downtown revitalization gets started.

Hodgens said she is concerned with item 4, special contributions for prominent people. Perhaps these prominent people could be nominated by a group, rather than just an individual, such as the Volunteer Effort (SAVE) Board, to ensure a community nomination process.

Pollard said she feels the SAVE Board would be an appropriate group to nominate people for prominent person memorials. The Board could take a first look at applications. Our current policy is rather discretionary. Creating a funnel for these requests would be good. She will add SAVE Board review in the procedures.

M/s, Yarish/Hodgens, to approve Resolution No. 3335 establishing policy on memorial and other commemorative gifts. Ayes: All.

13. RECOMMENDATION TO PARTICIPATE IN LOBBYING EFFORTS TO RESTORE PROPERTY TAX CUTS TO THE CITIES, COUNTY, AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS OF MARIN.

The lobbyist hired by the County of Marin is at work. We are being asked to send letters to the governor, protesting the shift of ERAF funds, as he is again considering taking ERAF money.

It was the consensus of Council to send a letter to the governor protesting the shift of ERAF monies.

14. ADJOURN.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Debbie Stutsman