CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
“The Pass of the Oaks”

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, January 20, 2015

5:00PM – CLOSED SESSION
City Hall, 2nd Floor
Large Conference Room
1000 Spring Street, Paso Robles

- Conference with Real Property Negotiators
  Gov. Code section 54956.8
  Property: 4th and Pine Streets
  City Negotiator: Meg Williamson
  Party: Jim Saunders
  Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment

No reportable action.

CITY COUNCIL RECESSED TO REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 5:45PM

7:30 PM – CONVENE REGULAR MEETING
Paso Robles Library/City Hall Conference Center
1000 Spring Street, Paso Robles

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
INVOCATION – Pat Sheean

ROLL CALL Councilmembers Steve Gregory, John Hamon, Fred Strong, Jim Reed, and Mayor Steven Martin

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS
PUBLIC COMMENTS
At this time the public may address the Council on items other than those scheduled on the agenda.

- Lieutenant Colonel Gregory A. Arenas presented a report of upcoming activities at Camp Roberts.
- Kevin Beauchamp spoke about the Phillip 66 Railroad Spur.
- Linda Reynolds spoke about the Mesa Refinery Watch Group and submitted documentation regarding such (attached to these minutes hereto as Exhibit A).
- Michael Patrick spoke about this year’s Relay-For-Life – Team Idler’s.
- Joel Peterson, Carol McDonald, Tina Soto, Bobbi Conner, Cris Cherry, John Roush, Neeta Mittal, Kevin Kuhn and Dale Gustin spoke about moving Concerts in the Park to Thursday nights.
- Steve King spoke about the Supplemental Tax Committee activities.
- Ron Berry spoke about building permit issues.
- Kathy Barnett spoke about the 21st Street project and recently vacated Public Works and Community Development department head positions.

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE DEFERRED - None
PRESENTATIONS

1. **Proclamation Recognizing the Paso Robles High School Cross Country Team**
   City Council presented each team member with a medal recognizing their accomplishment.

PUBLIC HEARING - None

CONSENT CALENDAR
Items on the Consent Calendar are considered routine, not requiring separate discussion.

2. **Approve City Council Minutes from January 6, 2015**
   D. Fansler, City Clerk

3. **Approve Warrant Registers 4630-4717 (1/02/15), 4718-4842 (1/9/15), and other payroll services**
   J. Throop, Director of Administrative Services

4. **Advisory Body Minutes**
   Youth Commission (December 3, 2014)
   Library Board of Trustees (December 11, 2014)

5. **Adopt Resolution No.15-006 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a professional service contract with Augustine Ideas on behalf of the Travel Paso Robles Alliance (TPRA) Committee to execute marketing strategies for Paso Robles.**
   M. Williamson, Assistant City Manager

6. **For the City Council to adopt Resolution No.15-007 authorizing the City Manager to extend the professional service contract with Big Red Marketing through June 30, 2015 on behalf of the Travel Paso Robles Alliance (TPRA) Committee.**
   M. Williamson, Assistant City Manager

7. **Adopt the Resolution 15-008 to ratify the Mayor's appointment of Jim Throop to replace Ed Gallagher as a member of the Oversight Board for the Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency.**
   S. DeCarli, Acting Community Development Director

8. **Adopt Resolution No. 15-009 declaring certain City property as surplus and authorizing their sale to recyclers, wholesalers or by public auction, bid or sale.**
   J. Throop, Administrative Services Director

   Consent Calendar items 2 through 8 were approved on a single motion by Councilman Strong and seconded by Councilman Gregory.

   Motion passed by the following roll call vote:
   
   AYES: Strong, Gregory, Hamon, Reed, Martin
   NOES: 
   ABSTAIN: 
   ABSENT: 

DISCUSSION

9. **Request for Reconsideration of Council Action within One Year (Don Ezell)**
   S. DeCarli, Acting Community Development Director

   For the City Council to determine whether it would be interested in reconsidering its action of July 1, 2014, denying a request by Don Ezell to amend the Zoning Code.

   Mayor Martin opened the public discussion. Speaking from the public were Don Ezell, who provided a PowerPoint presentation (attached hereto as Exhibit B) explaining his request for reconsideration, Corbin Holland, Susan Borene, John Ronna, Cory Ronna, Ron Berry, David Boulian, Donnie Stever, Kathy Barnett, Tom Madden and Mark Lyons. Comments were also received via email and voicemail, and are attached hereto as Exhibit C. There were no other comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

   A motion was made by Councilman Strong, seconded by Councilman Reed to allow consideration of a new application to amend the Zoning Code to allow card rooms in the Manufacturing (M) zoning district with the approval of a Conditional Use Permit.
Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Strong, Reed, Martin
NOES: Gregory, Hamon
ABSTAIN: Reed
ABSENT: 1

10. Sale of City Property: 4th and Pine Streets (APN: 009-261-004) to James and Debra Saunders
M. Williamson, Assistant City Manager

For the City Council to authorize the City to enter into a Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) with James and Debra Saunders for the sale of City-owned property for private commercial use/improvements

Mayor Martin opened the public discussion. Speaking from the public were Jim Saunders, Dale Gustin and Kathy Barnett. There were no other comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Strong, seconded by Councilman Gregory to adopt Resolution 15-010 authorizing the City to enter into a Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) with James and Debra Saunders for the sale of 2.57 acres of city-owned property at 4th and Pine Streets.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Strong, Gregory, Hamon, Reed, Martin
NOES: Reed
ABSTAIN: Reed
ABSENT: 1

11. Habitat for Humanity: Second Amendment to Loan Agreement to Conditionally Forgive CalHome Loan Interest
S. DeCarli, Acting Community Development Director

For the City Council to consider a request by Habitat for Humanity for San Luis Obispo County to waive a requirement to pay 6% interest accrued on a CalHome loan.

Mayor Martin opened the public discussion. Speaking from the public were Dale Gustin and Sheila Healy. There were no other comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Hamon, seconded by Councilman Gregory to adopt Resolution 15-011 to approve a Second Amendment to the Loan Agreement, conditionally authorizing the forgiveness of the 6% interest upon repayment of the principal balance of the $225,000 CalHome Loan made to Habitat for Humanity for San Luis Obispo County.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Gregory, Strong, Martin
NOES: Reed
ABSTAIN: Reed
ABSENT: Reed

12. Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification
K. Johnson, Emergency Services Chief

For the City Council to consider the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification report.

Mayor Martin opened the public discussion. Speaking from the public was Kathy Barnett. There were no other comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Strong, seconded by Councilman Hamon to receive and file the ISO Public Protection Classification report.
Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Strong, Hamon, Gregory, Reed, Martin
NOES: 
ABSTAIN: 
ABSENT:

13. Municipal and Centennial Pool Costs
J. Dahlen, Library and Recreation Services Director

For the City Council to review the net costs and other logistical requirements of operating the Municipal and Centennial Pools in consideration of reopening Centennial Pool for the 2015 aquatics season.

Mayor Martin opened the public discussion. Speaking from the public were Sally Reynolds, Justin Perino, Chris Taranto, Terri Anderson, Dale Gustin, Rob Ezell and Kathy Barnett. There were no other comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Strong and seconded by Councilman Hamon to receive and file pool financial reports amended to direct staff to bring back a more complete ADA compliance cost estimate and timeline for both Municipal and Centennial Pools, to coincide with the planned goal-setting workshop in March 2015.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Strong, Hamon, Gregory, Reed, Martin
NOES: 
ABSTAIN: 
ABSENT:

J. App, City Manager

For the City Council to review adopted “Council Policies & Procedures.”

Mayor Martin opened the public discussion. There were no comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Strong and seconded by Councilman Gregory to modify the Policies & Procedures as indicated in the staff report.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Strong, Gregory, Hamon, Reed, Martin
NOES: 
ABSTAIN: 
ABSENT:

15. Council Meetings – Regular Operating Department Presentations
J. App, City Manager

For the City Council to determine whether and how frequently to schedule operating department presentations.

Mayor Martin opened the public discussion. There were no comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Gregory and seconded by Councilman Strong to direct staff to include 1 department report per month on City Council agendas.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Gregory, Strong, Hamon, Reed, Martin
NOES: 
ABSTAIN: 
ABSENT:
COUNCIL BUSINESS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

16. **Ad Hoc Committee Appointment: Water/Wastewater Rate Study**
   C. Halley, Interim Public Works Director
   For City Council to consider appointing Ad Hoc Committee members for the Utility Rate and Fee Study.
   
   Mayor Martin opened the public discussion. There were no comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.
   
   A motion was made by Councilman Strong and seconded by Councilman Gregory to appoint Councilman Gregory and Councilman Reed to the Utility Rate and Fee Study Ad Hoc Committee.
   
   Motion passed by the following roll call vote:
   
   AYES: Strong, Gregory, Hamon, Reed, Martin
   NOES:
   ABSTAIN:
   ABSENT:

17. **Current Council Committee Activities Reports**
   
   Each Councilman and the mayor spoke about committee activities, meetings, made suggestions for future issues to consider, and spoke about other related Council activities. Councilman Strong provided written documentation attached to these minutes hereto as Exhibit D.

**ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING**

A motion was made by Councilman Hamon and seconded by Councilman Gregory to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:11PM.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Gregory, Reed, Strong, Martin

**ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING AT 11:11PM TO:**

- **12th STREET PROJECT COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING** – 7:00PM ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015 IN THE LIBRARY/CITY HALL CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET, PASO ROBLES.
- **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS GALA** – 5:30PM ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2015 AT THE PASO ROBLES EVENT CENTER.
- **REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING** - 7:30PM ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015 IN THE LIBRARY/CITY HALL CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET, PASO ROBLES.
- **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING** - 7:30PM ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015 IN THE LIBRARY/CITY HALL CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET, PASO ROBLES.

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Any writing or document pertaining to an open session item on this agenda which is distributed to a majority of the City Council after the posting of this agenda will be available for public inspection at the time the subject writing or document is distributed. The writing or document will be available for public review in the City Clerk’s Office, 1000 Spring Street, Paso Robles, CA, during normal business hours, and may be posted on the City’s web site at [http://www.prcity.com/government/citycouncil/agendas.asp](http://www.prcity.com/government/citycouncil/agendas.asp).

All persons desiring to speak on an agenda item are asked to fill out Speaker Information Cards and place them at the Staff Table prior to public discussion of that item. Each individual speaker will be limited to a presentation total of three (3) minutes per item.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT** Any individual, who because of a disability needs special assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, may request assistance by contacting the City Clerk’s Office (805) 237-3960. Whenever possible, requests should be made four (4) working days in advance of the meeting.

Submitted by:

Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk
Approved: February 3, 2015
Mesa Refinery Watch Group

2015

www.MesaRefineryWatch.com

Linda Reynolds - Chair Person
lreynolds151@gmail.com
San Jose City Council unanimous in concern over planned Phillips 66 oil-by-rail expansion

By RANDOL WHITE

The City of San Jose is the latest California municipality to express concern over an increase in crude oil shipments by rail.

The San Jose City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to instruct the city manager to send a letter to the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission, asking members to take into consideration their concerns as part of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Phillips 66 refinery rail spur.

Phillips 66 says in its Revised EIR, a maximum of 250 trains would arrive for unloading per year carrying upwards of a quarter million barrels of crude oil to the facility each week, should the rail connector be approved.

The Bay Area cities of Richmond and Berkeley have also expressed similar concern over the project within the past year.

San Jose Council Member Ash Kalra was behind this most recent vote. He says San Jose may be distant from San Luis Obispo County, but that doesn’t minimize the danger to his constituents.

"I think it’s totally appropriate regardless of whether the city is adjacent or not," said Kalra. "Because, with the approval of the project in San Luis Obispo County, there’s no doubt there’ll be a dramatic increase in oil trains coming through our neighborhoods here in San Jose, right through the heart of our city."

Dennis Nuss is the spokesperson for the Phillips 66 project and says the company understands there may be opposition to the rail project. He also points out transportation of crude by rail is regulated by the federal government.

"The Union Pacific Railroad will be responsible for delivering the crude oil railcars to and from the refinery," said Nuss in an emailed statement to KCBX. "Union Pacific safely transports a variety of products, including crude oil, through SLO County every day. We have confidence in Union Pacific’s capabilities and are working closely with the railroad on this project."
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<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<th>ArticInk Link</th>
<th>Resolution Link</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Richmond, CA</td>
<td>Mayor Gayle McLaughlin and Councilman Chalilu</td>
<td>Passed</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mercerynews.com/berkeley-news/ci_254">http://www.mercerynews.com/berkeley-news/ci_254</a></td>
<td><a href="http://content.sierracub.org/press-release/00.06.08.berkeley-city-opts-for-1-wally-">http://content.sierracub.org/press-release/00.06.08.berkeley-city-opts-for-1-wally-</a></td>
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<td>Ventura County, CA</td>
<td>Steve Bennett and Linda Parks</td>
<td>Sent letter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mercerynews.com/berkeley-news/ci_254">http://www.mercerynews.com/berkeley-news/ci_254</a></td>
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<td>Council President Ben Stuckar</td>
<td>Passed</td>
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Murry Wilson  
SLO County Dept. of Planning and Building  
976 Osos St., Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, 93408

Dear Mr. Wilson,

The California Nurses Association (CNA) represents thousands of bedside and public health Registered Nurses (RNs) who live and work across the state of California and the U.S. CNA members work at the bedside in impacted communities, treating patients who daily suffer the devastating health consequences of polluted air, water, and environments. As advocates for patient health, RNs have serious concerns about the health and safety implications of the proposed oil by rail project at the Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery. This project presents significant and unacceptable risks to the health and safety of our communities throughout California and beyond.

Immediate Health Impacts

The toxic air emissions that would result from this project pose an unacceptable risk to public health. The proposed Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility in Santa Maria would bring an oil train a day through California carrying highly toxic and explosive crude. The toxic air emissions that will result would greatly impact our communities. Volatile toxic chemicals leak out of tank cars into the air directly impacting communities along rail routes. In its latest environmental review, Phillips 66 admits that its proposed oil train facility will create “significant and unavoidable” levels of air pollution, including toxic sulfur dioxide and cancer-causing chemicals. The report cites increased health risks of cancer, heart disease, respiratory disease, and premature death.

Our most vulnerable populations are particularly at risk. Children and infants are at greater risk due to their still-developing lungs and respiratory systems. The elderly and people with preexisting respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and cancer all face greater risks than the general public. Low-income and working families, because they are more likely to live near the tracks, also suffer more. When coupled with the fact that these families also are less likely to have adequate healthcare coverage, this creates a real crisis of health in our communities.

In addition to the toxic emissions that would be a direct result of the increased crude-by-rail traffic, the planning department must examine the Santa Maria and Rodeo proposals as a single project. It is clear that Phillips 66 intends to bring toxic Canadian tar sands to California. The proposed oil train terminal in Santa Maria is linked by pipeline to the Phillips 66 refinery in Rodeo, CA. Phillips 66 is proposing to modify these facilities to allow it to refine the most toxic crude oil on Earth: Canadian tar sands. Transporting and refining tar sands will create more toxic air and water pollution for families along the rail line and near the Santa Maria refinery.
In the case of tar sands transport, a diluting agent is typically mixed with the semisolid bitumen from the tar sands to allow the bitumen to be moved into and out of railcars and through pipelines. Most diluting agents include natural gas liquid condensate containing volatile hydrocarbons such as benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylene. The transport of diluted bitumen can involve a multistage transferring process where there is an increased likelihood of toxic vapor release, putting workers at particular risk.

When it comes to tar sands refining, not only does the bitumen portion of the diluted mixture contain 102 times more copper, 11 times more nickel, and 5 times more lead than conventional crude oils, but the added diluting agent contains high concentrations of hazardous pollutants such as benzene. All of these chemicals may be released as air pollutants during the refining process and the presence of highly volatile diluting agents makes it likely that more carcinogenic pollutants will be released into the air. These pollutants have been tied to increased cancer risks, increased respiratory issues including asthma, cardiovascular illness, developmental delays, and other negative health effects. Diluted bitumen from the tar sands also has notably high levels of certain sulfur compounds called mercaptans, which have been linked to central nervous system problems and can irritate the eyes, skin, and upper respiratory system.

RNAs have the highest proportion of direct interaction with patients of any health-care providers. Because RNAs see first-hand on a daily basis the devastating effects of environmental pollution on health, RNAs understand the serious health implications that this project will have for patients and communities throughout California.

Safety

The draft EIR's analysis of potential accidents and spills is flawed because it only evaluates rail accident rates from 2003 to 2012 and spill release rates between 2005 and 2009, and omits important data about crude rail accident frequency and magnitude in 2013 and 2014. This is troubling because more crude spilled from trains in 2013 than spilled during the past four decades. The EIR must look at recent data, including accident data from Canada which has also experienced increased crude by rail incidents. This data reflects the increased quantities of dangerous crude being transported in old and unsafe tank cars and will provide a more accurate assessment of accident risk and magnitude along the rail lines that would serve this project.

2 See Attachment 1 for health impacts.
3 Bailey, 2014.
4 Bailey, 2014.
5 See Attachment 1 for health impacts.
6 Phyllis Fox, “Comments on Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Valero Crude by Rail Project” 25 (July 1, 2013), www.ci.benicia.ca.us/vertical/sites%7B3436CBED-6A58-4EF-BFD-F93121593%7D/uploads/Report_by_Dr_Phyllis_Fox.pdf.
8 Bailey, 2014.
Furthermore, the diluted bitumen transported from Canada that arrives in U.S. refineries is more corrosive than conventional crude oils and may lead to increased risk of refinery accidents. In fact, low-quality crudes, like tar sands, were found by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board to be a contributing factor in a major accident at the Chevron refinery in Richmond, California, in August 2012, which sent approximately 15,000 residents to area hospitals and endangered the lives of 19 workers. Registered Nurses with California Nurses Association treated affected residents of that refinery accident at nearby, overwhelmed hospitals and saw first-hand the devastating health consequences low-quality crude operations.

Moreover, the EIR’s worst case scenario spill analysis estimates a spill of approximately 180,000 gallons, that’s approximately six tank cars of crude. Most crude trains are comprised of 100 or more tank cars. As such, a worst case scenario spill would be on the order of millions of gallons of crude. Such a spill could devastate scarce water resources, property and local economies, and would pose a significant threat to public health and safety. This project cannot be approved without analyzing and mitigating its full and true impacts.

The EIR must fully analyze the potential worst-case scenario of a spill near each of the many watersheds crossed on route to the Santa Maria refinery. The proposed rail route brings oil trains through the San Francisco Bay-Delta watershed and along California’s treasured central coast. Each oil train carries more than three million gallons of explosive, toxic crude oil. A derailment near a river, stream, reservoir, or above a groundwater aquifer could contaminate drinking water for millions of Californians. During a time of extreme drought, SLO must not approve this project and create contamination risk for the rest of our state.

Climate Change

Climate change affects all of the social and environmental determinants of health, including clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food, and secure shelter. Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases through can result in improved health, not only through immediate reduced air pollution, but also in addressing the long-lasting and potentially irreversible effects of climate change.

Phillips 66 must disclose crude quality information in order for decision makers to fully understand the climate impacts of the proposed rail project. At every stage of the mining, transportation, and refining process, Canadian tar sands are more carbon intensive than any other source of oil. At a time where it is critical for the health of our communities both locally and globally to reduce carbon emissions, this project threatens to bring tar sands to California and undermine the state’s efforts to be a global leader addressing climate disruption.

For registered nurses the climate crisis is a clear and present public-health emergency as well as a creeping bomb for our planet — and nurses understand the link between extreme forms of energy extraction, refining, transportation and consumption and the horrific impacts on human health.

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9 Bailey, 2014.
10 Bailey, 2014.
Conclusion

RNs provide expert care at the bedside and in the communities of the vulnerable and ill on a daily basis. Whether caring for a child struggling with asthma or a worker battling occupational cancer. RNs treat patients with compassion and are acutely aware of the environmental contributors to health. As advocates, nurses are called to take action to prevent harm and relieve suffering. RNs have serious concerns about the health impacts of the proposed Phillips 66 project.

For all the aforementioned reasons, nurses urge the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to reject the Phillips 66 proposed rail spur. This project creates significant, unavoidable, and unnecessary risks for our patients, our communities, and our climate.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Deborah Berger
THE MODERN Card Room

A Fresh Look/Zoned Fairly For All
Reasons For Early Reconsideration

- Zoning & public policy must be based on:
  - objective facts; separated from fiction; actual circumstances
  - Proof and track record of operator; statistics and police department testimony; transparent full vetting
  - Fairness; no special treatment, just equal footing and chance of economic development and growth

- Ownership & commercial interests changed

- Deeply affects many families and livelihood of many businesses not just Paso Robles Card Room
Actual Use Not Previously Made Transparent

**OK on Black Oak Drive**
- Chevron/Food Mart
- McDonald’s
- Carl’s Jr.
- Arco AM/PM
- Subway
- Card Room

**OK on Ramada Drive**
- Chevron/Carwash/Food Mart
- McDonald’s
- Jack in the Box
- Arco AM/PM
- Subway
- Card Room – Historically “The Ramada Card Room”
Consistency & Transparency

For economic vitality, we need:

- Consistency in zoning, public policy and economic development support
- Compatible, highest and best use acknowledged.
- Strict focus and decision making based only on facts.
- Concerns must be accurate, valid and objectively true to be in the mix, not racial or economic prejudice.
- No bias, fiction, unfounded fear, baseless opinions, etc.
Zoning Modification:
The Actual Limited Zoning Modification Request

“...to amend the Zoning Code *to allow [a] card room in the Manufacturing (M) zoning district*” to operate in the small commercial strip adjacent to other suitable commercial activity. (Gallagher & Nash, 2014)
Zoning Modification:
The Actual Limited Zoning Amendment Request

- A very defined and limited in scope application
- Area not really manufacturing, but commercial and general business use
- Does NOT change M-Zoning elsewhere in Paso Robles
- Absolutely appropriate & compatible use for the particular area

Con contrary to historical zoning designation there is currently NO manufacturing in this particular commercial strip.... Which makes sense because it wouldn’t fit or be the highest and best use.
Zoning Modification
Positive For All

- Zoning Drives Economic Development
  - Jobs and Progress
  - Growth and Progress for Paso Robles
- Highest and Best Use for Our Building is a Community Card Room
- Joins a sub-strip of commercial businesses; limited nearby manufacturing
- This proposed zoning use harms no one; contributes to economic development ecosystems
- A positive contribution to Paso Robles; not a bad element; worthy of reconsideration
Zoning Modification
Positive For All

- State Law Permits Only One Card Room In Paso Robles
- Highest and Best Use for Our Building is a Community Card Room
- Historically located on Ramada Drive – The Ramada Card Room
- Operating hours similar to restaurant business; not operating 24-hours and closed on Sundays.
- A positive contribution to Paso Robles; not a bad element
Economic Development Ecosystem
Tradition

The City has a long history of a community based card room. That tradition includes a card room on Ramada Drive for many years during the 1990’s. Accordingly, our request to return is appropriate, compatible, and not even new or novel use.
• Pleasant Ambiance
• Spacious Rooms With Fireplaces
• Well Lit Premises
• Ultra High Tech Security and Surveillance Systems
• No Mischief or Crime When On Candid Camera
• Fine Dining Choices
• Attractive to locals and visitors
• Fostering Robust Economic Development
Modern Card Room for Paso Robles

Paso Robles Card Room
Modern Card Room for Paso Robles
Safe & Secure

• Well Lighted Premises
  • No Giant Pole Signs
  • No Billboards
• High Tech Security & Surveillance Systems
  • Low-key Indoor Business
• Strict Rules for Patron Conduct, No Cursing
• Not Operating 24-hours; Closed on Sundays
• Not a Bad Element
Ownership

• We own the building at 1649 Ramada Drive. We believe the highest and best use is a community card room.

• It is a free-standing independent 5,000 square foot building similar to those in the same commercial strip. The City Planning Commission agrees unanimously.

• We searched for a good compatible site for 2 years; significant investment; prefer sensible use.

• Commercial or non-manufacturing use in these small buildings is appropriate in this sub-zone because this strip is not actually suitable for large scale manufacturing and the proof is in long standing use for car wash, fueling station, retail and wholesale carpet, etc. actually occurring – and a community card room also works well with and is compatible.
First Class Operator
No Harm/No Crime = Good Zoning

- Applicant has been a zero crime operator for years and is now willing to invest in a new first class modern card room.

- Community card room business harms no one.

- Misdirection, rumors, false testimony, passion, or misplaced prejudice are not helpful on this zoning application or request for early reconsideration.

- We believe only valid, fact based, concerns backed by evidence should be considered.
Commercial Use is Highest & Best Use
Too Small for Manufacturing

- Our building at 1649 Ramada is the same as all 5 in the commercial strip. It makes sense that all will remain commercial use

- These buildings are not large enough for any current or future manufacturing use. All future use of all buildings in this strip will be light commercial.
True Community

Good Zoning = Civic Activity = Economic Development and Growth

Fundraiser Poker Tournaments - Examples
- AmpSurf – Veteran Amputee Surfers
- Veterans Center of Paso Robles
- Memory Box Project – Families of Fallen Soldiers
- Creston 4H
- John Machado Benefit
- PokerGives.org – Statewide

Direct Development – Over $50,000.00 given annually

All make up the “good” elements of Paso Robles, not the bad element.
True Community

Our customers are the citizens of all stripes from Paso Robles

YES

- Armed Forces personnel, Veterans
- Doctors
- Insurance Agents,
- Real Estate Professionals
- Tourists
- Small Business Owners,
- Plumbers, Contractors, Carpenters, Electricians
- Teachers,
- Ranchers, Equine and Ag Personnel
- Law Enforcement Officers
- Chefs
- Oil & Gas Field Personnel
- Families---grandfathers, grandmothers, fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, housewives, retirees

NO

- Alcoholics
- Drunks
- Vandals
- Thugs, drug addicts
- Vagrants
- Problem Gamblers
Choose “Option A”

Allow early consideration of our application to amend the Zoning Code to allow the Paso Robles Card Room in the “M” zoning district with the approval of a Conditional Use Permit.
Sent from my Phone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Geoff Brown <cambriabrown@att.net>
**Date:** January 17, 2015 at 5:45:16 AM PST
**To:** CityManager@prcity.com
**Subject:** Zoning Change for Gambling on Ramada Drive

To the City Council,

I am very much opposed to the Council changing the current Manufacturing Zoning on Ramada Drive to accommodate the owners of the Card Casino moving from its current location on Black Oak Drive. I agree with Adam Firestone and others that this establishment is not appropriate to the area and we should leave the zoning for that area as is--Paso Robles should not be a destination for gambling establishments and the new location is too close to the Freeway and would be an eyesore!! This change would also affect neighboring Templeton of which I am a resident. Do you want Paso Robles and surrounding areas to be a Little Las Vegas or a tourist destination for its other fine offerings?

Geoffrey Brown
920 Rosebay Way
Templeton, California 93465
434-3763

Sent from my iPad
Councilmen,
We see in this weekend’s paper the Card Room relocation is again coming before the Council. We attended the July meeting hearing the same basic request; it was denied by the council. Below is our support of that decision that we sent to the Council at that time. Our opinion has not changed, we ask you to reject the proposal for Ramada Drive. **Please include this email in that item’s packet.**

Thank You,
Steve & Janice Nelson

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Councilmen, I am writing you in **support of your rejection of the request for a card room on Ramada Drive** at a recent City Council meeting. Please **include this email in that item’s packet** and certainly if the item is brought back to the Council.

I attended the Council meeting when the card room item was heard. I appreciate the time you listened to both sides and your discussion. I learned some things about zoning for that area, so close to town and considered one of the Gateways. I agree with your decision to reject a card room or other such business for that area of Ramada Drive. It just doesn’t fit there; the aesthetics and atmosphere of Paso Robles being the overriding factor for us as citizens. In addition, long range thinking we are concerned about expansion of the building
for added gaming, exterior lighting and advertising, hours of operation, parking. Please understand we have no issue with card playing or gaming in itself, be it at home or a business.

We agree with your opinion that a business such as this would be ill placed in that section of Ramada Drive.

Thank You,
Steve & Janice Nelson
2427 Traditions Loop
Paso Robles
Hello All-

A received a voicemail at 4:50pm on January 20, 2015 from June Cardinalli, who wanted to voice her disapproval of the casino before tonight's Council meeting. It is located next to her church and she does not want a casino there.
City of El Paso de Robles
Mayor Pro Tem Fred Strong’s
Activity Report Summary 1/6/15 - 1/20/15

SLOCOG/SLORTA Joint Board meetings 1/7/15 at 8:30 a.m.
Due to the nature of the meeting and advice of Legal Counsel I represented the city at this meeting with Mayor Martin observing as a member of the audience.

Election of officers took place with Supervisor Debbie Arnold being elevated to the Chair and Mayor Jan Marx of San Luis Obispo being elected Vice-Chair. Past Chairman Shelly Higginbotham, Mayor of Pismo Beach was elected to the final position on the Executive Committee. The same officers serve on SLORTA.

Interagency assignments by the Board were: Fred Strong and Debbie Arnold as Delegate and Alternate respectfully to CALCOG, where I serve on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Fred Strong as the delegate to the National Association of Regional Councils, where I already serve on the Board of Directors, representing the entire United States and as Policy Chair of the Transportation Committee. Fred Strong And Jan Marx as the delegate and Alternate to the LOSSAN (Pacific Surfliner) and Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) with me as delegate to LOSSAN, where I currently serve as Chairman of the Board, and Alternate to CRCC.

The final public hearing was held on the draft EIR for CRCC’s service proposal from San Luis Obispo to Salinas. Public objections were heard regarding curve re-alignments in Santa Margarita, Atascadero and at Wellsonna. It was decided to seek elimination of the realignment proposals as too disruptive and expensive for the time savings of only a few minutes.

Reports and comments were received on a variety of other transportation items including the Draft Regional Transportation Plan (DRTP) with over $2 billion in anticipated revenue over the next 20 years.

The DRPT Projects include an anticipated $6.3 million/year for maintenance and rehabilitation of regional roads in Paso Robles, as well as $10 million for the intersection of Union Road and Highway 46 East and an additional $10 million to extend Union Road to Airport Road and $55 million for roundabouts east and west of the intersection of highways 46 West and 101. While the improvement of the RR under-crossing from Pine Street to Riverside Avenue is also included, there is no cost estimate included at this time.

Additionally, the DRTP includes CalTrans projects for our area to include $3.8 million for improvements to the northbound Highway 101 off ramp to Highway 46 East; $66 million for auxiliary, acceleration and deceleration lanes on Highway 101 between Atascadero and Paso Robles and an additional $15 million for the State’s portion of operational improvements for Union Road at Highway 46 East. The final approval is in March.
Main Street Board of Directors’ meeting 1/12/15 at 5:45 p.m.
Reports received on L’Eroica, Request to Move Downtown Concerts, Farmworker, low-income housing units available at Oak Park I and the Mardi Gras Carnival for Fat Tuesday on February 17th at the Paso Robles Inn Ballroom.

As alternate Liaison I began the report on the city giving highlights of the previous Council meeting and outlining communications we’d received regarding a move for Concerts In The Park to a different day. The Main Street Board was to consider the item later that night. I also informed them of the Council’s orientation schedule from now until April. Councilman Reed arrived in time to complete the report as I left the meeting.

Paso Robles Housing Authority Board meeting 1/13/15 at 5:30 p.m.
As Liaison I reported on our Council meeting, applications being accepted for Housing Authority Board membership and the planned activities at the League of California Cities that week.

I related the cause of delays on the Riverside Avenue construction projects and answered questions about other road projects in process and planned. Later in the meeting I cautioned about Brown Act requirements due to an overlap between the Housing Authority Board and its non-profit Board of Directors.

I also informed them of the Council’s orientation schedule from now until April.

Difficulties in filling new Farmworker units were discussed and I accepted two brochures for City Hall to help find tenants. The annual audit report was received without significant discussion. It was noted that during construction there is not enough room to accommodate all of those who wish to participate in the Youth Works employment or Acorns after school projects.

Events in Sacramento:

Wednesday, 1/14/15 LOSSAN Executive Committee meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Vice-Chair Golonski was unable to attend due to a back problem. We reviewed the proposed LOSSAN Business Plan for 2015 - 2017 and referred it on to the Board with minimal amendments. We reviewed the Annual Audit Report and recommended that it be put on the consent agenda for the Board meeting. Due to a lack of information provided by CalTrans we deferred consideration of the Draft Interagency Transfer Agreement. Member Carbajal told us of a cooperative committee being created between Santa Barbara and Ventura counties to coordinate new service start up in their area.
State Budget, 3:15 p.m.
Having already reviewed the Governor’s speech on his initial budget proposal for fiscal 2015-16 and heard that the Legislative Advocate’s Office (LAO) had just released its analysis of his proposal, I went to the LAO’s office and acquired sufficient copies for our City Council, Management and the Paso Robles Library. The budget proposal itself can be downloaded from the State’s web site at www.ebudget.ca.gov. Those who want to view or download a copy of the LAO’s report can do so at: http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2015/budget/overview/budget-overview-2015.pdf.

Thursday 1/15/15 Housing, Community and Economic Development Policy Committee meeting 10:00 a.m.
I took the chair and introduced our new President Stephany Aguilar who kicked off the joint meeting portion of our meetings.

An overview of what all eight policy committees are working on was given. It is well for each committee to understand a broader viewpoint. Things we decide in one policy area may have implications in another. We then broke into our individual groups and I chaired the presentations on last year’s accomplishments and the unfinished business.

We had a presentation from, and Q & A period with, Assemblyman Brian Maienschein who is this session’s Chairman of the Assembly Local Government Committee. He is from local government himself and understands our problems.

This year we will be wrestling with the issues of vacation rentals, standards for public occupancy, neighborhood concerns and those of the hotel industry, as well as problems with guaranteeing that local Transient Occupancy Taxes are paid. We had presentations from two national members of that business area: AirBnB and Home Away. The interaction was excellent and a lot of information was conveyed.

A presentation by Andrew Sturmels from the Governor’s office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) related a lot of good information on resources available to local government as we seek economic development in our communities.

We reviewed the terms and conditions of the next iteration of Cap & Trade funding and the process to engage in the area of affordable housing and sustainable communities programs.

Finally we were given an update by our staff on anticipated legislation this session that could either help or hurt our local government situations.

Dinner at 7:30:

I had dinner with Senator Monning and Assemblyman Achadian along with a handful of other officials from San Luis Obispo County to discuss local concerns that are or could be addressed by the Legislature this session. Both were very supportive of local
government’s health, welfare and efforts in the areas of transportation and community development.

**Rail Leadership meeting 1/16/15 at 9:00 a.m.**
The leadership of the existing inter-city rail corridors met to discuss common concerns. Mayor Jan Marx of San Luis Obispo representing CRCC and I, representing LOSSAN, attended at the Sacramento location. The discussion and decisions included legislative principles, cap and trade opportunities (Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program draft guidelines released 12/3/14), state/local transition status for the San Joaquin and LOSSAN and the meeting schedule for 2015.

I made the motions for letters to be sent regarding select passenger rail committees in both the Assembly and Senate as well as for adoption of the Legislative Principles revision, suggested by Mayor Schnieder of Santa Barbara. The motions were approved.

**Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee meeting, 1/16/15 at 10:00 a.m.**
I joined this meeting a few minutes late due to an overlap with the rail leadership meeting. However, the only thing I missed was the overview which I’d already heard the day before.

Informational and discussion items included the proposed State Budget by League Legislative Director Dan Carrigg and League Fiscal Policy Advisor Mike Coleman; changes to Redevelopment Agency dissolution procedures by Chris Hill of the California Department of Finance and tax modernizing potentials and difficulties by a variety of people from the State and private sectors. The last item was the most lively and did result in a carry-over discussion into the 2015 work program action item.

Speakers addressed the erosion of sales tax revenues due to a variety of factors including a less materialistic younger generation and the technologically improved ease of buying goods on-line and by mail. Changes discussed were compared to states with vastly different total taxation systems regarding income and property taxes.

The goal was determined to be one of obtaining enough money for a lean government without increasing the total amount of taxes the individual needs to pay for those services. During the balance of the year the committee will receive reports and have discussion to develop policy regarding lowering the sales tax by broadening out the items on which taxes are paid, changing methods of determining other revenue streams and bringing the total system into a balance that allows government to provide the services it is expected, and Constitutionally permitted, to provide while reducing the tax burden to clear areas of nexus.

One if the most telling “facts” presented was from Publication 61 of the Department of Equalization that 44% of all holiday sales in 2014 were done on-line.
The discussion on legislation revealed that some areas previously done through Redevelopment Agencies have been reinstated under slightly different procedures which allow projects to go forward and which protect income streams and local revenues. Some of them are already up and running and it is up to local government to implement them on a more streamlined, less onerous basis than previously required.

1-16-15 after 3 p.m.
All week I'd attempted to meet with an official from Union Pacific but that became impossible due to a family illness on their part. We will be meeting on the phone this week and in person next month.

Therefore, I made my appointment with Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson's proposed Select Rail Committee staff. He had asked to confer with me on various issues and I conveyed our corridor’s position as well as that of the other corridors on funding, infrastructure and governance transition issues. We followed this conversation up the following day at a statewide conference.

I then made visitations to the offices of Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins regarding the establishment of an Assembly Select Committee on Passenger Rail and also visited the office of Assemblyman Adam Gray who has agreed to chair that committee if it created. We were told to expect these things to happen within the next two weeks.

Train Riders Association of California (TRAC) annual conference on 1-17-15 at 1 p.m.
I honored my commitment to an invitation from TRAC to participate on a panel to provide an update and participate in a Q and A on passenger rail. I was joined by former LOSSAN Chairman Art Brown on the panel but was the only representative of the CRCC corridor.
The panel was one hour in duration with 20 minutes of Q & A. We went over past history, current situation and future plans for the corridors.