

**MINUTES OF A  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF CORONADO  
Coronado City Hall  
1825 Strand Way  
Coronado, CA 92118  
Tuesday, October 4, 2005**

Mayor Smisek called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Councilmembers Downey, Monroe, Tanaka, Tierney  
and Mayor Smisek

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** City Manager Mark Ochendusko  
City Attorney Morgan Foley  
City Clerk Linda Hascup

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Floyd Ross provided the invocation and Mayor Smisek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. MINUTES:** The minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2005, a copy having been provided Council prior to the meeting, were approved as amended.

**MSUC (Downey/Tanaka) moved that the City Council approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2005, as amended.**

**AYES: Downey, Monroe, Tanaka, Tierney and Smisek**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**4. CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**4a. Proclamation: "Fire Prevention Week."** Mayor Smisek presented the proclamation to Fire Chief Kim Raddatz and Fire Marshall Alan Nowakowski.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR:** The City Council approved, adopted and/or accepted as one item of business Consent Agenda Items 5a through 5f.

Councilmember Monroe commented on Item 5f. He mentioned how the synchronization of the lights down the Strand kept the traffic moving and how well the diversion of traffic by barriers and traffic control people at the corner of Orange Avenue by the Hotel Del worked to keep the traffic moving there. He would like to see the same type of traffic control again at next year's celebration.

**MSUC (Tanaka/Monroe) moved that the City Council approve the Consent Calendar Items 5a through 5f**

**AYES: Downey, Monroe, Tanaka, Tierney and Smisek**  
**NAYS: None**  
**ABSENT: None**

**5a. Approval of Reading by Title and Waiver of Reading in Full of Ordinances on this Agenda.** The City Council waived the reading of the full text of every ordinance contained in the agenda and approved the reading of the ordinance title only.

**5b. Approval of Warrants.** The City Council ratified payment of warrants Nos. 10046190 thru 10046482 audited and approved by the Audit Committee, provided there are sufficient funds on hand. **The City Council approved the warrants.**

**5c. Recommendation from the Traffic Operations Committee to Update the City's Warrant for Installation of Residential Blue Curb Zones.** The current warrant states that "Blue Curb zones are established where the need for disabled parking is of an on-going nature, and must not be used for short-term purposes and then later seldom used." In order to reinforce this viewpoint it is the Committee's recommendation to amend the City's warrant to include a yearly renewal clause that requires residential blue curb recipients to provide proof of a valid disabled placard or license plate. The result of not providing current proof of disability within three (3) months of the renewal request will be removal of the blue curb zone. **The City Council updated the warrant for installation of residential blue curb zones, specifically with regard to renewal requirements.**

**5d. Recommendation from the Traffic Operations Committee to Extend the No Parking Red Curb Zone in Front of Bayview Park at First Street and I Avenue.** There are approximately 80 feet of curb along the frontage of the park. At present there is a 20-foot red curb zone directly in front of the park which provides visibility for a Type OM1-3 warning sign which is required at the terminus of any street (in this case I Avenue terminates at First Street). To the west of this red curb zone is a 25-foot disabled blue curb zone which extends just beyond the park property line. The remaining 35 feet of curb frontage is open parking which allows at least one or, if they are small, two vehicles to park directly in front of Bayview Park. When high profile vehicles are parked there it is not possible for the Police to make a visual observation of the park unless the officer physically exits the vehicle. An extension of the existing red curb zone would preclude vehicles from parking along this curb section, increase park visibility, and allow police officers to better observe the park to curtail illegal activities.

It is the Committee's recommendation to extend the existing red curb zone easterly approximately 25 feet toward the residence at 501 First Street. This will result in the loss of one parking space. According to Sherilyn Sarb, San Diego Director for the Coastal Commission, the City does have jurisdiction and discretion to expand the length of the red curb and displace one public parking space adjacent to Bayview Park. This is due to a public safety concern and not a general rule. **The City Council adopted A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORONADO DESIGNATING A RED NO PARKING CURB ZONE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF FIRST STREET AT THE TERMINUS OF I AVENUE. The Resolution was read by Title, the reading in its entirety unanimously waived and adopted by Council as RESOLUTION NO. 8096.**

**5e. Approval to Increase Project Budget to Compensate Contractor for Additional Traffic Control Costs for the Emergency Repair to the Sewer Main Beneath Third Street Between B Avenue and D Avenue.** A discrepancy was discovered between the final project cost submitted to Council on September 6, 2005 and the final billing submitted by the contractor. It was determined that the contractor was not compensated for additional traffic control that was required and authorized due to delays associated with several utility conflicts. The requested \$10,000 will cover all costs associated with the additional work that was performed by the contractor. **The City Council authorized an increase of \$10,000 to the current \$285,000 for a total project budget of \$295,000. The City Council also authorized a \$10,000 transfer from the FY 04/05 Wastewater Master Plan CIP account number 510-781-9862-WWMP to the individual project account number 510781-9862-WW3RDST-8040.**

**5f. Review of Staff Critique of Fourth of July, 2005 Celebration and Direction to Staff for Future Events.** Coronado continues to be a very popular Fourth of July celebration venue for both residents and visitors. There were many visitors in town throughout the preceding week and on the Fourth, and significant local participation in the Fourth of July events was evident. Attendance was down from previous years. All available parking at Tidelands Park, the Shores, and the streets adjacent to Ocean Boulevard were filled by early morning. Calls for police service were slightly lower than last year. Police Officers, Senior Volunteers and Elite Security personnel were stationed at Tidelands Park along with the Police Department's command van to avoid parking disputes and any other potential problems. The events went well in terms of public safety and enjoyment and City services were not strained, as has been the case in the past.

The Police Department responded to 119 calls for service from the public from 12 a.m. July 4 to 11:59 p.m. July 4 and officers' self-initiated 134 calls for service (e.g. traffic stops, citizen contacts, field identifications, suspicious vehicles.) There were 81 citations written, 51 case numbers issued and 4 arrests within this same time period. The top three incident types were parking violations (73), disturbing the peace (20), and found property (12). The Fire Department responded to a total 25 incidents: structural fires (3), false alarms (1), vehicle accidents (3), and medical aids (18).

The Fourth of July will fall on Tuesday in 2006, which in the past has meant capacity crowds for the holiday and over the preceding weekend. It is not possible to predict the number of visitors and attendance for the 2006 event due to unknown factors. City staff will meet with the Fourth of July Committee in the spring of 2006 to plan all aspects of the 2006 event and its impact on City services and the community. **The City Council received the report.**

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. **Louise Shirey, 828 Guadalupe, PAWS of Coronado**, announced the publication of the first PAWS newsletter. She provided copies for the City Council, staff, and the public.
- b. **Toni Gaylord, Coronado Mainstreet**, reported that the National Trust for Historic Preservation 2006 calendar has come out with Coronado on the front and back covers. Calendars are available for sale through the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- c. **Mayor Smisek** acknowledged and thanked Carroll Gerbel, University Blanket & Flag Corporation of Coronado, for the gift of new flags for the Council Chambers.
- d. **Councilmember Monroe** explained that the City received a nice letter of commendation recognizing the work of the Animal Facility and specifically Jerrica Baker at the recent animal adoption event.

**7. CITY MANAGER:**

- 7a. **Update on Council Directed Actions and Citizen Inquiries.** No report.

**8. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**8a. Introduction of an Ordinance of the City of Coronado to Amend Sections 56.01.030, 56.30.190, 56.30.200 and 56.30.210 of the Coronado Municipal Code Regarding Parking Restrictions of Commercial, Non-Commercial (Including Recreational Vehicles) and Non-Motorized Vehicles.** Director of Police Services Paul Crook outlined the staff report. He began by saying that a staff report was presented to the City Council on August 2, 2005 regarding the parking of large oversized and non-motorized vehicles. The Council directed staff to bring back recommendations on four items: towing of vehicles, increased fines; potential for elimination of items included in 56.30.200; and, the possibility of extending the regulations into non-residential areas.

Chief Crook explained regarding towing of vehicles that the Vehicle Code authorizes law enforcement personnel to remove vehicles in violation of these sections once the parking prohibition and towing authorization are enacted by ordinance and signs have been posted at the entrances to the City. The signs have now been posted. Regarding increased fines; fines may be increased by ordinance. Currently the fines for these violations are \$18.00. The staff recommendation is to increase the fine to \$75.00

He went on to provide information on Sections E1 and E3 of 56.30.200 of the Municipal Code. Section E1 involves the use of disabled plates. The Vehicle Code allows any disabled person or disabled veteran displaying the proper plates to be exempt from this section. The staff recommendation is to leave this in place. Section E3 allows any resident to be exempt from restriction if they use their oversize vehicle on a daily basis to go to and from work. He said that to the best of staff's knowledge, this section has never been used.

Regarding the suggestion to expand the code sections to include all streets, alleys, highways, including the state highways in Coronado, Chief Crook informed the Council that the Vehicle Code does allow the inclusion of state highways if local authorities enact and submit an ordinance for review and approval of Caltrans.

It is staff's recommendation that the City Council introduce an ordinance amending the municipal code to authorize the towing of vehicles, increase the fine to \$75, add state highways to the ordinances and submit the draft ordinance to Caltrans for review and approval for Municipal Code Section 56.30.190, 56.30.200 and 56.30.210 and remove Section E3 of Municipal Code Section 56.30.200. It is also recommended that the second reading of the ordinance be on hold until Caltrans approval is received.

Council discussion ensued. Councilmember Tierney noted that his request was overlooked regarding the situation of residents who have visitors parking motor homes in front of their houses. He likes what Del Mar has done to deal with this situation and suggested Coronado follow their lead. The Council talked about their previous discussion and requested guidance from the City Attorney about adding an item to the proposed ordinance amendment during the current hearing.

City Attorney Morgan Foley advised Council that to add information to the ordinance would require the item to be continued and brought back for introduction at a future date.

Mayor Smisek opened the public hearing. There were no members of the public wishing to speak at this time. Mayor Smisek suggested a continuation of the hearing to the next regular City Council meeting to allow the addition of the item recommended by Mr. Tierney.

**City Council agreed by consensus to continue the public hearing.**

9. **ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS:** None.

10. **COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

10a. **Report from the Port Commissioner Concerning Port Activities.** No report.

11. **CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

11a. **Council Reports on Inter-Agency Committee and Board Assignments.**

**Councilmember Monroe** attended meetings of the Metropolitan Transit System Board, the SANDAG Board meeting, the Borders Committee, and the Transportation Committee. He also attended the Hospital's Emergency Room ribbon cutting; a meeting of the South County Economic Development Council where Juan Vargas was present, met with Joanne Scott, and played golf at the Coronado Golf Course with the La Mesa Mayor, Art Madrid. He also attended the American Public Transit Association conference in Dallas.

**Councilmember Tanaka** attended the Hospital's Emergency Room Grand Opening Ceremony, the Coronado Cays Homeowners' Association meeting, a retirement party for Captain Dave Landon, and the Fire Department Open House.

**Councilmember Tierney** reported that he attended the Metropolitan Wastewater Metro TAC meeting, the Sharp Hospital Foundation tour of the new Emergency Room facilities, met with the new public affairs representative from SDG&E, attended the Chamber of Commerce Golf Course reception, Solar Energy Week at the San Diego Design Center, the retirement of Captain Dave

Landon, went to the American Public Works Association Dinner at the Marriott, and attended the Fire Department Open House.

**Councilmember Downey** attended the Coronado Hospital Emergency Room Grand Opening, met with SDG&E's Carrie Smith and her replacement, and provided information to the City Council on the Imperial Valley Study Group that she chairs regarding the plan to get more renewable resources such as solar and geothermal energy to southern California to meet State mandates.

**Mayor Smisek** attended the Coronado Hospital Emergency Room opening and tour, the R-4 zoning public workshop, the South Bay Mayors meeting in Chula Vista, the Library Board meeting where they welcomed new Trustee Jim Cahill, Captain Landon's Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony, the first meeting of the Human Relations Council for this year, and the Strategic Planning Group for the School District. He also met with Marsha Hall at the Hospital to talk about the next round of funding, attended a Mainstreet meeting, and met with the President and Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

**11b. Presentation: "Sea Water Desalination" by Cesar Lopez, Senior Water Resources Specialist for San Diego County Water Authority.** Mr. Lopez gave an overview of the San Diego County Water Authority's history, including the areas served and how water is managed in the San Diego region. He provided projections for future water demand and explained how sea water desalination will help to provide diversification and reliability for the region in the future. He said the Water Authority wants to avoid the same situation that existed in the early 1990's during the drought when they experienced major cutback in their supplies. He discussed a recently completed South County and Tijuana Region sea water desalination feasibility study that evaluated the feasibility of doing a sea water desalination project to meet the water supply needs of the region. Their objective was to identify two sites north of the border and two sites south of the border in collaboration with U.S. and Mexican agencies.

Councilmember Tierney asked about the cost breakout and about joint use with Mexico. He also asked about the percentage of recovered water from water treated and the capacity of the outflow pipe.

Mr. Lopez explained that there will definitely be a cost difference. The study concluded that a project for an area north of the border could be best served by a plant north of the border and areas south would be best served by plants south of the border. He also explained the current technology and the performance of the membranes today that result in one gallon of desalinated water for every two that are treated. He said that when the possible facilities are factored in the 12' outfall pipe will still be able to handle the flow.

Councilmember Downey asked what was happening south of the border in light of their anticipated 2007 water crisis. Mr. Lopez said there isn't an answer at this time. Mexico will be pursuing the project on their own. The next communication with them will be when they present their findings to the International Water District Commission.

Councilmember Monroe asked about Chula Vista's position on a possible plant there. Mr. Lopez responded that they were involved in the feasibility study effort. Chula Vista did not actually take an official position because the study didn't recommend an immediate project.

**The City Council received the report.**

**11c. Review of Department of Community Development Projects and Priorities.**

Director of Community Development Tony Pena outlined the staff report. He explained that the project lists include projects accomplished, projects that had been added, and a recommendation for prioritization for discussion purposes. He pointed out that staff is always trying to balance special projects with staff resources. These projects represent about 30% of staff time. The bulk of staff time goes into current planning, building inspections, and other types of activities that are pointed out on the first page of the staff report.

Councilmember Downey commented that it would make sense to shift the Yacht Club Land Swap project to the highest priority. The R-4 Zone project is also very important, but timing wise there is a reason the City needs to move forward as quickly as possible on the land swap whereas there is not an impending urgency for the R-4 zone.

Councilmember Monroe asked about Community Development's role in the Animal Care Facility which seems to be primarily in the Engineering Department area. Mr. Pena explained that Community Development would assist with mapping, property ownership profiles, assisting with public hearings, etc. even though the Engineering Department is the lead department.

Councilmember Tanaka asked why Construction Site Standards was put on hold. Mr. Pena explained that staff is dealing with many of those issues right now. For example, the survey was already adopted as part of the Residential Standards project. The grading ordinance would require direct engineering input and is probably an Engineering project. The power pole issue may best be handled by better communication and coordination with SDG&E than by an ordinance amendment. Mr. Tanaka said he would like to see these items grouped together under low priority. Mr. Pena pointed out that it would be more expeditious to handle the different portions separately, rather than hold the whole package for the slowest element, the grading ordinance. The noise ordinance is coming along pretty quickly. Staff has already done the outreach for that. Mr. Tanaka stated his preference that the Construction Site Standards to be listed under the Low Priority category rather than under the On Hold Status. That would give him some peace of mind that it is being worked on.

Mr. Monroe suggested that the Imperial Beach Bike Path Spur that is listed currently under Low Priority should really be on hold or cancelled due to circumstance out of the City's control.

Story Vogel, 350 D Avenue, commented that he appreciates Mr. Tanaka's pushing the Construction Site Standards forward. He is aware the noise ordinance is coming up on the Council's October 18 agenda. The grading ordinance is separate and most of the other items on his matrix can be done by the Council creating ordinances that address the issues. He brought up the subject regarding opaque fencing. He said there are many opaque fences around town and many times they are not on the sides of the projects. Mr. Pena mentioned that there is a fencing standard of chain link fencing but it is not put up on the sides.

Mayor Smisek asked if Mr. Pena has the information he needs as far as the Council's wishes regarding the priorities list. Mr. Pena responded that he does.

**MSUC (Monroe/Downey) moved that the City Council approve the Community Development Projects and Priorities as discussed**

**AYES:** Downey, Monroe, Tanaka, Tierney and Smisek  
**NAYS:** None  
**ABSENT:** None

**11d. Approval of Concepts for the Agreement for Facility Use Between the City and Coronado Playhouse Regarding Use of the Community Center Theater Facilities.**

Councilmember Monroe disclosed that he had met with Joanne Scott to discuss the terms of the contract. He went over some of the issues. There is a reference in the agreement to a 90-day cancellation clause which he believes would put the Playhouse in a bind because they sell season tickets. A cancellation clause for convenience rather than for cause would be something the Council might want to consider. He took exception to the inclusion of the word “conditionally” in the statement regarding setting a two-year schedule for the Playhouse. He isn’t sure why it needs to be “conditional.” He questioned the requirement for the City to have use of the facility for eight weekends a year. The Playhouse representatives indicate that this would necessitate the elimination of one of their five plays a year and result in a loss of \$10,000 to \$15,000 from their budget. Mr. Monroe mentioned that one subject yet to be agreed upon is the free Shakespeare play the Playhouse usually puts on each summer. They like to do it in an outside venue if possible. The City has been very careful in working with the Shores that there not be a lot of noise, but the nice grassy area next to the theater could accommodate a Shakespeare play. He asked if it would that be bad for the Shores. His last comment was regarding the provision regarding the use of the catering kitchen. He wondered how interference with Community Center activities could be avoided since the Playhouse generally has Friday night dinner plays.

Councilmember Tanaka asked about the Playhouse concession turning over 12% of gross sales of food and beverage to the City. He asked if it is consistent with the requirements of the other outside caterers.

Director of Recreation Services Linda Rahn responded to Mr. Tanaka’s question that the 12% is consistent. She explained to Mr. Monroe that the cancellation clause is meant to be a default termination clause. The intent of the term “conditionally” regarding the schedule is that that any scheduling conflicts will be worked out mutually between the parties. It would give the ability for the City to go in and do a repair in the facility and work out scheduling conflicts such repairs would create. It is not the intent to take away the Playhouse’s ability to schedule and plan in advance. In fact, the City wants them to plan in advance and will work with them to make sure there is a schedule that works for the entire community and staffing purposes. Regarding the catering kitchen; it was designed to accommodate two caterers at a time, possibly three. But this is also something the City wants to work out in advance with the Playhouse because the banquet facility is being booked a year in advance. The eight weekend periods would provide the opportunity for other community use, recitals or performances, etc. The Playhouse would have the ability to do their activities Monday through Sunday, with Sunday evenings being left open for the City to schedule out, and a minimum of eight weekend periods available to the City. If Sunday evenings are not scheduled for another use, it would be available for the Playhouse to use within a two week window.

Mr. Monroe asked if it would be feasible to reduce the number of weekends to six; if that would give the City enough dark time between plays, so the Playhouse wouldn’t have to cancel a play.

Ms. Rahn responded that this is a discussion item for Council to try to determine how much time the City wants to try to reserve for other potential users in that facility.

City Attorney Morgan Foley explained that he is concerned with some of the changes in the recommendation because they need to be run by the City's Bond Counsel, Dave McEwen. He believes that because some of the proceeds of tax exempt bonds from the Redevelopment Agency have been used to construct the facilities, under the Internal Revenue Service rulings there are some limitations on the use of those proceeds. If the City allows too much use by private entities it could create taxable bonds from the tax exempt bonds which would be disastrous. That is probably why there is the 90-day termination clause and five years. He knows that is a provision of the revenue procedure ruling that has been issued. He thinks that Council may want to, after it has addressed some of these issues, take this to Dave McEwen to ask for his advice. The City only has a certain amount of discretion in what it can alter.

Joanne Scott, Coronado Playhouse, explained that she and Ms. Rahn have been working very closely on this agreement and she feels certain they will be able to come up with a satisfactory use agreement. She thanked Mr. Monroe for bringing forth some of their concerns. She said she can understand that the tax purposes have to be considered. The only major point that needs to be worked out is the amount of time the City wants available for other use. The Playhouse's concern is that they would have to cut a show and lose income. They thought they might be able to give up Sunday evenings, but weren't thinking it would be both Sunday evenings and weekend periods. She mentioned that Sunday evenings are often used for rehearsals.

Mayor Smisek informed the Council that the City Manager has suggested they approve the agreement in concept subject to a recommendation coming back from the City Attorney on where the City does or doesn't have flexibility. He said the big question is whether the weekend issue can be agreed upon. He asked Ms. Rahn to provide a little more information. He doesn't think that eight weekends out of fifty-two is bad. The facility wasn't meant to be for the full time use of the Playhouse. The idea was that it would be used for other activities as well.

Ms. Rahn explained that it was always her understanding that the Playhouse would be the primary user but not the exclusive user, and that the City would work very closely with them. The comments received from the community over the past five years told of a need for a place for other activities such as dance recitals (including the Recreation Department's dance recitals), music recitals, a teen mike night, etc. Sunday nights seemed like a time when it might be available to the community for these recitals and performances. Initially, when she and Ms. Scott began working on these agreements, Sunday nights were dark for the theater. Now it appears that there are some activities such as rehearsals because many of the actors go to work Monday through Friday and it is the weekends that they are available. Eight wasn't a magic number; it just seemed to be a reasonable amount of time out of fifty-two weeks. She said the intent was to have time divided between the seasons for availability to the community. Ms. Rahn said they can certainly work with what the Council's preference on that.

Mayor Smisek asked if there would be the possibility of narrowing it down to specific weekends throughout the year when Recreation would like to have the facility available to stage their performances, and then review the schedule each year.

Ms. Rahn thought that she could get the Playhouse's schedule and then publicize the weekends that are available. She is very willing to work with them on what that schedule is. The most important thing is to establish a schedule.

Mayor Smisek asked Ms. Scott if she could work with Ms. Rahn to figure this out. Ms. Scott responded that she could.

Councilmember Downey was intrigued by Mr. Monroe's comment about what the City needs to do in terms of working out any problems with the outdoor Shakespeare as part of this contract. She understands that it is being kept separate and that it is not being precluded.

**MSUC (Downey/Tierney) moved that the City Council approve the concepts for the Agreement for Facility Use between the City and Coronado Playhouse for use of the Community Center theater facility with the caveats as mentioned by the City Attorney and with discussions between Recreation Director Linda Rahn and Joanne Scott from the Coronado Playhouse**

**AYES: Downey, Monroe, Tanaka, Tierney and Smisek**  
**NAYS: None**  
**ABSENT: None**

12. **CITY ATTORNEY:** No report.

13. **COMMUNICATIONS - WRITTEN:**

**13a. Request for Motion to Reconsider City Council's Previous Determination to Direct Staff to Work to Lower the Speed Limit on SR 75/282 from 30 mph to 25 mph.** Mayor Smisek reminded the Council that this is simply a vote for reconsideration. If the Council decides to reconsider their previous decision, the discussion would be put on a future agenda.

Councilmember Tierney explained his reasons for requesting consideration. He thinks slowing down the traffic will create more problems than it solves. He made the motion to reconsider.

Councilmember Downey said she would second Mr. Tierney's motion to reconsider because she would like to discuss why the decision was made for the public's benefit. She said she had attempted to drive the route at 25 mph and the only way it can be done is to ride the brakes the entire way, which may have interesting implications.

Story Vogel, 350 D Avenue, commented that he doesn't know what Mr. Tierney or Ms. Downey are thinking. He said that for many years one of the chief concerns in Coronado is the speed of traffic on Third and Fourth Street. It has been discussed at length by Dick Scharff and the Congestion Relief Working Group, and in the Circulation Element. You don't have to have a 35 mph speed limit on a residential collector street. He read several goals from the General Plan Circulation Element to back up his position. He said that if it bothers someone to go 25 mph, they need to get used to it. He doesn't know what Mr. Tierney thinks it will take to make this a more

livable place, but this is a huge attempt at doing that. Mr. Vogel said he endorses the 25 mph speed limit completely. He hopes Council will vote against reconsideration.

Pat Miller, 325 J Avenue, said she doesn't understand why one week before the lower speed limit is supposed to start, after years of talking about it and having it unanimously approved, there is now a discussion of it not being able to work. She is totally against stopping it.

Elaine Gragle, 939 Olive, commented that the speed shouldn't be over 25 mph anywhere in Coronado. The traffic is already spread out all over town. It is much safer on any street when a car is going down the street at 25 than at 30 or 35 mph. Children are crossing all of these streets. She hopes the Council will consider lowering the speed limit all over town to 25 mph. This is a residential community where people walk, ride bikes, skateboard and live. 20 mph would be nice on residential streets.

Dick Scharff, 1310 Fourth Street, reported that the traffic studies show that reducing the speed limit by 10 mph, given the existing volume reduces the noise levels by 9 db. If the volume is cut in half the reduction would only be 2 to 3 db lower. 25 mph reduces air pollution, particulate pollution, and causes less grit to be turned up by tires on the highway. 25 mph certainly comes down on the side of safety for school children and pedestrians. He urged the Council to maintain their stance on reducing the speed limit. He thinks it will be a benefit to the entire community.

Charlotte Butterfield, 272 I Avenue, was horrified when she heard Mr. Tierney say at the previous meeting that the people who live on Third and Fourth want the traffic to go by their homes as fast as possible to get out of there. She said he didn't talk to her or anyone else she knows in the area. It's the speed that makes the noise. She is also horrified that Ms. Downey would even go along with that idea after this has been worked on for so long. In the 400 block of Third Street, five of the seven houses have no option but to back out of their garages into the traffic. She noted that she is younger than three of them. Ten years ago she came before the Council to address speed on Third Street and reported that she had read in the San Diego paper that a woman had won \$1.5 million in damages from a City after being hit while backing out of her garage, and she wasn't even hurt very badly. The paper reported that cities have an obligation to ensure the safe egress of a person's property. She said the 25 mph signs have already had some impact. They are already slowing traffic. It would be a waste of time not to try this now. She wants to know why Mr. Tierney won't give this one little crumb to the residents of Third and Fourth.

Mr. Monroe discussed the meetings with the residents of the Third and Fourth Street corridor. He was impressed and continued to work with them because of the attitude they had and because of the main premise they had – that was they admitted that they probably couldn't do anything about volume but they could certainly work to calm the traffic. He also pointed out that just because the speed limit is 35 mph going out and 30 mph coming in doesn't mean the people are actually going that speed. A speed survey done a couple of years ago showed that 40% of traffic was speeding in three of the four locations studied. Some speeds were recorded at 45 and 50 mph. The problem with that is, with the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile rule, the speed limits can't be enforced with radar. If a speed survey was done the City would have to raise the speed limit. Now the laws have changed and that is why the City is able to take this action. The only place that less than 50% of the people were speeding was at B Avenue and Third Street, which matches one of the traffic calming situations – if you deflect the highway (and it is deflected twice) then people don't speed as much there as they do in the other locations. This is not just going from 30 to 25 – there are over 50% of cars going over 30 mph. Now the speed limit can be enforced. He thinks this will slow down a lot

of traffic even though it may be 2 or 3 tickets an hour. This process has been going forward for four or five years and he said he will not support reconsideration. He thinks it is time to take back our streets.

Councilmember Tanaka stated that he is surprised that the Council is being asked about this. The Council has already discussed all the advantages of lowering the speed limit and he certainly thinks that they are one of the groups that should know all of the arguments. He doesn't agree with Mr. Tierney's premise that people will veer off onto side streets to avoid officers. Even at 25 mph, Third and Fourth Streets will still be the quickest route. The second reason he wouldn't support reconsideration is that the City has worked so hard on getting this lowered speed limit. To ask for reconsideration now, is the kind of vacillation he doesn't want to have any part of. The biggest argument for the 25 mph speed limit is that the City is trying to change driver attitudes from thinking of Third and Fourth Streets as a freeway on ramp to realizing that there are people's homes there. He agrees with Ms. Butterfield that there is a little change already and that the City needs to try this and give it the full measure of effort. He admitted that as he was testing the 25 mph speed limit he honked his horn because someone went speeding past. He wanted to rebut the argument that the lowered speed limit is going to add 30 minutes to the rush hour on each end; it only adds 30 seconds, which he is very willing to suffer. It is clearly going to help safer crossings at intersections. The semi-diverters were the off-spring of the 35 and 40 mph traffic and it was not easy or safe to cross A, B and C Avenues. The 25 mph limit makes it safer for cars and hopefully for pedestrians.

Mayor Smisek referred to his old friend and former Councilmember, Patty Schmidt, who would say what he will say, which is, "Ditto."

Ms. Downey commented that this discussion was exactly what she was hoping would happen. She revealed that she does want to calm traffic. She wanted the Council to do this in public one more time to give people, before the speed limit started, the opportunity to be reminded why the City was trying to do this. If this truly does lower the noise by 9 db that is the only justification she needs. She reminded that this isn't a test; it is going to be something the City is going to have for a while. She said she would withdraw her right to second the motion.

Mr. Tierney explained that people aren't aware that the issue was designated to be taken up legislatively by Juan Vargas. Mr. Vargas quite wisely decided not to because it is what it is to most people. Nevertheless it was dropped and then it came back and went through with an administrative directive through Caltrans. He said the people sitting in the audience represent some of the people living on Third and Fourth. However, the people who live elsewhere haven't had an opportunity to come in with the pros and cons. He said he thinks this is a case where the thing needs to be opened up to allow the entire community to voice acceptance, objections, etc. He guarantees that the City doesn't have enough police to maintain that speed limit. It will go right back up to where it is. He said this will give a false sense that the City is doing something. He is really proud of one of the Council members who mentioned that he was so frustrated that he honked his horn. He is sure that the people living in that neighborhood just loved that additional noise. If everyone else wants to go do that, start honking your horns and then there will be a rule that people can't use their horns in Coronado. Now there are even Council members frustrated and starting to cause disturbances. This is unacceptable to him.

Mayor Smisek said he would second the motion to allow for a vote.

**MSF (Tierney/Smisek) moved that the City Council reconsider the previous determination to direct staff to work to lower the speed limit on SR 75/282 from 30 mph to 25 mph**

**AYES: Tierney**  
**NAYS: Downey, Monroe, Tanaka and Smisek**  
**ABSENT: None**

The City Council recessed to Closed Session and for the Community Development Agency meeting at 5:13 p.m.

**14. CLOSED SESSION:**

**14a. CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL  
EXISTING LITIGATION**

Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code

Name of Case: Citizens for Preservation of Coronado Beach v. City of Coronado  
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 845202

The City Council reconvened at 6:50 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem announced that Mayor Smisek was absent for the closed session and that no action was taken.

**15. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.**

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Smisek, Mayor  
City of Coronado

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda K. Hascup  
City Clerk