

# **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

## **JOINT MEETING OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL AND SOLANO IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2010**

**DIXON COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
7:00 P.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Special Joint Meeting of the Dixon City Council and the Solano Irrigation District (SID) Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. the Council Chambers by Mayor Batchelor.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Batchelor.

**3. ROLL CALL FOR CITY OF DIXON**

Present: Councilmembers Dane Besneatte, Kay Fulfs Cayler, Michael Ceremello,  
Vice Mayor Rick Fuller, Mayor Jack Batchelor

Absent: None

**4. ROLL CALL FOR SOLANO IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD**

Present: Directors Bob Bishop, Guido Colla, Glen Grant, John Kluge,  
President Robert Hansen

Absent: None

**5. AUDIENCE / PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

None.

6. **ITEMS FROM THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL**

6.1 Councilmember Ceremello reported the business he noted before still has not received their business license.

7. **ITEMS FROM THE SOLANO IRRIGATION DISTRICT (SID) BOARD**

None.

8. **PUBLIC HEARING**

**8.1 Joint Resolution adopting new water rates and new water rate structures for the Dixon Solano Municipal Water Service (DSMWS), effective May 1, 2010.**

Nancy Huston, City Manager, noted this as a defining decision for both the City and Solano Irrigation District regarding increased water rates, but not taxes. She reviewed past rate increases, the hearing noticing process, the fiduciary and public health responsibility, and the importance of telling the public the truth.

Jeremy Craig, Finance and Technology Director, displayed trends in operating fund revenues vs. expenses revealing operating deficits over a ten-year period and noted expenses had been closely reviewed for reductions.

Mayor Batchelor opened the public hearing.

Warren Salmons noted resources provided through Solano Irrigation District include safe and clean water, plentiful supply, a back-up source, customer service, local control, knowledgeable staff, and competitive costs. He felt with the modest rate increases, these will remain the same, and if the protest is successful, these will be replaced with uncertainty, chaos, and damage to the community.

Marshall Drack, representing Northeast Quadrant and Dixon Town Center developers, noted the City's partnership in development agreements require sufficient water, the proposed rates are consistent with those in other projects, and his clients support the proposed rate increase.

Ourania Riddle, Secretary of the Dixon Chapter of the Solano County Taxpayers Association, submitted protests to be added to the protests she previously submitted, reviewed methods of soliciting protests, read letters of opposition from Peter and Susan Sandberg and Gary and Carolyn Rannefeld, and noted local businesses who opposed the increase.

Drew Graska, Vice President of the Dixon Chapter of the Solano County Taxpayers Association, held no opposition to justified rate increases, felt the City had not provided adequate information, an overwhelming majority of citizens contacted opposed the rate increases, and the businesses able to sign protests did

so. He requested the Finance Director and the Taxpayers Association meet by the end of the month, with Councilmembers Besneatte and Ceremello, to discuss cost-cutting efforts, and noted their intent to bring the decision to the voters in the November election if not satisfied.

Thom Bogue noted increases don't appear to be needed given plans to build a multi-million dollar facility, and he felt it was unlikely that Solano Irrigation District would discontinue business with the City of Dixon.

Dave Scholl noted protests would have been a higher percentage given the number of foreclosed homes. He recommended a motion be postponed to a later date to allow time to justify cash flow, prove the increase is needed, and to avoid a measure on the ballot in the November election.

Gary Riddle lives in the water district, pays an annual SID assessment, and is not aware of any outstanding obligations on the water system. He noted government should always strive to reduce expenses.

Shirley Humphrey noted Dixon citizens own the water system and recommended alternate ownership options be explored, such as a citizens cooperative.

Sandy Sanders noted billing problems under current operations and hoped the rate increases would include improved service.

Seeing no one else present to speak, Mayor Batchelor closed the public hearing.

The meeting recessed at 7:45 p.m. to allow time to count the protests

The meeting reconvened at 8:04 p.m.

Michael Dean, City Attorney, reported that out of 2,542 total parcels, 1,272 protests were required to halt the process. Approximately 1,211 protests were submitted with unconfirmed validity.

Mayor Batchelor noted more time was needed to verify the accuracy of the protests.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ceremello, seconded by Vice Mayor Fuller, to continue this item to April 26, 2010. Roll call was taken as follows:

Dixon City Council:

Ayes:	Besneatte, Cayler, Ceremello, Fuller, Batchelor
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

Solano Irrigation District Board:

Ayes: Bishop, Colla, Grant, Kluge, Hansen  
Noes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

9. ITEMS FROM THE DIXON CITY MANAGER

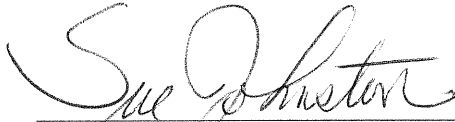
None.

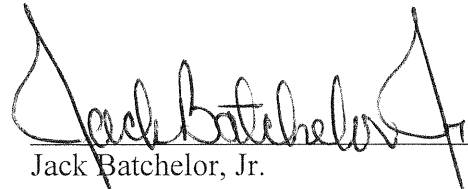
10. ITEMS FROM THE SOLANO IRRIGATION DISTRICT GENERAL MANAGER

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The joint meeting of the City Council and Solano Irrigation District Board of Directors was adjourned at the hour of 8:08 p.m.

  
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Sue Johnston  
Deputy Clerk

  
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Jack Batchelor, Jr.  
Mayor