



# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE HEMET CITY COUNCIL

February 23, 2016

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### REGULAR SESSION

**6:00 p.m.**  
**Hemet Public Library Upstairs**  
**300 E. Latham Avenue**

[www.cityofhemet.org](http://www.cityofhemet.org)  
*Please silence all cell phones*

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### Call to Order

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

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### Roll Call

PRESENT: Council Members Krupa, Milne, and Youssef, Mayor Pro Tem Raver and Mayor Wright

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Meyerhoff, City Attorney Vail and City Clerk McComas

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### Invocation

Invocation was given by Jan DeSpain, Hemet-San Jacinto Interfaith Council

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### Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Krupa.

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### City Council Business Consent Calendar

1. **Approval of Minutes** – February 9, 2016
2. **Receive and File** – Warrant Registers
  - a. Warrant registers dated January 1, 2016 in the amount of \$1,437,042.70 and February 4, 2016 in the amount of \$1,929,210.21. Payroll for the period of January 18, 2016 to January 31, 2016 was \$617,439.41.
3. **Recommendation by Administration** – Allocations for 2016-2017 Program Year Community Development Block Grant
  - a. Accept and approve the City Council Ad-Hoc Committee recommended allocations of \$744,726 in 2016-2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and previously unexpended funding of \$85,608.60.

The Ad-Hoc Committee requested to continue Item No. 3 to March 8, 2016.

**Council Member Youssef moved and Council Member Krupa seconded a motion to approve the remaining Consent Calendar items. Motion carried 5-0.**

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## Communications from the Public

**Jan Gay, Hemet**, expressed concern with the increase in water rates. Ms. Gay expressed addition concerns with issues in the Valley that do not come under the jurisdiction of the City Council.

**CW Cecchi, Hemet**, spoke about the water rates and run off.

**Brenda Scott, NAMI**, talked about mental illness and two proposed bills, HR 2646 and SB 2002.

**Lorraine Brealey, Hemet**, Solera Diamond Valley Neighborhood Watch, expressed concern with the aggressive nature of people going through the resident's trash and recycling bins.

**Dan Rees, Hemet**, expressed concern that Section 8 Housing is a large contributor to the quality of life in the valley. Mr. Rees recommended a fee for absentee landlords or some other fee that will help fund the Rental Registration Program. Mr. Rees feels that we are required to have more Section 8 housing than Temecula and maybe we need to talk to the County Supervisor.

**Muriel Defrusne, Golden Era**, invited the City Council to attend a viewing of their "Truth About Drugs" programs at the Hemet Historic Theater on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Jim Pangrazzi, San Jacinto**, recommended that the City use the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, it has rules regarding setting of speed limits. The City can save money because doing the speed surveys every 5 years, if the citing officer has additional training speed surveys can be done every 7 years.

**Kathy Hakala, Women Armed and Ready**, talked about her self-defense program for women.

**Jeremy Hutman, California First PACE program**, requested that the City Council consider adopting a resolution to allow the residents and business owners to participate in the PACE Program.

**Stacie Olson, Project Hope**, encouraged the residents to attend more of the City Council meetings. Ms. Olson gave the City Council some statistics on mental health issues, it is a serious problem. Homelessness is not the problem, it is a result of the problem.

**Shiree Allison, Hemet**, recommended that an inpatient mental health facility be considered. Ms. Allison was homeless for many years and after getting the right treatment for mental health she was able to obtain an AA and is currently working on her BA.

**Anna Baker, Hemet**, expressed concern with zone changes that allow more residential units. Ms. Baker expressed concern with the real estate market in Hemet.

**Melissa Diaz Hernandez, Hemet**, asked why a financially strapped City is paying a City Manager \$200,000 per year to start.

**Chris Murray, Hemet**, Section 8 Housing is a Fair Housing Law that the City cannot do anything about. The problem is the lack of commercial development we need to get businesses in Hemet. If you want the businesses to come to Hemet and pay their sales taxes here, the residents need to shop in Hemet and support what is currently here.

**Terry Handy, NAMI**, recommended programs in Hemet that help diagnose mental health illness early. Ms. Handy, encourage early intervention and extra-curricular activities for kids.

**Kathleen Muritz, Hemet**, expressed concern with the homeless problem. Ms. Muritz also feels that the residents deserve more than Dollar Tree and .99 Cent stores.

## Public Hearing

4. **Revenue Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee Report and Recommendations** - Council Member Krupa and Mayor Pro Tem Raver
  - a. Receive the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Explore Revenue Options; and
  - b. Hold a Public Hearing to discuss the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation; and
  - c. Adopt a resolution Calling a Special Election to Ask the Voters to Approve a Transaction and Use Tax for Public Safety; Approving the Ordinance to be Submitted to the Voters, and Requesting Consolidation of the Election with the Election to be held on June 7, 2016. **Resolution No. 4658**

**Alex Meyerhoff, City Manager**, Public Safety is our number one priority. The City has had structural changes to the municipal revenues. Between FY 07/08 and today, a number of budget realities have impacted City operations. These include: elimination of the redevelopment agency and loss of the redevelopment proceeds; reduction in property tax revenue related to the great recession of 2008; and reduction in sales tax revenue related to the great recession. Together, this accounts for the elimination of \$9.47 million annual revenue between FY 07/08 and FY 16/17. As a direct result of these revenue reductions, the City Council has undertaken a series of cost saving measures and service reductions. This included staff cuts and service reductions, reducing staff by 30% including the loss of 25 police officers and 10 firefighters. Library operating hours were reduced by 50%. Simpson Center operations were contracted to Valley-wide Parks and Recreation. City Hall employee hours were furloughed and hours of operation were reduced by closing on Fridays. Employee compensation and benefit reform included layoffs, salary cuts, furloughs, benefit reductions and increased employee contribution to medical and retirement benefits. Reforms also included reduced retirement benefit for new employees. The City Council adopted Resolution No. 4642 which effectuated the reform of the City's retiree medical benefit. Based on this action the city is projected to save in excess of \$30 million during the next 10 years. In 2011, the City Council approved a franchise agreement for refuse services with CR&R. This action resulted in the elimination of 28 city jobs and the shift of the refuse operation to CR&R. The City received a lump sum payment of \$12.5 million and receives an annual franchise fee of \$12.5 million for 19 years. The City Council expressed an interest exploring contracting city services to the private sector or other agencies in order to reduce costs. The City currently contracts with agencies, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations for over 40 functions citywide. These services include but are not limited to: animal control services; crime lab analysis; fire plan check; background investigation; vehicle towing; custodial services; landscape maintenance and green waste; recycling and solid waste collection and disposal. The City has applied for over \$30 million in grant funding to offset general fund expenditures since 2008. In 2014, \$757,737 general fund operations were funded by sources other than the general fund or grants. In October 2015, staff presented the City Council with a five-year financial projection which established a framework for the development of future budgets. The five-year plan ends the deficit spending and brings the city to a balanced budget by FY 19/20 and maintains the 20% general fund reserve balance as required by ordinance. The Five-Year Financial Plan includes a "no-growth" budget based upon conservative revenue projections and the City Council to see the plan through to FY 19/20. Mr. Meyerhoff thanked Interim City Manager Gary Thornhill and the City's executive team and staff for undertaking there bold and courageous actions. The City Council has made substantial effort to balance revenue with expenditures. Cities exist for the purpose of maintaining the public health,

safety and welfare. Public safety is the priority of residents, business owners, commuters and seasonal visitors. The City Council and staff share this priority. Lack of public safety will continue to serve as a barrier to new investment in the community and will continue to undermine economic development efforts. Our Police and Fire Chiefs will summarize the state of public safety in the City of Hemet.

**Police Chief Dave Brown,** I've had the honor of serving this community for 25 years as a member of the Hemet Police Department and as your Police Chief for the last 5 ½ years. Council Members tonight you will write a chapter in the City's future. You have the opportunity to cast a vote that will allow, or disallow, the voters of Hemet to decide on their level of police and fire services. Chief Brown thanked Council Member Krupa and Mayor Pro Tem Raver for their work on the committee. We are here tonight to present the Revenue Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee's research and recommendation. The Ad-Hoc Committee is asking the City Council to unanimously adopt a resolution which will place the Hemet Police and Fire Community Safety Measure on the June 7<sup>th</sup> election ballot. Your support of this resolution will give Hemet voters the opportunity to raise local dollars for local public enhancements that cannot be touched by Sacramento. Current and former City Councils have had a difficult job since the beginning of the great recession in 2008. Certainly among the most difficult decisions have been the reductions in city staff. The economy forced you to reduce the size of your police and fire departments at the very time you should have been increasing them. In spite of the fact that the police force was cut by over 33%, I never pointed the finger at the City Council because I was reading the same budgets. The money simply was not there, the recession took its toll on our community. During my tenure as Police Chief, the City Council has granted every request that I have made. Chief Brown complimented the City Council for their individual effort in supporting the Police Department. In spite of the City Council's efforts, we are still losing the battle for our community. Overall, crime is up 21% over the last 5 years. During the same period, violent crime is up 50%. Chief Brown shared a specific incident from 2011 with the permission of the citizen. Violent assaults on Hemet police officers resulting in injury are up 1,100% in the past 3 years. Mental health related calls (5150) have almost doubled (94.8%) since 2005. Public nuisance calls (trespassing, disturbing the peace, panhandling) are up 1025% in just the last 5 years from 1,173 in 2010 to 13,206 in 2015. So it's no surprise that "free patrol time" is down from 37% in 2005 to just 16% in 2015. And the situation is not getting any better. The Riverside County Sheriff released over 10,000 inmates early from county jail last year. The Sheriff tells us there is no relief in sight due to the pressure of an undersized county jail system and the effects of prison realignment, AB109, on our County's Criminal Justice System. The State of California is doing us no favors. AB109 has had a devastating impact on our Valley, while we are home to just 3% of the County's population, 13% of the AB109 probationers live in our community. Proposition 47 has effectively eliminated jail time for dangerous drug violators and major theft suspects. And the Governor's 2016 Prison Reform and Rehabilitation Act promises to deliver more pressure on local government while releasing more criminals from state prison. We are proposing tonight an aggressive plan to attack the criminal element and restore and revitalize our city. I'll be discussing the plan in more detail, but first Chief Scott Brown will discuss the state of Hemet Fire Department.

**Fire Chief Scott Brown,** gave the City Council a brief overview of the Department's current situation that led us to this evening's recommendation and an overview of what steps we need to take to address the public safety challenges that the City of Hemet is facing. The Fire Department responds to all emergencies. In a vast majority of the emergencies that are crime

related, we respond with the Police Department. For example: active shooter; stabbing; and injuries of any kind. Both Departments work closely together daily. Hemet Fire Department continues to face emergency response challenges. From 2012 to 2014, the Department has experienced a 27.2% increase in overall emergency calls for services. For 2015, Hemet Fire Department responded to 16,171 total calls for service. Hemet Fire Department has experienced an overall 40% reduction in staffing, real cuts resulting in significant operation response impacts. The Fire Department has emerged from a very difficult recent history. The leadership over the last ten years has changed seven times. This lack of consistency and stability at the top has led to a lack of follow-thru on programs, a lack of enforcement of regulations, a relaxing of standards, and a lack of advocacy for the mission of the Hemet Fire Department on behalf of the citizens we serve. As the Interim Fire Chief I reviewed the state of the Hemet Fire Department and developed a Comprehensive 120 day plan with a set of objectives that focused on the critical issues facing the department. Chief Brown thanked the City Council for their continued support of the department. In early January 2015, the City Council approved a request to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the department. Emergency Services Consulting International Group led that effort. The Fire Department Service Delivery Options Analysis focused on all aspects of our emergency response delivery system. This report would provide a critical objective on where our fire department is presently while addressing the real structural shortcomings that need to be addressed. The report was presented to the City Council on June 25, 2015. The report listed 27 findings that have served as a basis for many administrative and operational changes that have either been implemented or are being recommended this evening. The following changes have occurred: re-opening of Fire Station 5; establish paramedic services – converting squad 5 to ALS; replaced aging and worn personal protective equipment; upgraded portable radios; major operational re-alignment of personnel and equipment; purchase (2) new fire apparatus; and submitted grants. These changes represent a significant move forward, however, they represent a small fraction of the necessary changes that need to occur. We have maximized our existing resources to razor thin margins. Chief Brown explained an example of unacceptable thin margin that occurred on May 14, 2015. Chief Brown also explained emergency medical benchmarks. I believe this is a moment in time for our community, our city and our public safety professionals to come together, to make our emergency response services stronger well into the future. I will be presenting a 5-year plan that provides a pathway towards achieving that outcome.

**Eric Vail, City Attorney**, the Ad-Hoc Committee evaluated a number of potential revenue measure options. A property based parcel tax, Prop 13 or Public Safety Mello Roos, were looked at. Based on the few parcels in the City it was not worth it. A utility user tax that would add an additional percentage on a number of utilities was discussed. To generate the amount necessary the tax would have been 7% increase to most utilities that option was quickly taken off the radar. The one decided is a transaction and use tax that would be applied to merchandise purchased in the City. A maximum of 2% can be applied, we are only proposing 1% on goods and personal property that is used, purchased or delivered in the City. The special tax discussed tonight is a very specific use tax for Public Safety. A Measure is just a fancy word for an ordinance that the City Council approves to be placed on the ballot for the voters to vote on. The measure includes a high level of scrutiny and tax payer safe guards. The action to place the measure on the ballot must be approved by a 4/5 vote. 66.66% of the voters must say yes or there will be no tax. There is a strong statement of purpose and intent to enhance public safety. The funds are restricted to enhancing Hemet Police and Fire

Services and cannot be used as alternative for local Police and Fire Services. It requires an annual expenditure plan adopted with the budget and an independent audit. A Citizen Oversight Committee will be formed. The revenue allocation will be 2/3 to Police and 1/3 to Fire. The measure includes a non-supplanting clause that protects General Fund Police and Fire Service funding, must maintain the current support of 72% of the budget. The measure also sets a mandatory police staffing ration of 1.2 officers per 1,000 residents. This measure sunsets in 10 years unless extended by the voters.

The City Council recessed briefly at 8:14 p.m.  
Reconvened at 8:24 p.m.

**Fire Chief Scott Brown**, displayed a chart showing the proposed Hemet Fire/EMS 5-Year Staffing Plan. The plan increases sworn personnel by 15 positions and non-sworn by 10 by year 5. Operations outcomes with the 5-Year Staffing Plan are: establish Credentialed Shift Battalion Chiefs to manage each of the three platoons; dedicated staff for Truck 1; dedicated staffing for Engine 5; dispatch resources; a data analyst shared with Police; and an increase in Emergency Services Coordination.

**Police Chief Dave Brown**, the most exciting part of the work over the last 8 months was that it gave us the opportunity to imagine the Hemet we once knew. A chart was displayed showing the proposed Police Enhancements. Year 1 would be a Troop Surge adding 16 Officers and 2 Sergeants assigned to the Crime Suppression Unit, Nuisance Abatement Team and the Gang Task Force. Year 2 would be for Patrol and Special Operations adding 6 Officers and 1 Lieutenant to increase neighborhood patrols, establish a Criminal Intelligence Unit and create a Special Operations Bureau. Year 3 & 4 would enhance patrol adding 10 Officers for aggressive crime prevention effort and increase neighborhood and business patrols. Years 5 – 10 we would maintain staffing levels and continue crime prevention efforts as the City grows. There are consequences if we fail tonight, the 5 year plan is a solid road map that requires status quo staffing in Police and Fire that would be devastating in my professional opinion. If we choose to wait, it will be too late. Let the voters give us the ability to take back our community.

**Council Member Krupa**, the Ad-Hoc Committee was formed in June 2015. I was appointed along with Mayor Pro Tem Raver to serve on the committee. The Committee explored all possible options and taxes. Deciding what would work and what wouldn't work. The proposed measure is the most viable option. The Committee is not recommending to approve a tax, just to place the measure on the ballot for the residents to decide. The recommendation is a 1% sales tax. Council Member Krupa thanked the Chief's for their tireless work and to the staff for their efforts. We hear all the time about pension costs; RDA funds; the recession; the quality of life; and the number of undesirables. The City is currently working on a number of things to correct that. We are working on ways to help those that cannot help themselves. Ms. Olson and Ms. Diaz Hernandez we would invite you to participate on the newly formed Homeless Ad-Hoc Committee. Riverside County is considered "self help" for transportation, meaning that revenue is generated locally and no one can take it away. This tax, if approved, will make Hemet a "self help" City and that money cannot be taken away.

**Council Member Youssef**, the proposed five-year financial plan takes the City out of deficit spending by FY 19/20 by very narrow margins. Council Member Youssef asked what would happen if the economy takes another downturn. The City could end up in deeper deficit

spending. Council Member Youssef asked what that would do the proposed staffing plans.

**Police Chief Brown**, the measure requires that 72% of the General Fund, which is the average for the last 10 years, continue to fund Public Safety. As always, the Departments will be required to live within our means regardless of the funding source.

**Council Member Youssef**, expressed concern with the requirement to have 1.2 officers per 1,000 residents. Council Member Youssef asked if an increase in the average cost for personnel was considered.

**Police Chief Brown**, the number of actual officers will vary due to vacancies and other areas of the budgets can and will be reduced in lean times. This will help get us where the community has asked us to be. The plan includes a 3% per year average increase in the cost of personnel.

**Council Member Milne**, thanked Police Chief Brown for pointing out the City Council's support of the Police Department. Council Member Milne expressed concern that the public will expect that 16 new officers can be hired and on the streets within days after the passing of the Measure. Funding does not mean employees. Lateral Officers take time to recruit and have on the streets, trainees even longer.

**Police Chief Brown**, with Project Hope, the City Council has been very supportive. Building a stable force is hard. 16 veteran cops left when we were unstable. Most Officers want to spend their entire career in one agency. With your help we have attained that culture again. We will actively recruit laterals, even so, it does take a full year from application to on the streets.

**Council Member Milne**, reiterated that it is a long process and the residents need to know and not criticize the City. Council Member Milne wishes that Fire Chief Brown joined the City sooner and thanked him for making the hard decisions and his plan to fix the Department.

**Council Member Krupa**, asked Fire Chief Brown if all newly hired firefighters will be paramedics and to describe the term "light force".

**Fire Chief Brown**, confirmed that all new hires will be FF/Paramedic. The term "light force" is the use of alternate vehicles to respond to nuisance calls instead of a full staffed truck.

**Mayor Wright**, asked Police Chief Brown to explain why more parolees are released to this community.

**Police Chief Brown**, it's for the same reasons many of us moved here. It's a great place to live, the weather is great and housing is affordable. The only other factor is the lack of pressure from Hemet Police Department. We need the resources to put that pressure on them, our officers know the bad guys.

**Mayor Wright**, obviously we have all heard and read the rumor that the City gets money for taking more parolees and AB109 releases.

**Police Chief Brown**, confirmed that the City is not receiving money to accept AB109's or parolees or we would have more money.

**Mayor Wright declared the Public Hearing opened at 9:08 p.m.**

**Howard Rosenthal, Hemet**, thanked the City Council for bringing this item forward. Mr. Rosenthal thanked Council Member Youssef for the ROCS Program, it will be better with additional funding. Mr. Rosenthal encouraged the City Council to give the business community and the residents the chance to say yes or no. I salute our men and women in uniform. We are all together on this, it is now or never. We need to support the City Council to take this to the voters.

**Gary Fowler, Hemet,** thanked the City Council. We know you are not paid much and we are very grateful for your hard work and thank you for running for office. Mr. Fowler recommended approval.

**Rob Davis, Hemet,** born in 1962 at Hemet Hospital. Recently a Facebook friend was trashing the Valley and I corrected him this is a wonderful Valley. I hate new taxes. We have looked at the proposed measure and agree that this will be used for the resources we need. We even had a top election law firm look at the proposed measure and they agree it is a tight Public Safety tax measure. Mr. Davis thanked the Ad-Hoc Committee for bringing this forward. Council Members Milne and Youssef's questions were good. I have the same concerns but the two honorable Chief's will do their best.

**Lori VanArsdale, Hemet,** this time you have done it right. You have been thoughtful and aggressive in your questioning and engaged the public. In 2006, the Department was almost at 1.2 per 1,000. The Department had the PAL Program. Given the opportunity the community wants to help City get back to being proactive. I hate taxes, but this allows the valley residents to help Hemet too. Our concerns have an effect on Southeast Hemet also. Ms. VanArsdale recommended approval.

**Todd Foutz, Hemet,** I'm a CPA and CPA's hate taxes. We want the City to continue to look at ways to contain costs. If we are successful at getting 2/3 of the voters to approve this, we can get there. Mr. Foutz thanked the City Council for serving, this is a love of god and country. Please let us vote and allow us to help this community.

**Joe Wojcik, Hemet,** we are here to ask for your support. I don't want the tax, but I don't want the concerns that are here and am willing to put my money where my mouth is. I told my oldest who just got married to not move back and I won't let my 16 year old daughter get gas alone or allow my wife to shop allow at night. Empower the residents to decide. Put it on the ballot and let us do the hard work.

**Bob Jungbloth, Hemet,** spoke in support of the measure but expressed concern with the language in the ordinance that divides the money, 2/3 for PD and 1/3 for Fire. Mr. Jungbloth feels that the funds should be more evenly divided or allow the Chief's to determine the needs.

**Bruce Wallis, Hemet,** grew up in Hemet in the 50's. I am delighted to see the support of this community to solve this problem. The community wants the opportunity to speak their voice. Please give us the opportunity to convince the voters to approve the measure.

**Ed Formica, Hemet,** the City Council has had to make a lot of difficult decision the last couple of years. As the President of the Action Group, in 30 years they have never agreed on anything but they agree on this and want you to allow us to make the decision.

**Guy Excel, Hemet,** I hear this is a tax but I see it as an investment. This is a very important part of our future. I have spent 30 years bringing businesses here. Mr. Excel recommended approval.

**Frank Gorman, Hemet,** I moved here in 1981 out of college and have lived here for 32 years. In that time I have been involved with a lot of great things in this Valley. We have seen crime increase in the past years. Please give us the opportunity to stop these problems. We encourage you to get behind our efforts and help us take this community to the next step. We want to be proud to be from Hemet again.

**Nicole Tamez Hemet,** there are a lot of people here asking for the chance to say yes or no. Council Member Youssef had a great question, for 10 years, we will know that we will have the revenue from this tax. I'm not a tax person, but we will lose more in 2016 unless we fight. Let us decide.

**Gayle Hepner, CASA Executive Director,** prevention programs need to return to Hemet. Ms. Hepner applauded Police Chief Brown for his brutal honesty. I encourage you to let the citizens help and approve this item.

**William Whelan, Hemet,** spoke in favor and thanked the men and women on the force and veterans. Safety and well being of the residents of Hemet is a priority.

**Judy Rice, Hemet,** spoke in support and referred to the City's budget as anemic.

**Marc Searl, Hemet,** I have been here 68 years. I have never seen it as bad as it is now and it's getting worse. I would encourage this City Council to put it to the voters and support the measure.

**Gina Dickson, Hemet,** my husband is a police officer here. We are asking for this chance to vote. We believe in the City and want the chance to save our Community.

**Connie Hall, Hemet,** a resident in the Valley for 29 years. I remember Hemet PAL. We need to live united and let the people make the decision. The Chief's are all about excellence and I know they will do what they need to do.

**Marie McDonald, Hemet,** spoke in support of the tax. Ms. McDonald expressed concern that funding is needed for the other problems in Hemet, such as, the maintenance of the streets, roads and parks. Street lighting in neighborhoods would make residents feel safer. Funding is needed to help the homeless and those in need of mental health assistance.

**Sylvia Ortiz, Hemet,** spoke in support and concurs with the sentiments of the previous speakers. Trust the vision the two Chiefs have for our valley.

**David Preitto, Fire Captain and President of HFFA,** the citizens of Hemet are outspoken, intelligent, well informed and passionate about this City and its future. The Fire Fighters along with the Police Officers stand in support of both Chief's and this initiative giving the citizens of Hemet the opportunity to approve the level of public safety services provided to them. We recommend that you give the citizens of Hemet the opportunity to make an informed decision with a vote.

**Edward Nacua, HPOA,** our Association would like to thank the citizens of Hemet for their support. Our Officers know how effective they can be with 91 Officers. The HPOA is asking that you give the citizens the opportunity to vote.

**Gene Hikel, Hemet,** thanked the Ad Hoc Committee they have done an excellent job. Mr. Hikel supports the measure, but expressed concern that there is more to a city than just police and fire. It is going to take a 2/3 vote instead of a simple majority that it would take for a general tax. We appreciate the fact that the business community is getting involved. It would appeal to a large number of people if the tax would benefit the Library, streets and parks. Many of the residents want to enhance the entire city, not just Public Safety. Mr. Hikel recommended that a general tax with 80% going to Public Safety and 20% going to the General Fund be considered. Mr. Hikel too would like to know how the City will maintain 1.2 Officers per 1,000 residents if there is another downturn in the economy.

**Lakshman Koka, San Jacinto Medical Group,** I believe we all have one common goal, safe living in Hemet. There is no one cookie cutter way to solve this issue. We are all affected by it. You are elected by us, to represent us and do what is best for us. Tonight you are not being asked to approve the tax, you are being asked to give us the right to vote.

**Randy Jones, Valle Vista Assembly of God,** God loves Hemet, he loves this community, we pray for you every Thursday Morning. We don't know what tomorrow holds but there is hope in our town. There are many community members ready to vote on this. Trust in the Lord, he will show us great and mighty things. Let's get a 5-0 vote.

**Jan Gay, Hemet,** I wish I had more than 3 minutes. I spent 19 years working with prisoners and now they are being let out on our streets.

**Dan Goodrich, Hemet,** thank you for taking the action to establish this committee. As a Hemet ROC's member I saw the tough times. Today we have rising crime and services have been cut to the bone. It's tough to get new businesses here with the high crime. Mr. Goodrich recommended approval.

**Stacie Olson, Hemet,** I do believe the tax is necessary, we need a bigger police force. That being said, our homeless is also a problem. What the Police Department is currently doing is not working, it's not effective. We need to do something different. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Homeless Ad-Hoc Committee, I accept. We need to come up with a plan to help the homeless.

**Keith Meissner, Hemet,** please put this on the ballot. I appreciate the 10 year clause. Let's make sure that it doesn't stay in there forever. I love that the measure has very little wiggle room.

**Brenda Scott, Hemet,** thank you for hard work on this measure. Kids can't go outside to play due to the current situation. I agree that the PAL is needed and the amount of 5150's is outrageous. Training for the Police and Fire personnel in dealing with mental illnesses would be great.

**Seth Weinger, Hemet,** not a resident of the City of Hemet. I worked with the Department on the Crime Stoppers program. Mr. Weinger feels that this is not the answer. There are other things that need to be done to stop the depleting quality of life in Hemet. Mr. Weinger recommended that the Crime Stoppers program be activated again.

**Ann Smith, Hemet,** spoke in support. Ms. Smith thanked the City Council for doing such a great job. We all knew there was going to be a price to pay to keep our departments. Now it's time to step up to the plate and pay for our services.

**Kris Covey, Hemet,** recently moved back to Hemet. I share the vision that someday kids can play in Weston Park. We need to take a real look at the crime. Provide the resources to both Chiefs and really think about the position the City takes. We need a caring and comprehensive approach to the homeless issue.

**Joey Aszterbaum, Hemet,** the problem is poverty, we need a comprehensive approach. The City should re-open the idea of annexation or consider fees on the out of the City investors.

**Lorna Castle, Hemet,** I received an email saying crime has gone up 30%. I have been here 3 years and I'm not sure if we are going to stay. If a penny tax is going to help the entire community I will encourage everyone I know to shop in Hemet.

**Levon Atarian San Jacinto,** Police and Fire are doing a great job. The responsibility lies with the City Council.

**Lloyd Karch, Hemet,** the real crime is the empty and boarded up houses.

**Chris Murray, Hemet,** originally I was neutral on this subject, but I have been swayed and am now in favor. Let's give the people the opportunity to vote. The City Council should offer incentives for businesses to locate here. The Police Officers want to make a difference, not sit behind a desk and do nothing.

**Carol Ferber, Hemet,** I came here opposed and now I am in favor. Ms. Ferber suggested that the City Council consider allowing and taxing the sale of cannabis, some cities are getting millions per year.

**Jim Pangrazzi, San Jacinto,** respects the figures from the Chief's but expressed concern if there is another downturn in the economy. If this does not pass in June, a measure cannot be placed on the November ballot.

**Mayor Wright declared the Public Hearing closed at 10:49 p.m.**

City Council Protocols require a vote of the City Council to continue the Council Meeting meeting past 10:00 p.m.

**Mayor Pro Tem Raver moved and Council Member Milne seconded a motion to continue the Council meeting past 10:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Police Chief Brown,** addressed some of the concerns expressed by the residents. Homelessness, Section 8 renter and poverty are not a crime. The Police Department can only address unlawful actions. Historically, 72% of the General Fund budget is used for Public Safety, 2/3 is used for Police and 1/3 is for Fire. Our Officers will continue to receive 5150 training. There was an overwhelming outcry to a single purpose tax.

**Mayor Wright,** thanked the Ad-Hoc Committee for their work. This is the epitome of transparency is to let the people vote.

**Council Member Milne,** I like the public hearing process because all sides get to be heard. My concern is that we spent a lot of money to fund what was supposed to be a grass roots effort. Council Member Milne asked about the community outreach to help financially fund our efforts thusfar, the initial cost for Lew Edwards was \$40,000. The Ad-Hoc Committee only recommended taxes, no other cost saving measures. I have a lot of heartburn with this. I do support public safety. You have personal responsibility as citizens to step up to the plate. We did not have any discussions about anything other than taxes in the last 8 months.

**Mayor Pro Tem Raver,** the Ad-Hoc Committee has looked at the major problem recognized by everyone which is crime. We need a quality of life that the decent residents deserve for their family. The only question is whether or not the City Council trusts the residents with their own future. I'm proud of you for being here to help solve the problem.

**Council Member Krupa,** it wasn't all sunshine and roses or an easy task. We looked at all situations. What will it take monetarily? What will it take to hire the personal to provide Fire and Police services that this community needs and deserves? We need to get a hold on crime and the negative things that are happening. We need to do that to get the businesses here to fund the other services this community needs. We hired an expert because we don't have the staff or the know-how.

**Council Member Youssef,** expressed concern again that the requirement to have 1.2 cops per 1,000 residents will now be burnt in stone and the guarantee that 72% of the General Fund money will go to the Police and Fire Department's for 10 years. We need to think about this in the future and maybe reconsider this in 10 years. It doesn't account for the increasing costs of employees in Police and Fire. In the first year, it might employ 16, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year it might not. We need to be able to discuss and deal with these variables. Whether we agree on sending this to the ballot or not, we all live here and want the increase in public safety. We do need more police. I agree that we also need a more comprehensive approach to the policing.

**Council Member Krupa moved and Mayor Pro Tem Raver seconded a motion to approve this item as presented. Motion carried 4-1. Council Member Milne voted No.**

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## City Council Reports

### 5. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

#### A. Council Member Krupa

1. Riverside Conservation Authority (RCA)
2. Ramona Bowl Association
3. Riverside Transit Agency (RTA)
4. Watermaster Board
5. Library Board
6. League of California Cities
7. Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)
8. Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG)

#### B. Council Member Milne

1. Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA)
2. Riverside Conservation Authority (RCA)
3. Disaster Planning Commission

#### C. Council Member Youssef

1. Planning Commission

#### D. Mayor Pro Tem Raver

1. Traffic and Parking Commission
2. Riverside Transit Agency (RTA)
3. Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)
4. Watermaster Board

#### E. Mayor Wright

1. Park Commission
2. Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA)
3. Ramona Bowl Association
4. League of California Cities
5. Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG)

#### F. Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

1. Diamond Valley Lake Recreation Ad-Hoc Committee (January 27, 2015)
2. Ad-Hoc Committee to Explore Revenue Options (May 26, 2015)
3. Grant Ad-Hoc Committee (June 23, 2015)
4. CDBG Ad-Hoc Committee (December 8, 2015)
5. Homeless Ad-Hoc Committee (February 9, 2016)

#### G. City Manager Meyerhoff

1. Manager's Reports
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## Future Agenda Items

Section 8 Housing and the effects in the Valley

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## Adjournment

Adjourned at 11:13 p.m. to Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.