

MINUTES

AUGUST 19, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Frank Boots, Tammy Maisetti, Georgia Anderson, Eric Benson, Norma Reed, David Boring

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: Bart Barringer

CITY STAFF: Margaret James

GUEST: Mayor Jim Ridenour

STAFF: Nancy Young

Chairperson Frank Boots called the meeting to order.

CORRESPONDENCE - All correspondence has been delivered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Tom Slater moved to approve the July 15, 2009 minutes. Tammy Maisetti seconded. Unanimous approval.

MAYOR JIM RIDENOUR, CITY OF MODESTO – Mayor Jim Ridenour explained that budget issues will be coming up again. He met with John Chiang yesterday and the problem is there is no one in Sacramento to make a decision. The State will steal, borrow, or go in debt further.

The City of Modesto has laid off or early retired 105 people.

It would have helped if the Cops had pushed off their raises until next year. People need to understand that the City is a team now.

Mayor Ridenour explained we need business people to walk the halls in Sacramento and tell them how it is. The Mayor wants people to show up at the meetings. Police Union showed up.

The Mayor stated we are living today off of decisions that were made a long time ago.

Tammy Maisetti asked how that can be changed. Mayor Ridenour doesn't know, he talks it up at every meeting he attends.

Mayor Ridenour reported the City is spending half a billion dollars on a Sewer Plant Expansion. When the expansion is done, the City will be able to sell water.

Tammy Maisetti asked what the completion date on the expansion is. Mayor Ridenour reported about one (1) more year.

Mayor Ridenour explained that everything he is trying to do will help lower fees in the long run. Mayor Ridenour explained he tried to get rid of the tree limb removal. Mayor Ridenour believes the City needs to get smaller and smaller. He believes the City needs to privatize everything that they can at Tenth Street Place.

Mayor Ridenour explained he feels Districts will be a disaster. It was mentioned that Sacramento's revenue is going down every month.

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Tom Slater stated Special Interest Groups don't understand. We elect people to office to represent the people.

Mayor Ridenour feels next year is going to be worse.

Mayor Ridenour explained he spent \$230,000.00 on his campaign to get an \$800.00 per month job.

Unions and Special Interest Groups pay a lot of money to get people elected.

Georgia Anderson explained she met a former City Council member at a Farmer's Market Meet and Greet. This former Councilmember told her she was only one (1) vote, if she were part of a Special Interest Group more could get done.

Mayor Ridenour feels we need to take Special Interest Groups out of it.

Tom Slater explained that this is why we have problems with our youth of today. We raise fees to go to college, and they feel entitled – big problem.

Mayor feels that some way we need to take money out of running in an election. Have some requirements to run for Mayor and Council. He feels Modesto needs to pay for a full-time Mayor and Councilmembers.

Mayor Ridenour explained that in 2011, four (4) go off the Council. He feels that we need young people to get involved, people in their 30's.

Mayor Ridenour has sent out 3,500 letters with the Mayor's signature to all the freshmen.

Tammy Maisetti explained that so much negative is written, and there are so many positive things happening. The Modesto Bee needs to focus on the positive.

The Mayor reported that downtown Stockton came here to visit our downtown.

David Boring feels we need to get the public to commit into their downtown.

Mayor Ridenour stated we have the best restaurants in our downtown.

Mayor Ridenour stated that downtown needs to control themselves. The clubs need to pay for the police coverage.

Mayor Ridenour reported that Public Works is looking into drilling wells at the Parks. The Fire Department is looking into consolidating. He feels the Police Department needs to look into consolidating.

Schools are looking into specializing.

Tammy Maisetti asked how the Mayor thinks Modesto is doing. Mayor Ridenour wonders how you get the people involved.

Each department will submit a performance evaluation. The State and County need to do this also.

Tom Slater feels if you give a department money they will foolishly spend it whether the department needs to spend it or not.

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Mayor Ridenour explained if we had payroll by Performance you would see a big difference.

The Mayor feels the City is on the right track, there will be more changes made.

Mayor Ridenour explained the Cops did that whole campaign and didn't tell their entire story. Unions are greedy.

Norma Reed mentioned only one (1) of the Police Unions didn't accept the proposal.

Mayor Ridenour explained that the City Manager has completely reorganized the City. Benefits for Public Employees need to be tackled. The City will pay 60% more in 2013. Orange County wants to change their benefits system. At the rate they are going they only have one (1) year left. With a lot of changes and a lot of work, Modesto is better off than most cities.

Tom Slater reported there are two (2) types of retail. 90% of retail businesses are lower end.

Mayor Ridenour feels things could change, he would love to be wrong, but we know the State is going to take Modesto's money.

Tammy Maisetti and David Boring asked if the State was going after the Redevelopment money again.

The State found a way to get our Redevelopment money. The Mayor feels we are going down the right path. If the State takes everything they are going to take, we will be down to three (3) cities in our County.

The Mayor explained that the City of Modesto is in need of a Finance Director. The City has an Acting Human Resources Director and an Acting Deputy City Manager.

Mayor Ridenour explained that the City and County are meeting. Looking at consolidating departments where they can. This could leave floors at Tenth Street Place that could be rented.

Mayor reported that the City hasn't received a dime of the 7 to 10% of the stimulus money. The City has gone to the Federal Government, and put up Seven Million Dollars. The checks have been written, but the City hasn't received the money.

ADJOURN

1:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Young

