



City of Corona

400 S. Vicentia Ave.
Corona, CA 92882

Minutes - Draft

Finance, Legislation & Economic Development Committee

COUNCIL MEMBER DICK HALEY
COUNCIL MEMBER JASON SCOTT

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

9:30 AM

Council Board Room

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Council Member Jason Scott at 9:30 am. In addition to the Committee Members, the following individuals were in attendance:

Darrell Talbert, City Manager	Kerry Eden, Asst. City Manager/ Admin. Svcs. Dir.
Patty Rodriguez, Interim City Clerk	Edelia Eveland, Human Resource Manager II
Naomi Ramirez, Mgmt. Svcs. Asst.	Kimberly Davidson, Economic Dev. Manager
Ryan Cortez, Economic Dev. Coordinator	

Others Present :

Joe Morgan, Resident
Don Kindred, Resident

Agenda Items

2. [18-1569](#)

Discussion regarding relief from paying back tuition reimbursement.
(Administrative Services)
Action: Information & Discussion

Mr. Darrell Talbert, City Manager, introduced the item to the Committee and explained that the item is being presented at the request of a former City of Corona General Employee. The former employee is requesting to eliminate the time period in which a former employee is required to pay back tuition reimbursement received while employed with the City of Corona, being referred to as the "lookback period". Ms. Edelia Eveland, Human Resources Manager, provided the Committee a PowerPoint presentation and a summary of the current City of Corona's Tuition Reimbursement Program and the Repayment Policy requirements in each of the City's bargaining units Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Ms. Eveland then presented the request from the former employee requesting the elimination of the 12-month lookback repayment period which included a listing of classes taken, the Bachelor Degree obtained and total amount of tuition reimbursed received during employment. She also provided the Committee a projected forecast of how eliminating the 12-month lookback provision would affect City.

Council Member Jason Scott inquired if there was a tuition cap to which Ms. Eveland responded that the current MOU's have a tuition cap in place.

Council Member Dick Haley asked for clarification, if the request to eliminate this provision would require the need to change the MOU. Ms. Eveland clarified that if direction was to eliminate this provision it would require the need to change and update all bargaining units MOU.

Council Member Scott and Haley both inquired if the education taken by the former employee was relevant to their position and if there are current requirements/guidelines employees must follow in order to obtain a degree. Staff confirmed that the degree needs to be relevant to their job/work duties. Staff has made revisions and updates as to how education requests are processed and approved.

Council Member Scott commented that tuition reimbursement is done as a benefit for both employee and City and when an employee voluntarily leaves within the year of obtaining the reimbursement, the City is no longer benefiting from that employee. Council Member Scott and Council Member Haley both agreed that employees need to pay back the tuition that was reimbursed within the 12-month lookback period.

Mr. Joe Morgan, Resident, commented that the lookback period should be extended longer than 12 months.

Mr. Don Kindred, Resident, agreed with comments made by Council Member's Scott and Haley that the degrees being obtained and reimbursement should be relevant to the job and position held. Staff responded that the approval of requests for tuition reimbursements are now based on degree and the job description.

3. [18-1568](#)

Economic Development Update
(Management Services)
Action: Information & Discussion

Ryan Cortez, Economic Development Coordinator, informed the Committee that the medical office building located at 2813 S. Main has been issued its Certificate of Occupancy and move-in of the new tenant will follow shortly. He provided updates on the Shea Properties redevelopment of the former Dairy Farmers of America property located at 1138 W. Rincon and that attention is now being transitioned to leasing of the property; there are several local businesses that have expressed interest in expanding in Corona; Panrosa Enterprises is in the final phase of inspections and will be starting production shortly and shared that the

North Main Corridor continued to receive attention and conversations are progressing with a developer interested in acquiring the northeast corner of North Main and Parkridge.

Council Member Jason Scott requested updates on several projects, including Pep Boys, the project located on Magnolia & Rimpau as well as an update on the Chuck Wagon and its new owner. Mr. Cortez responded that he has not received response from the new ownership of the Pep Boys center but is working to make contact. Mr. Cortez stated that he was aware that new ownership of the Temescal Village Plaza at Magnolia & Rimpau was in conversations with Stater Brothers for a uniform improvement package but had not heard of any recent updates. He shared that he met with the new ownership of the Chuck Wagon and their intention is to relocate the original sign to the new location.

Mr. Cortez concluded his presentation noting a successful event with Riverside Community College District Office of Economic Development Procurement Assistance Center held at City Hall on February 28th. Economic Development is working with the California Department of Fee and Tax Administration for future events. He shared that the partnership with the Inland Valley Employers Advisory Council remains strong with monthly meetings held at City Hall and that Economic Development staff is working with the Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Division on a procurement event in the month of June.

Ms. Kimberly Davidson, Economic Development Manager, gave an update on the Corona Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) contract for services in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and the workshops that have been completed to date. Ms. Davidson reported that the Chamber has completed \$45,000 of its \$60,000 contract for services since July 1, 2017. The Chamber has coordinated and completed 13 monthly business workshops and four (4) Industry-specific in-depth workshops, including a Foreign Trade Zone Workshop, Sales Process Organizing, Economic Development and Harassment Avoidance workshops.

Council Member Dick Haley asked if the City receives any recognition or publicity when partnered with the Chamber for certain events. Ms. Davidson responded that the Chamber recognized the City at all the partnered events by displaying City logo when advertising the event as well as publicly acknowledging that it is made possible with the City of Corona assistance.

Mr. Joe Morgan, Resident, inquired if the City of Corona was paying for attending Chamber business related events and if the Chamber was charging the City accordingly for attending these events.

Ms. Davidson clarified that when City Staff has been asked to be a speaker or give an update, such as Good Morning Corona, then that person is not charged an entrance fee for attendance by the Chamber. Ms. Davidson stated that the relationship with the Chamber is very strong and that it is very important for the Corona business community to see it that way and is benefitting from the partnership.

Council Member Haley commended Mr. Cortez on how he handles inquiries from a new business coming from overseas with an interest in moving to Corona and working with the business owner to ensure all business laws and requirements are met.

The Committee commended the Economic Development staff for their presentation.

4. Public Comments

None

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 am.