



General Membership Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2018

- Call to order: Vice President Kathy Kramer
7:00 p.m.
- Present: President - Patricia Overstreet - absent
Vice President - Kathy Kramer
Interim Secretary- Pam Bowen
Treasurer - Denise Sutherland
Information Officer - Dana Adams - absent
Trail Marker - Don Kramer
- Minutes: To be approved at July 22nd meeting
- Treasurers Report: Denise Sutherland: \$3400 Trail Marker & General Fund Balance
\$3998.04.
Membership renewals will be sent out in July and a flyer with the
Potluck Election Day reminder @ The Azevedo's on July 22, 2018.
- Old Business Memorial Day observance at the George A. Ingalls Veterans
Memorial Plaza was wonderful. Weather was awesome, great
music and touching ceremonies.
- Other: Jean Hoffman asked members to please help with the Challenged
Children's Rodeo at 4:30 on August 19th at the Norco Mounted
Posse Rodeo.
- New Business: Norco Mounted Posse Rodeo is August 17,18 & 19. RURAL will do
ticket booth. Pat O. will be recruiting volunteers.
- Council Corner: Greg Newton and Kevin Bash gave up their time for the Guest
Speakers, Andy Okoro, City Manager and Brian Petree, Deputy
City Manager with information regarding a potential Sales Tax
Measure for the November Ballot. Greg made a public service
announcement regarding the July 10th Town Hall meeting @ Nellie
Weaver, which will be hosted by RURAL.

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Kathy Kramer discussed her love for our country lifestyle. She said she would be buried in her back yard with a tombstone that says, "Here Lies the Old Broad". She asked everyone to pay close attention to the guest speaker's presentation.

Guest Speakers Andy Okoro - City Manager 15 yrs.
 Brian Petree- Deputy City Manager 22 years

The City values RURAL's commitment/dedication, and participation in city activities i.e. Ranch Tour, Town Halls and dispersing essential information.

The City of Norco does not have a huge tax base and things are changing. Our infrastructure is in terrible condition due to insufficient revenues. In 2014 there was a discussion on the lack of revenues and possible fixes. In 2015 nothing had improved. An April Report showed a \$4.5 million gap between what is needed and actual income. Police & Fire Depts. have gone through reductions and we are still not funded well enough. The City Council cannot approve tax increases.

How did we get here: The city Council has tried to get new businesses, but those increases alone are insufficient. At this juncture we are in a critical situation. The dissolution of Redevelopment Agency cost the city millions of dollars. The recession dealt a blow to individuals, businesses and cities. Prior to the recession the city sales tax income was \$6.2 million. It went down to \$3.1 million.

Myth Busters on distribution of tax revenues:

1. Income tax – the City receives no portion of income taxes.
2. Property Taxes – the majority goes to the state. The city gets only 6%, so out of \$30 million in tax revenue generated the City only gets \$1.8 million. We are 14 square miles with only 25,000 residents. Most cities with comparable square miles have over 80,000 residents. Thus, our tax base is limited.
3. Sales Tax – Generate \$50 million in revenues. The city only gets \$7 million of those revenues.

This can only be fixed with the help of the Norco residents. On July 18' 2018, the City Council will approve a measure to be put on the November ballot to increase the sales tax, up 1% to 8.75%. This would bring in anticipated \$4.5 million annually.

Other possible fixes include increasing property taxes by about \$500/year, increase taxes on utilities (would have to be extremely high to help). The increase in sales tax will put the least burden on residents.

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Possible uses for the extra income would be streets, equine facilities, parks, public buildings, police, fire, traffic control which are public safety issues.

If nothing is done, we could lose available trails, open land, large lots, etc. Fire services would have to be cut (possible closure of another fire station.)

Included in the November ballot measure would be an Oversight Committee which would discuss expenses with staff and make recommendation to the City Council for the use of the additional revenue. The duties of the Oversight Committee will be included in the ballot measure.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Pam Bowen, Interim Secretary