

January 22, 2015 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**Call to Order:** 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order and a welcome was given by President Pat Overstreet. Welcoming of members and guests by Pat.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Herb Higgins

**Minutes:** No minutes from December (Annual Holiday Pot Luck and Silly Gift Exchange BBQ.) Suffice to say it was a FANTASTIC and one FUN get-together! Food was excellent and the gifts were innovative and hilarious to obtain or try to exchange.

**Treasurers Report:** Denise Sutherland, Treas. \$6391.96 in General Fund as of 01/15/15.

**Old Business:**

- Norco's 50th Birthday Celebration was a huge, albeit exhausting success.
- Signing of the 50th Birthday tie capsule journal. Journal was passed amongst the attendees to put their message to the people who will be reading it in 50 years.
- Memory books on sale for \$5.00, with the proceeds going to the continued funding of the George Ingall's Veterans Memorial.
- The upcoming RURAL speaker worksheet was discussed and shared with the attendees.
- February 26th, is the next meeting and Mayor Pro-tem Kevin Bash will be the speaker. (\*October will have a Silverlake's update. The June meeting will be a Potluck BBQ at the Azevedo's home.)

**New Business:**

- NACC (Norco and Corona's Chamber of Commerce will have their meeting on Jan. 29, 2015 check their website for all upcoming meetings and events.)
- FFA (Future Farmer's of America) Barn Dance and yearly Fund raiser Feb. 7.
- 1920's "Speakeasy" Fundraiser February 14th, tickets on sale
- 2nd Annual Film Festival @Norco High School February 28th. Check with Councilman Bash or the City website for more information (including the cost.)
- RANCH TOUR Sat. May 9th, supporting the Norco Regional Conservancy. Please spread the word so this ranch tour will be packed with curious "Norco" people and people who want to be Norco people.
- Day of the Cowboy will be July 25th starting at 5 pm to 8 pm (with cow sorting events starting beforehand at 3 pm.) This year promises to be exceptional with the opening ceremonies and events. (Councilman Berwin Hanna can fill you in with all the details.)
- NRC (Norco Regional Conservancy) is designing a new "throw" to commemorate the George Ingall's Veteran's Memorial. Proceeds to be for the Memorial Endowment Fund for the Memorial.

MANY MORE ACTIVITIES ARE HAPPENING; GET MORE INFORMATION THROUGH THE VARIOUS NORCO WEBSITES. Remember: Volunteers are always appreciated!

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Lt. Eric Briddick, Norco Sheriff (over 27 yrs. with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.) Lt. Briddick has been serving in this capacity for 6 months now and has a long time love, and dedication for our City. (He lives in Norco with his family too!) He shared his life-long connection with Norco that started growing up on Parkridge, [in Corona], but going through the Norco school system and graduating from Norco High School. Although he has not had horses, his first job was cleaning horse stalls for various people throughout Norco. (His strongest memory of this was the "hot wired" horse stalls he literally came in contact with in his early years!) He was one of the youngest recruits to the Riverside Sheriff's Department and continues to be an asset to them and all of us in Norco. He has had his share of being shot at and shooting back over his tenure, but still purports his main strong belief that the "relationships between the police and the citizens" is most the important part of being a law enforcement officer. He strongly supports the 'community service' aspect of his job. He finds the people in Norco caring and highly supportive of their police. The three primary items dealt with in his first months serving as Norco's Chief were:

- Noise Ordinance initiated for Quality of Life. If the noise is prevalent 100 ft. from the residence and a complaint has been received the first visit could cost up to \$200.00 (subsequent responses for the same location jump up to \$400.00 and \$600.00 additional violation costs!)
- Traffic Problems. Yes, more enforcement has been key to helping slow down drivers in our City. Sgt. Dekker is in charge, and thanks to grants and the total support of our City Council, the statistics show a positive trend toward safety on our streets. (Both with traffic violations/citations and DUI arrests.)
- Parking on horse trail violations are actively being dealt with by the deputies. A long overdue request from our citizen's who are tired of having to leave the horse trail because of an inconsiderate parker.

Main concerns are the rise in all types of thefts. Mail thefts are up and as all of us know, this can result in devastating identity thefts. Be aware and careful by consciously locking your vehicle, obtaining your mail as soon as you can from your mailbox, reporting all suspicious people hanging around the mailboxes or seen removing items, and **not** putting items in your mailbox for mailing. Pay attention and protect yourself.

Several more great information items were shared by Lt. Briddick. All cannot be recapped in these minutes due to space availability. Please show your support to the deputies who are there for our community. A simple hand wave, handshake or positive 'shout-out' shows support for these hardworking dedicated people. Many of you are already doing this act of kindness and it is much appreciated.

**COUNCIL CORNER SPEAKER: Mayor Herb Higgins**

Mayor Higgins started his talk by discussing the new Ad Hoc Committee dealing with the infra structure needs, listing the amount of monies needed to cover the items and suggestions on how to obtain the funds. The ad hoc committee consisted of thirteen concerned citizen volunteers and two city council people. Many hours were spent over the several weeks to get a strong idea on what would be required to maintain Norco's needs. The primary need was the \$3 million for our streets; \$400,000 needed per year to maintain the trails (with only \$131,000.00 currently in the trail funds!), and other infra-structure needs like parks and city buildings. The outcome of the meetings shared the dire need to come up with creative ways, to keep Norco the way we as citizens want it to remain. Once the final report is complete, with suggestions included, it will be presented to the City Council for the hard decisions. Mayor Higgins shared many statistics that the public need be aware. The in depth recap will be shared at the council meetings, so try to attend. Some of the possible solutions/options suggested:

- Raising the sales tax 1%
- Parcel tax - Levy on rooftops
- Utility tax

Mayor Higgins will discuss more in depth at the State of the City, to be scheduled in the latter part of March this year. All concerned citizens should try to attend to get the whole information regarding this City's challenges. There was a question and answer period following which delved into many other aspects of City concerns.

**Remember to always tip the awesome servers at 6th Street Deli.**

**50/50:** Norvah Williams won \$15.00

**Next meeting:** **February 26, 2015** Speak Councilman, Mayor pro-tem Kevin Bash

**Sad news:** Mr. James Wilson, a 40 year active resident to Norco, passed away. Jim served on the Planning Commission for many years and he was known for his fierce dedication toward keeping animal rights in Norco. He was a dedicated member of RURAL over the years as well as being involved with the Norco Regional Conservancy and Friends of Norco Hills organizations. He will be missed. Our sympathies go to his wife, Margaret, and his family.

**Adjourned:** 8:45 pm

Interesting articles for our news letters are always appreciated, so don't be shy if you have anything you want to share. Contact Dana Adams at [editor@rural-norco.com](mailto:editor@rural-norco.com) who has agreed to accept this opportunity to serve.

September 25th, 2014 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Doris Higgins, Secretary

**(Please understand, this is only a BRIEF recap of the meeting. So try to attend in order to get the full focus and extent of our knowledgeable speakers).**

**REMEMBER: SHOP NORCO** (Especially when you buy your gasoline!)

**YOU CAN BE A PART OF EVERYTHING HAPPENING IN NORCO...JUST VOLUNTEER.**

**YOUR SERVICES WILL BE APPRECIATED AND YOUR INTERACTION WITH OTHERS WILL CEMENT SOME LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS.**