

MMTC GENERAL MEETING
January 5, 2009
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Troop 1203 Presents Colors

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome and Introduction of Board Members
 - President Jeff Stevens
 - First Vice President (program chair) Pam O'Donohoe
 - Second Vice President (membership) Ted Brengel
 - Treasurer Alan Philpott
 - Recording Secretary Albertine Feurer-Young
 - Newsletter Editor Maria Pankau
 - Parliamentarian Debbie Vincent
 - Member at Large Marlon Austria
 - Member at Large Jon Labaw
 - Member at Large Robin Stutsman
 - Member at Large John Daley

MINUTES APPROVAL

Minutes are approved as written.

BOARD REPORTS

- President:
 - Carl DeMaio will swear in the board tonight and will give us an update on the city.
 - Update on the Tet Festival
 - Smoke shops follow-up
- Newsletter Editor:
 - Please email Maria any content you would like to see in the newsletter.
- Treasurer:
 - Beginning balance \$84,688.39; Income \$202.59; Expenses \$805.94; Net cash flow (\$603.35); Ending balance \$84,085.04.
 - Budget draft for 2009 is posted on the Mira Mesa Town Council's website – www.miramesatowncouncil.org. There has been no major changes to the budget; expense to maintain the banners was added.

OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

- Police Department (Officer Paul Lennon, Lt. Rick O'Hanlon)
 - 12/12 7:45 – kidnapping on Zapata. FBI is handling; individual is in TJ.
 - 12/16 10:00 PM– restaurant was robbed.
 - 12/17 – Street robbery of biker.
 - Four pressure type bombs in plastic bottles were found on (1) Salem, (2) Mira Mesa Blvd, (3) Meagan, and (4) Worthing. Kids do this to blow mailboxes. What is put in these bottles is poisonous and could blind someone. Please call the police if one is found or one explodes and be careful – do not inhale. It's a felony and the kid will go to jail.
 - 12/24 – Meth, cash, and packaging were found after a traffic stop.
 - 12/31 – Shooting on Dancy. Suspect turned himself in the following day. Police do not believe it was gang related.

- 1/1 – Purse theft at the Edwards movie theatre.
- Gang activity is down.
- Question – large number of sexual predators live in Mira Mesa, even close to the schools (Hickman). Why are they allowed to live in our neighborhood?
Answer – after they are off probation, they can live anywhere they want, even close to schools. They have to register once a year with law enforcement. RSVP drives around schools daily to find youngster walking from school and potential predators.
- Question – Is there a pattern of residential burglaries?
Answer – No, there is no obvious pattern.
- SD Fire Department
 - No update
- City Councilman Carl DeMaio (John Ly)
 - John Ly is Carl's assistant.
 - Contact John at JwLy@sandiego.gov.
- City Mayor Jerry Sanders (Steven Lew)
 - Not present; Pam will call his office.
- County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (Erica Holloway)
 - Not present
- County Supervisor Ron Roberts
 - Not present
- State Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher (Oscar Urteaga)
 - Oscar is the new field representative for Nathan his email address is oscar.urteaga@asm.ca.gov.
 - Nathan will be back in San Diego on Friday and has been involved in fixing the state budget.
 - He has not been assigned to any committees yet, but he was named to serve as the Republican Whip.
 - The website, www.nathanfletcher.com is being updated.
 - Sessions will meet every Monday and Thursday; he will come by the general Town Council meetings soon.
- State Senator Christine Kehoe (Andrew Kennerly)
 - Not present
- State Senator Hollingsworth (Ellen Malin)
 - Fire Relief Legislation signed by Governor – Senate Bills 1064, 1562, and 1227.
 - SB 947 – Bill to speed construction of highway off-ramps and over-passes.
 - The state senate met this afternoon regarding the budget.
 - Please refer to <http://cssrc.us/web/36/news.aspx> for more information.
- US Representative Brian Bilbray (Andrew Lund)
 - Not present
- MCAS Miramar (Juan Lias)
 - Not present
- School Board Member John Lee Evans
 - Proposition S is the new \$2.1 billion bond measure approved by the voters in November..
 - School board meetings were moved to 5 PM.
 - Contact him at (619) 725-5550 or JohnLeeEvans@sandi.net.
 - He will return to the Town Council meeting for an extended presentation in March.
 - Question: Why is California the highest taxed state and education gets a large percentage and yet, education needs to be cut?

Answer: Local money goes up to Sacramento and then is disbursed in formulas that are not very clear.

- Question: What is the present condition of the high school football field?

Answer: Unsafe and terrible.

- Question: Should Music be cut in schools?

Answer: Focusing on the basics does not give children a complete education.

NEW BUSINESS

- Carl DeMaio

- Swearing in of the 2009 Board.

- Fixing the city:

- Thank you to all the volunteers who have given countless hours to their community.

- He will work just as hard down at City Hall.

- He wants to help create a city government we can be proud of; this will require balancing (1) the budget and paying down debt, (2) providing safe and clean neighborhoods, (3) having honest public leaders that lead by example and that we can trust, and (4) creating jobs for the current environment by helping people create new small businesses without penalizing them.

- The budget problem and the abuses are mind-numbing. The state has run its finances like a bunch of drunken sailors. They've run a bar tab and have a hang-over. Government is the only business where you can cut services while raising fees.

- City tax payers are on the hook to bail out the retirement system loss of \$743 millions.

- Labor negotiations start next month.

- He is working on the shopping cart issue; it will be unveiled in the next few weeks.

- Question: Did the prior council work for the people or for themselves?

Answer: Instead of wanting to shrink the city government, they wanted to build a brand new City Hall building. They were raiding reserves. The current council does, but it is on a very short leash.

- Question: How do we get involved?

Answer: Call them, contact them; let them hear you.

- Question: If the city goes bankrupt, the pensions will be dead. Why can't the Mayor go to Washington for a bailout for the city?

Answer: Regarding bankruptcy – it sounds really good and easy, but it's not. The challenge is that the judge will look at liabilities (pensions, debts, bonds, etc), at the annual costs (police, clean waters, etc), and at the revenues (tax base). The judge will require liabilities to be paid off, will look at the assets (Balboa Park or Torrey Pines, for example) and will have us sell them to developers. A judge, who is not elected by the people, will look at the balance sheet and will treat this bankruptcy as a business bankruptcy.

- Question: How do the business licenses work?

Answer: The city looks at tax returns; if income is reported as small business income (schedule C/1099), you are required to get a business license. If you rent out a property in San Diego, you are a small business. The City is going back and issuing fines. His office is fighting these fines.

- Question: Why can't we resolve the pension problem?

Answer: The Fringe rate had not been calculated by the City of San Diego until Carl asked about it. The national rate is 30% for most companies;

government national rate is 36%. The City of San Diego's rate is 61.4% - almost double the national government average. New pension system for new hires is needed. For employees who already vested these benefits – in order to pay them the net cost (inc. benefits), charge more for 'Cadillac' benefits; people can opt out. People closer to retirement will not opt out, but all others probably will. ERISA is managed by the pension benefit corporation and insures all pensions. ERISA takes over bankrupt private companies' pensions and pays a certain percentage. This does not apply to governments. We need specific labor contracts.

o Question: Can all elected officials give up their pensions?
Answer: Carl is the only one. We can't force them to do that.

o Question: Who will take on your watchdog role on the outside now that you're on the inside?

Answer: He's hired a budget watchdog internally. He is creating a project where we will have an update to the Citizen's Budget that helped create public awareness. He wants the recommendations reviewed and a task force to come up with new recommendations.

o Question: How can we help you?

Answer: Volunteer as much as you can. It's going to get worse and communities will need its citizens' help. Speak up and raise your voice.

o Mira Mesa Maintenance Assessment District (Tom Derr)

o Rates for Maintenance Assessment for Mira Mesa and Scripps Ranch have not been raised in years. The Mira Mesa assessment was fixed at \$10/year by a ballot measure voted on in Mira Mesa in 1997, and can increase to \$11.81 corresponding to the cost of living index without a new vote. The Scripps Ranch Maintenance Assessment District, which has much higher fees, has run out of money and they will need to increase their rates.

o There is over \$600,000 in reserves for Mira Mesa. It either must be spent or returned. The MMMAD authorizing agreement restricts the use of this money to landscaping, lighting and litter removal along specified major streets. The MMMAD committee would like to do projects outside the scope of the current agreement.

o The proposed budget is posted on the Mira Mesa Town Council website. Approval is needed tonight. The budget is not changing until 2010. The new budget includes \$50,000 for a ballot measure to authorize an increase in the scope of the MMMAD and \$20,000 for the Engineer's Report. The budget deadline is end of January.

o Motion is made to approve the budget; motion is seconded. Motion passes. Budget is approved as is.

o Motion is made by to add members to the committee. The motion is tabled until the February meeting to allow for further review.

o Question: What do you need to review the bi-laws?

Answer: More volunteers. You don't need experience to volunteer.

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o The next meeting is the first Tuesday in March at 7:00 PM at the Mira Mesa Senior Center.

o Call Tom at 619-933-1213 or email him at Tom@TomsMM.com.

OLD BUSINESS

o Tet Festival

o Vietnamese Federation of San Diego

- January 17-18
- 10 – 10 on Saturday and 10 – 6 on Sunday
- \$5 at the door, free for children under 11
- Mira Mesa park and at the Library
- Entertainment and culture events
- Exhibits at the Library
- Dancing competitions
- Sport tournaments
- Chinese chess tournaments
- Carnival rides and games
- More information is located at www.tetfest.org
- Headshops in Mira Mesa concerns
 - The Town Council will not sign a petition at this time. This will be tabled until more information is obtained.

COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS (not all groups will present at every meeting)

- 4th of July Committee (Sandy Smith) – meeting is 1/14, the second Wednesday of the month, at the Senior Center at 6:30. They will be discussing Casino Night; they need sponsors. See http://www.miramesatowncouncil.org/Casino_Night_2008.htm for more information. They need volunteers. The MM Town Council will donate \$1,000 to the committee.
- HEROES (Mike Davis) – they painted Fire Station 41. He is working with Carl regarding volunteerism.
- Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee (Pam Stevens) – next meeting is 1/15 (third Thursday of odd numbered months) at the Los Penasquitos Ranch House at 7 PM. Call the Ranger to find out about closures due to rain. Volunteer Patrol needs volunteers.
- Mira Mesa Library (Pam Stevens) – Banned Book discussion group will be meeting on the last Monday of the month. Friends of the Library is recruiting for new members. Chuck Sweet will buy a new American Flag for the library's meeting room.
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- Mira Mesa Theatre Guild (Courtland Young) – The public meeting will be next month. They need more volunteers. Please contact Courtland if interested.
- Planning Group (Ted Brengel) – the meeting will be the Tuesday after the third Monday at the Senior Center both for January and February. More information is located at http://www.miramesatowncouncil.org/planning_group.htm. This year is an election year for the Planning Group. The elections are in March; the new board comes on board in April. Scripps Park West project, in Mira Mesa, is a new project. The Planning Group needs new members; attend this month's meeting to be eligible for election.
- Recreation Council (Joe Frichtel) – January 13 at 7 PM at Lopez Ridge.
- Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol (John Sunde) – Nine new members graduated from the program; there are 34 members currently. They need more volunteers.