

MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL  
BANNING, CALIFORNIA

06/11/2019  
SPECIAL MEETING- WORKSHOP

COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Happe  
Councilmember Peterson  
Councilmember Wallace  
Mayor Pro Tem Andrade  
Mayor Welch

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Douglas Schulze, City Manager  
Kevin G. Ennis, City Attorney  
Daryl Betancur, Deputy City Clerk  
Tom Miller, Electric Utility Director  
Carla Young, Management Analyst  
Heidi Meraz, Community Services Director  
Art Vela, Director of Public Works/City Engineer  
Adam Rush, Community Development Director  
Suzanne Cook, Deputy Finance Director  
Ted Shove, Economic Development Manager  
Laurie Sampson, Executive Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A special meeting of the Banning City Council was called to order by Mayor Welch on June 11, 2019 at 3:47 p.m. at the Banning Civic Council Chambers, 99 E. Ramsey Street, Banning, California.

**II. WORKSHOP**

Electric Utility Workshop. ....

Tom Miller, Electric Utility Director made the presentation and explained the purpose of the workshop. He stated that since he took office, there has been no discussion about what the Electric Utility is doing and where it is going; that during the Strategic Planning Session meeting, one thing that was missing was that there were no goals or strategic planning for the Electric Utility and that made him realize that he had not done a good job in communicating to the Council where the Electric Utility is doing.

Further, Mr. Miller commented that he was also attempting to lay down the groundwork for the budget meeting that is coming up. He explained that the Electric Utility is a full-service community serving a population of 30,000 people; that Banning Electric Utility

is a retail electrical energy distribution utility with six distribution substations and 134 miles of power lines service nearly 13,500 citizens and business patrons; he commented that the Banning Electric Utility is a member of the Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) enjoying the benefits of joint action through cost effective planning, construction, management, and operations of electrical energy resources.

Electric Utility Director Tom Miller explained in more detail the purpose of the workshop, which was to communicate the strategic priorities of the electric utility; demonstrate the planning processes for the electric utility; provide a snap-shot of today's current operations; re-familiarize the City Council with the management team and key players for the electric utility. Members of the Electric Utility Team Roger Halverson, Brandon Robinson, Jason Smith, and Jim Steffens briefed the City Council on various elements of the presentation including redundancy and reliability of Banning Substations, Capital Improvement Plan Goals, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, Wildfire Mitigation Improvements, Maintenance Operations, Safety, Materials, Equipment, Professional Development, Power Resources, and Legislative and Regulatory Framework.

There were several questions from Council with respect to the issue of the substations and whether or not it would be better for the City to own them; comments were made about electric vehicle charging stations and the great customer service of the Electric Utility staff.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Opportunity for the public to address items on the agenda.

Public Comment.

City Attorney Kevin G. Ennis remained the Council that since we had run out of time for public comments, that the Council could entertain public comment for the workshop during the public comment period during the regular meeting.

#### **ACTION:**

Mayor Welch requested that the last part of the presentation be continued to another meeting because it was the most important part for the residents. Mayor Welch thanked the Electric Utility Team for an excellent presentation and asked for a ten minute recess before reconvening to the regular City Council meeting.

### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

Daryl Betancur  
Daryl Betancur, Deputy City Clerk

**The entire discussion of this meeting and related documents can be found by visiting the following website: <https://banninglive.viebit.com/player.php?hash=4Ll8Fn6nEbiU> or by requesting a CD or DVD at Banning City Hall located at 99 E. Ramsey Street.**