

# MINUTES REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING



February 11, 2020

City of Watsonville  
Council Chambers  
275 Main Street, Top Floor

**4:30 p.m.**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Mayor García and Council Members Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez (arrived at 5:05 p.m.), Hurst, and Parker were present. Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez was absent.

**2. INFORMATION ITEMS—Written Report(s) Only**

**2.A. REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS**

**2.B. MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS REPORT**

**2.C. WRITTEN REPORTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS REGARDING ACTIONS TAKEN ON THEIR REGIONAL COMMISSIONS/BOARD MEETINGS THAT MAY AFFECT THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE**

**3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES (If any)**

**4. REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

**4.A. STATE OF METRO PRESENTATION BY ALEX CLIFFORD, CEO**

5320

**1) Oral Presentation**

**2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**

In answering Member Gonzalez, Mr. Clifford spoke about the Santa Cruz County Metropolitan Transit District (SCCMTD) application that would allow bus riders to view bus routes and times.

In answering Member Hurst, Mr. Clifford spoke about challenges SCCMTD would face in the coming years.

Mr. Clifford, in answering Member Parker, spoke about Paratransit and challenges in maintaining the service.

In answering Mayor García, Mr. Clifford spoke about integrating electric buses in SCCMTD's fleet and potential for a fast charging station at the Watsonville Transit Center.

**3) Public Input (None)**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Public Input on any Consent Agenda Item (None)**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Gonzalez, seconded by Member Parker and carried by the following vote to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: MEMBERS: Estrada, Gonzalez, Hurst, Parker, García  
NOES: MEMBERS: None  
ABSENT: MEMBERS: Coffman-Gomez, Hernandez

**5.A MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF JANUARY 21 & 31, 2020**

5807 **5.B. RESOLUTION NO. 5-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION APPROVING FIRST AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH BEAR  
ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS, INC., FOR ROUTINE & EMERGENCY TRAFFIC SIGNAL  
MAINTENANCE SERVICES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$120,000 FOR A TWO-  
YEAR TERM**

5781 **5.C. RESOLUTION NO. 6-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION APPROVING FIRST AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH EPICO  
SYSTEMS, INC., FOR FIBER OPTIC MAINTENANCE SERVICES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT  
TO EXCEED \$180,000 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022**

5691 **5.D. MUZZIO PARK PLAYGROUND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

5691 **1) RESOLUTION NO. 7-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATION OF \$4,000 FROM PÁJARO VALLEY  
PREVENTION & STUDENT ASSISTANCE & \$1,040 DONATION FROM FRIENDS  
OF WATSONVILLE PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC., FOR THE MUZZIO  
PARK PLAYGROUND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

5691 **2) RESOLUTION NO. 8-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET APPROPRIATION FROM THE \$4,000  
DONATION FROM PÁJARO VALLEY PREVENTION & STUDENT ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM; \$1,040 DONATION FROM FRIENDS OF WATSONVILLE PARKS &  
COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.; & \$90,960 FROM PARKS DEVELOPMENT FUND  
TO THE GENERAL FUND (ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$46,000 TO BE  
REIMBURSED BY INSURANCE)**

**6. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA (None)**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

5410 **7.A. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S AGE-  
FRIENDLY CITIES & COMMUNITIES PROGRAM & APPROVAL OF CITY'S  
ENROLLMENT INTO THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS (AARP)  
FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES**

**1) Staff Report**  
The report was given by Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib and Clay Kempf, Executive Director at Seniors Council.

**2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**

5410

In answering Member Gonzalez, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib and Mr. Kempf explained how the City's financial contributions toward the program were calculated.

Mr. Kempf, in answering Member Hurst, spoke about methods used to communicate with seniors to inform them about services. He added he would distribute findings on the survey.

In answering Member Parker, Mr. Kempf explained ways the needs assessment was being distributed and analyzed. He added he would report to Council on the findings from the survey.

Mr. Kempf answered questions from Member Estrada regarding efforts statewide to create age friendly communities and efforts to bridge the gap between generations.

In answering Mayor García, Mr. Kempf spoke about ways to increase domain of outdoor spaces available to seniors.

**3) Public Input**

Antonio Rivas spoke in support of staff recommendation. He suggested collaboration with Santa Cruz County Office of Education for use of their special education buses for senior assistance. He also suggested collaboration with Pájaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) for creation of an intergenerational community center.

**4) MOTION:** It was moved by Member Hurst, seconded by Member Parker to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 9-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES & COMMUNITIES PROGRAM & APPROVING THE CITY'S ENROLLMENT INTO THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS (AARP) FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES**

5410

**5) City Council Deliberation on Motion(s)**

Member Parker suggested creation of a program that allowed teenagers to provide services for seniors.

Member Hernandez stated millennials and baby boomers had similar interests.

In answering Member Estrada, Mr. Kempf spoke about timelines for the proposed program and updates to be provided to Council.

Member Gonzalez asked that Watsonville be the frontrunner and an example for other cities on how to implement age friendly communities.

*The City Council recessed the meeting at 5:32 p.m.*

**6:32 p.m.**

**8. ROLL CALL**

Mayor García and Council Members Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, and Parker were present. Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez was absent.

Staff members present were City Manager Huffaker, City Attorney Smith, City Clerk Vázquez Flores, Public Works & Utilities Director Palmisano, Administrative Services Director Czerwin, Airport Director Williams, Community Development Director Merriam, Library Director Heitzig, Information Technology Director Boyes, Deputy City Manager Vides, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Directors Rodriguez and Di Renzo, Assistant Police Chief Sims, Assistant Community Development Director Allen, Project Manager Berry, Assistant City Clerk Ortiz, and Interpreter Esqueda.

**9. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**10. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

5069

**10.A. MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING NORDIC NATURALS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO DELIVERING THE SAFEST NUTRIENTS ESSENTIAL TO HEALTH & SUSTAINABLE BEST PRACTICES TO MINIMIZE ITS IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

5076

**10.B. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Steve Trujillo, Advisory Council of YMCA, spoke about the success of YMCA programming and announced fundraising efforts.

Gary Richard Arnold stated the City was participating in a parallel government along with the County of Santa Cruz. He added that Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) was a communist regime and asked Council not to participate.

Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Maria Esther Rodriguez invited the public to participate in the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Egg Drop Contest.

Dr. Nancy A. Bilicich spoke about her participation at previous Zone 7, Flood Control and Water Conservation District meetings where they explored options for creating revenues to help fund Pájaro River Levee improvements. She also spoke about the Pájaro River Flood Prevention Authority's positive audit rating. She asked the public to provide input on Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7's, environmental impact report for the levee project.

Alan Flores, District 3, spoke about the City's Cannabis Equity Program and asked that it emphasize support for local residents.

**10.C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL**

5074

Member Hernandez spoke about several events he attended over the previous weeks and invited the public to attend a Measure Y workshop at Project Slice.

Member Gonzalez invited the public to participate in Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis. He asked the public to provide input on Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7's, environmental impact report for the levee project.

Member Estrada congratulated Pájaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance on their grand opening at a new location. He commended Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA) for organizing a Measure Y workshop. He spoke about events he attended over the previous weeks.

5074

Member Parker stated she had been in a car accident and unable to attend many community events. She spoke about positive impacts the YMCA had on the community. She thanked Dr. Nancy A. Bilicich for her work to improve the river levee.

Member Hurst commended Mayor Garcia for her participation in the City Employees Awards Dinner. He spoke about several events he attended over the previous weeks. He encouraged the public to vote at the Presidential Primary Election.

Mayor García spoke about her participation at Watsonville High School's Civics Day. She stated the moratorium to prevent development of future drive-throughs had failed at the previous meeting. She added that she would like feedback from the business community regarding drive-throughs and would be making a formal request to agendize a discussion on studying community concerns on drive-throughs.

## 11. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES, & APPEALS

### 11.A. CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION TO UPDATE CHAPTER 22 (TAXICABS) OF TITLE 5 (PUBLIC WELFARE, MORALS, & CONDUCT) OF WATSONVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE

4872

#### 1) Staff Report

The report was given by Assistant Police Chief Sims.

#### 2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

In answering Mayor Garcia, Assistant Police Chief Sims explained the process for testing drivers for alcohol and controlled substance use.

#### 3) Public Hearing

Mayor García opened the public hearing.

Steve Trujillo asked that taxi drivers have multiple tests done for drugs and alcohol per year.

City Attorney Smith stated the largest taxi company in Watsonville was in support of the proposed ordinance and resolutions.

Seeing no one else approach the podium, Mayor García closed the public hearing.

#### 4) MOTION: It was moved by Member Hernandez, seconded by Member Gonzalez to introduce the following ordinance and approve the subsequent resolutions:

#### a) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE RESCINDING CHAPTER 22 (TAXICABS) OF TITLE 5 (PUBLIC WELFARE, MORALS, & CONDUCT) OF THE WATSONVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE & ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 22 ENTITLED TAXICABS

4872

4872

b) **RESOLUTION NO. 10-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING NEW INCREASED TAXICAB RATES &  
FARES FOR TAXI SERVICES**

4872

c) **RESOLUTION NO. 11-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING & SETTING A "TAXICAB DRIVERS:  
PERMIT FEE" AT \$359 FOR THE ISSUANCE OF EACH TAXI DRIVERS  
PERMIT & ANNUAL RENEWAL PERMIT FEE AT \$250 FOR THE  
RENEWAL OF A TAXICAB DRIVERS PERMIT**

**5) City Council Deliberation on Motion(s)**

**MOTION:** The above motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	MEMBERS:	Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, Parker, Garcia
NOES:	MEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	MEMBERS:	Coffman-Gomez

5382

**11.B. CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF CITY OF WATSONVILLE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT USER FEE STUDY - JANUARY 2020 & ESTABLISHING & ADOPTING  
FEES, RATES & CHARGES FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**1) Oral Presentation**

The report was given by Administrative Services Director Czerwin.

**2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**

Administrative Services Director Czerwin answered questions from Member Parker regarding reasoning used to set the proposed fees.

Administrative Services Director Czerwin and Community Development Director Merriam answered questions from Member Gonzalez regarding noticing requirements for the proposed fees and outreach to the building community.

Community Development Director Merriam and Assistant Community Development Director Allen, in answering Member Hurst, spoke about rates for inspection, fines issued to those who do not pay for building permits, and additional consequences for chronic violators. City Attorney Smith explained that liens could be placed on homes due to lack of payment of fines.

Community Development Director Merriam answered questions from Mayor Garcia regarding potential for programs to assist non-profits that provide services identified in the Strategic Plan and to low income housing developers.

Member Gonzalez stated more outreach to developers was needed prior to Council taking action on the item.

In answering Member Hernandez, Administrative Services Director Czerwin stated the proposed fees were comparable to other cities.

**3) Public Hearing**

Mayor Garcia opened the public hearing.

Steve Trujillo stated his neighbors did not want to obtain permits due to high rates and difficult process. He asked staff to do more outreach to the community.

5382

Becky Steinbruner, Aptos resident, commended staff for simplifying the process for obtaining permits. She asked staff to explain the fiscal impact of the changes, to support historic preservation through reduced rates, and to create more outreach to the community.

Seeing no one else approach the podium, Mayor Garcia closed the public hearing.

- 4) **MOTION (failed):** It was moved by Member Gonzalez and failed for lack of second to continue the item to a later date for staff to do more outreach to the community.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Hurst, seconded by Member Hernandez to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CITY OF WATSONVILLE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT USER FEE STUDY - JANUARY 2020 & ESTABLISHING &  
ADOPTING FEES, RATES & CHARGES FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

5382

- 5) **City Council Deliberation on Motion(s)**

Member Hurst spoke about need for enforcement on unlicensed contractors and unpermitted projects.

Member Estrada asked that items be brought to Council with more anticipation in order to give Council adequate time to review items and postpone as needed.

Member Gonzalez stated noticing requirements and staff outreach efforts were not effective and asked for the item to be continued to a later date to do more outreach.

City Manager Huffaker stated the City could continue the item to a later date.

In answering Mayor García, City Manager Huffaker spoke about efforts to ensure public opinion is heard on a variety of topics

**MOTION:** The above motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: MEMBERS: Estrada, Hernandez, Hurst, Garcia  
NOES: MEMBERS: Gonzalez, Parker  
ABSENT: MEMBERS: Coffman-Gomez

Member Hernandez asked staff to survey patrons in order to improve City services.

Member Estrada asked staff to email public hearing notices to Council.

**12. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**12.A. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF CITY OF WATSONVILLE 2020 PARKS & RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN, RAMSAY PARK MASTER PLAN & CITY PLAZA MASTER PLAN**

5503

This item was divided into three sections in order to receive feedback on the Strategic Plan, Ramsay Park Concept (Master) Plan, and City Plaza Concept (Master) Plan individually.

## **PARKS & RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **1) Staff Report**

The report was given by Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib and Corbin Schneider, Verde Design Inc.

### **2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**

In answering Member Hernandez, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib explained that there was potential for funding for parks projects within Watsonville through County Supervisor Caput and through State Proposition 68.

Member Hurst asked staff to request funding from Supervisors Caput and Friend for parks projects.

In answering Member Estrada, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib spoke about the goals of the proposed plan and sustainability of proposed changes.

City Manager Huffaker and Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib answered questions from Member Parker regarding funding needs for parks projects and potential for funding through the General Fund.

In answering Member Gonzalez, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib stated the restroom project at the Plaza would proceed.

In answering Member Estrada, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib spoke about potential for adjusting user fees of parks programs to assist those in need.

In answering Member Parker, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib spoke about collaboration with PVUSD for joint use of school facilities.

Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib answered questions from Mayor García regarding need for park land, particularly in District 5, and planning for attainment of land. He added he would look at City owned land for potential new community garden locations.

### **3) Public Input**

Steve Trujillo recommended areas of Freedom Boulevard that were underutilized for potential use as parkland. He spoke about the need for restrooms in the City Plaza. He recommended creating an adopt-a-park program to help ease the strain of maintaining local parks.

Becky Steinbruner asked that real grass be used instead of turf when improving parks due to health issues arising from turf use. She spoke about funding available for parks through the County. She gave recommendations on how to leverage funding and community support to achieve park's goals.

Seeing no one else approach the podium, Mayor Garcia closed the public hearing.



- 4) **MOTION:** It was moved by Member Hernandez, seconded by Member Estrada to approve the Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan. 5503

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE 2020 PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN, WHICH INCLUDES THE RAMSAY PARK CONCEPT PLAN AND CITY PLAZA CONCEPT PLAN** 5503

- 5) **City Council Deliberation on Motion(s)**  
Member Hurst spoke about the importance of being equitable to all ages and providing for park space for everyone.

In answering Member Estrada, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib spoke about reasoning used for setting user fees.

**MOTION:** The above motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	MEMBERS:	Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, Parker, Garcia
NOES:	MEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	MEMBERS:	Coffman-Gomez

**CITY PLAZA CONCEPT (MASTER) PLAN**

- 6) **Staff Report**  
The report was given by Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib and Corbin Schneider, Verde Design Inc.

- 7) **City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**  
Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib, in answering Member Parker, spoke about potential for movement of artifacts at the Plaza and stated none would be removed. He added that the bandstand would be repaired and not replaced.

City Attorney Smith, in answering Member Estrada, gave historical background to the George Washington bust that is located at the City Plaza. Member Estrada asked staff to explore adding new monuments to the Plaza to represent other sectors of the community.

Mayor Garcia stated the Latino Chamber of Commerce had advocated to Council to approve a headstone representative of the Latino community at the Plaza.

Member Parker stated voters approved an ordinance that set a process for naming public places.

City Manager Huffaker stated any new art elements added to the Plaza would follow the public art project approval process.

- 8) **Public Input**  
Becky Steinbruner asked for more information regarding the amenities that were proposed for the Plaza.

Steve Trujillo gave suggestions on how to improve the fountain. He asked staff to explore converting the Yamashita Market into a historical site.

Member Hernandez asked that historical trees be protected and issued plaques with historical information.

- 9) **MOTION:** It was moved by Member Hernandez, seconded by Member Parker to approve the City Plaza Concept (Master) Plan.

10) **City Council Deliberation on Motion(s)**

In answering Member Gonzalez, Mr. Schneider stated the tree at the corner of Main Street and Beach Street would be removed because it was no longer alive.

**MOTION:** The above motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	MEMBERS:	Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, Parker, Garcia
NOES:	MEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	MEMBERS:	Coffman-Gomez

### **RAMSAY PARK CONCEPT (MASTER) PLAN**

11) **Staff Report**

The report was given by Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib and Corbin Schneider, Verde Design Inc.

12) **City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**

Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib answered questions from Member Gonzalez regarding a State grant and its potential use, use of the Ramsay Softball Field by Pájaro Valley High School, and funding for turf field installation.

In answering Member Estrada, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib spoke about using the approved plans to ask for financial aid from the community.

In answering Mayor Garcia, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib spoke about planned use of the proposed expanded family center. Mr. Schneider, in answering Mayor Garcia spoke about relocation of the Nature Center.

Mr. Schneider answered questions from Member Gonzalez regarding retention of the Ramsay Park car wash area.

13) **Public Input**

Steve Trujillo asked staff to explore ways to make Ramsay Park safer and asked that the City organize dances at THE Ramsay Park Family Center.

Becky Steinbruner asked that reliable restrooms be installed at Ramsay Park. She spoke against turf as it posed health issues and emitted heat.

- 14) **MOTION:** It was moved by Member Hernandez, seconded by Member Estrada to approve the Ramsay Concept (Master) Plan.

**15) City Council Deliberation on Motion(s)**

5503

Member Hernandez asked staff to continue exploring grant funding in order to complete parks projects.

Member Hurst stated the City needed to explore funding options and seek new park land.

In answering Member Estrada, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib stated staff would explore installation of solar panels at Ramsay Park.

Mr. Schneider answered questions from Mayor Garcia regarding studies about artificial turf and its safety.

In answering Member Estrada, Mr. Schneider spoke about safety of synthetic grass.

**MOTION:** The above motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	MEMBERS:	Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, Garcia Parker
NOES:	MEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	MEMBERS:	Coffman-Gomez

**13. EMERGENCY ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA (None)**

**14. REQUESTS & SCHEDULING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Member Hernandez requested an item on the March 24, 2020, agenda to do a formal apology for the Anti-Filipino Riots. He also requested an update on the State's Cannabis Equity Program.

Member Parker asked for updates on the Cannabis Equity Program.

Mayor Garcia asked for a resolution supporting the Health in All Policies. She also asked for an item on the agenda to discuss mailings to parcels that could be affected by a drive-through ban.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rebecca J. Garcia, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
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 Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk

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