

MINUTES REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING



April 28, 2020

City of Watsonville
Teleconference/Remote

1:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Mayor García, Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez and Council Members Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez (arrived at 1:30 p.m.), Hurst (arrived at 1:10 p.m.), and Parker were present via teleconference through Gotomeetings.

Staff members present via teleconference through Gotomeetings were City Manager Huffaker, City Clerk Vázquez Flores, Public Works & Utilities Director Palmisano, Police Chief Honda, Administrative Services Director Czerwin, Airport Director Williams, Community Development Director Merriam, Library Director Heitzig, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib, Deputy City Managers Manning and Vides, Enterprise Architect Lamoreaux, Senior Utilities Engineer McCloud, Senior Information Technology Analyst Lew, Assistant City Clerk Ortiz, Information Technology Analyst Cortez, Administrative Analyst Paz, Media and Communication Analyst Vasquez, Police Media and Communications Specialist Pulido, and Interpreter Esqueda.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

3.A. REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS

4. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

4.A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)- Katherine Molinari, Regeneración, Pájaro Valley Climate Action, spoke in support of their Five Principles of Just COVID-19 Relief and Stimulus. She asked that the City pass a measure to ensure that all future construction is to only include electricity and not natural gas. She asked the City to provide for resident engagement in local government by providing accessible and multilingual options. She also asked the City to educate the public and provide vote by mail alternatives for voters.

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Steve Trujillo encouraged the public to participate in Council meetings. He stated a Federal court in Los Angeles cited Chipotle for criminal negligence and asked they not be allowed to establish a business in Watsonville. He spoke about the importance of planting trees in order to deter climate change. He asked the City to protect farmworkers by providing them with supplies to protect them from COVID-19.

Natalie Alivas, Regeneración, Pájaro Valley Climate Action, asked Council to review their Five Principles of Just COVID-19 Relief and Stimulus and implement them as policy. She asked for assistance for undocumented workers as they were not included in the stimulus funding from the Federal Government. She asked that staff earning over \$100,000 receive a ten (10) percent pay cut in order to ensure other City functions continue. She also asked the City to pursue creation of environmentally safe jobs.

4.B. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL

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Member Estrada commended the City and public working to protect the community from spread of COVID-19 and assisting the most vulnerable members of society. He asked the public to comply with social distancing and shelter in place orders.

Member Parker commended Project Elderly for their assistance of seniors and asked the public to donate to their cause. She asked for a resolution establishing a daily time to celebrate essential workers.

Member Gonzalez thanked staff, the public, and non-profit organizations for their work to protect the community from spread of the COVID-19 and for assisting the most vulnerable members of society. He asked the public to comply with social distancing and shelter in place orders.

Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez thanked staff, the public, and health care workers for their work to protect the community from spread of COVID-19 and for assisting the most vulnerable members of society. She asked the public to participate in Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission’s Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis Survey. She announced Monterey Bay Community Power would reduce charges for electricity by 50% for the months of May and June. She stated Santa Cruz County Metropolitan Transit District was working to continue bus services for the community.

Member Hurst commended those following social distancing and shelter in place orders. He thanked Assembly Member Rivas for his assistance to farm workers in need of support during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mayor Garcia stated she was interviewed by KSCO, radio station, and stated they commended the City for efforts to protect the community from spread of COVID-19 and for assisting the most vulnerable members of society. She stated they offered to broadcast information for the City on their radio station. She stated Santa Cruz County Housing Authority reported Section 8 Housing Program participants had been financially impacted by COVID-19 Pandemic and would increase funding for the program until all funds were expended. She asked the City to explore funding Section 8 Housing Program. She invited the public to attend the Central Coast Climate Summit Series.

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5. REPORTS TO COUNCIL—No Action Required

5.A. COVID-19 ESSENTIAL SERVICES UPDATE

5820

1) Oral Presentation

The report was given by City Manager Huffaker.

2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez regarding COVID-19 testing operations at Ramsay Park, screening of participants of the mobile showers program, and mask distribution for residents and staff.

City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Member Estrada regarding COVID-19 testing operations at Ramsay Park, benefits the testing site would have on Watsonville, and data regarding business closures citywide. Member Estrada

suggested establishing maximum price for sale of face coverings due to mandates stemming from the COVID-19 Pandemic. 5820

In answering Member Parker, City Manager Huffaker spoke about future COVID-19 testing operations at Ramsay Park, sanitizing options available to the community, distribution of masks to the community, efforts to retain staff despite budget challenges, and efforts for the City to be the lead in Age Friendly Communities policies.

In answering Member Gonzalez, City Manager Huffaker spoke about reasons COVID-19 testing operations would be conducted at Ramsay Park instead of Watsonville Community Hospital. Member Gonzalez stated Community Action Board and other non-profits were distributing masks to those in need.

In answering Mayor Garcia, City Manager Huffaker spoke about efforts to disseminate COVID-19 information in Spanish and Mixteco.

3) Public Input

City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Steve Trujillo regarding availability of hotel rooms for the homeless population, continuation of hotel developments on Lee Road, impacts on Transient Occupation Tax stemming from COVID-19, and plans for library management in lieu of retirement of Library Director Heitzig.

?Male asked for an update on Open Streets Watsonville. He asked for masks to be mandatory on the River Levee and in trails.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Public Input on any Consent Agenda Item (None)

In answering Member Estrada, Airport Director Williams spoke about allowed use of \$69,000 Grant from Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security (Cares) Act Airport Grant Program.

In answering Member Gonzalez, City Manager Huffaker explained the Voluntary Time Off (VTO) program.

In answering Member Estrada, Human Resources Director Manning explained challenges in balancing VTO and early retirement requests.

In answering Member Gonzalez, Human Resources Director Manning explained the purpose of the VTO program and process used for its approval.

In answering Member Hernandez, City Manager Huffaker explained the intent of the VTO Program and those eligible to participate.

MOTION: It was moved by Member Gonzalez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez and carried by the following vote to approve the Consent Agenda:

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

6.A. MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2020

5099 **6.B. RESOLUTION NO. 51-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION DIRECTING FILING OF 2020-21 ANNUAL ENGINEER'S REPORT FOR
GONZALES STREET ALLEYWAY LANDSCAPING & LIGHTING MAINTENANCE
ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. PK-94-1 (LLMAD)**

5714 **6.C. RESOLUTION NO. 52-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION DIRECTING FILING OF 2020-21 ANNUAL ENGINEER'S REPORT FOR
BAY BREEZE SUBDIVISION LANDSCAPING & LIGHTING MAINTENANCE
ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. PK-03-02 (LLMAD)**

5714 **6.D. RESOLUTION NO. 53-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION DIRECTING FILING OF 2020-21 ANNUAL ENGINEER'S REPORT FOR
VISTA MONTAÑA SUBDIVISION LANDSCAPING & LIGHTING MAINTENANCE
ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. PK-03-03 (LLMAD)**

5210 **6.E. RESOLUTION NO. 54-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING \$69,000 GRANT FROM DEPARTMENT OF
5820 TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) CORONAVIRUS
AID, RELIEF, & ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT AIRPORT GRANT PROGRAM AS
ECONOMIC RELIEF TO ELIGIBLE U.S. GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORTS IN RESPONSE
TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**6.F. CONSIDERATION OF CONTINUATION OF CITY'S VOLUNTARY TIME OFF PROGRAM
& EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVES FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES**

4924 **1) RESOLUTION NO. 55-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTINUATION OF VOLUNTARY TIME OFF
PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO PERMANENT/REGULAR EMPLOYEES THROUGH
FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

4933 **2) RESOLUTION NO. 56-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE RETIREMENT
INCENTIVE PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO EMPLOYEES FOR RETIREMENT
DATES ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2020**

5056 **6.G. ORDINANCE NO. 1403-20 (CM):
ORDINANCE REPLACING TITLE 3 CHAPTER 5 OF THE WATSONVILLE MUNICIPAL
CODE ENTITLED PURCHASING PROCEDURE**

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA (None)

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES, & APPEALS

8.A. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CONSOLIDATED PLAN/ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

5020

1) Staff Report

The report was given by Housing Manager Landaverry.

2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

Housing Manager Landaverry and City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Mayor Garcia regarding reasoning Project Elderly Care was not included in the food distribution program, potential for them to be included in the next round of funding, collaboration with El Pájaro Community Development Corporation to assist local businesses, support available for struggling businesses, assistance available to families in need of internet access, and outreach efforts to the community regarding CDBG funding plans.

Housing Manager Landaverry and City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Member Estrada regarding priorities for CDBG funding allocations, collaboration with non-profit organizations to develop program funding guidelines, outreach efforts, and potential additional funding in the next fiscal year.

Member Gonzalez asked that any funding for businesses be granted in a fair and equitable manner.

Housing Manager Landaverry and City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez regarding funding for the Second Harvest Food Bank and their service levels, Community Action Board funding and their service levels, reporting from non-profits on use of CDBG funds, capital improvement projects funded by CDBG funds, federal funding for cities not in initial rounds of federal funding, and lobbying efforts by the City to request federal relief funding.

In answering Member Gonzalez, Housing Manager Landaverry stated CDBG funding could be used for specific administrative purposes.

3) Public Hearing

Mayor García opened the public hearing.

Helen Ewan-Story and Paz Padilla, Community Action Board (CDBG), commended the City for collaborating with CAB for the housing assistance program.

Carmen Herrera-Mansir, El Pájaro Community Development Corporation (CDC), commended the City for efforts to assist the most vulnerable members of the community. She spoke about El Pájaro CDC's work and commitment to assist local businesses.

After checking if anyone in the teleconference wanted to speak, and hearing none, Mayor García closed the public hearing.

4) MOTION: It was moved by Member Gonzalez, seconded by Member Hernandez and carried by the following vote to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 57-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE SUBSTANTIAL
AMENDMENTS TO THE FIVE YEAR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT ("CDBG") CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR JULY 1, 2015, THROUGH JUNE
30, 2019, WHICH INCLUDES THE 2019-2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

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

5) City Council Deliberation on Motion

Member Hurst stated El Pajaro CDC, CAB, and Second Harvest Food Bank served the community and those beyond city limits.

Member Gonzalez stated the City's commitment to expanding assistance and creating guidelines that assists the vast majority of those in need.

9. EMERGENCY ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA

MOTION: It was moved by Member Gonzalez, seconded by Member Parker to add Item 9.A. to the agenda as an emergency item, and carried by the following vote:

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

9.A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATION FOR \$200,000 TO THE BAY AREA COUNCIL FOUNDATION FOR THE CALIFORNIA RESILIENCE CHALLENGE FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION CLIMATE RESILIENCE CHALLENGE GRANT

1) Staff Report

The report was given by City Attorney Smith and Senior Utilities Engineer McCloud.

2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

In answering Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez, Senior Utilities Engineer McCloud spoke about how the proposed grant was complimentary to the Climate Action Plan and timeline for grant award.

Member Hurst spoke about the importance of preparing projects despite lack of funding and seeking grant opportunities to advance those projects.

3) Public Input (None)

4) MOTION: It was moved by Member Parker, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez and carried by the following vote to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 58-20 (CM):
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE
AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER, ON BEHALF OF THE
CITY OF WATSONVILLE, TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR \$200,000 TO THE
BAY AREA COUNCIL FOUNDATION FOR THE CALIFORNIA RESILIENCE
CHALLENGE, AND IF AWARDED, TO NEGOTIATE, EXECUTE AND SUBMIT
ALL DOCUMENTS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO APPLICATIONS,
AGREEMENTS, PAYMENT REQUESTS AND SO ON, WHICH MAY BE
NECESSARY FOR THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPLEMENTATION CLIMATE RESILIENCE CHALLENGE GRANT; AND
APPROPRIATING SUCH FUNDS TO THE SPECIAL GRANTS FUND**

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

5) City Council Deliberation on Motion (None)

10. REQUESTS & SCHEDULING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Parker requested a resolution establishing a daily celebration at 7:30 p.m. for essential workers in the form of whooping, clapping, and banging pots from outside residences.

Member Hurst requested an item at a future agenda to discuss the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission’s Rail Trail.

Mayor García requested a resolution asking that Governor Newsom repeal inability to levy higher tax on sugary beverages.

Member Parker asked for an item at a future agenda to discuss implementation of Age Friendly Communities policy.

Member Gonzalez asked for an item at a future agenda to review the Unjust Evictions Ordinance.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

3:35 p.m.

12. CLOSED SESSION

(City Council Conference Room, 275 Main Street, 4th Floor)

(a) Public Comments regarding the Closed Session agenda were accepted by the City Council at that time.

(b) Closed Session Announcement

The City Council recessed the regular Council Meeting to discuss those items listed on the Closed Session Statement attached to the Agenda.

A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

(Government Code § 54954.5 and 54956.8)

1. Property: 21, 27, and 31 West Beach Street (APN: 017-111-19)
Negotiating parties: Tamara Vides (City)
In Sook Yum dba Top USA Co.
Under Negotiation: Terms of Lease

B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

1. Agency negotiator: Nathalie Manning and Matt Huffaker
Employee organizations: Clerical Technical, Confidential Unit, Executive Team, IAFF Local 1272 (Fire), Management Unit, Mid-Management Unit, Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 for employees in the Public Works Unit, Police Officers Association, Public Safety Mid-Management Unit

12.B. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Smith reported that Council received reports on all items listed on the Closed Session Agenda, but took no action.



Rebecca J. Garcia, Mayor

ATTEST:



Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk