



**MINUTES REGULAR JOINT CITY COUNCIL, SUCCESSOR AGENCY  
& SUCCESSOR HOUSING AGENCY FOR THE FORMER  
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING**

June 11, 2019

City of Watsonville  
Council Chambers  
275 Main Street, Top Floor

**6:30 p.m.**

**7. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Estrada, Mayor Pro Tempore Garcia, and Council Members Coffman-Gomez, González, Hernandez, Hurst, and Parker were present.

Staff members present were City Manager Huffaker, City Attorney Smith, Public Works & Utilities Director Palmisano, Fire Chief Lopez, Administrative Services Director Czerwin, Community Development Director Merriam, Information Technology Director Boyes, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib, Deputy City Manager Vides, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Directors Rodriguez and Templeton, Assistant Police Chief Sims, Administrative Services Manager Gordo, Wastewater Division Manager Guy, Police Captain Zamora, Principal Engineer Fontes, Police Fiscal Manager Maldonado, Senior Financial Analyst Diaz, Police Officer Rangel, Assistant City Clerk Ortiz, Airport Operations Supervisor Rosas, Administrative Analyst Meyer, and Interpreter Esqueda.

**8. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**9. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**9.A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Steve Trujillo asked the City to place a rainbow flag in front of City Hall in honor of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month. He asked the City to support the LGBT community and form a countywide LGBT Commission.

DeAndre James, PV Health Trust, spoke about the potential sale of Watsonville Community Hospital and spoke about the process that would be used to allow the public to provide input on the change of ownership.

Mr. James answered questions from Member Gonzalez regarding timeline and meetings prior to a final decision on the sale of the Hospital.

Dr. Nancy A. Bilicich, City's representative of Zone 7 Flood Control and Water Conservation District, invited the public to the upcoming meeting. She spoke about her attendance at the Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority meeting and invited the public to a future meeting. She spoke about efforts to maintain and improve the watershed.

Assistant Police Chief Sims listed the efforts Police & Fire are making to address illegal fireworks.

Tabin Vargas, Grant Street resident, stated many being served by Salvation Army were creating issues to the neighborhood ranging from loitering to drug use. He asked Council to intervene and regulate the area.

**9.B. PRESENTATION OF MAYOR'S CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TO CESAR PARRA, ELI ROMERO, & ROSARIO MENDEZ TORRES FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE AT THE SPEECH & DEBATE COMPETITION – Postponed to July 9, 2019**

**10. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**10.A. BUDGET STUDY SESSION & PUBLIC HEARING FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019-2021**

**1) Staff Report**

The report was given by Administrative Services Director Czerwin.

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

In answering Member Coffman-Gomez, Administrative Services Director Czerwin stated sixty-four (64) employees were eligible for early retirement.

Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib, in answering Member Coffman-Gomez, explained how the Strawberry Festival fund would be used.

Administrative Services Director Czerwin, Library Director Heitzig, and Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib answered questions from Mayor Pro Tempore Garcia regarding taxes, maintenance of effort for the library, sales tax revenues, changes to parks programs and funding thereof.

In answering Member Hernandez, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib explained that Pájaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA) would be overseeing case management and parent workshops for the Contigo Program. Member Hernandez asked for a presentation from PVPSA regarding their goal for the Contigo Program.

Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib answered questions from Mayor Estrada regarding services offered at Ramsay Park and changes in funding levels for recreation.

In answering Member Gonzalez, Public Works & Utilities Director Palmisano spoke about loans listed on the budget for the Mañana Lane Sewer and the Freedom Boulevard Sewer Projects.

Administrative Services Director Czerwin, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Rodriguez answered questions from Member Gonzalez regarding Gas Tax revenues, Grants and project funding thereof, and Measure D revenues.

In answering Member Hurst, Administrative Services Director Czerwin and City Manager Huffaker spoke about efforts by the City to increase revenues.

In answering Mayor Estrada, Administrative Services Director Czerwin and City Manager Huffaker explained the reasons for hiring consultants for services.

Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib and City Manager Huffaker, in answering Mayor Estrada spoke about restructuring Neighborhood Services.

In answering Member Hurst, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib spoke about planned improvements to parks' facilities and stated Council would receive a report on July 9, 2019.

Member Coffman-Gomez asked for a report regarding Friends of Watsonville Parks & Community Services, Inc.

**3) Public Hearing**

Mayor Estrada opened the Public Hearing.

Steve Trujillo, Pájaro Village, spoke about the importance of tourism for cities and suggested increasing the Transient Occupation Tax. He asked that the City pursue acquiring a bowling alley and more lively entertainment to increase tax revenues.

Ramiro Medrano, counselor at Pájaro Valley High School, spoke in support of the Contigo Program. He asked that Ramsay Park be better utilized and offer more programs for youth. He requested that Council reopen Oral Communications from the Public at the end of the meeting.

Lizbetania Garcia stated bullying was a big issue in Watsonville and asked Council to implement programs to address bullying for youth. She spoke in support of the Contigo Program and asked that it be expanded to include elementary school children.

Seeing no one else approach the podium, Mayor Estrada closed the Public Hearing.

**4) MOTION:** It was moved by Member Coffman-Gomez, seconded by Member Hernandez to approve resolution 10.A.4)a) and introduce ordinance 10.A.4)b):

- a) **RESOLUTION NO. 86-19 (CM):  
RESOLUTION FIXING DATE & TIME AS JUNE 25, 2019, AT 6:30 P.M.  
FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF BIENNIAL  
BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019-2020 & 2020-2021 & DIRECTING  
THE CITY CLERK TO GIVE NOTICE THEREOF**
  
- b) **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION AMENDING CHAPTER 3 ADMINISTRATIVE  
DEPARTMENTS) OF TITLE 2 (ADMINISTRATION) OF THE WATSONVILLE  
MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE 14 ENTITLED  
INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT MAKING SAME A CITY  
DEPARTMENT REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE CITY MANAGER**

**5) City Council Deliberation on the Motion**

In answering Mayor Pro Tempore Garcia, City Manager Huffaker explained how the Downtown Specific Plan was tied to the budget.

**MOTION:** The above motion carried by the following vote to approve the above resolution 10.A.40a) and introduce the ordinance 10.A.4)b).

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

**11. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Continued)**

**11.C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & COUNCIL**

Ramiro Medrano, counselor at Pájaro Valley High School, stated the City had become unaffordable and was forced to move. He spoke in opposition to the Police campaign targeting street vendors. He recommended implementing a policy that allows waiving of fees for street vendors if they sell healthy food options.

Member Gonzalez congratulated Fire Chief Lopez on his hire as Watsonville Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Lopez thanked the Council and community for their support. He spoke about his ties to the community.

Member Hernandez invited the public to upcoming community events and spoke about events he attended over the previous weeks.

Member Coffman-Gomez invited the public to upcoming community events. She spoke about efforts by the City to improve usage of the Mello Center. She asked for updates on National Night Out, the Strawberry Festival, and maintenance on Pennsylvania Drive.

Mayor Pro Tempore Garcia spoke about the progress of the Summer in the City Program. She stated California Strawberry Commission had distributed grants to students. She spoke about her efforts to inform the community on the importance of the Census.

Member Hurst asked the public to stay safe during Fourth of July festivities.

Member Parker invited the public to upcoming community events.

Mayor Estrada congratulated the graduating class of 2019 and thanked those who supported the students. He invited the public to the Strawberry Jam Race. He asked the public to complete the parks master plans surveys. He stated climate change was affecting the community and asked the public to care for those who work in the fields.

**12. EMERGENCY ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA**

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

Mayor Estrada asked to continue discussions about street vendors. City Manager Huffaker stated staff would work with the community to address concerns about compliance with City policies.

Mayor Pro Tempore Garcia asked for a resolution in opposition to Assembly Bill 516. City Manager Huffaker stated the Mayor would send a letter in opposition to AB 516 instead due to time limitations.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

/s/Francisco Estrada  
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Beatriz Vázquez Flores  
City Clerk

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