



MINUTES REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 22, 2020

City of Watsonville
Teleconference/Remote

4:30 p.m.

1. 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.

1.A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

- 1. Agency negotiators: Mayor’s Ad Hoc Committee (Councilmembers Hurst, Parker and Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez)

Unrepresented employee: City Attorney

1.B. PERSONNEL MATTERS §54957

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Title: City Attorney

5:32 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor García, Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez and Council Members Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, and Parker were present via teleconference through Zoom Webinar.

Staff members present via teleconference through Zoom Webinar were City Manager Huffaker, City Attorney Smith, City Clerk Vázquez Flores, Public Works & Utilities Director Palmisano, Police Chief Honda, Fire Chief Lopez, Deputy City Managers Manning and Vides, Administrative Services Director Czerwin, Airport Director Williams, Community Development Director Merriam, Interim Library Director Martinez, Information Technology Director Boyes, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Rodriguez, Assistant Police Chief Sims, Assistant Parks & Community Services Director Heistein, Principal Planner Meek, Police Fiscal Manager Maldonado, Assistant City Clerk Ortiz, Assistant Planner Wikle, and Interpreters Vazquez-Quintero and Landaverry.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. VIRTUAL MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.A. REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS

5.B. MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS REPORT

5.C. WRITTEN REPORTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS REGARDING ACTIONS TAKEN ON THEIR REGIONAL COMMISSIONS/BOARD MEETINGS THAT MAY AFFECT THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE (None)

6. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

6.A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Paz Padilla, Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, thanked Council for supporting Watsonville residents through COVID-19 Pandemic housing struggles.

Fernie stated City Manager Huffaker was unresponsive to the community. He stated his disappointment at Member Hurst being disrespectful toward a speaker at a previous meeting.

Gina Cole invited the public to upcoming bicycling events. She encouraged residents living in the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County to provide input on the County of Santa Cruz Active Transportation Plan. She encouraged donations to the Campesino Caravan fundraiser.

Frances Salgado asked that Member Hurst be held accountable for his actions in regards to disrespectful gestures toward a community member at a previous meeting.

Gabriel Medina asked that Members Hurst and Parker resign from their position as Council Members. He stated the community was seeking change to the makeup of the Council and would be supporting candidates that reflected the needs of the community.

Steve Trujillo announced he was running for a seat on the Cabrillo College Governing Board. He listed reasons that Cabrillo College should not be named after Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo.

Elizabeth, District 7, asked staff to include all community meetings on the website's calendar. She voiced her concerns regarding how community meetings were being held. She stated her disappointment at Council Member Hurst's behavior towards her at a previous meeting and asked for a process for filing a complaint against a Council Member.

6.B. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL

Mayor Garcia asked for a moment of silence in honor of recently deceased Watsonville High School teacher Abel Mejia.

Member Gonzalez asked for a moment of silence in honor of recently deceased Ray Hermosillo. He thanked all first responders and essential workers for their efforts during the pandemic. He encouraged seniors to attend an ice cream social at the Senior Center.

Member Hurst apologized for his behavior at a previous meeting and apologized to Elizabeth for offending her. He spoke about the positive work the City had done for the community and asked for unity of the community.

Member Estrada spoke about the many challenges the community was facing and the toll it had taken on people's emotions. He stated his disappointment at the behavior exhibited by Council and the public at the previous meeting.

Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez asked for a moment of silence in honor of recently deceased Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She proposed reestablishing the Youth City Council program.

Member Parker asked for civility from the Council and the public. She thanked the public for their efforts to help others through the pandemic.

Member Hernandez spoke about the many challenges the community was facing in 2020. He spoke about the accomplishments of recently deceased Watsonville High School teacher Abel Mejia. He thanked the community for their efforts to help others through the pandemic. He invited the public to upcoming community events and encouraged the public to complete the census.

Mayor Garcia spoke about her participation in the Santa Cruz County Realtors Association's Mayors Summit, press conference regarding Assembly Bill 826, and meeting with Jim Brown, executive director at Santa Cruz County Arts Council. She asked the public to complete the Census.

6.C. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION—No Action Required

City Attorney Smith reported that Council discussed all items listed on the Closed Session Statement, took no action on the first item, and stated the second item was confidential because it was regarding a personnel matter.

6.D. MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH, ACKNOWLEDGING THE WATSONVILLE FILM FESTIVAL FOR SHOWCASING LATINX STORIES IN THE COMMUNITY AND RECOGNIZING ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CO-FOUNDER, CONSUELO ALBA-SPEYER FOR HER WORK IN STEADILY GROWING THE FESTIVAL'S IMPACT OVER THE YEARS

7. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

7.A. ANNUAL MEMBER AGENCY PRESENTATION OF CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY ENERGY BY MANAGER OF ENERGY ACCOUNT SERVICES WILLIAMS

7.B. PRESENTATION REGARDING THE NEIGHBORHOOD COURTS PROGRAM AT THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE BY ITS COORDINATOR, ELAINE JOHNSON

7.C. CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE REPORT

City Manager Huffaker, in answering Member Hernandez, spoke about Santa Cruz County guidelines for Halloween.

City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez regarding repurposing of the landfill, plans for National Night Out, and road improvements to Pennsylvania Drive.

Member Hurst recommended repurposing the landfill as a solar farm, asked the public to prevent the spread of COVID-19, complete the Census, and stay safe during Halloween.

City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Member Estrada regarding guidelines for allowing sports programs to be reinstated and County COVID-19 contact tracing.

Elizabeth, District 7, asked for results regarding George Washington Bust Survey, requested the recording of the Downtown Specific Plan Webinar, requested town hall meetings, and asked the City to cease inquiring residents about her.

City Manager Huffaker informed the public that information regarding the Downtown Specific Plan and the recording of the webinar were available online, the results of the George Washington Bust Survey would be made available and a future community meeting.

Steve Trujillo spoke about the Buddhist Temple and his efforts to clean Salsipuedes Creek and Atri Park. He asked for town hall meetings in each district. He spoke about his campaign to be elected to the Cabrillo College Governing Board.

Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, City Council candidate, spoke about challenges of collecting Census information. In answering Ms. Quiroz-Carter, City Manager Huffaker explained guidelines for reopening playgrounds and allowing for a safe Halloween.

At Mayor Garcia's request, City Clerk Vazquez Flores read a letter submitted by Rosa Noriega Rocha regarding Member Hurst's inappropriate behavior toward public member Elizabeth.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Public Input on any Consent Agenda Item (None)

At Member Estrada's request, Mayor Garcia removed Item 8.E. from the Consent Agenda, to be considered under Item 9.

MOTION: It was moved by Member Hernandez, seconded by Member Parker and carried by the following vote to approve the Consent Agenda, except Item 8.E., which was removed:

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

8.A. MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, MEETING

**8.B. RESOLUTION NO. 170-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT TO SCHAAF & WHEELER, CONSULTING CIVIL ENGINEERS, FOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS FOR THE MILES LANE SEWER PUMP STATION UPGRADE PROJECT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$144,700**

- 8.C. **RESOLUTION NO. 171-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION APPROVING \$3 MILLION APPLICATION FOR STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS FOR REVITALIZATION OF CITY PLAZA**
- 8.D. **RESOLUTION NO. 172-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION APPROVING \$177,952 APPLICATION FOR PER CAPITA GRANT FUNDS FOR RAMSAY PARK DOG PARK**
- 8.E. **ITEM REMOVED, SEE ITEM 9.**
- 8.F. **RESOLUTION NO. 173-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING \$107,500 GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR FY2021: \$65,500 FOR THE SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP) & \$42,000 FOR THE PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY PROGRAM TO USE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAFFIC SAFETY STRATEGIES & APPROPRIATING SUCH FUNDS TO THE SPECIAL GRANTS FUND**
- 8.G. **RESOLUTION NO. 174-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION APPOINTING GINA COLE TO THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION [DISTRICT 2]**

9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

At Member Estrada’s request, Deputy City Manager Vides gave a report regarding Item 8.E.

Veronica Leon, Watsonville Campesino Appreciation Caravan, explained the work of the caravan she asked Council to approve the Item.

MOTION: It was moved by Member Estrada, seconded by Member Gonzalez and carried by the following vote to approve the Consent Agenda Item 8.E.:

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

- 8.E. **RESOLUTION NO. 175-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMITTAL OF GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE WATSONVILLE CAMPESINO APPRECIATION CARAVAN TO THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ CARES ACT HEALTH EQUITY FUND FOR \$62,514.13**

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES, & APPEALS

- 10.A. **CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION NO. PP1 FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFF-SALE BEER AND WINE (TYPE 20) ABC LICENSE FOR A PROPOSED GAS STATION WITH CONVENIENCE STORE AND CAR WASH (ARCO "AMPM") LOCATED AT 69 LEE ROAD (APN 018-302-06), FILED BY J&H RETAIL LLC.**

1) Staff Report

The report was given by Assistant Planner Wikle.

2) Applicant Presentation

The presentation was given by developer Haj Tut.

City Manager Huffaker and Assistant Planner Wikle answered questions from Member Estrada regarding efforts to prevent high alcohol outlet density near the project area, rating system of the application submitted for the project, concerns raised regarding the project, and potential improvements for the process used to approve alcohol sales permits.

3) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

City Manager Huffaker and Assistant Planner Wikle answered questions from Member Estrada regarding safeguards to prevent oversaturation of alcohol outlets in the proposed area and rating of application to obtain a permit for alcohol sales.

Assistant Planner Wikle, Assistant Police Chief Sims, City Manager Huffaker, and Principal Planner Meek answered questions from Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez regarding differences in alcohol permit types, police patrol of the project site, allowed hours of operation for alcohol sales, allowed alcohol refrigeration units, and criteria used for identifying areas as oversaturated in alcohol outlets.

Assistant Planner Wikle, Mr. Tut, and Principal Planner Meek answered questions from Member Hernandez regarding allowed alcohol sales at the proposed alcohol outlet, criteria used for approving the alcohol permit, saturation of alcohol outlets in the area, potential customer base for the business, and potential tax revenues for the City.

Community Development Director Merriam answered questions from Member Gonzalez regarding input from non-profits near the project site, effects the alcohol outlet would have on oversaturation of alcohol in the area, other potential businesses and additional alcohol outlets on the same property.

Assistant Planner Wikle and Principal Planner Meek answered questions from Mayor Garcia regarding definition of conditional use permit and potential for additional requests for alcohol permits on the same property in question.

4) Public Hearing

Mayor García opened the public hearing.

Steve Trujillo stated his concerns regarding new alcohol outlet and effects would have on the community.

Elizabeth, District 7, asked that the proposed development seek local businesses to lease space and avoid fast food outlets.

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

5) MOTION: It was moved by Member Hurst, seconded by Member Hernandez to and carried by the following vote approve the resolution listed under 10.A.7) below:

6) City Council Deliberation on the Motion

Member Estrada requested ordinances that manage saturation of fast food establishments as well as cannabis dispensaries in order to deter unhealthy habits.

Member Gonzalez asked the developer to pursue tenants that would offer nutritious food.

Mayor Garcia stated her concerns regarding oversaturation of alcohol outlets in the census tract where the proposed project was located.

Mr. Tut answered questions from Member Parker regarding efforts to attract local businesses to occupy their lease spaces.

**7) RESOLUTION NO. 176-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT (APPLICATION NO. PP1)
TO ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TYPE 20 OFF-SALE BEER & WINE
LICENSE IN GAS STATION WITH CONVENIENCE STORE & CAR WASH WITH
ALCOHOL SALES AT THE ARCO "AM/PM" AT 69 LEE ROAD (APN 018-302-06)**

MOTION: The above motion carried by the following vote:

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.A. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RAMSAY PARK PUMP TRACK PLANS & AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH MOUNTAIN BIKERS OF SANTA CRUZ (MBOSC)

1) Staff Report

The report was given by Assistant Parks & Community Services Director Heistein.

Garrett Hammack and Drew Perkins, representing Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz County, gave a report.

2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

Assistant Parks & Community Services Director Heistein and Mr. Hammack answered questions from Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez regarding allowed use of the pump track, etiquette for track users, proposed size of pump track, potential amenities, access to the pump track from nearby trails, efforts by staff to keep the area safe, and potential use of pump track for competitions and education.

Mr. Hammack answered questions from Member Hernandez regarding track options that would be available to users.

In answering Member Gonzalez, Mr. Hammack spoke about options available to users that would deter conflicts at the pump track, pump track design, and ongoing maintenance of the pump track.

Mr. Hammack, Assistant Parks & Community Services Director Heistein, and Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib answered questions from Member Estrada regarding materials that would be used for construction, areas that would provide shade, and potential partnerships with organizations that provide assistance to those seeking bicycles or bicycle safety education.

In answering Mayor Garcia, Mr. Hammack spoke about suggested bicycles and safety equipment for use of the pump track.

3) Public Input

Gina Cole spoke in support of the proposed project.

Elizabeth, District 7, spoke in support of the proposed project, but asked that the memorial benches remain untouched. She encouraged Council to pursue a program to make bicycles accessible to children.

Steve Trujillo spoke in support of the proposed project and asked Council to pursue a program to make bicycles accessible to children.

4) MOTION: It was moved by Member Hernandez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez to approve the resolution listed below:

5) City Council Deliberation on Motion

Members Hernandez and Gonzalez spoke about the benefits that the proposed project would have on the community.

Member Hurst thanked staff and Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz County for their efforts.

Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez asked staff to explore partnerships to provide bicycles to those in need.

Mayor Garcia asked staff to encourage girls to use the pump track.

**6) RESOLUTION NO. 177-20 (CM):
RESOLUTION APPROVING CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH MOUNTAIN BIKERS OF SANTA CRUZ FOR THE RAMSAY PARK BICYCLE PUMP TRACK, APPROVING THE PLANS FOR THE RAMSAY PARK BICYCLE PUMP TRACK & AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO MAKE ANY NON-SUBSTANTIVE MODIFICATIONS DEEMED NECESSARY AS DETERMINED DURING THE COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION**

MOTION: The above motion carried by the following vote:

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

12. EMERGENCY ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA

13. REQUESTS & SCHEDULING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (None)

Member Estrada requested a report regarding fireworks use on the Fourth of July and mitigating its use throughout the year.

Mayor Coffman-Gomez requested a report by the County of Santa Cruz on projects in Watsonville, a report regarding Transient Occupancy Tax revenue changes by Visit Santa Cruz County CEO Maggie Ivy, and a discussion item on the rules of conduct by Council.

Member Gonzalez requested an update by the Navigation Day Center.

Member Hernandez requested a presentation on Schools and Community First from Pájaro Valley Unified School District.

Mayor Garcia requested a report regarding process for filing a complaint against a council member. She asked the public to participate in the virtual Watsonville Academy.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
Rebecca Garcia
7E876792E9544D5
Rebecca J. García, Mayor

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Beatriz Vazquez Flores
76A00E7A30A14E3...
Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk

This page was left blank intentionally.