



MINUTES OF MENDOTA REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Regular Meeting

February 25, 2020

Meeting called to order by Mayor Castro at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Council Members Present: Mayor Rolando Castro, Councilors Jesus Mendoza and Oscar Rosales

Council Members Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Victor Martinez

Flag salute led by Officer David Maldonado

FINALIZE THE AGENDA

1. Adjustments to Agenda.
2. Adoption of final Agenda.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosales to adopt the agenda, seconded by Councilor Mendoza; unanimously approved (3 ayes, absent: Martinez).

SWEARING IN

1. Acting City Clerk Lekumberry to swear in Officer Alejandro Lopez.

Acting City Clerk Lekumberry swore in Officer Alejandro Lopez.

Chief of Police Andreotti shared biographical information on the officer; and the Council welcomed the officer and thanked him for joining the Mendota Police Department.

At 6:09 p.m. Mayor Castro announced that there would be a break.

At 6:12 p.m. the Council reconvened in open session.

CITIZENS ORAL AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS

None offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND NOTICE OF WAIVING OF READING

1. Minutes of the City Council meeting of January 14, 2020.
2. Notice of waiving of the reading of all resolutions and/or ordinances introduced and/or adopted under this agenda.

A motion was made by Councilor Mendoza to approve items 1 and 2, seconded by Councilor Rosales; unanimously approved (3 ayes, absent: Martinez).

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. JANUARY 28, 2020 THROUGH FEBRUARY 6, 2020
WARRANT LIST CHECKS NO. 46391 THROUGH 46454
TOTAL FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL = \$749,734.71
2. FEBRUARY 12, 2020 THROUGH FEBRUARY 19, 2020
WARRANT LIST CHECKS NO. 46455 THROUGH 46502
TOTAL FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL = \$274,471.39
3. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 20-04**, authorizing and directing in its capacity of GSA, that application be made to obtain a grant under the sustainable groundwater management grant program's planning grant – round 3 and to enter into an agreement with the California Department of Water Resources to receive a grant for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Supplemental GSP Development Proposal.
4. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 20-05**, approving an amendment to the agreement with Superior Court of California County of Fresno for remote video proceeding services.
5. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 20-06**, supplementing Resolution No. 19-95 by requesting that the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission proceedings for the Amador-Smoot Reorganization include detachment of the subject territory from Westlands Water District.

Mayor Castro commented on the reason for two warrant lists on the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosales to approve items 1 through 5, seconded by Councilor Mendoza; unanimously approved (3 ayes, absent: Martinez).

BUSINESS

1. Council discussion and consideration of **Resolution No. 20-07**, discussion and Minutes of City Council Meeting 2 02/25/2020

consideration on filling the City Council Member vacancy.

Mayor Castro introduced the item. City Attorney Kinsey provided report including the recent vacancy on the City Council; filling of the vacant seat through appointment; the option of a special election and the high costs associated with the special election; the term of the vacant seat and that it will go to November 2020 election.

Mayor Castro commented on going through this appointment process previously and the difficult decision that will be made.

Councilor Rosales commented on his positive experiences with Mr. Silva and the difficult decision he and the Council is faced with and the recommendation he received from Former Mayor Silva.

Councilor Mendoza thanked everyone for being here and everyone who applied. Councilor Mendoza commented the difficult decision he is faced with.

Mayor Castro commented on the decision to be made and opened public comment.

Sergio Valdez commented on the need to choose someone who has experience on the Council and recommended Joseph R. Riofrio.

Dino Perez commented on his work in the community and his desire to work with the Council to continue to serve the community including bringing his resources and new ideas to the city.

Albert Escobedo expressed his love for Mendota and his desire to serve the community and the people of Mendota. He shared his experience on the Planning Commission and his knowledge of the procedures and ethics of the Council.

Joseph R. Riofrio commented on the recent vacancy and the various boards attended by the Council; on his experience on the Council of 20 years; on the growth of the city; on his readiness and desire to work with the Council. He thanked the Council for their consideration.

Councilor Mendoza asked Riofrio what he would do differently if appointed and Riofrio responded he would be more committed to doing more.

Mayor Castro mentioned the various changes made within city staff and Council.

Jonathan Leiva thanked the council for their consideration. He commented on his unbiased approach; his desire to work in a collective manner with Council and the community; on the direction of the City; on his current seat on the Planning Commission; and on his desire to stay in Mendota.

Jose Alonso commented on his experience; on his ideas for the community; on his attendance to every City Council meeting over the last two years.

John Flores commented on the two terms he served; on his trust in the Council to chose the best candidate; and wished Council the best.

Councilor Mendoza asked Flores what he would do differently if appointed and Flores responded he would use common sense in doing what is best for the community.

Joe Valencia commented on his intent to learn and help the community; on his desire to be involved in the City.

At 6:48 p.m. Mayor Castro announced that there would be a restroom break.

At 6:58 p.m. the Council reconvened in open session.

Mayor Castro commented on the difficult decision to be made.

Councilor Mendoza commented on the application screening process including the speeches made by each applicant; and the difficult decision; on the support of his team; and on his request for an extra day or two to decide at a Special City Council Meeting.

Councilor Rosales commented on his desire to nominate a candidate.

Mayor Castro commented on the tough decision and a conversation he previously had with Former Mayor Silva.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosales to adopt Resolution No. 20-07, nominating Joseph R. Riofrio to fill the vacant seat on the City Council, seconded by; Mayor Castro; unanimously approved (3 ayes, absent: Martinez).

Joseph Amador commented on the tough decision made by Council.

Councilor Mendoza commented on the tough decision and on the various qualified candidates. He congratulated Joseph R. Riofrio and the entire team.

Mayor Castro inquired about swearing in Mr. Riofrio and City Attorney Kinsey informed Council that would take place on March 10.

2. Council discussion and consideration of **Resolution No. 20-08**, approving the Mowry Bridge Replacement Project CEQA Addendum to the SLC EIR adopted for the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Improvements Project (Sch No. 2009072044).

Mayor Castro introduced the item and City Engineer Osborn provided his report including the background of the item; the reason for the Mowry Bridge Replacement Project

California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) Addendum to the State Lands Commission (“SLC”) Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”) adopted for the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Improvements Project; and the State Lands Commission comment letter and the response issued.

City Attorney Kinsey commented on the well written addendum prepared by the City Engineer’s office.

Mayor Castro commented on the importance of this project due to the bridge carrying the City’s main water line.

Discussion was held on the size of the pipe; on any potential build up inside of the pipe; on the recommended size of the pipe; and on the city’s water infrastructure.

Mayor Castro asked if it was the City Engineer’s recommendation in determining the size of pipe size considering future growth and needed water pressure. Mayor Castro also commented that future development may require an additional well that will be paid for by a developer or the city.

City Attorney Kinsey clarified that the City cannot commit to building a new well at this meeting; and that the discussion for this item is that the design is such that it will not require modification should another well be installed.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosales to adopt Resolution No. 20-08, seconded by; Councilor Mendoza; unanimously approved (3 ayes, absent: Martinez).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Animal Control, Code Enforcement, and Police Department

Chief of Police Andreotti provided his report for the Animal Control Department and informed the Council of the reduction of euthanasia.

Discussion was held on Fresno Humane Animal Services; on loose dogs by the school sites; on excessive cats; and on the health and safety issues that arise from a high number of cats.

Chief Andreotti provided his report for the Code Enforcement Department including the various notices; that a fence on a local property was replaced; and that we will have an early abatement season.

Jonathan Leiva inquired about cars parked on lawn and dirt and whether or not there is an ordinance in place; Chief Andreotti provided the process that occurs after a complaint is received.

Chief Andreotti summarized the report for the Police Department including Officer Lopez's training; a grant opportunity; their storage; and a recent search warrant.

Discussion was held on violation observed during student drop off/pick up hours; and on the recent issues with the dispatch services.

2. Finance Officer

Finance Officer Diaz congratulated Joseph R. Riofrio and provided her grant update including the status of various grants.

Discussion was held on looking into water and sewer grants.

3. City Attorney

Nothing to report.

4. City Manager

City Manager Gonzalez informed the Council that the City was not awarded Prop. 68 funds.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Council Member(s)

Councilor Mendoza commented on the need for the replacement of the basketball nets and fresh paint at the parks; and that he will continue to report potholes.

Discussion was held on the aviation project; on the simulator Boeing will provide to the Mendota Unified School District; on the storage of the aircrafts; and on aircraft hangars.

Mayor Castro requested a joint board meeting with the Mendota Unified School District.

City Manager Gonzalez informed the Council of his meeting with the school regarding planned projects and potential constraints.

Councilor Rosales commented on his invitation to the Firebaugh Rotary Club; requested donation request letters; commended the Public Works department for cleaning Pool Park; and commented on a vehicle that drove on the pavilion and peeled out last week and the response from the police department. He thanked the audience, staff and council.

2. Mayor

Mayor Castro thanked the audience and congratulated Mr. Riofrio.

CLOSED SESSION

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
 - a. Potential initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 (one potential case)

2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
 - a. Property: 655 Quince Street, Suite C, Mendota, CA 93640
 - b. Agency Negotiator: Cristian Gonzalez, City Manager
 - c. Negotiating Party: Fresno Area Workforce Investment Corporation
 - d. Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

At 8:12 p.m. the Council moved into closed session.

At 8:45 p.m. the Council reconvened in open session and City Attorney Kinsey stated that in regards to items 1 and 2 of the closed session, there was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to be brought before the Council, a motion for adjournment was made at 8:45 p.m. by Councilor Mendoza, seconded by Mayor Castro; unanimously approved (2 ayes).



Rolando Castro, Mayor

ATTEST:



Celeste Cabrera-Garcia, City Clerk

