



MINUTES OF MENDOTA REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Regular Meeting

February 28, 2023

Meeting called to order by Mayor Martinez at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Martinez, Mayor Pro Tem Libertad “Liberty” Lopez, Councilors Jose Alonso and Oscar Rosales

Council Members Absent: Councilor Joseph Riofrio

Flag salute led by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez

Invocation led by Police Chaplain Robert Salinas

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 Alonso; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Riofrio).

PRESENTATIONS

1. Fresno County Economic Development Corporation to present information on the services the organization provides.

Mayor Martinez introduced the item and Sherry Neil, Darian Galindo, Tiffany Louk, Spencer Bremer, Mai See Vang, and Will Oliver with Fresno County Economic Development Corporation (“EDC”) presented information on services provided by their organization.

Discussion was held on the presentation given by Fresno County EDC.

CITIZENS ORAL AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS

Ofelia Ochoa – stated she is happy that new businesses in the City have been beneficial to residents; stated that she gathered signatures to be given to either State Senator Anna Caballero, Fresno County Supervisor Brian Pacheco, or Assembly Member Esmeralda Soria in the hopes of obtaining a stop light at Highways 180 and 33 near Burger King; and thanked staff for their work with the all-inclusive playground at Rojas-Pierce Park.

Discussion was held on the comments made by Ms. Ochoa; on traffic issues near the schools; the roundabout project at the intersection of Highways 180 and 33 near Burger King; the need to educate community members on how to properly use roundabouts; the gravity of the homelessness issue in the City; and on the upcoming Town Hall meeting planned for late March/early April.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND NOTICE OF WAIVING OF READING

1. Minutes of the special and regular City Council meetings of February 14, 2023.
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 Rosales to approve items 1 and 2, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Riofrio).

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. FEBRUARY 15, 2023 THROUGH FEBRUARY 21, 2023
WARRANT LIST CHECK NOS. 52896 THROUGH 52947
TOTAL FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL = \$619,162.78
2. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 23-10**, supporting and urging the approval and funding of the grant application submitted by the City of Huron to the California Public Utilities Commission for a Local Agency Technical Assistance Grant.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosales to approve items 1 through 2, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Riofrio).

BUSINESS

1. Council discussion and consideration of its participation and attendance at various external events.

Mayor Martinez introduced the item and City Clerk Cabrera-Garcia provided the report.

Discussion was held on the report provided by City Clerk Cabrera-Garcia, including the possibility of the City Council as a whole providing direction regarding which items are

addressed at external events; the importance of the City Council Members who attend events reporting back to the entire City Council on their experience; which City Council Members would attend which events; and on the issue of trash being illegally dumped in the City.

City Council consensus was reached to direct staff to conduct additional research for the item for discussion at a future City Council meeting.

2. Council discussion and consideration of the status of the William Robert Johnston Municipal Airport.

Mayor Martinez introduced the item and City Manager Gonzalez provided the report.

Discussion was held on the report provided by City Manager Gonzalez.

Mayor Martinez opened the floor to receive any public comments.

Ofelia Ochoa stated that the City Council should obtain community input on what should be done with the William Robert Johnston Municipal Airport (the "Airport").

Discussion was held on the comments made by Ms. Ochoa and on possible uses for the Airport.

Mayor Martinez closed the floor to public comments.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosales to provide direction to staff to look for alternative uses for the William Robert Johnston Municipal Airport and inform the Caltrans Aeronautics Division that the Airport will not be repaired, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Riofrio).

3. Council discussion and consideration of **Resolution No. 23-11**, approving a pilot teleconferencing participation program for members of the public to enable greater access to public meetings.

Mayor Martinez introduced the item and Assistant City Attorney Castro provided the report.

Discussion was held on the report provided by Assistant City Attorney Castro, and the requirements for City Council members to participate remotely and the possibility of live streaming City Council meetings, including possible streaming platforms.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosales to direct staff to research and implement a YouTube channel to live stream City Council meetings, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Riofrio).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Animal Control, Code Enforcement, and Police Department
 - a) January Monthly Reports

Chief of Police Smith provided the monthly report for the Animal Control department.

Discussion was held on the report provided by Chief Smith, including the poor condition of the dog pound.

Mayor Pro Tem Lopez left the Council Chambers and returned at 7:41 p.m.

Chief Smith provided the monthly report for the Code Enforcement department, including monthly statistics.

Discussion was held on the report provided by Chief Smith.

Chief Smith provided the monthly report for the Police Department, including monthly statistics.

Discussion was held on the report provided by Chief Smith; the importance of public safety in the City, including the need to increase participation in the Public Safety Subcommittee meetings and gun issues being faced by the Community.

2. City Attorney
 - a) Update

Assistant City Attorney Castro provided an update on the upcoming AB 1234 Ethics Training.

3. City Manager
 - a) Update

City Manager Gonzalez provided an update on the upcoming Pool Park Subcommittee meetings, and the joint meeting with Mendota Unified School District ("MUSD") Board of Trustees.

Discussion was held on the update provided by City Manager Gonzalez; items to be discussed at the joint meeting with MUSD, including public safety items and their active shooter protocol; issues with the Casa de Rosa apartments; issue of multiple renters in households; sidewalk vendors in the City; the City's citation system and the need to revisit fees for illegal trash dumping; animal control issues; and food sale fundraisers held by community members.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Council Member(s)

Councilor Alonso thanked everyone for their attendance at the Mendota Police Station Groundbreaking Ceremony; thanked City staff for their work; announced that he was elected to be a Delegate for the California Democratic Party; and thanked Congressman John Duarte for flying a United States flag at the United States Capital in his honor.

Mayor Pro Tem Lopez commented on the arrest of a community member; the upcoming Town Hall meeting and the possibility of holding it March 29th from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.; requested that Chief Smith remind his officers not to text while driving; commented on the AMOR Wellness Gala event, including the possibility of City representatives attending; mental health workshops being held at the AMOR Wellness Center; and an upcoming Central Valley Leadership meeting.

Discussion was held on the comments made by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez.

Councilor Rosales commented on Congressman John Duarte and the progress being made at City parks.

2. Mayor

Mayor Martinez commented on a meeting that he recently had with State Senator Anna Caballero; an upcoming meeting with Fresno County Supervisor Brian Pacheco; progress being made on projects throughout the City; and thanked everyone for their work.

CLOSED SESSION

1. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Pursuant to subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54957
Title: City Manager

At 8:49 p.m. the Council moved into closed session.

At 9:32 p.m. the Council reconvened in open session and Assistant City Attorney Castro stated that in regard to item 1 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 9:32 p.m. by Mayor Martinez, seconded by Councilor Alonso; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Riofrio).



Victor Martinez, Mayor

ATTEST:



Celeste Cabrera-Garcia, City Clerk

