



**MINUTES OF MENDOTA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Regular Meeting

June 14, 2016

Meeting called to order by Mayor Silva at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Council Members Present: Mayor Robert Silva, Mayor Pro Tem Sergio Valdez, Councilors Joseph Amador, Rolando Castro, and Joseph Riofrio.

Council Members Absent: None.

Flag salute led by Mayor Silva.

Invocation led by Carina Rivas.

A moment of silence was held in honor of the victims of the Orlando attack.

FINALIZE THE AGENDA

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

City Manager DiMaggio requested that item 5 of the Consent Calendar be continued to the June 28th City Council meeting.

A motion was made by Councilor Riofrio to adopt the agenda as requested by staff, seconded by Councilor Amador; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

CITIZENS ORAL AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS

Kevin Romero (160 Tuft Street) – stated that he is against the proposed reorganization of the City Council.

Discussion was held on the proposed reorganization being a business item on the agenda.

Ken Faulkner – stated that God’s will is important in our actions in order to succeed.

Jon Anderson (Senator Anthony Cannella’s Office) – explained that Senator Cannella is now the Vice-Chairperson for the Rules Committee; the importance of the Rules Committee; and funding that Senator Cannella has acquired for the City of Mendota for police department improvements.

Discussion was held on the amount of funds that has been allocated to Mendota; how the funds have to be used; and the timeframe of utilizing the funds.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND NOTICE OF WAIVING OF READING

1. Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of May 24, 2016.
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 Riofrio to approve items 1 and 2, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. MAY 24, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 08, 2016
WARRANT LIST CHECKS NO. 041012 THRU 041081
TOTAL FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL = \$275,001.20
2. Appointment of a Mendota resident to the Mendota Planning Commission.
3. Approval of applications for permits to sell fireworks.
4. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 16-39**, approving Merchant Services with Westamerica Bank for debit/credit card services.
5. *Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 16-42**, adjusting the salary schedules for the Chief Plant Operator and Finance Director positions.
[Continued to the June 28th City Council meeting]*

Discussion was held on whether Jonathan Leiva was present.

A motion was made to approve items 1 and 2 of the Consent Calendar by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, seconded by Councilor Castro; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

BUSINESS

1. Council discussion on the proposed Mendota Municipal Code amendment related to City Council reorganization.

Mayor Silva introduced the item and City Attorney Kinsey reported that discussion was held at the May 24th City Council meeting on the potential reorganization of the City Council; reported on the process and timeline of amending the Mendota Municipal Code (MMC); the direct and indirect costs associated with amending the MMC; and the current Council reorganization process.

Discussion was held on whether the legal costs of researching the issue is included within the City Attorney's retainer; the amount of funds that have been expended thus far related to the issue; modifications that have been to the reorganization process in the past; and why the legal costs of researching the issue are not included in the City Attorney's retainer.

Victor Lopez (Mayor of Orange Cove, CA) - introduced himself and stated that Mayor Silva is important to Fresno County cities for a variety of reasons; various organizations and agencies that Mayor Silva is a member of; and the importance of Mayor Silva advocating for the citizens of Mendota as well as small Fresno County cities.

Kevin Romero (160 Tuft Street) - stated that he volunteers for various organizations within the City; reported on the significant progress that the City has made in recent years; and stated that he is against the reorganization of the City Council.

Councilor Castro reported on the importance of the Council taking into consideration the public's opinion; the need for the Council to work together; and improving communication between Council Members and staff.

Discussion was held on various agencies that Mayor Silva is a part of; the importance of properly managing funds; ensuring that the public's concerns are heard; the various funds that are being utilized for road reconstruction in the upcoming fiscal year; and beautifying the community.

Councilor Castro requested that Mayor Silva continue to the next agenda item.

2. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 16-37**, authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the Fresno Council of Governments for Measure C New Technology Funds.

Mayor Silva introduced the item and Director of Administrative Services Johnson summarized the report including applying for Measure C New Technology Funds for an aviation project and introduced Joseph Oldham from CALSTART.

Joseph Oldham from CALSTART presented information on the proposed aviation

project at the Mendota airport; applying for Measure C New Technology funds, along with the City of Reedley, to fund the project; agencies that are participating in the effort; the proposed project being the first deployment of electric aircraft flight training operations in the United States; the type of electric airplanes that will be purchased and the company that produces them; and airplanes hangars that will be purchased and kept at the Mendota airport.

Discussion was held on the success of the 1st Annual Air Rally Event; the timeline of the proposed project; other opportunities that are available for the Mendota Airport; the company that produces the electric airplanes; and ways to improve the Mendota Airport.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution No. 16-37 by Councilor Amador, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

3. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 16-41**, authorizing the City Manager to initiate a contract with Townsend for grant writing services.

Mayor Silva introduced the item and City Manager DiMaggio summarized the report.

Christopher Townsend, founder and president of Townshend Public Affairs (TPA), provided an overview of the firm including various agencies and organizations that the firm represents; various advantages that TPA brings to the agencies that they serve (7:30 p.m. Councilor Castro left the Council Chambers and returned at 7:32 p.m.); shared his background information; and introduced Sharon Gonsalves.

Sharon Gonsalves from TPA shared her background and presented information on TPA including various staff members of the firm; funding achievements; relationships that TPA has with various individuals and agencies; and funding that was acquired for the police department.

Discussion was held on holding a workshop with TPA in order to discuss the priorities of the Council and staff; the need for funding for different projects; the importance of prioritizing the needs of the community; and Council thanked TPA for their assistance in acquiring funding for the Mendota Police Department.

A motion was made to approve Resolution No. 16-41 by Councilor Riofrio, seconded by Councilor Amador; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

4. Council discussion and consideration on waiving the fees related to the Annual Harvest Fiesta.

At 7:56 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem stepped down from the dais and joined the audience.

Mayor Silva introduced the item.

Corina Banuelos and Sergio Valdez from Mendota Youth Recreation (MYR)

requested that the Council waive the business license fees for the Harvest Fiesta.

Discussion was held on the fees that MYR pays to the City for the Harvest Fiesta; the fees that MYR has paid to the City in the past; the amount of fees that other cities charge; the amount of revenue that MYR receives from the event; various events that MYR hosts; the amount that the Harvest Fiesta business license fee will be; and the composition of the business license fee for amusement parks and attractions.

Polly Garcia (210 San Pedro) – inquired on the fees that the City would collect from the Harvest Fiesta.

Discussion was held on the fees that the Mendota Youth Recreation and the carnival company would pay to the City.

William Membreno – stated that the City benefits from sales tax that the carnival employees will pay.

Robert Alejandre (785 I Street) - stated that the City unnecessarily spent funds on the proposed reorganization of the Council and should waive the fees related to the Annual Harvest Fiesta.

Discussion was held on the amount of fees that MYR pays to contract security guards and what the City invests towards the Harvest Fiesta.

A motion was made to waive the business license fees for the Harvest Fiesta up to \$1,500 (one thousand and five hundred dollars) by Councilor Riofrio, seconded by Councilor Castro; approved (4 ayes, abstain: Valdez).

At 8:23 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Valdez returned to the dais.

5. Proposed adoption of **Ordinance No. 16-05**: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 8.36 of the Mendota Municipal Code Relating to the Establishment and Operation of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries, the Indoor and Outdoor Cultivation of Medical Marijuana, and the Delivery of Medical Marijuana, and Give First Reading, by Title only, with Second Reading waived.

City Attorney Kinsey summarized the report including previous Council discussions that resulted in the drafting of the proposed ordinance and the purpose of the ordinance.

A motion was made to waive the second reading of Ordinance No. 16-05 by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, seconded by Councilor Riofrio; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

Discussion was held on the stance that the City is taking on medical marijuana; legal ramifications that cities have faced; the recreational use of marijuana; the stance the League of California Cities has taken on this issue; and the general feeling within the community being to prohibit all uses and cultivation of marijuana.

William Membreno - spoke against the proliferation of marijuana and inquired on the Police Chief's opinion regarding the issue.

Chief Andreotti summarized his zero tolerance stance on marijuana and stated that he supports the proposed ordinance.

Discussion was held on the purpose of the ordinance and the presence of marijuana within the City (8:34 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Valdez left the Council Chambers).

A motion was made to adopt Ordinance No. 16-05 by Councilor Riofrio, seconded by Councilor Amador; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Valdez).

At 8:35 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Valdez returned to the Council Chambers.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Code Enforcement
 - a) Monthly Report

Economic Development Manager Flood summarized the report and provided information on the ongoing weed abatement process.

Discussion was held on the Noise Permit; illegal signs on businesses; the weeds that exist on various properties; the eviction of squatters at 643 Riofrio Street; the need for businesses to be clean and comply with the law; and ensuring equitable enforcement by Code Enforcement Officers.

2. Police Department
 - a) Monthly Report

Chief Andreotti summarized his report including a missed call to dispatch due to Firebaugh Dispatch being busy that is now being handled administratively within their department as a personnel issue; provided an update on grants that the department has applied for; reported on the status of vehicle up-fitting and redesign; the progress of the new lieutenant and sergeant; the eviction of squatters at 643 Riofrio Street and the resources that were offered to them; and the decline in reported incidences from last year to this year.

Discussion was held on why the Police Chief and Lieutenant generally wear civilian clothing and the philosophy behind it; the high level of professionalism that exists within the police department; a study regarding the need of resources within the community that an employee from the Marjaree Mason Center discussed; the use of illegal fireworks within the City; problems related to alcohol within the community; databases that are made to track criminals and how strict some counties are compared to others; and the problems that individuals addicted to drugs that cause within the City.

3. City Attorney
 - a) Update

City Attorney Kinsey reported that he has been working with the Code Enforcement department to create forms and processes for the new public nuisance ordinance; shared an article about the Selma Unified School District and challenges they faced due to a grand jury investigation; and reported on the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) emergency water regulations.

Discussion was held on the SWRCB mandate being different for each city and district and the impacts that Sustainable Groundwater Management Act may have on the City's water supply.

4. City Manager

Discussion was held on meeting with a local businessman in regards to the cleanliness of his business; the splash park being open; and a public works truck that broke down.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Council Member(s)
Council reports

Councilor Castro inquired about the 21st Annual Driver Awareness event and Councilor Amador provided an update on the progress of planning the event.

2. Mayor

Mayor Silva reported on the Annual Backpack Giveaway that will be held on Sunday, July 31st.

ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to be brought before the Council, a motion for adjournment was made at 9:39 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, seconded by Councilor Amador; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Amador).



Robert Silva, Mayor

ATTEST:



Matt Flood, City Clerk

Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting



6/14/2016