

**MINUTES OF MENDOTA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Regular Meeting **Tuesday June 24, 2014**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Robert Silva at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Council Members Present: **Mayor Robert Silva, Mayor Pro Tem Joseph Amador, Councilors S. Leo Capuchino, Joseph Riofrio, and Sergio Valdez.**

Council Members Absent: **None.**

Flag Salute led by Councilor Riofrio, who also asked that a moment of silence be observed for three residents that passed away in an auto accident recently.

FINALIZE THE AGENDA

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

City Clerk Flood requested the adjusting of the agenda by removing the recognition item, which is to be postponed to a future meeting. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Amador to adopt the agenda with the aforementioned adjustment, seconded by Councilor Riofrio; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

1. Council to present Certificates of recognition to Emilio Valencia and Benny Lozano of CALFIRE.

(Continued to a future meeting)

PRESENTATION

1. Geoff Dewhurst and James Cook of First Solar to provide an update on their current solar project West of Mendota.

Mr. Cook and Mr. Dewhurst provided an update on the project including the projected start and finish dates; the plan to hire the workforce; the importance of safety on the

worksite during construction; the use of the iron and electric workers unions; and the PG&E substation project that is concurrently being constructed.

Discussion was held on the number of employees that will be hired; the application process; the importance of having employment opportunities during a time of drought; and the possibility of traffic congestion near the worksite.

2. Candie Caro of Proteus, Inc. to provide information on funds that were received recently by La Cooperativa to help renters in Mendota.

Mrs. Caro and Patty Amador shared information on assistance available to renters to pay their rent; the source of the funds that will be used for this program; the need for La Cooperativa to use the money allocated to Mendota within a specific amount of time; and how renters can qualify for the funding.

Discussion was held on the possibility of Proteus, Inc. using some currently unoccupied offices owned by the City in order to administer the program; the amount of assistance a family can receive; senior citizens and sub-letters not being able to qualify; the next Farmworker Appreciation Event in January; and a Resource fair at Mendota High School on July 11th.

3. Battalion Chief Vince Bergland of CALFIRE to present the 1st quarter report.

Battalion Chief Bergland presented the 1st quarter report including the number and types of calls; the number of fires compared to last year; the increase in arsons; the reward poster that was advertised for reporting an arsonist and the subsequent decrease in arsons.

Discussion was held on preparing for the 4th of July; the use of illegal fireworks that disturb the peace and cause fires; the possibility of the drought creating drier conditions; and recent DUI accidents that have resulted in fatalities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND NOTICE OF WAIVING OF READING

1. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of June 10, 2014 and the minutes of the Special Council Meetings of June 10 and 17, 2014.
2. Notice of waiving of the reading of all resolutions and/or ordinances introduced and/or adopted under this agenda.

A motion for approval was made by Councilor Riofrio, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Amador; unanimously approved (5 ayes, with Councilor Valdez abstaining on the June 17th Meeting, creating a vote of 4 ayes).

CITIZENS ORAL AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS

None offered.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Calendar and will be considered separately.

1. JUNE 10, 2014 THROUGH JUNE 18, 2014
WARRANT LIST CHECKS NO. 37964 THRU 38025
TOTAL FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL = \$166,023.36
2. Council adopt **Resolution No. 14-13**, modifying the benefits for management employees to allow the Public Utilities Director to use a vehicle to travel to and from work.
3. Council adopt **Resolution No. 14-14**, authorizing new positions and salary schedules within the Public Utilities Department and implementing the position of part-time Deputy City Clerk.
4. Council adopt **Resolution No. 14-15**, approving an amendment to the FY 2013-2014 budget for the purpose of repairing the Water Treatment Plant.
5. Council adopt **Resolution No. 14-16**, opposing a proposed amendment by the City of Fresno to amend Measure C.
6. Council adopt **Resolution No. 14-17**, waiving the fees for the repair of sidewalk for residential property owners.
7. Council adopt **Resolution No. 14-18**, authorizing the City Manager to execute the right-of-way certificates for City projects.
8. Council adopt **Resolution No. 14-19**, adopting the FY 2014-2015 operating budget for the City of Mendota.
9. Council adopt **Resolution No. 14-20**, adopting the FY 2014-2015 budget for the Mendota Community Facilities District No. 2006-1 (Police and Fire Services).

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Amador to pull items 2, 3, and 5 for discussion from the Consent Calendar and approve the rest of the items, seconded by Councilor Riofrio; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

2. Council adopt **Resolution No. 14-13**, modifying the benefits for management employees to allow the Public Utilities Director to use a vehicle to travel to and from work.

Mayor Silva introduced the item and Councilor Valdez stated that he has an issue with employees taking vehicles home and that they should stay in the city.

City Manager DiMaggio stated that the proposed resolution is the exact same as the one that is currently in force with the exception of the addition of the Public Utilities Director in the list of employees that can use City vehicles to travel back and forth from work; that he does not currently have a vehicle provided by the City; and the need for the managers listed to respond at any time on an emergency basis.

Councilor Valdez stated that a Public Utilities Director was hired today without Council knowledge that does not have the qualifications to do the job, and that he would like items 2 and 3 on the Consent Calendar to be continued until Council can have a closed session to discuss the items.

Discussion was held on this issue being previously discussed and agreed upon by Council; the need for the Public Utilities Director to be able to come to the city at any hour to address issues with the water and sewer systems; the qualifications of being a Public Works Director; the importance of being thorough when making such policies; and the previous resolution being approved in 2013 when the Public Works and Public Utilities were split and the proposed resolution recognizing the new position.

Councilor Riofrio stated that Councilor Valdez's main concern is that the new Public Utilities Director is not qualified.

City Manager DiMaggio stated that Council approved the job description and that the individual hired qualifies according to that job description.

A motion was made by Councilor Valdez to continue the item and set a closed session for the July 8th Council Meeting to discuss the necessary issues, seconded by Councilor Capuchino; approved (3 ayes; No: Silva and Riofrio).

3. Council adopt **Resolution No. 14-14**, authorizing new positions and salary schedules within the Public Utilities Department and implementing the position of part-time Deputy City Clerk.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Amador to continue the item to the July 8th Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Riofrio; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

5. Council adopt **Resolution No. 14-16**, opposing a proposed amendment by the City of Fresno to amend Measure C.

Mayor Silva introduced the item and City Manager DiMaggio reported that a couple of meetings ago staff brought the Measure C amendment proposal sponsored by the City of Fresno; the nature of the proposed amendment; and staff's recommendation to keep

the allocations as approved by the voters by adopting a resolution to oppose the amendment.

Discussion was held on the upcoming COG meeting and how Firebaugh would be voting on the proposed amendment.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Amador to adopt Resolution No. 14-16, seconded by Councilor Valdez; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. City Manager

City Manager DiMaggio reported on the upcoming Measure C annual expenditure plan meeting; negotiations with the bargaining units that will be happening next week; the reimbursement claim from a resident regarding the Smoot, Sorensen, McCabe project; the advancement of SB1139 and the possible need to lobby against it in the near future; and provided a summary of the budget that was passed.

Discussion was held on inoperable water trucks during the Smoot, Sorensen, McCabe Project and the lengths that politicians will go to garner support for their bills.

2. Director of Public Works

Director of Public Works Gonzalez summarized his report and discussion was held on City staff doing a storm drain improvement at Rojas-Pierce Park for much cheaper than a contractor would have; recent non-City personnel doing measurements for a project on Quince Street; the progress on the apartments being done by Fermin Ochoa; the items needed to complete certain commercial projects throughout the city; the progress on hydrant replacement; and the possibility of Lily Burger being converted into a banquet hall.

3. City Attorney

Nothing to report.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Council Member(s)

Councilor Riofrio reported on various vacant properties that now have weeds on them.

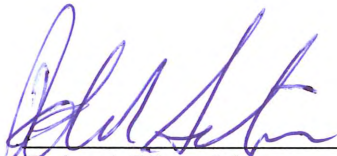
2. Mayor

Mayor Silva commended the police department on the recent bust of an identity theft ring in Mendota; the People's Church that helped distribute food at a recent food

giveaway; his upcoming interview with a media from Germany; and the issue related to First 5 of Fresno County having the amount of board members reduced.

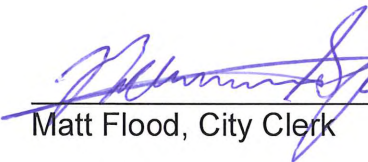
ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to be brought before the Council, a motion for adjournment was made at 7:40 p.m. by Councilor Valdez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Amador; unanimously approved (5 ayes).



Robert Silva, Mayor

ATTEST:



Matt Flood, City Clerk

