



## MINUTES OF MENDOTA REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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**Regular Meeting**

**June 13, 2023**

**Meeting called to order by Mayor Martinez at 6:02 PM.**

**Roll Call**

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

**Council Members Absent:** None

**Flag salute led by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez**

**Invocation led by Police Chaplain Ophelia Lugo**

### **FINALIZE THE AGENDA**

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

A motion was made by Council Member Alonso to adopt the agenda, seconded by Council Member Rosales; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

### **PRESENTATION**

1. City Council to recognize Alexandra Nunez, Elio Ruiz, and Brayan Cortes Velazquez, the recipients of the Westlands Water District 2023 Scholarships.

Elizabeth Jonasson with Westlands Water District presented the Westlands Water District 2023 Scholarships to Alexandra Nunez, Elio Ruiz, and Brayan Cortes Velazquez.

Alexandra Nunez, Elio Ruiz, and Brayan Cortes Velazquez were recognized by the City Council for receiving the Westlands Water District 2023 Scholarships.

Brayan Cortes Velazquez thanked the City Council and commented on the recognition.

Discussion was held on the comments made by Mr. Cortes Velazquez.

### **CITIZENS ORAL AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS**

**Alfredo Arambula** – inquired about the Code Enforcement Department’s dispatch process in the City; commented on Code Enforcement Officers being sent to his business; the commissary process for mobile food truck vendors, and the need for mobile food truck vendors to have all of the required permits and licenses.

Discussion was held on comments made by Mr. Arambula.

**Veronica Rasmussen Gill** – apologized for fostering puppies in her home and stated that she was not aware that you cannot have more than three (3) pets in a household.

Discussion was held on the comments made by Ms. Gill, including possible ways for her to continue to foster puppies and assist with the rehoming of puppies.

**Kevin Romero** – provided an update on local youth sports and the Battle of 33 PD Edition.

Discussion was held on comments made by Mr. Romero

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND NOTICE OF WAIVING OF READING**

1. Minutes of the special City Council meetings of May 25, 2023 and June 7, 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 Council Member Rosales to approve items 1 and 2, seconded by Council Member Riofrio; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

### **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. MAY 16, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 2, 2023  
WARRANT LIST CHECK NOS. 53278 THROUGH 53341  
TOTAL FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL = \$592,751.73
2. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 23-33**, accepting the Engineer’s Report for the Landscape and Lighting Maintenance District 2019-01 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, declaring its intention to levy and collect assessments for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, and scheduling a public hearing for consideration of same.

3. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 23-34**, adopting a list of projects for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 funded by Senate Bill 1: The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.
4. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 23-35**, approving the Fireworks Stand Permits for 2023.
5. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 23-36**, approving and adopting the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 operating budget for the City of Mendota.
6. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 23-37**, approving the submission of applications and filing the same with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to obtain Federal Financial Assistance for any existing or future grant programs; designating authorized agents therefor.
7. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 23-38**, approving the estimate provided by Ferguson Waterworks to purchase equipment needed to complete the irrigation system for the Pool Park Rehabilitation Project.

A motion was made by Council Member Rosales to approve items 1 through 7, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Finance Director
  - a) Grant Update

Finance Director Banda provided an update on various grants and programs, including a meeting that was held with Fresno County regarding Proposition 64: The Adult Use of Marijuana Act.

Discussion held on the update provided by Finance Director Banda.

2. City Engineer
  - a) Update

City Engineer Osborn provided an update on ongoing City projects, including the MJHS Safe Routes to School Project; the 2022 Local Street Reconstruction Project; and the Mendota Stormwater Improvement Project.

Discussion was held on the update provided by City Engineer Osborn.

3. City Attorney
  - a) Update

Assistant City Attorney Castro provided an update on the weed abatement process in the

City; and stated that he will work on looking into ways to limit semi trailer-truck entry in the City.

Discussion was held on the update provided by Assistant City Attorney Castro; reviewing the process of when illegally parked cars can be towed in the City; loud music being played throughout the City; noise citations; overgrown grass at homes throughout the City and the Community Clean Up event being held at the Mendota Public Work's Yard.

#### 4. City Manager

City Manager Gonzalez provided an update on the status of the Mendota Police Station and City Council Chambers project; an upcoming meeting with the Fresno County Housing Authority to discuss new housing in the City; congratulated the Mendota Police Department ("MPD") for their win against the Firebaugh Police Department ("FPD") in the Battle of 33 PD Edition; thanked volunteers and staff for their help at the Community Clean Up and Beautification event that was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>; commented on the Community Clean Up event that is being held at the Public Work's Yard; and stated that he will be taking time off to address some health issues.

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### 1. Council Member(s)

Council Member Rosales commented on increased gang activity in the City; the possibility of helping other small towns with Community Clean Up events; cars illegally racing near the William Robert Johnston Municipal Airport; assisting the homeless population who want to address mental health issues they may have and thanked the MPD for their work.

Discussion was held on comments made by Council Member Rosales.

Council Member Riofrio commented on the demolition derby event held in Firebaugh; a street sign on the intersection of Belmont Avenue and State Highway 33 being knocked down; mobile food vendors moving to unapproved locations throughout the City and their use of sound systems to play music.

Discussion was held on the comments made by Council Member Riofrio.

Mayor Pro Tem Lopez commented on non-profit organizations in the City donating fireworks for the 2023 Mendota Firework's Show; the possibility of bringing town home style housing into the City; the possibility of the Code Enforcement Department looking into La Reyna Mercado and Dulceria for possible violations due to a roof leak; on the possibility of installing speed bumps on Lolita Street; on looking into ways to limit tobacco businesses in the City; on individuals going into a home that recently caught fire and living there; thanked volunteers and staff for their help at the Community Clean Up and Beautification event that was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>; thanked Chief Smith and the MPD for their work and congratulated the MPD for their win against the FPD in the Battle of 33 PD Edition.

Discussion was held on the comments made by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez and the MPD's focus on combatting public drinking.

Council Member Alonso congratulated the Mendota Junior High School and Mendota High School graduates; congratulated the MPD for their win against the FPD in the Battle of 33 PD Edition; thanked Andres Godoy for his help with the Community Clean Up and Beautification event that was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and commented on Fresno County Supervisor Pacheco's proposed ordinance against the renaming of a local street in Fresno to Cesar Chavez Boulevard.

*Mayor Pro Tem Lopez left the Council Chamber at 7:45pm and returned at 7:47pm.*

2. Mayor

Mayor Martinez thanked Andres Godoy for his help with the Community Clean Up and Beautification event that was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>; commented on ongoing projects in the City; on Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria coming to Mendota on June 24<sup>th</sup> to meet with community members; the 2023 Mendota Fireworks Show, and thanked staff and the City Council for their work.

Discussion was held on the comments made by Mayor Martinez.

**CLOSED SESSION**

1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS  
Pursuant to Government Code sections 54954.5, subdivision (f), 54957.6
  - a. Agency Designated Representative: Cristian Gonzalez, City Manager
  - b. Employee Organization: Mendota Police Officers Association
2. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS  
Pursuant to Government Code sections 54954.5, subdivision (f), 54957.6
  - a. Agency Designated Representative: Cristian Gonzalez, City Manager
  - b. Employee Organization: Unrepresented Management Employees
3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Potential initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9 (one potential case).
4. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9 (one potential case).

At 7:49pm the Council moved into closed session.

At 9:35pm the Council reconvened in open session and Assistant City Attorney Castro

stated that in regard to items 1 through 4 of the Closed Session, there were no reportable actions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to be brought before the Council, a motion for adjournment was made at 9:35 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez, seconded by Council Member Alonso; unanimously approved (5 ayes).



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Victor Martinez, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Celeste Cabrera-Garcia, City Clerk