

**MINUTES OF MENDOTA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Regular Meeting

January 13, 2015

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

Roll Call

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

Council Members Absent: Councilor Joseph Riofrio.

Flag salute led by Mayor Silva

FINALIZE THE AGENDA

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

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez to adopt the agenda, seconded by Councilor Amador; unanimously approved (4 ayes; absent: Riofrio).

CITIZENS ORAL AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS

None offered.

SWEARING IN

1. City Clerk Matt Flood to swear in Frank Renteria, Matt Kawana, and Oscar Sepulveda.

Interim Police Chief Johnson introduced the officers to be sworn in; provided biographical information on the officers; and noted the absence of officer Kawana who had a work commitment he could not get out of.

City Clerk Flood swore in Officers Renteria and Sepulveda.

Members of the City Council expressed their appreciation and support for helping the community and admonished the officers to be safe at all times.

PRESENTATION

1. City Council to present a plaque to former Fresno County Supervisor Phil Larson.

Mayor Silva introduced the item and thanked Mr. Larson for his service, presenting him the plaque.

Mr. Larson thanked the Council for the plaque and talked about the importance of the support of his wife; the most enjoyable parts of his service; and the honor it was to serve the west side of Fresno County.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Code Enforcement
 - a) Monthly Report

Planning and Economic Development Manager Flood summarized changes to the code enforcement department that would be occurring starting February.

Code Enforcement Administrative Assistant Perez provided a summary of the monthly report for December, including public nuisances such as empty lots; the number of vehicles abated; parking citations; and revenue received.

Discussion was held on tracking the hours spent abating properties in order to recover costs; tracking and citing illegal vendors; and catching those that violate the noise ordinance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND NOTICE OF WAIVING OF READING

1. Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of December 9, 2014 and the minutes of the Special City Council meetings of December 5, 8, 12, and 17, 2014 Special City Council Meetings.
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 Amador to approve items 1 and 2, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez; unanimously approved (4 ayes; absent: Riofrio).

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. DECEMBER 09, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 22, 2014
WARRANT LIST CHECKS NO. 38748 THRU 38826
TOTAL FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL = \$107,381.84

2. DECEMBER 23, 2014 THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2015

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WARRANT LIST CHECKS NO. 38827 THRU 38897
TOTAL FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL

= \$373,432.26

3. Council adopt **Resolution No. 15-01**, approving an update to the Westamerica Bank signature card.
4. Council adopt **Resolution No. 15-02**, approving an application for Grant-In-Aid for a Street Park project.
5. Council adopt **Resolution No. 15-03**, authorizing the interim Police Chief to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency.

A request to pull item number 5 was made and Mayor Pro Tem Valdez asked about the last day of the Street Sweeper Contract and some repair work done at the Public Works yard from damage that was done recently by an automobile.

A motion was made to approve items 1-4 of the consent calendar by Councilor Amador, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez; unanimously approved (4 ayes; absent: Riofrio).

5. Council adopt **Resolution No. 15-03**, authorizing the interim Police Chief to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency.

Mayor Silva introduced the item and Moses Stites of the FCRTA presented the purpose of the agreement; the need for security services for the benefit of the ridership; it does not make sense to hire our own law enforcement officials; the routes that the FCRTA cover in the County; what the officer would need to do; and expanding the program in the future if it is successful.

Discussion was held on how the verification would work logistically; the fear that some members of the public might experience if they see a uniformed officer board the bus; how other areas have a law enforcement department for their transit services; and the benefit that this will be for implementing community oriented policing.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution No. 15-03 by Councilor Amador, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez; unanimously approved (4 ayes; absent: Riofrio).

BUSINESS

1. Council adopt **Resolution No. 15-04**, appointing Council members to various boards, commissions, and sub-committees.

Mayor Silva introduced the item and Deputy City Clerk Cabrera summarized her report and mentioned that the League of California Cities representatives are generally the

Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem thing and that the Baseball Commissioners and Planning Commissioners will be appointed at the following Council meeting due to noticing requirements of State law.

Discussion was held and decisions were made on what Council members would fill what seats.

A motion was made by Councilor Amador to adopt Resolution No. 15-04, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez; unanimously approved (4 ayes; absent: Riofrio).

2. Council discussion and consideration on the Derrick/Oller Roundabout.

Mayor Silva introduced the item and City Manager DiMaggio reported that the Council approved pursuing the project, yet expressed concerns about whether or not it would be effective; a recent meeting with Caltrans that he and the Mayor attended; recommendation from Caltrans was to continue with the traffic study, then work with Caltrans to form an animated model to demonstrate how the current and future projected volumes would work in the current design and in a roundabout.

Discussion was held on the permanent nature of a roundabout; the problems that a new roundabout in Kerman was having; the recent public comments by the District Director of Caltrans that were negative about that roundabout; the traffic quantity fluctuations in that area; (at 7:01 p.m. Councilor Castro left the chambers); the possibility of looking at other alternatives for that intersection; (at 7:04 p.m. Councilor Castro re-entered the Chambers); Caltrans is willing to come to a future meeting; and the time of the year in which a traffic study will be taken; the traffic problems that have occurred at various places; and Council directing staff to hold off on the traffic study until the summer months.

3. Council discussion and consideration on the issue of off-site signage.

Mayor Silva Introduced the item and City Manager DiMaggio reported that local Businesses Di Amici Café and Farmers Insurance were recently cited for off-site signs; defined how signs must be used; the requests from these two businesses is to look at the code; the disadvantages of being permissive of off-site signs; the regulatory problems that would arise for staff if each off-site sign were to be analyzed; and Council could direct the Planning Commission to research other Cities' ordinances for such regulations.

Discussion was held on issues with billboards or signs that were not pleasing to the community; billboards being regulated by the State of California; the need to help local businesses successfully market their products and services; and the benefit of having the Planning Commission review the possibility of an off-site sign permit.

Antonio Gonzales (Farmer's Insurance) - stated that he is a small business in Mendota and offers a low-cost option for insurance; how he received a citation, then a

letter; he has looked at different ordinances; and pointed out old ordinances that need to be revised in the Municipal Code.

Council direction to suspend the enforcement process related to off-site advertisements, pending a resolution to the issue, and to send the item to the Planning commission for analysis and recommendation.

4. Council discussion on the Fresno Council of Governments One Voice trip.

Mayor Silva introduced the item and City Manager DiMaggio provided information on the trip; the benefit that it will be to directly address Mendota's federal elected officials; and the issues that will be chosen to discuss with the members of congress.

Discussion was held on the problems related to unemployment, water availability, and other important issues for Mendota; the funds that will be donated from various partners to help pay for the trip; and the amount of elected officials that will be attending.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Police Department
a) Monthly Report

Interim Police Chief Johnson summarized his report including a recent participation in a drunk driving saturation patrol; theft of Christmas decorations from yards within the city; an arrest for possession of car theft paraphernalia; work done by prisoners in Corcoran to re-condition some bicycles that were given to needy families in Mendota; and a recent staff meeting that they have had in the department.

Discussion was held on grants from the Office of Traffic Safety that pay overtime for saturation patrols and the traffic problems around the high school.

2. City Attorney
a) Update

City Attorney Boranian reported on the upcoming AB1234 and sexual harassment training for elected officials and employees and that her firm is initiating a grant program so City employees can get reimbursement for education expenses.

3. City Manager
a) Report

City Manager DiMaggio summarized his report including implementation of AB60 at the DMV in Mendota; a future meeting with Assemblymember Perea in which to present legislative ideas to him including one that could allow disadvantaged communities to implement alcohol taxes and one in which an exemption to CEQA for disadvantaged communities; a donation received from First Solar for approximately \$3700 to go

towards the senior center; the possibility of starting a 501(c) so that the City can receive and give donations to charitable causes, and the considerations that would need to be taken to achieve this; and asking for a time to set apart for a goal-setting meeting in the near future.

Discussion was held on what the money was used for in the Senior Center; the advantages and disadvantages of having a 501(c) designation; when there will be a mid-year budget review; and a letter that was received from the State about some reports that had not been submitted.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Council Member(s) Council reports

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez reported on the cost of recent flooding in the City due to a pump being rented; and requested that Council be notified when someone is hired.

Discussion was held on the pumps that the City has not being able to handle the weather, so larger pumps were rented, and there was initially a forecast for more rain; and the drought problems that will be added this year.

Councilor Castro reported that apartment complexes are still wasting a lot of water.

Councilor Amador reported on the visit of the Salvadoran Consulate and how it was successful; information received about the Mexican Consulate; and a request to be put on a future agenda to have the City pay for his POST re-certification.

2. Mayor

Mayor Silva summarized a High Speed Rail meeting that he attended with Assemblymember Perea; donations that were received for the benefit of Mendota Youth Recreation and Westside Youth; and of an upcoming meeting with various City leaders in Madera.

Discussion was held on the upcoming visit by the Salvadoran Consulate.

CLOSED SESSION

- 1. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**
CA Government Code § 54956.8
Properties: APN 013-221-07
Agency Negotiator: Vince DiMaggio, City of Mendota
Negotiating Parties: David Hernandez, Owner

2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

CA Government Code § 54956.9(d)(2): 1 case

At 8:31 p.m. the Council moved into closed session.

At 9:11 p.m. the Council reconvened in open session and City Attorney Boranian reported that in regards to items 1 and 2 of the closed session, there was nothing to report.

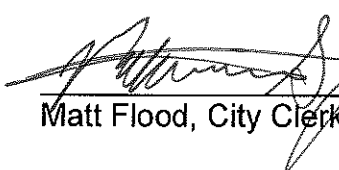
ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to be brought before the Council, a motion for adjournment was made at 9:12 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, seconded by Councilor Amador; unanimously approved (4 ayes; absent: Riofrio).



Robert Silva, Mayor

ATTEST:



Matt Flood, City Clerk

