



CITY OF MERCED

City Council Chamber
Merced Civic Center
2nd Floor
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Minutes

City Council/Public Finance and Economic Development Authority/Parking Authority

Monday, May 20, 2024

6:00 PM

A. CLOSED SESSION ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Matthew Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Bertha Perez, Council Member Jesse Ornelas, Council Member Sarah Boyle, and Council Member Shane Smith
Absent: 2 - Council Member Ronnie DeAnda, and Council Member Fue Xiong

B. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor SERRATTO called the Closed Session to order at 5:06 PM.

Clerk's Note: Mayor Pro Tempore PEREZ arrived to Closed Session at 5:12 PM.

- B.1.** **SUBJECT:** PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - Title: City Manager; Authority: Government Code Section 54957
- B.2.** **SUBJECT:** CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS -- Agency Designated Representatives: City Manager Scott McBride, Deputy City Manager Frank Quintero, Finance Officer Venus Rodriguez, Human Resources Manager Suzanne Fierro, LCW Legal Representative Che Johnson, and LCW Legal Representative Michael Jarvis; Employee Organizations: Merced Police Officers' Association (MPOA) and Merced Association of Police Sergeants (MAPS). AUTHORITY: Government Code Section 54957.6
- B.3.** **SUBJECT:** CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS -- Agency Designated Representative(s): City Manager Scott McBride, Deputy City Manager Frank Quintero, Finance Officer Venus Rodriguez, Human Resources Manager Suzanne Fierro, LCW Legal Representative Che Johnson, and LCW Legal Representative Michael Jarvis; Employee Organizations: American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 57 and Merced Association of City Employees (MACE). AUTHORITY: Government Code Section 54957.6
- B.4.** **SUBJECT:** CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS -- Agency Designated Representatives: City Manager Scott McBride, Deputy City

Manager Frank Quintero, Finance Officer Venus Rodriguez, Human Resources Manager Suzanne Fierro, LCW Legal Representative Che Johnson, and LCW Legal Representative Michael Jarvis; Unrepresented Management AUTHORITY: Government Code Section 54957.6

B.5.

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS -- Agency Designated Representatives: City Manager Scott McBride, Deputy City Manager Frank Quintero, Finance Officer Venus Rodriguez, Human Resources Manager Suzanne Fierro, LCW Legal Representative Che Johnson, and LCW Legal Representative Michael Jarvis; Employee Organizations: International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1479. AUTHORITY: Government Code Section 54957.6

Clerk's Note: Council adjourned from Closed Session at 6:00 PM.

C. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor SERRATTO called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

C.1. Invocation - Pastor Juan Ochoa, Calvary Assembly of God, Merced

The Invocation was delivered by Pastor Juan OCHOA of the Calvary Assembly of God, Merced.

C.2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Pastor Juan OCHOA led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

D. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Matthew Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Bertha Perez, Council Member Jesse Ornelas, Council Member Sarah Boyle, and Council Member Shane Smith

Absent: 2 - Council Member Ronnie DeAnda, and Council Member Fue Xiong

D.1. In accordance with Government Code 54952.3, it is hereby announced that the City Council sits either simultaneously or serially as the Parking Authority, the Public Financing and Economic Development Authority, and the Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency. City Council members receive a monthly stipend of \$400.00 by Charter for sitting as the City Council; and the Mayor receives an additional \$100.00 each month as a part of the adopted budget and Resolution 2020-86. The members of the Parking Authority, the Public Financing and Economic Development Authority, and the Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency receive no compensation.

E. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

There was no report.

F. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

- F.1. **SUBJECT:** Recognition of the Merced Police Department's Explorer Program

REPORT IN BRIEF

Accepted by the members of the Merced Police Department's Explorer Program.

Mayor SERRATTO presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Merced Police Department's Explorer Program.

- F.2. **SUBJECT:** Proclamation - Foster Care Awareness Month

REPORT IN BRIEF

Accepted by representatives of the Merced College NextUp.

Mayor SERRATTO presented the Foster Care Awareness Month to representatives of the Merced College NextUp and CASA of Merced County.

- F.3. **SUBJECT:** Proclamation - Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1) Awareness Month

REPORT IN BRIEF

Accepted by members of the Children's Tumor Foundation.

Mayor SERRATTO presented the Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1) Awareness Month Proclamation to representatives of the Children's Tumor Foundation.

- F.4. **SUBJECT:** Recognition of Merced High School Wrestler Nate Granados for Going to High School Nationals, Placing, and Securing His Status for All American

REPORT IN BRIEF

Accepted by Nate Granados of the Merced High School Wrestling Team.

Council Member ORNELAS presented a Certificate of Recognition to Merced High School Wrestler Nate GRANADOS.

- F.5. **SUBJECT:** Recognition of the Golden Valley High School Academic Decathlon Team for Winning the D3 High School Academic Decathlon State Championship

REPORT IN BRIEF

Accepted by the Golden Valley High School Academic Decathlon Team.

Council Member ORNELAS presented a Certificate of Recognition for the Golden Valley High School Academic Decathlon Team.

G. WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk's Note: An email was received for the following agenda item and forwarded to Council prior to the meeting.

Oral Communication: Steven DONAHUE.

H. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk's Note: The following comments were received via voicemail.

Merced Resident - spoke on the voicemail time limit.

Lynn BARRERA, Merced - spoke in support of bringing back emails for public review on the City's website and the Trap N' Release program.

Clerk's Note: The following speakers appeared in person.

James REESE, Merced - spoke on the Neighbor's Unidos new charter.

Vicky SOLIS - shared details of the Neighbor's Unidos program.

Japjeet SINGH - shared details of the Neighbor's Unidos program and spoke on gas prices.

Jeremy VERAMENDI, Merced - thanked the City of Merced for all they have done throughout his time at UC Merced and spoke on affordable housing.

Adam REED, Brisco Enterprises - shared information on the graffiti services his company provides.

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Items I.7. Approval of the Second Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with the Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced Foundation to Extend the Term of Their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Non-Profit Support Funding Contract to June 30, 2026, I.8 Approval of the Amended and Restated Joint Land Use Agreement with Kiwanis of Greater Merced Including New Space Designated for the Operation of Kiddieland Theme Park and Train in Applegate Park, I.10. Award Bid to Fortis General Construction, Inc. for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grant (CMAQ)

(051) Sidewalks Along Olive Ave., Parsons Ave., Alexander Ave., and Hansen Ave., Project Number CP200043, in the Amount of \$662,080.73, I.11. Award Bid to Redstone Construction, Inc. for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grant (CMAQ) (055) Nottingham Sidewalks, Project Number CP210044, in the Amount of \$585,579, and I.13. Adoption of a Resolution Approving Final Map #5398 for Merzoian, Phase 1 Subdivision for 72 Single-Family Lots, Generally Located at the Northeast Corner of G Street and Merrill Place (Extended), and the Approval of the Subdivision Agreement for the Merzoian, Phase 1 Subdivision; were pulled for separate consideration.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Council Member Boyle, seconded by Council Member Ornelas, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, and Council Member Smith

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Xiong

I.1. **SUBJECT: Reading by Title of All Ordinances and Resolutions**

REPORT IN BRIEF

Ordinances and Resolutions which appear on the public agenda shall be determined to have been read by title and a summary title may be read with further reading waived.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion waiving the reading of Ordinances and Resolutions, pursuant to Section 412 of the Merced City Charter.

This Consent Item was approved.

I.2. **SUBJECT: Information Only - Arts and Culture Advisory Commission Minutes of January 18, 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

This Consent Item was approved.

I.3. **SUBJECT: Information Only -Tax Transparency Commission Minutes of February 13, 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

This Consent Item was approved.

I.4.

SUBJECT: Approval of City Council/Public Financing and
Economic Development/Parking Authority/Successor Agency to the
Redevelopment Agency Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2024

REPORT IN BRIEF

Official adoption of previously held meeting minutes.

RECOMMENDATION

**City Council/Public Financing and Economic
Development/Parking Authority/Successor Agency to the
Redevelopment Agency** - Adopt a motion approving the meeting
minutes of April 2, 2024.

This Consent Item was approved.

I.5.

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolutions Approving Standard
Assurances Agreement for all California Office of Emergency
Services Federal Grant Programs for Fiscal Year 2023 and the
Memorandum of Understanding with Merced County for State
Homeland Security Grant Programs - Funding for Equipment,
Planning, Administration, Training and Exercises for Fiscal Year
2023

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers adopting the Standard Assurances Agreement for all California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) Federal Grant Programs for Fiscal Year 2023 and considers approving the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Merced County to accept any future awards of the California State Homeland Security Grant Program funds for equipment, planning, administration, training, and exercises being funded through the County to the City of Merced for Fiscal Year 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Adopting **Resolution 2024-53**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, authorizing the City Manager to execute the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services FY2023 Grant Assurances Agreement; and,

B. Adopting **Resolution 2024-54**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, authorizing the City Manager to execute the Office of Emergency Services State Homeland Security Grant Programs - Equipment, Planning, Administration, Training and Exercises agreement; and,

C. Authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents, including any future amendments.

This Consent Item was approved.

I.6.

SUBJECT: Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with R3 Consulting Group, Inc., to Conduct a Solid Waste Collection and Related Services Rate Study in an Amount not to Exceed \$80,000

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving a Professional Services Agreement with R3 Consulting Group, Inc., in the amount of \$80,000, to conduct a solid waste collection and related services rate study.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving a Professional Services Agreement with R3 Consulting Group, Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$80,000, to prepare a comprehensive solid waste collection and related services rate study; and,

B. Authorizing the Finance Officer to make the necessary budget adjustments; and,

C. Authorizing the City Manager or Deputy City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

This Consent Item was approved.

I.9.

SUBJECT: Approval of Request for a Supplemental Appropriation in the Amount of \$26,233 from the Building Rental and Cost Recovery Revenue to Cover Budget Shortages in Utilities and Other Costs

Incurred by the Department

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving a request for a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$26,233 from the Building Rental and Cost Recovery Revenue to cover budget shortages in utilities and other costs incurred by the department.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion increasing revenue in the amount of \$26,233 and appropriating the same in Fund 1018 for utilities and services to cover budget shortages.

This Consent Item was approved.

I.12.

SUBJECT: Approval of Street Closure Request #24-07 by the Merced County Sheriff's Department for Merced County Fair (37th District Agricultural Association/Merced County Fair) to Close Traffic on G Street, Between West Childs Avenue and 11th Street, During the Merced County Fair from June 5 - 6, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and June 7 - 9, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving a request by the Merced County Sheriff's Department for the Merced County Fair (37th District Agricultural Association/Merced County Fair) for the closure and use of City streets to control traffic for the Merced County Fair. The request seeks approval to close G Street, between West Childs Avenue and 11th Street, on June 5 - 6, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and June 7 - 9, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion approving the street closure of G Street, between West Childs Avenue and 11th Street, from June 5 - 6, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and June 7 - 9, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., for the Merced County Fair, subject to the details and conditions outlined in the administrative staff report.

This Consent Item was approved.

I.7.

SUBJECT: Approval of the Second Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with the Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced

Foundation to Extend the Term of Their American Rescue Plan Act
(ARPA) Non-Profit Support Funding Contract to June 30, 2026

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving of the Second Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with the Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced Foundation to extend the term of their ARPA Non-Profit Support Funding contract to June 30, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving the Second Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with the Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced Foundation to extend the term of their ARPA Non-Profit Support Funding contract to June 30, 2026; and,

B. Authorizing the City Manager or the Deputy City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

Mayor SERRATTO pulled this item at the request of resident Karen ADAMS.

Clerk's Note: Mayor SERRATTO stated that Council will hear Agenda Items I.7. and I.8. together.

Karen ADAMS, President of Kiawanis Club of Greater Merced, Merced - spoke on details of Kiddieland, thanked the City of Merced for funding the redesign of the train, and recognized the Merced Police Explorers and other community groups for their support.

Mayor SERRATTO thanked Ms. ADAMS for the work she has done for Kiddieland.

Clerk's Note: Council made a motion for Agenda Items I.7. and I.8. together.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, seconded by Council Member Ornelas, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, and Council Member Smith

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Xiong

I.8.

SUBJECT: Approval of the Amended and Restated Joint Land Use Agreement with Kiwanis of Greater Merced Including New Space Designated for the Operation of Kiddieland Theme Park and Train in Applegate Park

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving the Amended and Restated Joint Land Use Agreement with Kiwanis of Greater Merced for the administration, construction, maintenance, and operation of Kiddieland Theme Park in Applegate Park. The renewal includes an expansion of the existing footprint of Kiddieland theme park to address accessibility requirements set forth by American with Disabilities Act as well as a new path for an electric train track through Applegate Park. The renewal is required to support City Council's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation for a new train and track for Kiddieland.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving the Amended and Restated Joint Land Use Agreement with Kiwanis of Greater Merced for the administration, construction, maintenance, and operation of Kiddieland theme park in Applegate Park; and,

B. Authorizing the City Manager to execute, and if necessary, make minor modifications to, the agreement described above as attached to this report and all associated documents.

Mayor SERRATTO pulled this item at the request of resident Karen ADAMS.

Clerk's Note: Mayor SERRATTO stated that Council will hear Agenda Items I.7. and I.8. together.

Clerk's Note: Council made a motion for Agenda Items I.7. and I.8. together.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, seconded by Council Member Ornelas, that this agenda item be approved. The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, and Council Member Smith

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Xiong

I.10.

SUBJECT: Award Bid to Fortis General Construction, Inc. for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grant (CMAQ) (051) Sidewalks Along Olive Ave., Parsons Ave., Alexander Ave., and Hansen Ave., Project Number CP200043, in the Amount of \$662,080.73

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers awarding a Construction Contract to Fortis General Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$662,080.73 for the CMAQ Sidewalks Along Olive Ave., Parsons Ave., Alexander Ave., and Hansen Ave.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Awarding the CMAQ Sidewalks Along Olive Ave., Parsons Ave., Alexander Ave., and Hansen Ave, Project CP220063 to Fortis General Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$662,080.73; and,

B. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents and to approve change orders not to exceed 10% of the total contract; and,

C. Authorizing the Finance Officer authorization to make necessary budget adjustments.

Mayor SERRATTO pulled this item at the request of resident Ashley Marie SUAREZ.

Clerk's Note: Mayor SERRATTO stated that Council will hear Agenda Items I.10 and I.11. together.

Ashley Marie SUAREZ, Merced - spoke on the similarity of both Agenda Items and asked for clarification on the funding of the projects.

Interim City Engineer Mike WEGLEY and Finance Officer Venus RODRIGUEZ spoke on funding that has been applied for with Merced County Association of Governments and other available funding sources.

Clerk's Note: There was no Council discussion.

Clerk's Note: Council made a motion for Agenda Items I.10 and I.11. together.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Boyle, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, and Council Member Smith

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Xiong

I.11.

SUBJECT: Award Bid to Redstone Construction, Inc. for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grant (CMAQ) (055) Nottingham Sidewalks, Project Number CP210044, in the Amount of \$585,579

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers awarding a Construction Contract to Redstone Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$585,579 for the CMAQ Nottingham Sidewalks from Hansen Avenue to Olive Avenue, Tamworth Court, and Buckingham Court.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Awarding the CMAQ Nottingham Sidewalks, Project CP210044 to Redstone Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$585,579; and,

B. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents and to approve change orders not to exceed 10% of the total contract; and,

C. Authorizing the Finance Officer to make necessary budget adjustments.

Mayor SERRATTO pulled this item at the request of resident Ashley Marie SUAREZ.

Clerk's Note: Mayor SERRATTO stated that Council will hear Agenda Items I.10 and I.11. together.

Clerk's Note: Council made a motion for Agenda Items I.10 and I.11. together.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Boyle, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, and Council Member Smith

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Xiong

I.13.

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution Approving Final Map #5398 for Merzoian, Phase 1 Subdivision for 72 Single-Family Lots, Generally Located at the Northeast Corner of G Street and Merrill Place (Extended), and the Approval of the Subdivision Agreement for the Merzoian, Phase 1 Subdivision

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers adopting the Final Map #5398 for 72 single-family lots, generally located at the northeast corner of G Street and Merrill Place (extended), and the subdivision agreement for the Merzoian, Phase 1 Subdivision.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving **Resolution 2024-52**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, approving the Final Subdivision Map for the Merzoian Estates, Phase 1 Subdivision (#5398); and,

B. Approving the Subdivision Agreement for the Merzoian, Phase 1 Subdivision; and,

C. Authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

Mayor SERRATTO pulled this item at the request of resident Ashley Marie SUAREZ.

Ashley Marie SUAREZ, Merced - spoke on affordable housing and existing community.

City Manager Scott MCBRIDE discussed the process of denying a final map and affordable housing.

Clerk's Note: There was no Council discussion.

A motion was made by Council Member Boyle, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, that this agenda item be approved. The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, and Council Member Smith

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Xiong

J. PUBLIC HEARINGS

J.1.

SUBJECT: Public Hearing - General Plan Amendment #23-05, Zone Change #434, Establishment of Planned Development (P-D) #81, and Appeal of the Planning Commission's Denial of Conditional Use Permit #1276, Site Plan Review Permit #538, and Minor Use Permit #24-02. This Request is Initiated by United Security Company, LLC, on Behalf of Nicholas Mary Lee, Trustee, Property Owner, for Approximately 3.50 Acres of Land at 470 E. Olive Avenue, Generally Located 500 West of Oleander Avenue; the General Plan Amendment Would Change the General Plan Land Use Designation from Low-Medium Density Residential (LMD) to Business Park (BP). The Zone Change Would Allow the Establishment of the Planned Development to Change the Land Use from Low Medium Density Residential (R-2) to "Self-Storage." The Conditional Use Permit Would Allow a Live/Work Unit for an Onsite Manager for the Self-Storage Facility. The Site Plan Review Permit Would Allow the Development of a Self-Storage Facility (Approximately 681 Storage Units) with Long-Term Boat and Recreational Vehicle Parking Spaces (Approximately 74 Parking Spaces). The Minor Use Permit Would be for Interface Review to Allow Commercial Development Adjacent to or Across from a Low Density Residential (R-1-6) Zone

REPORT IN BRIEF

Request for City Council to consider approving the General Plan Amendment, Zone Change, and Establishment of a Planned Development and the appeal of the Planning Commission's Denial of Conditional Use Permit #1276, Site Plan Review Permit #538, and Minor Use Permit #24-02. The subject site is a 3.50 acre parcel located at 470 E. Olive Avenue, within northeast Merced.

RECOMMENDATION

General Plan Amendment #23-05, Zone Change #434, and Establishment of Planned Development (P-D) #81

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. To deny General Plan Amendment #23-04, Zone Change #434, and Establishment of Planned Development (P-D) #81 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Appeal of Planning Commission's Denial of Conditional Use Permit #1276, Site Plan Review Permit #538, and Minor Use Permit #24-02

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Open the Public Hearing and hear all testimony regarding the appeal; and,

B. Close the public hearing; and,

C. Provide direction to staff regarding Findings to grant or deny the appeal.

Senior Planner Francisco MENDOZA gave a slideshow presentation on the General Plan Amendment #23-05, Zone Change #434, Establishment of Planned Development (P-D) #81, and Appeal of the Planning Commission's Denial of Conditional Use Permit #1276, Site Plan Review Permit #538, and Minor Use Permit #24-02.

Council, City Manager Scott MCBRIDE, and Mr. MENDOZA discussed affordable housing projects in the vicinity, details of the housing opportunity, the date the site was annexed into city limits, the history of the site, and the time frame of the city's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).

Mayor SERRATTO opened the Public Hearing at 7:18 PM.

Ashley Marie SUAREZ, Merced - spoke on the site being zoned low density residential, details of the community's feedback, and urged Council to deny the proposed project.

Craig MOONEYHAM, Applicant - spoke on the research done before beginning the project, the need for self storage in Merced, details of the location of the project, and the traffic study that was performed.

Council and Mr. MOONEYHAM discussed the current capacity at other storage locations, the lack of climate control facilities, the details of the conditions proposed by staff, the level of investment, and employment opportunities.

Mayor SERRATTO closed the Public Hearing at 7:29 PM.

Council and Mr. MCBRIDE discussed the motion process, details of the project, the housing opportunities on the site area, and affordable housing projects.

Council Member SMITH made a motion to approve the project.

Mr. MENDOZA explained the motion process.

Clerk's Note: Council Member SMITH withdrew his motion.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Boyle, direct staff to prepare a Resolution for General Plan Amendment #23-05/Environmental Review #23-45 and Ordinance for Zone #434, and establishment of Planned Development #81. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Mayor Serratto, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, and Council Member Smith

No: 1 - Mayor Pro Tempore Perez

Absent: 2 - Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Xiong

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Boyle, to provide direction to staff regarding findings to grant the appeal under the condition of the provided attachment #8. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Mayor Serratto, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, and Council Member Smith

No: 1 - Mayor Pro Tempore Perez

Absent: 2 - Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Xiong

K. REPORTS

Clerk's Note: Council took a recess at 7:39 PM and reconvened at 7:50 PM.

K.1. SUBJECT: Report - Multijurisdictional Housing Element - Public Review

Draft

REPORT IN BRIEF

Report to review the Multijurisdictional Housing Element - Public Review Draft.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Receive and comment on the Multijurisdictional Housing Element - Public Review Draft.

Principal Planner Jonnie LAN and Principal Planner from Rincon Consultant Brenna WEATHERBY gave a slideshow presentation on the MultiJurisdictional Housing Element.

Ashley SUAREZ, Merced - spoke on concerns of water and sewage connections to city residents, fair housing, and asked the city to set another Public Hearing to engage with more residents.

LaTonya RICHARD, Merced - spoke on the Community Needs Assessment survey language, details of the Regional Needs Housing Allocation (RHNA), and asked for clarification on the timeline and different living situations.

Gloria SANDOVAL, Merced - shared her concerns on the process of public input, the language used in the report, evictions, low-income housing, and the amount of time that the public can review the report.

Council and Ms. WEATHERBY discussed the RHNA breakdown income level and income levels in wealthier regions.

Clerk's Note: There was no formal vote taken, item was for information only.

K.2.

SUBJECT: Review, Discussion and Direction Regarding the City of Merced Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget

REPORT IN BRIEF

Review of the City Manager's proposed FY 2024-25 Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

For information and discussion only.

Finance Officer Venus RODRIGUEZ and City Manager Scott MCBRIDE gave a slideshow presentation on the city of Merced fiscal year 2024-2025

budget.

Council, Mrs. RODRIGUEZ, and Deputy Director of Public Works Juan OLMOS discussed details of the Parks and Community Services budget and details of the Public Works budget.

Clerk's Note: There was no formal vote taken, item was for information only.

L. BUSINESS

L.1.

SUBJECT: Appointment for City Representative to the Merced County Mosquito Abatement District Board of Trustees

REPORT IN BRIEF

This report is to discuss the appointment of a city representative for the Merced County Mosquito Abatement District Board of Trustees.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion appointing a Council Member to the Merced County Mosquito Abatement District Board of Trustees or provide staff direction for recruitment.

Assistant City Clerk Jennifer LEVESQUE discussed the options to fill the city representative vacancy for the Mosquito Abatement District Board of Trustees and meeting information.

Council and Ms. LEVESQUE discussed the vacancy options, meetings details, and the recruitment process.

Council agreed to recruit for applications and bring back in June.

L.2.

SUBJECT: Discussion and Direction Regarding the Merced Hotel & Lodging Association's Tourism Based Improvement District Proposal for Merced Tourism

REPORT IN BRIEF

The Merced Hotel & Lodging Association is requesting that the City contribute 2% of the Transient Occupant Tax (TOT) base to be allocated to the Tourism Based Improvement District. For example, if the collected Transient Occupancy Tax is \$1.8 million, then the Transient Occupancy Tax base is \$18 million, which results in a potential contribution of \$360,000 from the TOT collected by the City. The TOT in the City of Merced is 10%.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Provide staff direction on the request submitted by the Merced Hotel & Lodging Association.

Deputy City Manager Frank QUINTERO discussed the direction regarding the Merced Hotel & Lodging Association's Tourism Based Improvement District (TBID) Proposal for Merced tourism.

Council, Mr. QUINTERO, and Finance Officer Venus RODRIGUEZ discussed the Transient Occupant Tax (TOT) being allocated to the TBID, other funding measures, if the funds are budgeted elsewhere, revenue projections, and potential projects discussed with the Merced Hotel & Lodging Association.

Clerk's Note: The following comment was received via voicemail.

Edwin KAINTH, Merced Hotel & Lodging Association, Merced - asked Council to approve the contribution of 2% of the TOT.

Council, Mr. QUINTERO, and City Attorney Craig CORNWELL discussed the 2% funded by the General Fund, funding sources, potentially adding a ballot measure, the action Council is able to take, details of a potential TBID in Merced, the deadline to place a ballot measure on the November election, increasing the TOT in Merced,

Council agreed to support the TBID and fund the TBID, but the City cannot allocate funding. Council also agreed to direct staff to come back with ideas for a one time seed money and to analyze a potential ballot measure.

Clerk's Note: There was no formal vote taken, item was for information only.

L.3.

SUBJECT: Council Member Xiong's Request to Discuss the Feasibility of an In-House Graffiti Abatement

REPORT IN BRIEF

Council Member Xiong's request to discuss the feasibility of an in-house graffiti abatement.

RECOMMENDATION

Provide direction to staff on the next steps.

Council agreed to moved the item to a meeting convenient to Council Member XIONG.

Clerk's Note: There was no formal vote taken.

L.4.

SUBJECT: Request to Add Item to Future Agenda

REPORT IN BRIEF

Provides members of the City Council to request that an item be placed on a future City Council agenda for initial consideration by the City Council.

Clerk's Note: No future items were added.

L.5.

SUBJECT: City Council Comments

REPORT IN BRIEF

Provides an opportunity for the Mayor and/or Council Member(s) to make a brief announcement on any activity(ies) she/he has attended on behalf of the City and to make a brief announcement on future community events and/or activities. The Brown Act does not allow discussion or action by the legislative body under this section.

Council Member BOYLE reported on attending the One Voice trip.

Council Member SMITH reported on attending the One Voice trip, congratulated Assemblywoman Esmeralda SORIA for the opening of her office in Merced, and for all the Firemen's Ball.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bertha PEREZ thanked staff for the Annual Budget presentation.

Council Member ORNELAS reported on attending Assemblywoman Esmeralda SORIA's Open House event, a High School Graduation at a Juvenile hall, and to all who worked on a successful Firemen's Ball.

Mayor SERRATTO reported on attending multiple Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies for small businesses on Main Street, the UC Merced Medical Education Building opening, and gave a shoutout to the Recreation and Community Services department for the Green Scout Program.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk's Note: The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:43 PM.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, seconded by Council Member Ornelas, that this Regular Meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, and Council Member Smith

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Xiong