



# 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/Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency

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Monday, November 6, 2023

6:00 PM

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#### A. CLOSED SESSION ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Mayor Matthew Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Bertha Perez, Council Member Jesse Ornelas, Council Member Sarah Boyle, Council Member Ronnie DeAnda, Council Member Shane Smith, and Council Member Fue Xiong

**Absent:** 0

#### B. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Pro Tempore Bertha PEREZ called the Closed Session to order at 5:05 PM.

**Clerk's Note:** Mayor SERRATTO arrived to Closed Session at 5:11 PM and Council Member XIONG arrived to Closed Session at 5:18 PM.

- B.1.** **SUBJECT:** CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS -- Agency Designated Representative: City Manager Stephanie Dietz; Employee Organizations: Merced Police Officers' Association (MPOA) and Merced Association of Police Sergeants (MAPS). AUTHORITY: Government Code Section 54957.6
- B.2.** **SUBJECT:** CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS -- Agency Designated Representative: City Manager Stephanie Dietz; Employee Organizations: International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1479. AUTHORITY: Government Code Section 54957.6
- B.3.** **SUBJECT:** CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS -- Agency Designated Representative: City Manager Stephanie Dietz; Unrepresented Management AUTHORITY: Government Code Section 54957.6
- B.4.** **SUBJECT:** CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS -- Agency Designated Representative(s): City Manager Stephanie Dietz; Employee Organizations: American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 57 and Merced Association of City

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Employees (MACE). AUTHORITY: Government Code Section 54957.6

**B.5.** SUBJECT: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL--ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (2). No. of cases: One

**B.6.** SUBJECT: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT - TITLE: City Attorney; AUTHORITY: Government Code 54957

**Clerk's Note:** Council adjourned from Closed Session at 5:26 PM.

## **C. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor SERRATTO called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

C.1. Invocation - Caesar Johnson, Christian Life Center Merced

The Invocation was delivered by Pastor Caesar JOHNSON of the Christian Life Center Merced.

C.2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Martha ARMAS-KELLY sang the National Anthem of the United States of America.

## **D. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 7 - Mayor Matthew Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Bertha Perez, Council Member Jesse Ornelas, Council Member Sarah Boyle, Council Member Ronnie DeAnda, Council Member Shane Smith, and Council Member Fue Xiong

**Absent:** 0

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 - FAREWELL AND SWEARING IN**

Farewell to Outgoing City Manager Stephanie Dietz

Council and members of the public thanked Outgoing City Manager Stephanie DIETZ for her services and congratulated her on her achievements.

Mrs. DIETZ shared her final comments as City Manager.

**F.1.**

**SUBJECT:** Oath of Office - City Manager, Scott McBride

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

The Mayor will swear in City Manager, Scott McBride.

Mayor SERRATTO gave the Oath of Office to Scott MCBRIDE and announced him as the new City Manager for the City of Merced.

Mr. MCBRIDE thanked the Council, City staff, his family, and all those in attendance.

Members of the public congratulated Mr. MCBRIDE for his appointment.

**F.2.**

**SUBJECT:** Oath of Office - Police Chief, Steven Stanfield

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

The City Manager will swear in Police Chief, Steven Stanfield.

City Manager Scott MCBRIDE gave the Oath of Office to Steven STANFIELD and announced him as the new Chief of Police for the City of Merced.

Mr. STANFIELD thanked the community and all those in attendance.

Members of the public congratulated Mr. STANFIELD.

**G CEREMONIAL MATTERS - OBSERVANCE**

**G1.**

**SUBJECT:** Proclamation - School Psychologist Week

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Accepted by Merced Union High School District representatives April De La Cruz CVA-CASP Board Member, Donna Hoffart, Angelica Navarrette Perez, Antonio Rodriguez, Brianna Perez - Intern, and Seinna Mays-Meneley; Merced County Office of Education representatives Patrick

Beiswanger - CVA-CASP Board Member, Kathere Williams, Cailan Gaede, and Arianna Ramirez; Merced City School District representatives Janette Ramirez, Muriel Banda, Diane Taylor, Chris Bruening, Patricia Lomeli, and Serafin Lomeli; and Planada Elementary School District representative Laura Flores Beiswanger.

Mayor SERRATTO presented the School Psychologist Week Proclamation to representatives of the Merced Union High School District, Merced County Office of Education, Merced City School District, Planada Elementary School District, and the Central Valley Affiliate - California Association of School Psychologists.

**G2.**

**SUBJECT:** Proclamation - Native American Heritage Month

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Accepted by Martha Armas-Kelly and United Tribes of California.

Mayor SERRATTO presented the Native American Heritage Month Proclamation to Martha ARMAS-KELLY and representatives of the United Tribes of California.

**Clerk's Note:** Council took a recess at 7:13 PM and returned at 7:21 PM

**H. WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**Clerk's Note:** Emails were received for the following agenda item and forwarded to Council prior to the meeting.

Oral Communications: Concerned Citizen.

Agenda Item J.6.: Belinda BURNETT.

**I. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Concerned Citizen, Merced - shared safety concerns of the bridge underpass on G Street.

Florence LAMBERT, Merced - spoke on Council Member XIONG's comments during the October 16th Council meeting.

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

Steven GRAHAM, Merced - thanked incoming and outgoing City staff and spoke on the issue of profanity in the Council Chambers.

Steve KUYKENDALL, Merced - thanked the City for their investment in the disc golf sport and shared details of Disc Golf.

Zachary KUYKENDALL, Merced - spoke on the up-bringing of Disc Golf and the value of the sport.

Cindy KELLY, Merced - spoke on her concerns of Council Member XIONG's speech in the previous Council meeting.

Michael VASQUEZ, Merced - spoke on the 63rd Annual Golden Valley event and Golden Valley High School students shared their experience of being in the Central California Band Review.

Christan SANTOS, Representative of Congressman John DUARTE - Honored Stephanie DIETZ, congratulated incoming City Manager and Police Chief, spoke on the Nut Festival event, the large amount of American almond production, the protection of Israel people, and Veteran's Day.

Japjeet SINGH - spoke on the conflict in the Middle East and asked Council to adopt a Resolution to cease fire.

Parwinder UPPAL, Merced - asked Council to pass a Resolution to demand a cease fire.

Necola ADAMS, Merced - spoke on the Nut Festival and thanked Veterans for serving our country.

Martha ARMAS-KELLY, Merced - spoke on attending the National Center of Atmospheric Research (NCAR) to represent the Merced Community.

Jason BEACH, Vice President of Disc Golf, Merced - spoke on the pros of Disc Golf and the field in Merced.

## **J. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Agenda Item J.6. Approval to Amend the Purchase Order for Graffiti Abatement from Brisco Enterprises Increasing the Total Compensation to \$107,523.60 was pulled for separate consideration.

### **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

**Clerk's Note:** Council Member SMITH announced he will not be voting on Agenda Item J.13 due to a conflict of interest with his workplace.

Interim City Attorney Brian DOYLE stated, "There is a specific FPPC ruling that says on Consent Calendar items, it's not necessary, as long as the voting member discloses the conflict and requests that his vote be registered abstention. He does not need to leave the room and he can vote on the rest of the Consent Calendar as a single vote."

**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:** 7 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Smith, and Council Member Xiong

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 0

**J.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.**

**J.2.                    SUBJECT: Information Only Contracts for the Month of October 2023**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Notification of awarded Non-Public Works contracts under \$37,000 and of Public Works contracts under \$84,338.

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**J.3.                    SUBJECT: Approval of City Council/Public Financing and Economic Development/Parking Authority/Successor Agency to the**

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Redevelopment Agency Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2023

**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 March 20, 2023.

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**J.4.**

**SUBJECT:** Approval to Award a Bid to Lowest Responsive Bidder, Taylor Backhoe Service, Inc. dba TBS Contractors, for the Bel Air Sewer Line, Project Number CP220033, in the Amount of \$432,395.12

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Considers approving to award a Construction Contract to the Lowest Responsive Bidder, Taylor Backhoe Service, Inc. dba, TBS Contractors, in the amount of \$432,395.12 for the Bel Air Sewer Relocation Project.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion:

A. Awarding the Bel Air Sewer Relocation Project, Project No. CP220033 to the Lowest Responsive Bidder, Taylor Backhoe Service, Inc. dba TBS Contractors, in the amount of \$432,395.12; and,

B. Authorizing the City Manager or Deputy 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.

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**J.5.**

**SUBJECT:** Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding Between

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City of Merced, Merced County, Merced Union High School District, and Merced County Office of Education Dedicating Additional Land and Resources to the Expansion of Community Park 42 and Memorializing the Intent of these Jurisdictions to Form a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to Operate the Sports Complex in the Future

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Considers approving a Memorandum of Understanding between City of Merced, Merced County, Merced Union High School District, and Merced County Office dedicating additional resources to the expansion of Community Park 42 and memorializing the intent of these jurisdictions to form a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to operate the Sports Complex in the future.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving a Memorandum of Understanding between City of Merced, Merced County, Merced Union High School District, and Merced County Office of Education dedicating additional resources to the expansion of Community Park 42 and memorializing the intent of these jurisdictions to form a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to operate the Sports Complex in the future; and,

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

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**J.7.**

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Additions and Deletions to Positions, Job Descriptions, and Salaries for the Fire Department

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Considers approving the additions and deletions to positions, job descriptions, and salaries for the Fire Department.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and



Paramedic job descriptions and salaries in the Fire Department for future; and,

B. Approving the Fire Captain I/II, Engineer I/II, and Firefighter I/II job descriptions and salary schedules and the deletion of Fire Captain, Engineer, and Fire Fighter job descriptions and salary schedules in the Fire Department; and,

C. Approving the addition of 18 Fire Captain I/II, 18 Engineer I/II, and 24 Firefighter I/II positions and the deletion of 18 Fire Captain, 18 Fire Engineer, and 24 Fire Fighter positions in the Fire Department; and,

D. Approving the addition of 24 Firefighter I/II positions to be covered by the SAFER grant for the first three years; and,

E. Approving **Resolution 2023-82**, A Resolution of the City of Merced, California, amending the Classification Plan by updating the personnel allocation in the Fire Department by adding the Paramedic job classification and salary, adding Emergency Medical Technician job classification and salary, adding the Firefighter I/II job classification and salary, adding the Engineer I/II job classification and salary, adding the Fire Captain I/II job classification and salary; and deleting the Fire Fighter job classification and salary, deleting the Engineer job classification and salary, and Fire Captain job classification and salary; and,

F. Authorizing the City Manager or Deputy City Manager to execute all documents, including any amendments; and,

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

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**J.8.**

**SUBJECT: Authorization to Accept the Donation of "One" 40 by 70-Foot Modular Building up to \$270,000 in Value from Enzo Olive Oil Company for the Merced Regional Fire Training Center**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Considers authorizing to accept a donation of "one" 40 by 70-foot modular building in the value of \$270,000 from Enzo Olive Oil Company located in Clovis CA, as the main classroom for the fire department at the Merced Regional Fire Training Center.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion:

- A. Accepting a donation in the form of “one” 40 by 70-foot modular building with a value of \$270,000 from Enzo Olive Oil Company; and,
- B. Authorizing the City Manager or the Deputy City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**J.9.**

**SUBJECT:** Awarding LifeLine Community Development Corporation (CDC) the Community Center Use Agreement for McNamara Youth Center for Afterschool Youth Programming for a One Year Term with an Option to Extend an Additional Year, the Agreement Terms also Include an Annual Stipend of \$7,500, as Recommended by the Recreation and Parks Commission

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Considers awarding Community Center Use Agreement- McNamara Youth Center to LifeLine Community Development Corporation to offer daytime and afterschool youth focused programming as recommended by the Recreation and Parks Commission. The term of the Agreement will be for one year with an option to extend one additional year. The Agreement terms also include an annual stipend of \$7,500 to use towards the cost of utilities at the center.

Lifeline CDC has proposed implementing Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). This is a process that includes walking the neighborhood, learning the community story, discovering the gifts of the community, learning what neighbors care enough about to act on, bring neighbors together around common goals, implement activities to meet goals, measure success and celebrate as a community.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion:

- A. Approving the Use Agreement with Lifeline Community Development Corporation for afterschool youth programming at the McNamara Youth Center for a one-year term with an option to extend

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the term for an additional one-year term; and,

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

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

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**J.10.**

**SUBJECT:** Approval to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit a Grant Application on Behalf of the Department of Parks and Community Services to the California State Department of Parks and Recreation Outdoor Equity Grants Program for \$600,000 to Fund Outdoor Programs Designed to Take Place in the Community and at Natural Area Destinations Including Local, Regional, State and National Parks

#### **REPORT IN BRIEF**

Considers approving to adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the California State Department of Parks and Recreation for the Outdoor Equity Grant. Grant funds will be used to fund outdoor focused recreational programs offered through Parks & Community Services. Program activities will include park based outdoor recreation & education as well as natural area trips to state, regional and national parks, forests, and beaches. If awarded, the home base for programming will be Stephen Leonard Youth Center. No matching funds are required. The grant application is due December 14th, awards will be announced Summer 2024, and programming will start as early as Fall 2024. The Department is requesting the amount of \$600,000 for the program period of 2024-2027.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion:

A. Adopting **Resolution 2023-79**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, Approving the Application to the State Department of Parks and Recreation for Outdoor Equity Grants Program Grant Funds; and,

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

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

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**J.11.**

**SUBJECT:** Approval of a Public Facilities Impact Fee Credit Agreement Between the City of Merced and Gateway Park Development Partners, LLC, to Provide Credit of the Public Safety Portion of the Public Facilities Impact Fee in Exchange for the Dedication of 1.5 Acres of Land at the Southeast Corner of Gerard Avenue and Pluim Drive (Extended) for a Future Fire Station

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Considers approving a Public Facilities Impact Fee Credit Agreement to provide credit for the Public Safety portion of the Public Facilities Impact Fee in exchange for the dedication of 1.5 acres of land for a future fire station.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving the Public Facilities Impact Fee Credit Agreement between the City of Merced and Gateway Park Development Partners, LLC; and,

B. Authorizing the City Manager or the Deputy City Manager to execute the agreement.

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**J.12.**

**SUBJECT:** Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with De Novo Planning Group in the Amount of \$308,774 and a Deposit and Reimbursement Agreement with UC Village, LLC, in the Amount of \$339,651.40 Relating to the Annexation of the Approximately 37.2 Acres of Land at the Southwest Corner of Bellevue and Lake Roads (UC Villages Annexation)

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Considers approving a Professional Services Agreement with De Novo

Planning Group, in the amount of \$308,774 to perform environmental services for the annexation of approximately 37.2 acres at the southwest corner of Bellevue and Lake Roads (UC Villages Annexation) to the City of Merced and entering into a Deposit and Reimbursement Agreement with UC Villages, LLC, in the amount of \$339,651.40 to fund the De Novo Planning Group contract and to reimburse for City staff time to manage the contract.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving an Agreement for Services with De Novo Planning Group, in the amount of \$308,774 to perform environmental services for the annexation of the UC Villages project to the City of Merced; and,

B. Approving a Deposit and Reimbursement Agreement with UC Villages, LLC, in the amount of \$339,651.40 to cover the cost of the consultant contract (\$308,774) and staff time (\$30,877.40) for the administration of the environmental review process and contract; and,

C. Approving an increase of revenue in the amount of \$308,774 to Fund 3000-Development Services, Developer Capital Fees account and appropriating the same to Fund 3000-Development Services, Professional Services account for payment to Environmental Science Associates; and,

D. Approving an increase in revenue in the amount of \$30,877.40 to Fund 3000-Development Services, Cost Recovery account; and,

E. Authorizing the City Manager or Deputy City Manager to execute the agreements; and,

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

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**J.13.**

**SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution Setting a Public Hearing for Monday, December 4, 2023, to Abandon a 64-Foot-Wide Public Utilities Easement (PUE) Located on the South Side of Devonwood Drive, Approximately 450 Feet West of Bannon Lane (Vacation #23-03)**

#### REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers adopting a Resolution to set a public hearing for December 4, 2023, to abandon a 64-foot-wide Public Utilities Easement (PUE) located on the south side of Devonwood Drive, approximately 450 feet west of Bannon Lane.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**City Council** - Adopt a motion adopting **Resolution 2023-80**, A Resolution of the City Council of The City of Merced, California, declaring its intention to vacate a 64-foot-wide Public Utilities Easement on the south side of Devonwood Drive, approximately 450 feet west of Bannon Lane (Vacation #23-03) and setting a time and place for a Public Hearing.

**Clerk's Note:** Council Member SMITH abstained from this item, Consent Calendar was voted as a single vote.

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**J.14.**

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of a Resolution Setting a Public Hearing for Monday, December 4, 2023, to Abandon a 15-Foot-Wide Public Utilities Easement (PUE) Located at 2111 Wardrobe Avenue, Generally Located on the North Side of Wardrobe Avenue, Approximately 1,360 Feet East of Thornton Road (Vacation #23-04)

#### REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers adopting a Resolution to set a public hearing for December 4, 2023, to vacate a 15-foot-wide Public Utilities Easement (PUE) located at 2111 Wardrobe Avenue, generally located on the north side of Wardrobe Avenue, approximately 1,360 feet east of Thornton Road.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**City Council** - Adopt a motion adopting **Resolution 2023-81**, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, declaring its intention to vacate a 15-foot-wide Public Utilities Easement located at 2111 Wardrobe Avenue, generally located on the north side of Wardrobe Avenue, approximately 1,360 feet east of Thornton Road (Vacation #23-04) and setting a time and place for a Public Hearing.

**This Consent Item was approved.**

J.15.

**SUBJECT:** Second Reading and Final Adoption of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, Amending the Official Zoning Map by Prezoning the UC Merced Campus, Generally Located at the Northeast and Southeast Corners of Bellevue and Lake Roads as Public Facility (P-F)

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Second reading and final adoption of An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, Amending the Official Zoning Map by Prezoning the UC Merced Campus, generally located at the northeast and southeast corners of Bellevue and Lake Roads as Public Facility (P-F).

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion adopting **Ordinance 2557**, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, Amending the Official Zoning Map by Prezoning the UC Merced Campus, generally located at the northeast and southeast corners of Bellevue and Lake Roads as Public Facility (P-F).

**This Consent Item was approved.**

J.6.

**SUBJECT:** Approval to Amend the Purchase Order for Graffiti Abatement from Brisco Enterprises Increasing the Total Compensation to \$107,523.60

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Considers approving an amendment of the purchase order with Brisco Enterprises for graffiti abatement services from \$46,428 of abatement services that have already been provided from August to October, to \$107,523.60. This agreement is for an additional 90 days of service while a new Request for Proposals (RFP) is processed per Council's request.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving the amendment of a Purchase Order for Graffiti Abatement with Brisco Enterprises to increase the total compensation to \$107,523.60; and,

B. Authorizing the City Manager or the Deputy City Manager, to execute the necessary documents or contracts; and,

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

D. Authorizing the City Buyer to issue the Amended Purchase Order(s).

Mayor SERRATTO pulled this item at the request of the public.

Lanie GLADWIN, Merced - spoke on the graffiti in parks and walking paths, shared concerns of the gang tagging, and asked to continue the graffiti services.

Chris ROSS, Merced - spoke on vulgar graffiti in walking paths where children walk to school every day and asked Council to approve the graffiti services.

Ron COOK, Merced - spoke in favor of the graffiti services in Merced and shared details of the graffiti.

Adam REED, Thunderbird Employee, Merced - spoke on the services that will provided and the wages from California Department of Industrial Relations.

Julene COOK, Merced - spoke on the graffiti on Bear Creek Drive and in favor to continue the graffiti abatement.

Council and City Manager Scott MCBRIDE discussed the date set for the Request For Proposal (RFP), scope of work, hourly timeline in contract, the Municode section regarding graffiti, and companies providing services.

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

**Aye:** 6 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Smith

**No:** 1 - Council Member Xiong

**Absent:** 0

## K. REPORTS



**K.1.** **SUBJECT:** Update on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Utility Bill Relief Program and Provide Direction of the Remaining Program Funds Totaling \$572,015

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Update on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Utility Bill Relief Program and provide direction of the remaining program funds totaling \$572,015.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Provide staff direction on the potential reallocation of \$572,015 in utility bill relief program funding.

Finance Officer Venus RODRIGUEZ gave a slideshow presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Utility Relief Program update.

Council, Mrs. RODRIGUEZ, City Manager Scott MCBRIDE, and Director of Parks and Community Services Christopher JENSEN discussed reallocating the funds, current funding amount, residents that qualify for the program, a potential end-date, all ARPA allocations, Community Park-42 project funding, and projects that require funding.

Council agreed to create an end-date of March 31, 2024.

**A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, to end the Utility Bill Relief Program on March 31, 2024 and to add any funds left over will be devoted to CP-42 as City Manager and staff deem most appropriate. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Smith, and Council Member Xiong

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 0

**K.2.** **SUBJECT:** Consideration of the Recommendation from the Recreation and Parks Commission to Name the Picnic Shelter at Ray Flanagan Park- Slaton Family Shelter

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

An application has been received to consider the naming of the picnic shelter at Ray Flanagan Park. The application received suggests naming the facility Slaton Family Shelter. The application has been reviewed by the

Director of Parks and Community Services for requirements set forth in Administrative Policy A-20 and was found to be compliant with all requirements and without any identifiable conflict of interest. A public hearing was held by the Recreation and Parks Commission on September 25, 2023. As a result of the public hearing the Recreation and Parks Commission recommends City Council's formal adoption of the name Slaton Family Shelter for the picnic shelter at Ray Flanagan Park.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion approving the Recreation and Parks Commission recommendation to name the picnic shelter at Ray Flanagan Park as Slaton Family Shelter.

Director of Parks and Community Services Christopher JENSEN and the Applicant Tony SLATON gave a slideshow presentation on the Recreation and Parks Commission's recommendation to name the picnic shelter at Ray Flanagan Park to Slaton Family Shelter.

Council and Interim City Attorney Brian DOYLE discussed the Council action.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Smith, and Council Member Xiong

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 0

#### **K.3.                    SUBJECT: Report on Fire Department Strategic Plan and Adoption of Fire Department Strategic Plan**

#### **REPORT IN BRIEF**

Report on Fire Department Strategic Plan.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion adopting the Fire Department Strategic Plan.

Fire Chief Derek PARKER gave a slideshow presentation on the Fire Department's Strategic Plan.

Cindy KELLY, Merced - spoke on the Emergency Medical Services section of Goal Number one in the Strategic Plan.

Council Member SMITH and Mr. PARKER discussed details of the apparatus maintenance.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Smith, and Council Member Xiong

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 0

## **L. BUSINESS**

### **L.1. SUBJECT: Review and Discussion on a Potential Ordinance Regulating Vacant and/or Blighted Buildings**

#### **REPORT IN BRIEF**

Review of ordinances from cities in California that set specific guidelines for vacant and blighted buildings. This includes specifications for safety hazards, security, and maintenance protocol.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Information only. Should the City Council want to take further action a separate agenda item will be prepared for consideration and possible action.

City Manager Scott MCBRIDE gave a slideshow presentation on a potential Ordinance regulating vacant and/or blighted buildings.

Council, Mr. MCBRIDE, and Interim City Attorney Brian DOYLE discussed implementing standards for maintenance and upkeep, the safety, alternatives of buildings, proposing a fee on building owners, the potential of hiring additional staff or consultants due to the severity of the issue, and the verbiage of the City of Richmond's Ordinance. They also discussed implementing fines for commercial buildings, specific commercial buildings in Merced, lack of staffing in Code Enforcement, implementing a registry with property owners, vacant housing, and the building abatement process.

Council agreed for the Public Safety Subcommittee to work with City staff and focus on commercial buildings.

**L.2.**                    **SUBJECT: Selection of Council Members to Attend the May 2024 One Voice Trip**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Council to decide who will attend the One Voice conference May 14 -17, 2024.

Council discussed which members would attend the annual One Voice delegation to Washington D.C.

**A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Boyle, that Mayor Pro Tempore Perez and Council Member Boyle attend the One Voice delegation to Washington D.C. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Smith, and Council Member Xiong

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 0

**L.3.**                    **SUBJECT: Mayor Serratto's Request to Discuss Grants for a Bike Park in Fahrens Park**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Mayor Serratto's request to discuss grants for a bike park in Fahrens Park.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Provide direction to staff on the next steps.

Mayor SERRATTO briefly discussed grants for a Bike Park in Fahrens Park.

Council, City Manager Scott MCBRIDE, and Director of Parks and Community Services Christopher JENSEN discussed the expansion of Fahrens Park, the placement of the Bike Park, funding sources, the donated expansion portion of the park, and the type of Bike Parks.

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, seconded by Council Member Boyle, to explore grant options. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Smith, and Council Member Xiong

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 0

**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.

Council Member DEANDA requested to discuss the enhancement of lighting in the Dennis Chavez Park and the Diego Rivera Park.

City Manager Scott MCBRIDE stated this fell under Goals and Priorities and will work with Mr. DEANDA.

Council Member ORNELAS requested a report from the Police Chief with pre-hire and post-hire training for dispatchers and police officers on January 2nd, for the City to communicate with the Department of Justice and the Merced County Sheriff's Department regarding community violence, and requested the release of footage to the public regarding Gilbert GARETT.

Mayor SERRATTO stated there will be another Public Safety Subcommittee to discuss Mr. ORNELAS' request.

Council Member XIONG requested to discuss a Resolution calling for the cease fire on December 18th.

Council Member SMITH requested to discuss the CALVIP Grant at the Public Safety Subcommittee meeting and the Roberts Rules of Order Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to meet in January.

**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.

Mayor Pro Tempore PEREZ reported on attending the Trunk-or-Treat from Merced Police Department, handed out candy with Mayor SERRATTO at the Main Street Pride event, the Merced County Times dinner/ Fundraiser for Merced Kiddieland and the upcoming Adam GRAY's Town Hall event. She expressed her apology for missing the Nut Festival and thanked City staff for their presentations.

Council Member SMITH reported on attending Police Chief Steven STANFIELD's swearing and spoke on the upcoming 5k Run for the Rail event.

Council Member BOYLE reported on attending the Merced County Times dinner/ Fundraiser for Merced Kiddieland, Police Chief Steven STANFIELD's swearing, spoke on the upcoming Veteran's Day Parade, and the 5k Run for the Rail event.

Mayor SERRATTO reported on attending all the Halloween events in Merced, the Haunted House at the old Sunstar building with the Merced Police Explorers, the 3 Muskateers Play at Merced College, spoke on the Veteran's Day festivities, the 1213 V Street Project, and the Council's support for the Kiddieland.

## M. ADJOURNMENT

**Clerk's Note:** The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 10:07 PM.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Perez, Council Member Ornelas, Council Member Boyle, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Smith, and Council Member Xiong

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 0