



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, October 6, 2025

6:00 PM

A. CLOSED SESSION ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Matthew Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Sarah Boyle, Council Member Darin Dupont, Council Member Ronnie DeAnda, Council Member Michael Harris, Council Member Shane Smith, and Council Member Fue Xiong

Absent: 0

B. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor SERRATTO called the Closed Session to order at 5:01 PM.

Clerk's Note: Council Member XIONG arrived to Closed Session at 5:15 PM.

B.1.

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 Gage Dungey; 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.2.

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION City of Merced v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, et al. MSC Case No. 23CV-03845 Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)

B.3.

SUBJECT: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - Title: Finance Officer; Authority: Government Code Section 54957

Clerk's Note: Council adjourned from Closed Session at 5:43 PM.

C. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor SERRATTO called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

C.1. Invocation - Bruce Metcalf, Rescue Mission

The Invocation was delivered by Bruce Metcalf of the Rescue Mission.

C.2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Council Member DEANDA and Police Captain Joey PEREZ led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

D. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Matthew Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Sarah Boyle, Council Member Darin Dupont, Council Member Ronnie DeAnda, Council Member Michael Harris, 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 \$500.00 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 2024-78. 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: Proclamation - Hispanic Heritage Month

REPORT IN BRIEF

Received by a representative of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor SERRATTO presented the Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation to members of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

G. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

G.1. SUBJECT: Presentation on Young Legislators Program 2025

REPORT IN BRIEF

Presented by Joyce Dale from State Senator Ana Caballero's Office.

Representative of Senator Anna CABALLERO Joyce DALE presented a video on the Young Legislators Program of 2025.

Members of the Young Legislatures Program introduced themselves and shared details of the program.

H. WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

Agenda Item J.6.: Betty CARTER, Lori SYNDER, and Rosalie HAYGOOD.

Agenda Item M.1.: Caleb MEDEFIND.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara CORTEZ, Merced - shared concerns of the trees not being trimmed along Bear Creek and seating in City parks.

Mayor SERRATTO suggested to speak to the Director of Parks and Community Services and the Deputy City Manager.

Aggie FREEMAN, Merced - shared details of the Wall that Heals event.

Belinda BURNETT, Merced - thanked everyone for their attendance at the Merced County Courthouse Museum Anniversary event, spoke on the increase of food trucks, and the difficulties hearing the Council meetings online.

Melissa MORALES, Merced - spoke on the increase of street vendors in the City that are not permitted.

Gloria SANDOVAL, Merced - shared concerns of the future increase of homelessness due to the state not funding permanent housing.

Rafael MACIAS, Merced - asked to hold illegal street vendors accountable.

Mayor SERRATTO directed him to speak to the Merced Police Department.

Chief of Police Steven STANFIELD, Merced - shared a updates on the third quarter of the Merced Police Department.

Deputy City Manager Frank QUINTERO and Economic Development Associate Amanda WILLIAMS - gave a slideshow presentation on the efforts made by the Office of Economic Development.

Akram AHMAD, 209 Eats, Merced - spoke on separating the unlicensed vendors from licensed vendors.

J. CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Items J.3. Information Only - Traffic Committee Minutes of July 8, 2025, J.5. Approval of First Amendments to Professional Services Agreements with Interwest Consulting Group Inc., CSG Consultants Inc., and Bureau Veritas North American Inc. to Extend the Term of the Agreement to October 16, 2026, J.6. Selection of Eligible Roadway and Safety Projects and Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to File the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Exchange Fund Claim in the Amount of \$1,318,873 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, J.8. Adoption of Resolution to Implement a Grant Policy as Part of the City's Administrative Policies and Procedures, J.10. Approval to Purchase Accessible Pedestrian Signal Components (Push Buttons at Schools), for a Total Cost not to Exceed \$106,310.32, for Measure V Funded Project CP250040 and Approval to Purchase School Flashing Beacons for a Total Cost not to Exceed \$132,703.67, for Measure V Funded Project CP260037, J.11. Approval Purchase One (1) New Kubota Skid Steer Loader, Compact Construction Equipment, Model SSV75HFRC, and Necessary Attachment Equipment from Garton Tractor, Inc., in the Amount of \$72,003.89 as a Vehicle Replacement for E-1199 for the Water Division, and J.15. Authorization to Accept \$95,000 in Grant Funds from the California Office of Traffic Safety to Conduct DUI Checkpoints, DUI Saturation Patrols, Traffic Safety Enforcement, Distracted Driving Enforcement, Motorcycle Enforcement, Pedestrian/Bicycle Enforcement, Street Racing Enforcement, and Educational Presentations, Along with Funds for Attending Training and Funds for Checkpoint Supplies as Part of the California Office of Traffic Safety Traffic Enforcement Program Grant; were pulled for separate consideration.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 7 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Harris, 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 September 2025

REPORT IN BRIEF

Notification of awarded Non-Public Works contracts under \$39,000 and of Public Works contracts under \$87,278.

This Consent Item was approved.

J.4.

SUBJECT: Approval of City Council/Public Financing and Economic Development/Parking Authority/Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2025 and May 5, 2025

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 21, 2025 and May 5, 2025.

This Consent Item was approved.

J.7.

SUBJECT: Approval of City-Owned Real Property Use #25-0007 by Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) to Use the First Floor of the Civic Center to Host a Reception for the California Transportation Commission, to Include Serving of Alcohol (Beer and Wine Only), on Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 4:00 pm., to 8:00 p.m.

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving the use of the First Floor of the Civic Center for Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) to Host a Reception for the California Transportation Commission, to include serving of alcohol (beer and wine only) on Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 4:00 p.m., to 8:00 p.m. (this is to include set-up and clean-up).

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion

A. Approving the use of the first floor of the Merced Civic Center by MCAG to host the California Transportation Commission on Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.; allowing the serving of alcohol; subject to the conditions outlined in the administrative report; and,

B. Authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to ensure compliance with the approved conditions.

This Consent Item was approved.

J.9.

SUBJECT: Approval of Contract Renewal for Subscription Services not to Exceed 5 Years for an Online Citizen Reporting System Through LexisNexis for an Amount Not to Exceed \$86,291.50

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving the renewal of the LexisNexis software subscription, which enables community members to file certain police reports online.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving a Software Subscription Agreement with LexisNexis; and,

B. Approving Law Enforcement Agreement with LexisNexis; and,

C. Authorizing the City Manager to execute necessary documents.

This Consent Item was approved.

J.12.

SUBJECT: Approval to Purchase One (1) New Curbtender Quantum 8YD Refuse Truck, and Necessary Attachment Equipment, From

Rush Truck Centers, in the Amount of \$186,210.75 for the Refuse
Department as an Addition for the Refuse Department

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving the purchase of one 2026 Curbtender Quantum 8YD Refuse Rear Loader body in the amount of \$186,210.75 utilizing the cost savings government procurement program (Sourcewell). The purchase of the new vehicle will increase collection efficiency, improve reliability, reduce maintenance costs, and increase efficiency in daily operations.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

- A. Waiving the City's competitive bidding requirement as permitted by Merced Municipal Code section 3.04.210 and authorizing the purchase to be made with a cooperative purchase agreement through Sourcewell, a government procurement program; and,
- B. Approving the purchase of one 2026 Curbtender Quantum 8YD Refuse Rear Loader body in the amount of \$186,210.75 from Rush Truck Centers, through Sourcewell contract # 032824-RTG; and,
- C. Authorizing the City Manager to execute any necessary documents for the purchase specified above; and,
- D. Authorizing the issuance of the Purchase Order, and approval of change orders not to exceed 10% of the total purchase price.

This Consent Item was approved.

J.13.

SUBJECT: Approval to Purchase Two (2) New Side Loader Refuse Trucks, and Necessary Attachment Equipment, From Interstate Truck Center - Valley Peterbilt, in the Total Amount of \$877,105.01 for the Refuse Department to Replace Vehicles E-1400 & E-1362

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving the purchase of two 2026 Peterbilt 520 truck with NewWay Sidewinder Side Loader body in the amount of \$877,105.01 utilizing the cost savings government procurement program (Sourcewell). The purchase of the new vehicles will replace aging equipment that will improve reliability, reduce maintenance costs, and

increase efficiency in daily operations.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Waiving the City's competitive bidding requirement as permitted by Merced Municipal Code section 3.04.210 and authorizing the purchase to be made with a cooperative purchase agreement through Sourcewell, a government procurement program; and,

B. Approving the purchase of two 2026 Peterbilt 520 truck with NewWay Sidewinder Side Loader body in the amount of \$877,105.01 from Interstate Truck Center - Valley Peterbilt, through Sourcewell contract # 032824-PMC; and,

C. Authorizing the City Manager to execute any necessary documents for the purchase specified above; and,

D. Authorizing the issuance of the Purchase Order, and approval of change orders not to exceed 10% of the total purchase price.

This Consent Item was approved.

J.14.

SUBJECT: Approval to Purchase One (1) New Front Loader Refuse Truck, and Necessary Attachment Equipment, From Interstate Truck Center - Valley Peterbilt, in the Amount of \$384,392.95 for the Refuse Department to Replace Vehicle E-1401

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving the purchase of one 2026 Peterbilt 520 truck with NewWay Mammoth Front End Loader body in the amount of \$384,392.95 utilizing the cost savings government procurement program (Sourcewell). The purchase of the new vehicle will replace aging equipment that will improve reliability, reduce maintenance costs, and increase efficiency in daily operations.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Waiving the City's competitive bidding requirement as permitted by Merced Municipal Code section 3.04.210 and authorizing the purchase to be made with a cooperative purchase agreement through

Sourcewell, a government procurement program; and,

B. Approving the purchase of one 2026 Peterbilt 520 truck with NewWay Mammoth Front End Loader body in the amount of \$384,392.95 from Interstate Truck Center - Valley Peterbilt, through Sourcewell contract # 032824-PMC; and,

C. Authorizing the City Manager to execute any necessary documents for the purchase specified above; and,

D. Authorizing the issuance of the Purchase Order, and approval of change orders not to exceed 10% of the total purchase price.

This Consent Item was approved.

J.5.

SUBJECT: Approval of First Amendments to Professional Services Agreements with Interwest Consulting Group Inc., CSG Consultants Inc., and Bureau Veritas North American Inc. to Extend the Term of the Agreement to October 16, 2026

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving First Amendments to the Professional Services Agreements with Interwest Consulting Group Inc., CSG Consultants Inc., and Bureau Veritas North American Inc. to extend the term of the agreement to October 16, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council- Adopt a motion:

A. Approving the First Amendment to Contract for Professional Services with Interwest Consulting Group Inc., to extend the term for services to October 16, 2026; and,

B. Approving the First Amendment to Contract for Professional Services with CSG Consultants Inc., to extend the term for services to October 16, 2026; and,

C. Approving the First Amendment to Contract for Professional Services with Bureau Veritas North American Inc., to extend the term for services to October 16, 2026; and,

D. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the above agreements.

Clerk's Note: Mayor SERRATTO moved Agenda Items J.5. and J.11. to

be heard before Agenda Item J.3.

Mayor SERRATTO pulled this item at the request of Council Member HARRIS and Council Member SMITH.

Clerk's Note: Council Member SMITH recused himself due to the applicant being a client at his law firm.

Council Member HARRIS and Chief Building Official Denise FRAZIER discussed opening a grant writer position and details of the Professional Services Agreements.

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

Aye: 6 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Harris, and Council Member Xiong

No: 0

Absent: 0

Recused: 1 - Council Member Smith

J.11.

SUBJECT: Approval Purchase One (1) New Kubota Skid Steer Loader, Compact Construction Equipment, Model SSV75HFRC, and Necessary Attachment Equipment from Garton Tractor, Inc., in the Amount of \$72,003.89 as a Vehicle Replacement for E-1199 for the Water Division

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving the purchase of one Kubota Skid Steer Loader, Model SSV75HFRC, in the amount of \$72,003.89 utilizing the cost savings government procurement program (Sourcewell). The purchase of the new vehicle will replace aging equipment that will improve reliability, reduce maintenance costs, and increase efficiency in daily operations.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Waiving the City's competitive bidding requirement as permitted by Merced Municipal Code section 3.04.210 and authorizing the purchase to be made with a cooperative purchase agreement through Sourcewell, a government procurement program; and,

B. Approving the purchase of one Kubota Skid Steer Loader, Model SSV75HFRC, in the amount of \$72,003.89 from Garton Tractor, through Sourcewell Kubota contract # 112624-KBA; and,

C. Authorizing the City Manager to execute any necessary documents for the purchase specified above; and,

D. Authorizing the issuance of the Purchase Order and approval of change orders not to exceed 10% of the total purchase price.

Clerk's Note: Mayor SERRATTO moved Agenda Items J.5. and J.11. to be heard before Agenda Item J.3.

Mayor SERRATTO pulled this item at the request of Council Member SMITH.

Clerk's Note: Council Member SMITH recused himself due to the applicant being a client at his law firm.

Clerk's Note: There was no Council discussion.

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

Aye: 6 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Harris, and Council Member Xiong

No: 0

Absent: 0

Recused: 1 - Council Member Smith

J.3.

SUBJECT: Information Only - Traffic Committee Minutes of July 8, 2025

RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

Clerk's Note: Mayor SERRATTO moved Agenda Items J.5. and J.11. to be heard before Agenda Item J.3.

Mayor SERRATTO pulled this item at the request of resident Gwendolyn HAGAMAN.

Gwendolyn HAGAMAN, Merced - shared concerns of speeding vehicles on 21st Street, between the Courthouse Park and R Street, spoke on the

Traffic Committee, and the difficulty of attending meetings in the City.

Mayor SERRATTO stated that there is another Traffic Committee item on the Agenda.

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

Aye: 7 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Harris, Council Member Smith, and Council Member Xiong

No: 0

Absent: 0

J.6.

SUBJECT: Selection of Eligible Roadway and Safety Projects and Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to File the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Exchange Fund Claim in the Amount of \$1,318,873 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers selecting the McKee Road Rehab Project (CP260036) as Eligible Projects and authorizes staff to complete the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Claim Form in the total amount of \$1,318,873 for submittal to Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG).

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

- A. Selecting the McKee Road Rehab Project (CP260036) as the Eligible Project; and,
- B. Directing Staff to complete the 2024-2025 RSTP Claim Form by listing the selected projects and corresponding project costs; and,
- C. Adopting **Resolution 2025-58**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, authorizing the City Manager to file the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Exchange Funds claim for fiscal year 2024-2025; and,
- D. Authorizing Finance Officer to make the necessary budget amendment to reconcile the RSTP estimated budget amount to match the actual claim amount; and,

E. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

Mayor SERRATTO pulled this item at the request of Council Member XIONG.

Council and City Engineer Daryl JORDAN discussed pulling the item for separate consideration, details of the project, the reduction of cost, prioritizing this project, and community input.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore 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 Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Harris, and Council Member Smith

No: 1 - Council Member Xiong

Absent: 0

J.8.

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution to Implement a Grant Policy as Part of the City's Administrative Policies and Procedures

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers the adoption of a Resolution to implement a Grant Policy for the City of Merced.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion approving **Resolution 2025-59**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, Adopting the Grant Policy.

Mayor SERRATTO pulled this item at the request of Council Member HARRIS.

Council and Finance Officer Venus RODRIGUEZ discussed the threshold discussed in the proposed Grant Policy, the timing of grants, the process of accepting a grant, grant examples under the \$50,000 threshold, transparency of grants received, reporting grants under the threshold to Council as information only, being informed of the progress of grants, and Council discretion of grant funding.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Dupont, to approve the Grant Policy, reducing the threshold to \$39,000, and requiring that there be an Information Only accounting of grants, both green lit for composition and acceptance. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Smith

No: 2 - Council Member Harris, and Council Member Xiong

Absent: 0

J.10.

SUBJECT: Approval to Purchase Accessible Pedestrian Signal Components (Push Buttons at Schools), for a Total Cost not to Exceed \$106,310.32, for Measure V Funded Project CP250040 and Approval to Purchase School Flashing Beacons for a Total Cost not to Exceed \$132,703.67, for Measure V Funded Project CP260037

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers waiving the City's competitive bidding requirements pursuant to Merced Municipal Code Section 3.04.210 and approving the purchase of Accessible Pedestrian Signal components to upgrade 15 traffic signals near schools as well as replace 26 school flashing beacons.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

- A. Waiving the City's competitive bidding requirement as permitted by Merced Municipal Code Section 3.04.210 in order to standardize equipment; and,
- B. Approving the purchase of accessible pedestrian signal components for the not to exceed amount of \$106,310.32 from Jam Services, Inc.; and,
- C. Approving the purchase of school flashing beacons for the not to exceed amount of \$132,703.67 from Jam Services, Inc.; and,
- D. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents, the City Buyer to issue the Purchase Order, and approval of change orders not to exceed 10% of the total purchase price.

Mayor SERRATTO pulled this item at the request of Council Member XIONG.

Council, Director of Public Works Ken ELWIN, and City Manager Scott MCBRIDE discussed the types of projects, the Americans with Disabilities Act standards changing, the need to replace the pedestrian signal components, the timeline of both proposed projects, and the project

accomplishments of the previous year.

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

Aye: 6 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Harris, and Council Member Smith

No: 1 - Council Member Xiong

Absent: 0

J.15.

SUBJECT: Authorization to Accept \$95,000 in Grant Funds from the California Office of Traffic Safety to Conduct DUI Checkpoints, DUI Saturation Patrols, Traffic Safety Enforcement, Distracted Driving Enforcement, Motorcycle Enforcement, Pedestrian/Bicycle Enforcement, Street Racing Enforcement, and Educational Presentations, Along with Funds for Attending Training and Funds for Checkpoint Supplies as Part of the California Office of Traffic Safety Traffic Enforcement Program Grant

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers accepting grant funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety offered to the Merced Police Department in the amount of \$95,000 from the Traffic Enforcement Program Grant to conduct DUI Checkpoints, DUI Saturation Patrols, Traffic Safety Enforcement, Distracted Driving Enforcement, Motorcycle Enforcement, Pedestrian/Bicycle Enforcement, Street Racing and Sideshow Enforcement, Educational Presentations; and, to purchase checkpoint supplies, and to attend training related to alcohol enforcement.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Accepting the California Office of Traffic Safety Traffic Enforcement Program Grant in the amount of \$95,000; and,

B. Approving the use of pooled cash until grant funds are reimbursed; and,

C. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the OTS Grant Award and other necessary documents.

Mayor SERRATTO pulled this item at the request of Council Member XIONG.

Council Member XIONG requested a separate consideration.

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

Aye: 6 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Harris, and Council Member Smith

No: 1 - Council Member Xiong

Absent: 0

K. PUBLIC HEARINGS

K.1.

SUBJECT: Public Hearing - General Plan Amendment #24-03, Zone Change #435, Establishment of Residential Planned Development (RP-D) #83, and Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1333, Initiated by Lennar Homes of California, on Behalf of Merced Gateway, LLC, Property Owners. The Subject Site is Located at 3345, 3351, and 3610 E. Gerard Avenue, at the Southwest Corner of Campus Parkway and E. Gerard Avenue. The General Plan Amendment Would Change the General Plan Land Use Designation for Approximately 73.7 Acres from Manufacturing/Industrial (IND) and Business Park (BP) to Approximately 40.25 Acres of Low-Medium Residential (LMD), Approximately 22.65 Acres of High-Medium Density Residential (HMD), and Approximately 9 Acres to Remain Business Park (BP). The Zone Change Would Allow the Establishment of Residential Planned Development (RP-D) #83 to Change the Land Use from Business Park to "Residential" and Establish Development Standards for this Development. The Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map Would Subdivide Approximately 73.7 Acres to into Approximately 570 Residential Lots, Two Open Space/Park Areas Totaling Approximately 3 Acres, and Two Lots Designated Business Park (B-P) Totaling Approximately 9-Acres for Future Development

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers General Plan Amendment #24-03 to amend the General Plan Land Use Designation from Business Park (BP) and Manufacturing/Industrial (IND) to Business Park (BP), Low-Medium Residential (LMD), High-Medium Residential (HMD) and consider Zone Change #435 to allow the Establish Residential Planned Development (RP-D) #83. Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map (VSTM) #1333 would allow the development of 570 residential lots and about 9 acres of commercial/business park uses. Council would also consider the

Environmental Review and Legislative Action Agreement for approximately 73.7 acres located at 3345, 3351, and 3610 E. Gerard Avenue, at the southwest corner of Campus Parkway and E. Gerard Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Adopting **Resolution 2025-60**, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, #24-30 (Mitigated Negative Declaration) for General Plan Amendment #24-03 for approximately 61.7 acres of land generally located on the southwest corner of East Gerard Avenue and Campus Parkway, and approving General Plan Amendment #24-03 for the same property changing the General Plan designation from Business Park (BP) and Manufacturing/Industrial (IND) to Business Park (BP), Low Medium Density Residential (LMD), High-Medium Density (HMD); and,

B. Introducing **Ordinance 2581**, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, approving Zone Change #435 and Establishment Residential Planned Development (RP-D) #83, changing the land use designation from Business Park to Residential for 61.7 acres for an approximate 73.7 acre-parcel generally located on the southwest corner of East Gerard Avenue and Campus Parkway; and,

C. Approving the Legislative Action Agreement and authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

Clerk's Note: Council Member SMITH recused himself due to the applicant being a client at his law firm.

Associate Planner Valeria RENTERIA gave a slideshow presentation on the General Plan Amendment #24-03, Residential Planned Development Establishment #83, Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1333, Zone Change #435, and Environmental Review Checklist #24-30 on the Southwest corner of East Gerard Avenue and Campus Parkway.

Council and Mrs. RENTERIA discussed the planned parks in the project, affordable units, and the affordability of the project.

Mayor SERRATTO opened the Public Hearing at 7:34 PM.

Bill LYONS, Applicant, Merced - spoke in favor of the project, the responsible growth of the project, and shared details of the proposed project.

Timothy JONES, Owner of Merced Gateway LLC - spoke on working with Lennar Homes regarding the proposed project and thanked City staff for the work on the project.

Andrea BLAIN, Lennar Homes - stated her availability to answer questions regarding the proposed project.

Council, Mr. JONES, Ms. BLAIN, and Lennar Homes Associate Ravi MEKADESH discussed the plans for Plum Drive in conjunction to the proposed project, consideration of high density housing, the restraints of parking in the area, and the multi-family areas in the project.

Mayor SERRATTO closed the Public Hearing at 7:43 PM.

Council discussed the growth of South Merced, walk-able communities, the economic development opportunities, mixed income based homes, the increase of ground-breaking businesses, and the increase of housing in the City.

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

Aye: 5 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Harris

No: 1 - Council Member Xiong

Absent: 0

Recused: 1 - Council Member Smith

L. ACTION ITEMS

- L.1. **SUBJECT:** Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between the City of Merced Police Department and the University of California Merced Police Department

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving a MOA between the City of Merced Police Department and the University of California Merced Police Department. This is a no cost agreement that outlines operational responsibilities between the two departments.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving of a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Merced Police Department and the University of California Merced Police Department; and,

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

Chief of Police Steven STANFIELD briefly discussed the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Merced Police Department and the University of California Merced Police Department regarding the responsibilities of both police departments.

Clerk's Note: There was no Council discussion.

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

Aye: 6 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Harris, and Council Member Smith

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Council Member Xiong

L.2.

SUBJECT: Approving an Amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the City of Merced and the Merced Union High School District and Rescinding Prior Council Action Approving the Previous Memorandum of Understanding, for Fiscal Years 2025-2028

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving new terms and rescinding previously approved 3-year MOU between the City of Merced and the Merced Union High School District. The Merced Union High School District has requested a change in the language regarding the purchase of a new police vehicle to a vehicle use fee.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving an amended Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Merced and the Merced Union High School District, and rescinding prior Council action approving the previous Memorandum of Understanding, for Fiscal Years 2025-2028; and,

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

Chief of Police Steven STANFIELD briefly discussed the amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Merced and the Merced Union High School District to add a Vehicle Usage Fee section.

Clerk's Note: There was no Council discussion.

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

Aye: 6 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Harris, and Council Member Smith

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Council Member Xiong

L.3.

SUBJECT: Approval of a Contract with California Public Policy Group (CPPG) for Legislative Advocacy, Consulting, and Grant Seeking and Writing Services

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers approving a one-year contract with California Public Policy Group for legislative advocacy, consulting, and grant seeking and writing services, with the option to extend for up to two one-year terms for a total contract term of three years.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving a contract for legislative advocacy, consulting, and grant writing services with California Public Policy Group through September 30, 2026, in an annual amount not to exceed \$119,000.00, with an option to extend for up to two one-year terms for a total contract term of three years; and

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

Senior Management Analyst Jennifer FLACHMAN briefly discussed the contract with California Public Policy Group (CPPG) for legislative advocacy, consulting, grant seeking, and writing services.

Council, Ms. FLACHMAN, City Manager Scott MCBRIDE, and CPPG

Managing Director Sharon GONSALVES discussed the location of the grant writers, the flat monthly fee to CPPG, the City's history with CPPG, the price breakdown of the contract, potentially having a City-ran grant writing division, the grant services CPPG provides, the fee proposal, the experience of CPPG, members of staff being subject matter experts, the benefit of having a team in Sacramento, and details of the term of the agreement.

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

Aye: 5 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Smith

No: 2 - Council Member Harris, and Council Member Xiong

Absent: 0

Clerk's Note: Council took a recess at 8:18 PM and reconvened at 8:29 PM.

L.4.

SUBJECT: Land Use Determination #25-02 - Finding of Public Convenience or Necessity for Vallarta Supermarket for Alcohol Sales for Off-Site Consumption at 851 West Olive Avenue

REPORT IN BRIEF

This report provides options for the City Council to consider making a Finding of Public Convenience or Necessity (PCN), as required by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to issue a Type 21 alcohol license (allowing the sale of beer, wine, and spirits for off-site consumption) for a new grocery store located at 851 West Olive Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion approving the Finding of Public Convenience or Necessity to allow Vallarta Supermarket, located at 851 West Olive Avenue to obtain a Type 21 license for off-site consumption allowing the sale of beer, wine, and spirits (Option #1 as shown in the "Council Action" section of this Administrative Report).

Associate Planner Valeria RENTERIA gave a slideshow presentation on the Land Use Determination #25-02 for the finding of public convenience or necessity for a Type 21 ABC license of Vallarta Supermarket.

Council and Chief of Police Steven STANFIELD discussed the crime

incident reports of the surrounding area.

Trey LINDLE, Director of Real Estate for Vallarta Supermarket - spoke on the safety and operation measures for access to alcohol, the "No Loitering" signs that will be installed, the CCTV in the store, and the relationship with local law enforcement.

Council and Mr. LINDLE discussed the history of Vallarta Supermarket, the shopping center, the jobs that the proposed project will bring to the community, the "one-stop shopping" experience, the benefits of placing Vallarta Supermarket in the shopping center, details of experiential retail, the previous land use determination for a liquor license in the area, the growth of Merced to the North and South side, and obtaining a grocery store in South Merced.

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

Aye: 4 - Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Harris, and Council Member Smith

No: 3 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, and Council Member Xiong

Absent: 0

M. BUSINESS

M.1.

SUBJECT: Consider Individual City Council Member's Request that the City Display Commemorative Flags at Bob Hart Square per Council Policy C-7 for the 2026 Calendar Year

REPORT IN BRIEF

Council Members to request commemorative flags to be flown at Bob Hart Square for the 2026 Calendar Year

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion

A. Adding commemorative flag requests from City Council to the 2026 calendar year; and,

B. Adding this item back to the October 20th City Council Meeting to approve a Resolution per the City Council Policy C-7.

City Manager Scott MCBRIDE briefly discussed the request to the City Display of Commemorative Flags at Bob Hart Square per Council Policy

C-7.

Council Member HARRIS briefly discussed the applications received from the community.

Council agreed to fly the African American Flag for the month of February, the Christian Flag from March 20th to April 17th, and the Pride Flag for the month of June.

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

Aye: 4 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Harris

No: 3 - Council Member Dupont, Council Member Smith, and Council Member Xiong

Absent: 0

Clerk's Note: Council heard Public Comment after the vote was taken.

Belinda BURNETT, Merced - spoke in support of only flying the United States (U.S.) Flag and the California Flag, suggested adding an additional pole for special flags, and educate the community about Special Flags.

Council discussed the ceremonies held for Special Flags, details of the Commemorative Flag Policy, potentially removing the Flag Policy, flying the City of Merced Flag, and acknowledging all groups in the community.

Clerk's Note: Mayor SERRATTO and City Attorney Craig CORNWELL stated that the motion made for Agenda Item M.1. was invalid because Council took Public Comment after the vote and discussed the next steps.

A motion was made by Council Member Harris, seconded by Mayor Serratto, to reconsider the vote on Agenda Item M.1. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Mayor Serratto, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Harris, Council Member Smith, and Council Member Xiong

No: 1 - Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle

Absent: 0

A motion was made by Council Member Harris, seconded by Mayor Serratto, approve to fly the African American Flag for the month of February, the Pride Flag for the month of June, and the Christian Flag from March 20th to April 17th.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Mayor Serratto, Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Harris

No: 4 - Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member Smith, and Council Member Xiong

Absent: 0

A motion was made by Council Member Xiong, seconded by Council Member Harris, approve to fly the African American Flag for the month of February and the Pride Flag for the month of June. The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Mayor Serratto, Council Member Harris, and Council Member Xiong

No: 4 - Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, and Council Member Smith

Absent: 0

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Dupont, to adjourn Agenda Item M.1. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Harris, and Council Member Smith

No: 2 - Mayor Serratto, and Council Member Xiong

Absent: 0

M.2.

SUBJECT: Council Member Harris' Request to Discuss Changes to the Traffic Committee from a Committee to a Potential Council Appointed Commission with Monthly Meetings

REPORT IN BRIEF

Council Member Harris requested a discussion on a potentially changing the Traffic Committee to be a Council appointed Commission with monthly meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

Provide direction to staff on next steps.

Council Member HARRIS briefly discussed the request to change the Traffic Committee from a committee to a potential Council appointed Commission.

Council, City Manager Scott MCBRIDE, City Engineer Daryl JORDAN,

Chief of Police Steven STANFIELD, and Fire Chief Casey WILSON discussed the amount of board and commission applications received annually, changing the schedule time, making it more accessible to the public, creating roles and duties for the Committee, the role of each department, improving the Traffic Committee, public involvement, and prioritizing traffic safety and control. They also discussed the process of approving items in the Traffic Committee, the process of appealing items, details of the Tax Transparency Commission, creating an ex-officio seat open to the public, areas to improve in the Traffic Committee, the liabilities of approving a warrant, the legal requirements of traffic decisions, meeting regularly, the role of the Fire Department, the funding of the Traffic Committee, and discussing this item at the Transportation Subcommittee.

Council agreed to changing the time, updating the format, the website, the roles and responsibilities, get recommendations from the Transportation Subcommittee, and bring the recommendations to Council. They also agreed to remove Council Member SMITH from the Transportation Subcommittee and add Council Member HARRIS.

M.3.

SUBJECT: Designation of A Voting Delegate for the 2025 League of California Cities Annual Conference Annual Business Meeting, October 8th - 10th, 2025, Long Beach, CA

REPORT IN BRIEF

Designate District Three City Council Representative Mike Harris as the City's Voting Delegate for the 2025 League of California Cities Annual Conference Annual Business Meeting, October 8 - 10, 2025, Long Beach, CA.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

A. Designating District Three City Council Representative Mike Harris as the City's Voting Delegate for the October 8 through 10, 2025, League of California Cities Annual Conference Business Meeting; and

B. Authorizing staff to submit the Voting Delegate designation form to the League of California Cities prior to the conference.

Council briefly discussed delegating Council Member HARRIS to attend the League of California Cities Annual Conference.

A motion was made by Council Member Dupont, 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 Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Smith, and Council Member Xiong

No: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 - Council Member Harris

M.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: There were no items added to a future agenda.

M.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 DEANDA shared details of his personal life.

Council Member SMITH congratulated the businesses opening in Merced.

Council Member DUPONT thanked City staff and Contractors for the work on the Multi-Use Pathway project and the sidewalk improvements along Don Stowell Elementary School.

Mayor Pro Tempore BOYLE reported on attending various Subcommittee meetings, the Gateway to Yosemite 5K, the Downtown Hall event, the Courthouse Unveiling event, and the Grand Opening of The Goods market.

Council Member DUPONT shared condolences of the Chowchilla Police Officer that passed while on duty.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk's Note: The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 PM.

A motion was made by Council Member Harris, seconded by Council Member Dupont, to adjourn the Regular Meeting in honor of Chief of Police Steven

Stanfield's Step Dad. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Mayor Serratto, Mayor Pro Tempore Boyle, Council Member Dupont, Council Member DeAnda, Council Member Harris, Council Member Smith, and Council Member Xiong

No: 0

Absent: 0