



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

Thursday, May 19, 2016

5:30 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor THURSTON called the Special Budget Review Session to order at 5:31 PM.

A.1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

B. ROLL CALL

Clerk's Note: Council Member LOR arrived to the meeting at 5:34 PM.

Present: 7 - Mayor Stanley P. Thurston, Council Member Mike Murphy, Council Member Kevin Blake, Mayor Pro Tempore Joshua Pedrozo, Council Member Michael Belluomini, Council Member Tony Dossetti, and Council Member Noah Lor

Absent: 0

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

C.1. Departmental Reviews - Presented by Steve Carrigan, City Manager

1. Public Safety - Police/Fire
2. Development Services/Housing/Engineering
3. Information Technology
4. Support Services
5. Finance Department
6. Public Works
7. City Manager

City Manager Steve CARRIGAN gave a slide show presentation on the City Departments. He noted different positions being added in addition to equipment that needs to be updated and how those items affect the overall budget.

Mr. CARRIGAN discussed the addition of Community Service Officers, new weapons, and new camera systems for the Police Department.

Mr. CARRIGAN discussed the need for a special Fire response vehicle at the Airport.

Fire Chief HENRY discussed the need for a permanent firefighter at the

Merced Airport and the impact the Fire Station located near the Airport had on response times.

Council Member BLAKE asked about the daily staffing at the Airport.

Chief HENRY explained that staffing was affected by the daily flights.

Council Member LOR asked about the types of calls the Fire Department receives and how hard it would be to re-certify the airport.

Chief HENRY discussed various types of calls they had received.

Mr. CARRIGAN discussed re-certification of the airport if needed.

Council Members asked about new firefighters and options to maintain the airport.

Chief HENRY explained the need for new firefighters and to have the airport staffed with a firefighter so that stations can maintain better response times for calls. He also discussed the standards of coverage.

Council Member BELLUOMINI asked about the current state of "brownouts" and whether that could be an option for manning the Airport.

Chief HENRY opposed going back to "brownouts," due to the age of the ladder truck and its impending replacement.

Council continued to discuss the staffing issue at the airport.

Council Members asked about completion of the standards of coverage, potential liabilities for not adding additional fire fighters per the standards of coverage, and the need for the standards of coverage document.

Chief HENRY stated the standards of coverage was fifty percent complete and explained the importance of the document.

Council Member BLAKE stated his opposition on spending money on the standards of coverage document.

Council Member MURPHY asked about projected fee revenue of the inspections.

Chief HENRY stated it would be a full cost recovery that could cover the cost of a new Fire Marshall.

Chad ENGLERT, Firefighter's Association, Merced - spoke on hiring fire fighters, the funding of firefighters for the airport, and the staffing model issue.

Mr. CARRIGAN continued his slide show presentation on Development Services/Housing/Engineering, Public Works, Information Technology, Support Services, Finance Department, and the City Manager's Department.

Council Member BELLUOMINI asked for clarification on a ballot measure listed for 2021.

Finance Officer Brad GRANT stated that the idea was to go to the public about five years before Measure C expired.

Council Member BELLUOMINI asked for clarification on Maintenance Districts budgets.

Mr. GRANT explained different expenses related to Maintenance Districts.

Council Member BELLUOMINI asked for clarification on several Police budget items.

Police Chief Norman ANDRADE stated that several factors must be taken into account to decide how many officers would be needed in a City the size of Merced.

Pali MOUA, Merced - requested more Hmong police officers.

Council Member BELLUOMINI asked questions about fleet replacement and water mandates.

Public Works Director Ken ELWIN responded about the necessity of new vehicles.

Mayor Pro Tempore PEDROZO asked about Measure C.

City Manager Steve CARRIGAN discussed the plan for Measure C.

Council Member MURPHY asked about RDA revenues, vacant police positions and possibly offering hiring bonuses, and moving forward with the recharge project for water.

Mr. GRANT explained that RDA revenues were being kept in a separate account.

Director of Public Works Ken ELWIN discussed the issues with the recharge project in the City of Merced.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public spoke during this item.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk's Note: The Special Budget Review Session was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, seconded by Council Member Blake, for the meeting to be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Mayor Thurston, Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, Council Member Belluomini, Council Member Blake, Council Member Dossetti, Council Member Lor, and Council Member Murphy

No: 0

Absent: 0