

CITY COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES
May 28, 2015

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor THURSTON called the adjourned Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Mayor Stanley Thurston, Mayor Pro Tempore Josh Pedrozo, Council Members Michael Belluomini, Kevin Blake, Tony Dossetti, Noah Lor, Mike Murphy

All Council Members were present.

C. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

There was no report.

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Overview of Guidelines and Council Goals

City Manager John BRAMBLE gave a brief overview of the guidelines and Council goals.

Council Member MURPHY requested clarification on the first slide presented. Finance Officer Brad GRANT explained the chart.

2. Departmental Reviews

A. Information Technology

City Manager BRAMBLE gave an overview of the budget items for the Information Technology department.

B. Support Services

City Manager BRAMBLE gave an overview of the budget items for the Support Services department.

Council Member PEDROZO inquired about the increase in insurance premiums. City Manager BRAMBLE answered.

Council Member BELLUOMINI asked for clarification on financial impacts of replacing retiring staff with new employees and the proposed succession plan. City Manager BRAMBLE answered.

Andres REYES, Merced – spoke on the Youth Council.

C. Public Works Operations

City Manager BRAMBLE gave an overview of the budget items for the Public Works Operations department.

Council briefly discussed the Gas Tax issue.

City Manager BRAMBLE continued to present budget items for the various Public Works departments.

Council Member MURPHY asked about the Airport Fund. Finance Officer GRANT answered.

Council Member BELLUOMINI questioned vehicle replacement. Finance Officer GRANT said he would need to report back on this.

City Manager BRAMBLE continued with his presentation.

D. Police Department

City Manager BRAMBLE gave an overview of the budget items for the Police Department.

Council Member MURPHY asked about the new predictive software and new camera system. Police Captain TRINDAD answered.

Council Member MURPHY asked about retiring Code Enforcement Officers. City Manager BRAMBLE answered.

Mayor Pro Tem PEDROZO asked about Code Enforcement Officers and Dispatchers. City Manager BRAMBLE answered.

Council Member BELLUOMINI asked for clarification on the three neighborhood beautification projects listed in the budget and the recruitment of new officers. Police Chief ANDRADE answered.

E. Water Resources and Reclamation

City Manager BRAMBLE gave an overview of the budget items for the Water Resources and Reclamation Department.

Mayor THURSTON commented on methane to electricity at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Council Member MURPHY questioned the use of reclaimed water for replenishing Merced's aquifer. Mayor THURSTON also commented on recharging the aquifer. Mayor Pro Tem PEDROZO concurred with the comments of the Mayor.

Reverend RAMSEY, Merced – commented on stray dogs in South Merced.

Council Member MURPHY suggested hiring a Veterinarian to spay or neuter animals.

Council Member BELLUOMINI questioned the Measure C Fund balance and how it is calculated. Finance Director GRANT answered.

3. Outside Agency Requests

A. McNamara Center Request

Kelly TURNER, Merced – Spoke about the budget needs of the programs at McNamara Center.

Council discussed concerns in funding programs that were supposed to be self-sustaining.

Monica GRASLEY, Merced – Spoke about the need for youth programs.

Mayor THURSTON asked if partial funding would be adequate to keep the center open.

Council Member BELLUOMINI asked for clarification on which items were one time and which were recurring.

Kelly TURNER answered.

Mayor Pro Tempore PEDROZO asked about the number of kids being served and questioned why they were not using after school programs.

Ms. TURNER stated she would get the numbers requested.

Rachelle ABRIL, Merced – Spoke on the need for additional funding.

Council Member MURPHY questioned what the CDBG funding would cover.

Ms. TURNER said she would get the numbers to the Council.

B. Hmong Law Enforcement Association

City Manager BRAMBLE presented a request for funding from the Hmong Law Enforcement Association.

C. Merced Rescue Mission

City Manager BRAMBLE stated the budget request from the Merced Rescue Mission.

City Manager BRAMBLE said a late request had come from the Feet Changing Lives organization.

Council Member MURPHY asked for a breakdown of what the money would be spent on.

Rick MCMILLION, Merced – Spoke in support of Feet Changing Lives.

Michelle XIONG, Merced – Spoke on the Youth Council.

4. Other Funding Requests

A. Quiet Zone Study

City Manager BRAMBLE gave a brief account of a Quiet Zone Study for the City of Merced.

Council briefly discussed this item.

City Manager BRAMBLE proposed reorganizing the Public Works Department to include a Director, Assistant Director, and a Water Engineer.

Council Member PEDROZO stated he would like to see an Assistant City Manager position.

Council Member BELLUOMINI asked for clarification on the Recreation Coordinator position. City Manager BRAMBLE answered.

E. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Tom SIVERLY, Merced – Spoke on youth sports and the facilities at the sports complex requesting some additional shade structures.

Kevin HAMMON, Merced – Requested money for the Art Hop Event.

F. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Council Member BELLUOMINI with a second by Council Member BLAKE the meeting was adjourned to June 1, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. The vote passed 6-0 with Council Member LOR absent.

Clerk's Note: The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.