



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, November 16, 2015

7:00 PM

A. STUDY SESSION ROLL CALL

Mayor THURSTON called the Study Session to order at 5:31 PM.

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

Absent: 0

B. STUDY SESSION

B.1.

SUBJECT: Study Session - Downtown Discussion

Mayor Pro-Tempore PEDROZO gave a report on a meeting that he and Council Member DOSSETTI had with downtown business owners. He stated he asked for a Study Session to hear the issues from the downtown business owners.

Rene DAVENPORT, Merced - spoke on the homeless situation downtown.

Council discussed the use of shelters for the homeless and what capacity would be needed to house the homeless population in Merced.

Council Member BELLUOMINI questioned the use of an outreach program being used in the City of Turlock.

Council Member DOSSETTI explained what he knew of Turlock's outreach program for the homeless. He stated he had concerns with safety at night downtown.

Mayor Pro-Tempore PEDROZO suggested different programs to help get homeless people off the streets.

Mayor THURSTON stated that many people on the streets are not homeless but instead aggressive panhandlers.

Carol BOWMAN, Continuum of Care - spoke on outreach and engagement

with the homeless.

Rick McMILLION, Merced - spoke about homeless coming from out-of-town.

Carol GREENBERG, Merced - spoke on living in a downtown neighborhood and crime in the area.

Mike GREENBERG, Merced - spoke about homeless people sleeping in front of his downtown business.

Mike SEGAL, Merced - spoke on issues that a downtown business owner faces daily.

Mayor Pro-Tempore PEDROZO thanked those that attended the Study Session and reported items that had come out of the meeting with downtown businesses and suggested a proactive approach.

Council Member BLAKE posed the question as to why the homeless congregate downtown.

Mayor THURSTON suggested putting officers downtown for full shifts daily.

Mike MATSUO, Merced - offered to support to help downtown.

Council Member DOSSETTI suggested more officers driving through downtown.

Council Member MURPHY stated he would like to add some positive elements and suggested some action items. He suggested better lighting downtown, improving transportation for UC students, and bringing back some events.

A motion was made by Council Member Belluomini, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, to have reports at the next Council meeting regarding what the Police can do with existing resources, an overview of how Turlock's outreach program works, and a report from the Merced Main Street Association.. 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

C. CLOSED SESSION ROLL CALL

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

Absent: 0

D. CLOSED SESSION

Clerk's Note: Council adjourned to Closed Session at 6:47 PM.

D.1. **SUBJECT:** CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS - Property: APN 224-020-007; Agency Negotiator: David Gonzalves, Director, Development Services; Negotiating Parties: City of Merced and University of California, Merced; Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment.

D.2. **SUBJECT:** PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT - TITLE: City Manager;
AUTHORITY: Government Code 54957.

D.3. **SUBJECT:** PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT - TITLE: Interim City Manager;
AUTHORITY: Government Code 54957.

D.4. **SUBJECT:** PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT - TITLE: Interim City Attorney;
AUTHORITY: Government Code 54957.

E. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor THURSTON called the Regular meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

E.1. Invocation - Chaplain James Sanders, Merced County Jail Ministry

The Invocation was delivered by Chaplain James SANDERS, Merced County Jail Ministry.

E.2 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

F. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: 0

F.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, and Public Financing and Economic Development Authority. City Council Members receive a monthly stipend of \$20.00 by Charter for sitting as the City Council; and the Mayor receives an additional \$50.00 each month as a part of the adopted budget and Resolution 1975-37. The members of the Parking Authority, and Public Financing and Economic Development Authority receive no compensation.

G. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

There was no report.

H. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

H.1. Award - Project of the Year for McNamara Park

Clerk's Note: This item was postponed to a future agenda.

H.2. Recognition of Retiring City Manager, John Bramble

Retiring City Manager John BRAMBLE was recognized for his years of service to the City of Merced.

I. WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager BRAMBLE announced a letter from the Greater Chamber of Commerce wishing to be involved on future downtown discussions.

J. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ralph HOLDESS, Merced - requested the help of the Police with a private matter.

Patricia PRATT, Merced - spoke about creating welcome murals for the City.

Rochelle ABRIL, Merced - spoke on the upcoming turkey giveaway.

K. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, seconded by Council Member Dossetti, to approve the Consent Agenda. 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

K.1. **SUBJECT:** Information Only - Regional Airport Authority Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2014; January 13, 2015; March 17, 2015; April 21, 2015; May 19, 2015; June 16, 2015; and August 14, 2015

This Consent Item was approved.

K.3. **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.

K.4. **SUBJECT:** 2015/2016 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation Report

REPORT IN BRIEF

Presents a summary of the annual ADA Self-Evaluation of City buildings, streets, and parks.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion to receive and file the report.

This Consent Item was approved.

K.7. **SUBJECT:** Second Reading - Ordinance Amending Chapter 17.05 of the Merced Municipal Code

REPORT IN BRIEF

Second reading of previously introduced Ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt **Ordinance 2450**, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, Amending Chapter 17.05, "Residential Building Code," of the Merced Municipal Code.

This Consent Item was approved.

K.2.

SUBJECT: City Council/Public Financing and Economic Development/Parking Authority Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2015

REPORT IN BRIEF

Official adoption of previously held meeting minutes.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council/Public Financing and Economic Development/Parking Authority - Adopt a motion approving the meeting minutes of August 3, 2015.

Council Member BELLUOMINI pulled this item to request amendments be made to the minutes before approval.

A motion was made by Council Member Belluomini, seconded by Council Member Dossetti, that this agenda item be approved as amended. 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

K.5.

SUBJECT: Set Public Hearing for Assembly Bill 1600 Annual Report on December 21, 2015

REPORT IN BRIEF

Consider setting a public hearing for annual review of the estimated cost of identified public improvements, the continued need for those improvements, and a reasonable relationship between such need and impacts for which the development fees are charged.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt **Resolution 2015-43**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, establishing a date when the final annual report of development fees will be available for public review, and setting a public hearing thereon for December 21, 2015.

Council Member BELLUOMINI pulled this item to request a report on how the developer fees will be spent over the five years as required.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, seconded by Mayor Thurston, that this agenda item be approved. 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

K.6.

SUBJECT: Consideration for Prioritizing the Roadway Projects for which Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Exchange Funds were Previously Allocated

REPORT IN BRIEF

Selects the order in which the roadway projects will be completed, as listed on the approved FY 13/14 and FY 14/15 Claim Forms, funded by Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Exchange Funds.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

- A. Prioritizing the "V Street - 16th to 18th Street" Project to be completed utilizing previously allocated RSTP Exchange Funds; or,
- B. Prioritizing an alternate project from the approved RSTP list (to be specified in motion); and,
- C. Directing staff to prepare plans and specifications for the prioritized project, and authorizing the prioritized project to be advertised for bids.

Council Member BELLUOMINI pulled this item to discuss the possibility of creating a right turn lane at 16th and V streets.

City Engineer Ken ELWIN stated it would be possible to create the extra lane but the gutter would have to be used as part of a lane of travel.

Council Member BELLUOMINI said he would like to see a plan with the additional lane added in.

Council discussed the amount of funding and how many of these projects

can be completed with this money.

Mr. ELWIN suggested saving money as a contingency fund.

Council discussed which items on the list should be priority and how much money should be saved.

A motion was made by Mayor Thurston, seconded by Council Member Murphy, to prioritize items one and two and have staff return in the future with the other items on the list. 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

L. REPORTS

L.1. Five Year Financial Forecast/Reserves – Savings Discussion

Finance Director Brad GRANT gave a presentation on the 5-year financial forecast for the City. He gave an overview of past budgets, the current situation and what the future budget may look like. He included revenue projections and expenditure projections. He continued to give brief overviews of several different funds.

Council discussed the information presented and asked some clarifying questions of Mr. GRANT.

City Manager BRAMBLE suggested the information be used at the priority setting sessions next year.

Clerk's Note: No action was taken on this item.

M. BUSINESS

M.1. **SUBJECT: Ad Hoc High Speed Rail Citizen's Advisory Committee**
Appointments.

REPORT IN BRIEF

City Council confirmation is requested on the Ad Hoc High Speed Rail Citizen's Advisory Committee appointments.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council confirm the appointments made to the High Speed Rail Citizen's Advisory Committee.

City Manager BRAMBLE presented a list of individuals for an ad-hoc committee for the High Speed Rail planning process.

Mayor Pro-Tempore PEDROZO suggested representatives from the Merced County Association of Realtors, the Lao Family, Bill SPRIGGS with Rotary and Lori GALLO be added to the Committee list.

Mayor THURSTON questioned the duties of the committee.

City Manager BRAMBLE stated they would see preliminary plans and reports.

Council Member LOR suggested the Southeast Asian Professional Group for the committee.

Council Member BELLUOMINI suggested adding the NAACP as part of the committee.

A motion was made by Council Member Belluomini, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, that this agenda item be approved. 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

M.2. Council Discussion and Direction on Warming Center

Bruce METCALF, Merced Rescue Mission - discussed the parameters for opening a warming center during the winter. He stated that it would only

need to be opened if the temperature fell below 35 degrees or raining, and both shelters were full.

City Manager BRAMBLE said that CDBG funds could be used to pay for salaries of workers and pay some utility costs.

Mr. METCALF explained the logistics of making the plan work.

Council Member LOR expressed his support for this plan.

Council Member BELLUOMINI questioned the temperature parameter used. He expressed that 45 degrees is cold and should be considered.

Clerk's Note: No action was taken on this item but staff was directed to bring the final plan back for an official vote.

M.3. Request to Add Item to Future Agenda

There were no requests.

M.4. City Council Comments

Mayor Pro-Tempore PEDROZO suggested a special meeting for having another discussion on the downtown issues. He also reported on the Central California Band Review.

Council Member MURPHY noted the recent tragic events at the UC Merced Campus.

Clerk's Note: Council adjourned back into Closed Session at 9:40 PM and adjourned from Closed Session at 9:59 PM.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk's Note: The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

A motion was made by Mayor Thurston, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, that the meeting 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