



# 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

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Monday, December 7, 2015

7:00 PM

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#### A. STUDY SESSION ROLL CALL

Mayor THURSTON called the Study Session to order at 5:30 PM.

Planning Commissioners in attendance - PADILLA, SMOOT, DYLINEA,  
McLEOD, BAKER

**Present:** 6 - Mayor Stanley P. Thurston, Mayor Pro Tempore Joshua Pedrozo, Council Member Michael Belluomini, Council Member Kevin Blake, Council Member Tony Dossetti, and Council Member Mike Murphy

**Absent:** 1 - Council Member Noah Lor

#### B. STUDY SESSION

**B.1.** **SUBJECT: Joint Planning Commission/City Council Study Session on the Public Review Draft of the Zoning Ordinance**

##### REPORT IN BRIEF

The City Council will meet in a joint study session with the Planning Commission to discuss the Public Review Draft of the Updated Merced Zoning Ordinance, released in September 2015.

##### RECOMMENDATION

No action needed. Questions and discussion only.

Development Services Director Dave GONZALVES gave an overview of the Zoning Ordinance presentation.

Planning Manager Kim ESPINOSA gave a presentation on the existing Zoning Ordinance and the need to bring it into modern times to make it easier to understand and to streamline the processes.

Mayor THURSTON expressed concern over the "Urban Villiage" concept in the Bellevue Corridor Plan.

Director GONZALVES stated the Bellevue Corridor Plan was a separate document.

Council Member BELLUOMINI suggested several changes to the draft Zoning Ordinance. He was concerned with lot sizes for subdivisions, awnings for connected businesses, industrial zone building setbacks, and common areas for apartment complexes.

A brief discussion on apartment common areas ensued.

Council Member BELLUOMINI also expressed concern with the number of parking spaces versus bedrooms in apartment complexes. He also questioned the balance needed in regards to solar parking structures and landscaping.

Mayor THURSTON questioned the flexibility of the Ordinance with constantly changing solar systems.

Council Member BELLUOMINI suggested requiring house numbers for safety reasons.

Council Member MURPHY questioned whether the number of dollar type stores could be regulated.

Director GONZALVES stated that Council could not regulate dollar type stores.

There was a general discussion on whether the changes suggested should be made or to take it back to the focus group to re-evaluate them.

Kenra BRAGGONIER, Merced - stated that she was part of the focus group and would like to get more input.

Council and the Planning Commission requested that staff reconvene the focus group to discuss the proposed changes and return in approximately 90 days.

**Clerk's Note:** The Study Session adjourned at 6:44 pm.

## C. CLOSED SESSION ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 - Mayor Stanley P. Thurston, Mayor Pro Tempore Joshua Pedrozo, Council Member Michael Belluomini, Council Member Kevin Blake, Council Member Tony Dossetti, and Council Member Mike Murphy

**Absent:** 1 - Council Member Noah Lor

## D. CLOSED SESSION

**Clerk's Note:** Council adjourned to Closed Session at 6:44 pm.

**D.1.** **SUBJECT:** PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT - Title: City Manager;  
Authority: Government Code Section 54957

**Clerk's Note:** Council adjourned from Closed Session at 6:54 pm.

## E. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor THURSTON called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

E.1. Invocation - Pastor Stephen Eastwood, Olive East 7th Day Adventist Church

The invocation was delivered by Pastor Steven Eastwood of Olive East 7th Day Adventist Church.

E.2. 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.

## 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

## G. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor THURSTON reported that Council voted to employ Steve CARRIGAN as the new City Manager of the City of Merced. The Mayor also moved agenda item N.1. Approval of Employment Agreement with New City Manager in order to vote on the contract.

**N.1.** **SUBJECT:** Approval of Employment Agreement with New City Manager

### REPORT IN BRIEF

Consider approving the employment agreement with the new City Manager.

### RECOMMENDATION

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**City Council - Adopt a motion:**

- A. Approving the Employment Agreement and announcing the new City Manager/City Clerk; and,
- B. Authorizing the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City; and,
- C. Authorizing the Finance Officer to make the necessary budget adjustments.

Council welcomed the new City Manager Steve CARRIGAN.

Steve CARRIGAN spoke about his new appointment.

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, seconded by Council Member Blake, 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

## **H. CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

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

Principal Architect John SAGIN accepted an award for the McNamara Park Project from Walt PLATT, American Public Works Association.

### **H.2. Certificates of Recognition for David Soto and Mikel Schlessinger**

Interim Public Works Director Ken ELWIN presented awards to Mike SCHLESSINGER and David SOTO for their quick actions in aiding a Merced citizen in need.

## **I. WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

There were none.

## **J. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Acting Recreation and Parks Director Mike CONWAY - introduced new zookeeper Josh MORENO and spoke on the programs being offered at the Zoo.

Josh MORENO, Merced Zookeeper - spoke on the new programs being

implemented at the Zoo.

Rick McMILLION, Merced - spoke on downtown issues.

## K. CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda items K.5. City Council/Public Financing and Economic Development/Parking Authority Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2015, July 6, 2015, and July 20, 2015, K.7. Agreement with Lao Community Inc. for Police Services at the 2015 Hmong New Year Festival, K.8. Cooperative Work Agreement (CWA) Cycle 13 Funds Subject to Lapsing on June 30, 2016, K.9. Third Amendment with Quad Knopf, Inc., for the Preparation of Environmental Technical Studies for the Bear Creek Bike Path Project 111066, and K.14. Allocation of Fiscal Year 2015-16 Community Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for a Warming Center with Merced County Rescue Mission were pulled for separate consideration.

### Approval of the Consent Agenda

**A motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, 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 Contracts**

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**K.2.                   SUBJECT: Information Only-Planning Commission Minutes of September 9, September 23, and October 21, 2015**

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**K.3.                   SUBJECT: Economic Development Advisory Committee Minutes of August 25, 2015.**

This Consent Item was approved.

- K.4.                    **SUBJECT:** Information Only - Traffic Committee Minutes of  
September 8, 2015

This Consent Item was approved.

- K.6.                    **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.10.                    **SUBJECT:** First Amendment to the Purchase and Sale Agreement  
for 2322 G Street

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Amend the Purchase and Sale Agreement for 2322 G Street to allow additional time to complete Phase One of the Pro Lube construction project.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion approving the First Amendment to the Purchase and Sale Agreement for 2322 G Street allowing additional time for the project to be completed and authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

This Consent Item was approved.

- K.11.                    **SUBJECT:** Agreement with Merced Zoological Society

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Agreement with Merced Zoological Society to contribute at least \$85,000 of the total operating budget for Fiscal Year 2015/2016.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion approving the agreement with the Merced Zoological Society for payment of at least \$85,000, (approximately 30%) of the total operating budget at the Zoo and authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**K.12.**

**SUBJECT:** Minimum Wage Increase

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Approve minimum wage in accordance with Minimum Wage Order MW-2014 and salaries tied to minimum wage.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt **Resolution 2015-46**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, amending the salary ranges for the temporary classifications of Lifeguard I, Lifeguard II, Pool Manager, Recreation Coordinator, Recreation Leader, and Recreation Specialist; and, authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**K.13.**

**SUBJECT:** Revise Personnel Allocation in Engineering Division of the Development Services Department by Deleting One Engineering Technician III/IV position and Adding One Senior Engineer Position to the Engineering Division of the Development Services Department.

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

The action requested is to staff the department appropriately for the planned upcoming projects in the City.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt **Resolution 2015-44**, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, Amending the Classification Plan by Amending the Personnel Allocation in the Engineering Division of the Development Services Department by Deleting One Engineering Technician III/IV and Adding One Senior Engineer.

**This Consent Item was approved.**

**K.5.**

**SUBJECT:** City Council/Public Financing and Economic

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Development/Parking Authority Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2015, July 6, 2015, and July 20, 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 June 15, July 6, and July 20, 2015.

Council Member BELLUOMINI introduced corrections he would like see be made to the minutes.

Council discussed changing the minutes.

**A motion was made by Council Member Belluomini, seconded by Council Member Lor to approve the minutes of June 15, 2015 with amendments. The motion failed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 2 - Council Member Belluomini and Council Member Lor

**No:** 7 - Mayor Thurston, Mayor Pro-Tempore Pedrozo, Council Member Blake, Council Member Dossetti, and Council Member Murphy.

**A motion was made by Council Member Belluomini, seconded by Council Member Lor to approve the minutes of July 6, 2015 with amendments. The motion failed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 2 - Council Member Belluomini and Council Member Lor

**No:** 7 - Mayor Thurston, Mayor Pro-Tempore Pedrozo, Council Member Blake, Council Member Dossetti, and Council Member Murphy.

**A motion was made by Council Member Belluomini, seconded by Council Member Lor to approve the minutes of July 20, 2015 with amendments. The motion passed 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



**Clerk's Note:** Following the vote on item K.7., Council returned to this item to vote on approving the July 6 and July 20 minutes as presented.

**A motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, that the minutes of June 15, 2015 and July 6, 2015 be approved as written. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Mayor Thurston, Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, Council Member Blake, Council Member Dossetti, and Council Member Murphy

**No:** 2 - Council Member Belluomini, and Council Member Lor

**Absent:** 0

**K.7.** **SUBJECT: Agreement with Merced Lao Community Inc. for Police Services at the 2015 Hmong New Year Festival**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Consider authorizing an agreement for the Merced Police Department to provide security and crowd control services.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion approving an agreement in the amount of \$4,000 with Merced Lao Community to provide security and crowd control services for the annual Hmong New Year Festival held at the Merced County Fairgrounds on December 18th, 19th and 20th 2015; and authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

Council Member LOR pulled this item to highlight the Hmong New Year Celebration.

**A motion was made by Council Member Lor, 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

**K.8.** **SUBJECT: Cooperative Work Agreement (CWA) Cycle 13 Funds Subject to Lapsing on June 30, 2016**

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**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Considers a submittal to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requesting an extension for preliminary funds subject to lapsing for the Bear Creek Bike Path Project and acknowledging completion of the preliminary phase for the Black Rascal Creek Bike Path.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion approving the CWA Cycle 13 Submittal, and authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

Council Member MURPHY pulled this item for a brief report from staff on the removal of a section of the bike path from the plan.

Principal Architect John SAGIN reported that due to the lack of an environmental clearance and grant funding expiring, this portion had to be left out at this time.

Council Member MURPHY requested this item be brought back to the next meeting after consulting with the State.

Council Member BELLUOMINI questioned the specifics for the denial of the environmental document.

Mr. SAGIN commented that the native bird habitat would need to be removed to build the path.

**A motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, that this agenda item be tabled. 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.9.**

**SUBJECT:** Third Amendment with Quad Knopf, Inc., for the Preparation of Environmental Technical Studies for the Bear Creek Bike Path Project 111066

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Considers approving a \$27,054 amendment with Quad Knopf, Inc., to complete required environmental documents for the future construction of a Class I Bike Path along State Route 59.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion approving the Third Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with Quad Knopf, Inc., in the amount of \$27,054 for the Preparation of Environmental Technical Studies; and, authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

**A motion was made by Council Member Murphy, 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

**K.14.**

**SUBJECT:** Allocation of Fiscal Year 2015-16 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for a Warming Center with Merced County Rescue Mission

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Contract authorization between the City of Merced and Merced County Rescue Mission for the operation of a community Warming Center.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion approving the allocation of \$13,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds to assist with the cost of operating a warming center; and authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

Council Member MURPHY pulled this item for a brief staff report.

Housing Manager Mark HAMILTON informed Council that a new solution had been found this year for the use of a local Church as a warming center as needed during the winter. He stated that unused funds would be returned to the CDBG funding.

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

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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. PUBLIC HEARINGS

L.1.

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing - Vacation 15-01 to Abandon a Portion of a Public Utilities Easement Located Along the East Property Line of 2936 Crestwood Court

### REPORT IN BRIEF

The City Council will consider the abandonment of approximately 620 square feet of an existing public utilities easement along the eastern property line of the property located at 2936 Crestwood Court.

### RECOMMENDATION

**City Council** - Adopt a motion approving **Resolution 2015-45**, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merced, California ordering the vacation of a portion of a public utilities easement located along the east property line of the property located at 2936 Crestwood Court (Vacation #15-01).

Council Member BELLUOMINI recused himself from this item due to the proximity of his residence to this location.

Development Services Director David GONZALVES reported that the easement for utilities would not be used.

Mayor Pro-Tempore PEDROZO praised staff for working with the homeowners.

Mayor THURSTON opened the Public Hearing at 8:03 PM. No audience members wished to speak and the Public Hearing subsequently closed.

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

**Aye:** 6 - Mayor Thurston, Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, Council Member Blake, Council Member Dossetti, Council Member Lor, and Council Member Murphy

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 0

**Abstain:** 1 - Council Member Belluomini

**L.2.**

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Changes to the  
Massage Establishment Regulations and Specific Zoning Provisions  
Relating to Massage Uses

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Consider amendments to the Chapter 5.44 of the Merced Municipal Code relating to massage establishments and amendments to the Zoning Ordinance (Title 20) relating to massage uses.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion:

A. Approving Environmental Review #14-25 (Categorical exemption); and,

B. Introducing **Ordinance 2451**, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Merced, California Amending Chapter 5.44, "Massage Establishments," of the Merced Municipal Code; and,

C. Introducing **Ordinance 2452**, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Merced, California Amending Sections 20.20.020, "Permitted Uses," 20.20.040, "Conditional Uses," 20.22.020, "Permitted Uses," 20.22.050, "Conditional Uses," 20.24.020, "Permitted Uses," 20.24.040, "Conditional Uses," 20.26.040, "Conditional Uses," and 20.28.040, "Conditional Uses," of the Merced Municipal Code Regarding the Zoning of Massage Establishments as Conditional Uses Subject to Specific Conditions.

Senior Deputy City Attorney Ken ROZELL gave a report on the proposed changes to the City's Massage Ordinance and zoning requirements for massage establishments. He reported on the changes the State Legislature had implemented to help local entities control massage establishments and their location. He reported on the State license now required and how that would help streamline the process. He also mentioned a Conditional Use Permit process that would now be required.

Council questioned Mr. ROZELL on zoning locations for the establishments, and how the businesses would be inspected by Police.

Mr. ROZELL stated that the massage businesses would be allowed in

commercial zones only and that Police would be able to do regular inspections to ensure that all employees were licensed by the State.

Mayor THURSTON opened the Public Hearing at 8:17 PM.

Carol HIGGINS, Merced - spoke on the licensing process and requested the City not use the State license due to the expense involved.

Mayor THURSTON questioned whether a person with an existing City license could be "grandfathered in" without having to go through all of the schooling required.

Mr. ROZELL stated the Ordinance could be modified as such.

Victoria HANSON, Merced - spoke in favor of the State license.

Mayor THURSTON closed the Public Hearing at 8:26 PM.

Lt. Matt WILLIAMS, Merced Police Department - addressed the law enforcement issues with unlawful massage establishments.

Mayor THURSTON requested a 10-year grandfather clause for existing massage practitioners in the City.

**A motion was made by Mayor Thurston, seconded by Council Member Dossetti, that this agenda item be continued to the next meeting so that language could be added to the Ordinance grandfathering existing massage practitioners for 10 years. 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. REPORTS

### M.1.

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Employment Agreement for Position of Interim City Manager and Adoption of Resolution Approving Appointment of John M. Bramble to Interim City Manager Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 21221(h) and 7522.56

#### REPORT IN BRIEF

Authorization request to fill vacant City Manager position with a California Public Employee's Retirement System (CalPERS) Retired Annuitant.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**City Council** - Adopt a motion:

- A. Approving the terms of an employment agreement with John M. Bramble to serve as Interim City Manager; and,
- B. Authorizing the Mayor to execute an employment agreement with Mr. Bramble after his official retirement date; and,
- C. Adopting **Resolution 2015-47**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, making a determination of special need for an Interim City Manager pursuant to California Government Code sections 21221(h) and 7522.56.

Finance Director Brad GRANT gave a brief report.

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, seconded by Council Member Blake, 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.**

**SUBJECT:** Follow up Reports Regarding Downtown Discussion

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

This follow up session provides reports on the Downtown Discussion requested at the November 16, 2015 City Council Meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff is seeking direction from Council to form a Downtown/Central Merced Ad Hoc Group. Staff would return to Council with recommendations on the Group's composition and purpose.

Carol BOWMAN gave a report on a program that was being used in Stanislaus County called the "Homeless Van Service". She stated the project was not sustainable due to lack of funding.

Council briefly discussed the program and what items may work to help

Downtown Merced. There was a general concern for aggressive panhandling and loitering.

Director of Economic Development Frank QUINTERO asked Council to consider an ad hoc committee to address Downtown issues.

Main Street Association representative Joey ESSIG gave a report on the projects the Association has been working on. He reported on the facade improvement grant program they created to help beautify store fronts. He highlighted the "Celebrate Downtown" program. He also spoke on the holiday events and decorations they were working on. He stated that Downtown should do a needs assessment for the different blocks of downtown. He listed several action items they were working on.

Council discussed the different events that have been held in the past and which events they would like to see in the future.

Director of Economic Development Frank QUINTERO gave a report on the items the City could help with in regards to Downtown. He spoke of partnerships formed in regards to events and funding. He suggested that a more positive message should be put out versus the negative talk that has been transpiring. He also spoke of updating the Downtown plan. He highlighted several items such as new lighting and High Speed Rail coming to the area.

Chief of Police Norm ANDRADE gave statistics on the crime rate in Downtown. He suggested that putting officers downtown full time would be detrimental to the already depleted police force. He offered options to help the situation downtown including outreach programs, citizen arrests, private security and implementing an ambassador program.

Council liked the idea of implementing the programs highlighted by the Chief.

Council Member MURPHY suggested more Code Enforcement in the Downtown area.

Dwight LARKS, Gustine - spoke about the building he owned downtown and suggested cameras to watch the area.



A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, seconded by Council Member Murphy, that staff form an ad hoc downtown central Merced committee to look at the ambassador program, other programs that cities the size of Merced are doing and the 14 point list provided by Carol Bowman. 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

## **N. BUSINESS**

### **N.2. Request to Add Item to Future Agenda**

Council Member BELLUOMINI requested to add a discussion on the City Manager Evaluation Form at the January 4th meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tempore PEDROZO requested to add a report about the progress of the High Speed Rail planning and possibly forming a task force to get the word out.

Council Member MURPHY spoke on a meeting with High Speed Rail and some extra funding that was given to Merced. He requested an official Resolution of support for the A.C.E. train extension to Merced.

### **N.3. City Council Comments**

Mayor Pro-Tempore PEDROZO gave congratulations to recently promoted firefighters and the new hires as well.

Mayor THURSTON commented on the great Christmas parade this year.

## **O. ADJOURNMENT**

**Clerk's Note:** The meeting adjourned at 10:02 PM.

A motion was made by Mayor Thurston, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Pedrozo, to adjourn the meeting in memory of those that lost their lives in the tragic San Bernadino shootings. 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