



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, February 16, 2017

6:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor MURPHY called the Town Hall Meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Clerk's Note: The Town Hall Meeting was held at the Merced Multicultural Arts Center, 645 West Main Street, Merced, CA 95340.

A.1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

B. ROLL CALL

Clerk's Note: Council Member MCLEOD arrived to the Town Hall Meeting at 6:15 PM.

Present: 7 - Mayor Mike Murphy, Mayor Pro Tempore Kevin Blake, Council Member Joshua Pedrozo, Council Member Michael Belluomini, Council Member Anthony Martinez, Council Member Jill McLeod, and Council Member Matthew Serratto

Absent: 0

C. OPENING COMMENTS

C.1. Steve Carrigan - City Manager

C.2. Mike Murphy - Mayor

Mayor MURPHY gave an opening statement welcoming everyone to the Town Hall Meeting.

Council Members introduced themselves and touched on the future and hopes for Merced.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandra HAY, Merced - spoke on her love for Merced, the homeless problem downtown, the treatment of the homeless and solving the homeless problem in a humane way.

City Manager Steve CARRIGAN discussed the Homeless Summit Event.

Bob BARTAK, Business owner, Merced - spoke on the problems with the Motels on 16th Street.

Police Chief Norm ANDRADE stated the Police Department is working on the issues in that area. He also discussed the limited man power and working on increasing the number of Officers.

Rick MCMILLION, Merced - spoke on the professionalism of Police Officers, graduating from the Police Citizens Academy, and showing more respect to Police Officers.

Seneca LOPEZ, Downtown Business Owner, Merced - spoke on the downtown homeless problem and the homeless harassing his clients. He stated he understands the Police Department is short staffed but would like more consistency when handling the homeless.

Shelby TAKENOVEHI, UC Merced Graduate, Merced - spoke on the police presence downtown. She discussed art in Merced and asked what will the City do to engage in more art.

Mayor MURPHY stated that the City owned the Multicultural Arts Center and allows the Arts Council to use it for free. He also spoke about the Merced Theater, and the City being a financial sponsor of the Art Hop.

Melissa FLAMSON, Merced - asked the City to declare Merced a Sanctuary City.

Council Member MARTINEZ discussed researching the idea of a Sanctuary City.

Mayor Pro Tempore BLAKE discussed educating the populous and stated the local law enforcement does not have the authority to deport immigrants.

Maryann REYNOLDS, Merced - spoke on the fear immigrant families have, the importance of City Officials reassuring that this is a safe community for everyone, and declaring the City a Sanctuary City.

Emily LINDEN, Merced - thanked the Council Members for having a Town Hall Meeting. She also spoke on Civic Organizations working together with clear policies so people are not treated differently.

Council Member PEDROZO discussed working together with different organizations to make Merced a better place for everyone.

Gloria SANOVAL, Merced - spoke on the Sanctuary movement, deportation and families splitting up. She also spoke on the treatment of the homeless.

Michelle XIONG, Merced - spoke on better visible signage in the parking lots on 16th Street.

Eric MOORE, Merced - asked about clean up on the burned down building on Main Street, the progress on Campus Parkway and the passing of Measure V.

Victoria CASTILLO, Merced - spoke on an encounter with a Police Officer and requested a meeting with the Mayor.

Alan CLAUCH, Merced - spoke on the positive steps Merced has taken, City Departments getting their praise, water meters, G Street and M Street bridges, and lack of lighting on G Street and 27th.

Dr. SANDOVAL, Merced - spoke on water issues and the treatment of the homeless.

Margo VEERS, Merced - asked about grants to clean up buildings downtown, music in town, fixing the road on Highway 59 and Olive Avenue, and recycle bins at apartment complexes.

Christie, Merced - asked about incentives or outreach programs to get businesses to help end homelessness.

Chris RAMIREZ, Merced - asked about a questions and answer forum at the Homeless Summit. He spoke on the fears people have of being deported. He also asked for the Mayor and Council Members to reassure residents and possibly write an op-ed piece supporting undocumented people.

Dwight LARKS, Merced - commended the City for the work they are doing for the homeless. He spoke on cannabis sales in Merced has exceeded alcohol sales. He asked if the City worried about potential floods and if there are any shelters and transparency of the money from the Downtown double tax.

John SIGNS, Merced - asked about watering City trees on their mow strip.

Mayor and Council Members thanked everyone for attending the Town Hall

Meeting and thanked those that spoke.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk's Note: the Town Hall Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

A motion was made by Council Member Martinez, seconded by Council Member McLeod, that the Town Hall Meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Mayor Murphy, Mayor Pro Tempore Blake, Council Member Pedrozo, Council Member Belluomini, Council Member Martinez, Council Member McLeod, and Council Member Serratto

No: 0

Absent: 0