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 18, 2016 **6:00 PM**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor THURSTON called the Town Hall Meeting to order at 6:05 PM. He explained the difference between a Regular Meeting and a Town Hall Meeting and encouraged the public to speak at the meeting.

Clerk's Note: The Town Hall Meeting was held at Tenaya Middle School, 760 W. 8th Street, Merced, CA 95340.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

B. 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

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

C.1. City Manager Presentation - City Manager Steve Carrigan

City Manager Steve CARRIGAN spoke about his frist month in his position. He spoke about his priorities being public safety, jobs, and the homeless situation in Merced. He explained his "open door" policy and encouraged citizens to contact him.

C.2. City Clerk Presentation - Interim Assistant City Clerk John Tresidder

Interim Assistant City Clerk John TRESIDDER spoke about the Clerk's Office and the upcoming district-based elections and encouraged those interested in running for office to visit with him.

C.3. Police Presentation - Police Chief Norm Andrade

Police Chief Norman ANDRADE spoke about the Merced Police Department website and social media sites. He also spoke about the new animal control officers to help with the stray animals in the community.

C.4. Economic Development Presentation - Economic Development Director Frank Quintero

Economic Development Director Frank QUINTERO spoke about new housing rehab programs and the small business incentive plan. He gave an update on the retail climate and new industrial development.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Yee MOUA, Merced - spoke about partnering with the City on job creation and inquired about the Wal-Mart distribution center.

Helen, CNC (Communities for a New California) - spoke about keeping youth off the streets through programs sponsored by the City.

Diane, CNC - asked about a City mid-year budget review.

Christopher GONZALES, Merced - spoke about a problem with a sewer connection.

Tamara COBB, Merced - spoke about issues with McNamara Park and requested a better shade structure.

Kirk WRIGHT, Merced - spoke about issues with the bathrooms at McNamara Park.

Nathalie WHITE, Merced - spoke about investing in youth programs.

Krista ORBERA, Merced - enouraged investing in youth to help them turn away from gangs and violence.

Arlette FLORES, Merced - spoke about youth-related issues.

Anna CENTRON, Merced - requested the trimming of bushes at Childs and R Streets for safety reasons.

Isabel SANCHEZ, Merced - voiced support for a grocery store in South Merced.

Theresa FRANCO, Merced - requested more police presence in her neighborhood.

Police Chief ANDRADE - gave an update on how the Police are distributed throughout the City.

Yolanda HERNANDEZ, Merced - requested more street lights at the intersection of R and 8th Streets.

Chris, UC Merced student - gave his opinion on the relationship the City has with UC Merced.

Council Member MURPHY - spoke on the new partnership with the UC and the Venture Lab.

City Manager CARRIGAN - spoke about his recent meeting with the Chancelor of the UC and looked forward to increasing the communication.

Jeanna VINNEGAS, Merced - spoke about getting the community involved with the UC.

Arnie CARVAJAL, Merced - spoke about the bowling alley blight.

Palee MOUA, Merced - spoke about the language barrier for the Southeast Asian community.

Jesus DURAN, Merced - spoke about investing in youth.

Haily MORENO, Merced - spoke about youth activities.

Esteban TORREN, Merced - spoke about helping with the youth.

Aidela JIMENEZ, Merced - spoke about the needs of the youth.

Rachelle ABRIL, Merced - spoke about crime in South Merced.

Mayor THURSTON - spoke briefly about the Neighborhood Watch programs.

Gloria SANDOVAL, Merced - spoke about homeless issues.

City Manager CARRIGAN - spoke briefly about the upcoming Homeless Summit.

Marylou TORREZ - spoke on problems with dead trees in the city and problems with landlords.

Peter HOWELL, Merced - spoke about the annexation of the UC into the City.

Mayor THURSTON - explained the annexation process.

City Manager CARRIGAN - stated that the Revenue Sharing Agreement with the County was a top priority.

Council Member BELLUOMINI - revealed that many things have to happen behind the scenes to complete a large annexation and that the City has been working on this for quite some time.

Rick McMILLION, Merced - spoke about the Citzen Police Academy and the training involved. He also spoke on downtown issues.

Claudia GONZALES, Merced - spoke about youth issues.

Mayor THURSTON - requested very specific program suggestions for the youth.

Titian VIZCAINO-STEWART, Building Healthy Communities - spoke about the Youth Council and building partnerships.

Dr. SANDOVAL, Golden Valley Hospital - asked about the old hospital location.

Daniel SABZEHZAR, UC Merced Blum Center - asked questions posed on social media regarding the retention of graduating students.

Mayor THURSTON - stated that the City was trying to attract businesses that would be interested in UC graduates.

Anonymous Citizen - spoke about her daycare and motivating young kids today.

Victoria CASTILLO, Merced - spoke in support of youth activies and issues in public schools.

Reverend RAMSEY, Merced - spoke in support of the Town Hall Meeting format.

Mayor THURSTON - announced a third Town Hall Meeting.

Council Member LOR - thanked the community in attendance for speaking at the meeting.

Council Member BLAKE - stated his delight at the civic engagement of

South Merced. He thanked the crowd for coming in.

Council Member DOSSETTI - thanked the crowd and invited them to the North Merced meeting.

Council Member BELLUOMINI - thanked citizens for attending and stated that with the new staff things will begin to change.

Council Member MURPHY - thanked everyone for attending.

Mayor Pro-Tempore PEDROZO - thanked the crowd and encouraged them to come to the Budget Sessions.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor THURSTON adjourned the meeting at 8:18 PM.