



# 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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Thursday, March 31, 2016

5:00 PM

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#### A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor THURSTON called the Special Meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

#### B. ROLL CALL

**Clerk's Note:** Council Member LOR arrived at 5:10 PM.

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

**Absent:** 1 - Council Member Kevin Blake

#### C. PURPOSE OF SESSION

Mayor THURSTON requested that Item E. follow Item F. on the agenda.

City Manager CARRIGAN stated the purpose of the session and clarified that there will be one budget priority session and three budget meetings. He stated there will be some updates on items from last year's budget. He directed the public to contact him with any budget concerns or requests.

#### D. REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

City Manager CARRIGAN gave a slide show presentation updating last year's priorities.

Mr. CARRIGAN spoke about various economic development projects, including an industrial pretreatment plan, the retail development at the Mission Interchange, a grocery store at Childs Avenue and Canal Street, a plan for virtual building sites and the University Industrial Park.

Mr. CARRIGAN discussed intergovernmental projects, including a Regional Water Management Plan, Revenue Sharing with the County and Transportation and Urban Services agreements with the University of California.

Mr. CARRIGAN spoke about infrastructure projects, such as the Campus

Parkway project and different types of Federal funding available, the new Police Station, and the water meter installation project.

Mr. CARRIGAN briefly discussed future planning, including Water Master Plan, Sewer Master Plan, Programmatic Climate Action Plan and the Zoning Code update.

Mr. CARRIGAN spoke about a possible Sign Code update, the need for new police equipment, new officers and a false alarm ordinance.

Mr. CARRIGAN noted several projects that had been completed in the previous year.

## **F. REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL BUDGET POLICY GUIDELINES**

City Manager CARRIGAN reviewed the Council Budget Policy Guidelines.

Mayor Pro Tempore PEDROZO asked about grants for road projects.

Mr. CARRIGAN stated the City had just applied for a new grant for the Campus Parkway Project.

Council Member BELLUOMINI questioned a report on the infrastructure at the University Industrial Park.

Economic Development Director Frank QUINTERO stated he would provide a copy to Council.

## **E. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Kaeyden LOR, Merced - spoke about funding for the Youth Council

Alex SALAS, Merced - spoke about the Youth Council

Mayor THURSTON questioned the type of support needed for the Youth Council.

Mayor Pro Tempore PEDROZO asked what type of problems the Youth Council was facing.

Mr. SALAS stated the Youth Council needed training on their positions in the Council.

David MACIAS, Merced - spoke about investing in youth.

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Helen CHAVES, Merced - spoke in favor of youth investment.

Sol RIVAS, Merced County - spoke about growing the Youth Council.

Aaron LEQUIA, Merced - spoke about investing in youth.

Corrine CHAVEZ, Merced - spoke about youth issues.

Ryan HELLER, Merced - spoke about budget concerns, including code enforcement and quiet zones.

Council briefly discussed quiet zones.

Bao YANG, Merced - spoke about Hmong youth and their development.

Council Member LOR asked about the funding available for Council to allocate.

Council Member MURPHY asked about revenue projections for property tax.

Finance Director Brad GRANT stated the numbers were only forecast at this time, but expected a 3 to 6 percent increase.

Council Member MURPHY stated that public safety is the highest priority. He suggested the need to add back police positions in a steady manner. He stated that public safety, economic development, and youth are intertwined.

Council Member BELLUOMINI stated that economic development was important to the prosperity of the community. He suggested an increase to the Recreation and Parks budget to include a full-time director and to add activities for the youth. He also said that the appearance of the downtown and the City as a whole needed focus, including dealing with the homeless and replacing street trees.

Mayor Pro Tempore PEDROZO requested a discussion about adding the Assistant City Manager position into the budget. He suggested unexpended funds be placed in an Economic Development Fund for future use.

Council Member DOSSETTI suggested the need for an Assistant City Manager and to take care of employees who made concessions during the economic downturn. He asked about the dollar amount of discretionary

money.

Finance Director GRANT estimated approximately three hundred thousand dollars of money for Council to allocate.

Council Member LOR suggested a two hundred thousand dollar increase to Recreation and Parks budget.

Council Member BELLUOMINI suggested worrying about the dollar amount at a future meeting.

Council Member MURPHY said he was interested in seeing the Boys and Girls Club open on the weekend. He stated developing the Youth Council was a priority. He stated economic development was a priority. He also stated the City should have signs on the freeway welcoming visitors. He suggested a better partnership with the UC. He also requested focus on the homeless situation. He prioritized the sign code, water recharge project, fire coverage at the airport and code enforcement.

Mayor Pro Tempore PEDROZO agreed with economic development as a priority, including Campus Parkway and industrial development. He stated support for an Assistant City Manager position. He also cited code enforcement as a priority.

Mayor THURSTON stated support for those who submit specific programs for youth and suggested a strong Youth Council is a priority. He agreed that code enforcement was a priority. He challenged groups to come up with a monument sign for the City.

City Manager CARRIGAN recapped the process for preparing the budget and encouraged suggestions from the public.

Council Member LOR asked about a long-term plan for economic development.

City Manager CARRIGAN stated that a reorganization of the Economic Development department would be happening.

Council Member BELLUOMINI suggested that the Revenue Sharing Agreement should be considered as a factor of economic development.

## G. ADJOURNMENT

**Clerk's Note:** The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

A motion was made by Council Member Lor, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore

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**Pedrozo, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Council Member Blake