



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, May 26, 2016

5:30 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor THURSTON called the Special Budget Review Session to order at 5:33 PM.

A.1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

B. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: 0

C. SPECIAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

C.1. Departmental Reviews - Presented by Steve Carrigan, City Manager

1. Economic Development
2. Recreation/Youth Services

Director of Economic Development Frank QUINTERO gave a slide show presentation on Economic Development, explaining the building momentum in Merced. He spoke on UC Merced, High Speed Rail, bringing residential to the Downtown core, and the need for more industrial land.

Council Member MURPHY asked about possible Redevelopment Agency replacements, parking lots being used as an equity contribution, impact and water connection fees, and the uses for the Economic Development Fund. He also voiced support for an update to the Sign Code Ordinance.

Mr. QUINTERO explained the benefits of the enhanced infrastructure district. He discussed the parking in the downtown area, the impact and water connection fees, and the Economic Development Fund coming from the sale of the Pepsi plant.

Council Member LOR asked about marketing and staying competitive with other cities, new business incentives, and the Empower Program. He

expressed concern with parking downtown.

Mr. QUINTERO discussed the City providing real-time data to developers to compare with other market areas, the success of the New Business Incentive Program, and working with the County on the Empower Program.

Council Member BELLUOMINI requested a change be made to the objectives in the Economic Development section of the budget to reflect what was in the slide show. He asked for clarification on the Welcome Center budget. He stated approval of the Economic Opportunity Fund.

Mr. QUINTERO explained why the Welcome Center budget was the same as last year's budget. He stated that the funding was seed money and that one Development associate would be moved into Economic Development.

Mayor THURSTON asked about a timeline for the fiber optics.

Mr. QUINTERO stated that if they were to get funding, it would be an 18-to-24 month project.

Ramon PRADO, Delhi - stated that small business should be a priority to the City of Merced and that the City should work more with small businesses.

Sister Kate, Merced - asked about the position Economic Development has on CBD, a form of cannabis.

Gloria SANDOVAL, Merced - asked if part of the Economic Development includes affordable housing development.

Mr. QUINTERO explained that affordable housing is handled by the Housing Department and won't be a part of the Economic Development Budget.

Daniel SABZEHZAR, Merced - stated that the money offered through the New Business Incentive Program is not enough and asked about incentives for students at the College, the UC and High School to start small businesses in Merced.

Mr. QUINTERO discussed the action plan which includes the UC.

Assistant to the City Manager Mike CONWAY gave a slide show presentation on the Recreation and Youth Services. He gave a brief overview of the types of programs offered and the locations for the

programs. He expanded by discussing new programs being offered. He spoke about plans for the Youth Council.

Mayor THURSTON asked where to find the different programs the Recreation and Parks Department offers and asked about Youth Leadership.

Mr. CONWAY referred to the City of Merced's website under the Recreation and Parks Department. He explained that the Youth Leadership Institute offers training.

Mayor Pro Tempore PEDROZO asked how much the Youth Council spent last year and if there was outreach to teachers for support.

Mr. CONWAY stated the Youth Council spent \$10,000 and that there hadn't been any outreach to teachers at this point in time.

Council Member LOR expressed his support for a full-time staff member for the Youth Council.

City Manager Steve CARRIGAN asked about Youth Council terms. He also discussed filling the seats for the Youth Council, and needing details from Building Healthy Communities (BHC) for the money that was requested.

Mr. CONWAY explained that there is a one-year probation and members term out once they have graduated from High School.

Tatiana VIZCAINO-STEWART, Merced - gave a presentation on the Youth Council and BHC's role with the Youth Council.

Council Member DOSSETTI asked if BHC submitted a plan to the City for the money that was requested.

Ms. VIZCAINO-STEWART explained that they conducted a research process that estimated the money to fund the Youth Council.

Corrine CHAVEZ, Merced - spoke on the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and the resources that they provide for the community. She also spoke on the Youth Council and gaining new applicants.

Julie, Program Director at Simple Equations, Merced - clarified that McNamara is open five days a week and the regular time is from 3:00 - 6:00 PM.

Sol RIVAS, Merced - encouraged the Council to invest in the Youth.

Edward SALAS, Merced - spoke on investing in the Youth Council.

Merced Resident, spoke on investing in the Youth.

Chantel NUGENT and Joyce DALE, Merced - spoke on investing in the Youth.

Jesus DURAN, Merced - thanked the Council for the programs that he is a part of and spoke on the Youth Council.

Ruth TOMLINSON, Merced - spoke on the maintenance of McNamara Park and Joe Herb Park.

Tommy YANG, Merced - asked about getting the youth involved in building the gazebo for the McNamara Park, programs using school computer labs, and competitive activities.

Mayor THURSTON discussed the Youth Council Budget and the "rainy day" fund and making a commitment by increasing the budget.

Council Member BELLUOMINI discussed the new positions and the proposed budget for the Recreation and Parks Department and the importance of making youth activities a priority. He suggested that funding an additional position would help the programming side of Recreation.

Mayor Pro Tempore PEDROZO discussed the recession, evaluating the job descriptions and employees, replacing equipment and updating technology, and looking at the overall aspect of the budget.

Council Member MURPHY discussed the connection that needs to be made between the Youth Council and the City Council.

Council Member LOR suggested working with community groups.

Council Member BLAKE asked about the training and the sustainability of the training.

Mr. CONWAY discussed that not only the Youth Council will be trained, but staff will be trained as well.

Council Member BELLUOMINI reiterated his position on adding to the

Recreation budget.

C.2. Other Budget Considerations

1. Reorganization
2. New Positions
3. Future Budget Issues

Council Member BELLUOMINI asked about the discussion on parks and street trees.

Mayor THURSTON requested to move this item to the next agenda.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Clerk's Note: There were no speakers.

E. CLOSED SESSION

Clerk's Note: Council adjourned to Closed Session at 9:09 PM and adjourned from Closed Session at 9:25 PM.

E.1.

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

F. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor THURSTON reported that Council voted to appoint Chief Deputy City Attorney Kelly FINCHER as Interim City Attorney in a 5-2 vote.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk's Note: The Special Budget Review Meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM.

A motion was made by Council Member Lor, seconded by Council Member Blake, to adjourn the meeting. 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