



# 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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Wednesday, February 8, 2017

6:00 PM

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#### A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor MURPHY called the Town Hall Meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

**Clerk's Note:** The Town Hall Meeting was held at Rivera Middle School, 945 Buena Vista Drive, Merced, CA 95348.

A.1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

#### B. ROLL CALL

**Clerk's Note:** Council Member MCLEOD arrived to the Town Hall Meeting at 7:11 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. Stephanie Dietz - Assistant City Manager

Assistant City Manager Stephanie DIETZ thanked the Citizens for coming.

C.2. Mike Murphy - Mayor

Mayor MURPHY discussed the opportunity for the public to speak more during the Town Hall Meetings and had the Council Members introduce themselves.

#### D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Janis PHENIS, Merced - spoke on increasing traffic officers, more activities for students, and more higher-level jobs. She also commended City Staff, stating they are responsive and respectful.

Mayor MURPHY discussed the traffic committee and spoke on the need for

more police.

Levonne PHILLIPS, Merced - spoke on the speeding traffic in her neighborhood, blighted houses, garbage trucks leaving garbage cans in the middle of the street, the homeless rummaging through their trash cans, and the City maintaining trees.

Council Member BELLUOMINI agreed that speeding is becoming more of an issue in the Northwood Neighborhood, after the speed bumps were added in the Rambler Neighborhood.

Assistant City Manager Stephanie DIETZ explained the pilot program to focus on the blighted houses that are the worst offenders.

Director of Public Works Ken ELWIN discussed the small crew that maintain the trees and parks.

Mayor MURPHY discussed the Merced Connect App that is available to citizens to report issues in the City.

Margaret SALAS, Merced - spoke on the traffic by Rivera Middle School and the need for a traffic officer to control the school traffic.

Victoria CASTILLO, Merced - spoke against the VIPER Program, the need for more youth opportunities, and building trust between the community and the Police Department.

Mayor MURPHY and Police Chief Norman ANDRADE explained the VIPER Program.

Ruby RAY, Merced - stated her displeasure with Yard Masters.

Mr. ELWIN discussed relying on citizens to contact Public Works if they see something not being done by Yard Masters.

Leanne ROSMOND, Merced - spoke on the lack of fun activities sponsored by the City, the trash in the City, people not picking up after their pets, the garbage not being separated when being picked up, and noisy trains driving through the City at three in the morning.

Council Member SERRATTO discussed different volunteer activities and social events in the City.

Mayor MURPHY spoke on the mountain bike park that will be installed at

Fahrens Park.

Recreation and Parks Supervisor Lindsey JOHNSON discussed the volunteer website the City has for citizens to sign up.

Monika GRASLEY, Life Line, Merced - spoke on the Life Line Program and the work they do.

Chanel WEAVER, Merced - spoke on youth opportunities, making information for events and activities more attainable to the public, and more cohesiveness with community groups.

Jeremy MARTINEZ, United Way, Merced - spoke on a website to look for events and volunteering opportunities. He asked about the Martin Luther King area plan.

Ron COOK, Merced - spoke on the Rose Garden.

Ms. DIETZ asked to schedule a meeting with Mr. COOK and Mr. ELWIN to address the Rose Garden issues.

Chi MOORE, Merced - spoke on safety in the City and pet owners not picking up after their animals.

Shirley FARR, Merced - spoke on the Fahrens Park neighborhood sign that is falling down and replacing the playground equipment at Fahrens Park. She also asked for a variety of activities for the youth.

Gloria SANDOVAL, Merced - asked for an update on the water meters. She also spoke about her concerns in regards to flooding, bees in Applegate Park, and the Homeless Memorial.

Mayor MURPHY discussed eliminating veterans homelessness as well as homelessness overall.

Gary CANDAL, Merced - spoke on trash being dumped in Black Rascal Creek, Yard Masters not trimming trees and picking up trash, garbage not being picked up separately, traffic at Rivera Middle School, and the main office at Rivera overwatering their lawn and flooding the streets.

Robert TORRES, Merced - spoke on the Eucalyptus trees on M Street, suggested cutouts for buses to stop at when picking up passengers, and the need for bus stop shelters. He also spoke on Measure V and wanting that money to go to first responders.

Council Members thanked the public for coming to the Town Hall Meeting and offered to speak to anyone after the meeting.

#### **E. ADJOURNMENT**

**Clerk's Note:** The Town Hall Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.