



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 23, 2017

6:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor MURPHY called the Town Hall Meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Clerk's Note: Council Member MCLEOD arrived at 6:10 PM.

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

A.1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

B. ROLL CALL

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. Mike Murphy - Mayor

Mayor MURPHY welcomed everyone to the Town Hall Meeting and had Council Members introduce themselves.

Police Chief Norm ANDRADE spoke on the decrease in crime and clarified the number of uses of force from the 2016 Crime Report.

Director of Economic Development Frank QUINTERO spoke on the potential grocery store located at Childs Avenue and Canal Street.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Clifford DALE, Merced - spoke on his concerns for the health and safety of Southside Merced, inadequate lighting at bus stops, no bus shelters or turnouts, and infrastructure.

Isabel SANCHEZ, Merced - thanked the Council for the support of the four

way stop on Childs Avenue and R Street. She also asked about the start date for the N Street road project.

Reynaldo CERVANTE, Merced - asked if the Merced Police Department would help with the immigration policy. He also spoke on the fears he and his family have and asked what the Council will do for the immigrant community.

Mayor Pro Tempore BLAKE explained that the local law enforcement does not have the authority to deport people. He encouraged everyone to call the police if they have been victimized no matter their citizenship.

Council Member SERRATTO explained how the District Attorney's Office helps people with their immigration status.

Merced County Board of Supervisors District 1 Rodrigo ESPINOSA, Merced - stated his support to partner with the City of Merced and County Staff to address immigration issues and stated that he spoke with Sheriff WARNKE to do a joint presentation on this issue.

Claudia GONZALEZ, Merced - asked about the Council's plan of action for the youth and for the Council to be champions for the youth.

Mayor MURPHY discussed the parks and added programming that are available to the youth and a youth center that is now open with the help of non-profit organizations. He also spoke about partnerships with non-profit organizations.

Council Member MCLEOD discussed having more resources for the youth and encouraged the schools, the medical field, the arts and music field to get involved.

Council Member MARTINEZ spoke on the unified commitment the Council has for the youth.

Council Member PEDROZO discussed the lack of partnerships with organizations. He also discussed a Saturday academy the high schools offer and internship opportunities with the City.

Maria NAVARRETE, Merced - spoke on the conditions of the benches in South Merced and the trees up-rooting the sidewalks. She asked if it is legal to walk Pitbull dogs on a leash because she was attacked once.

Mayor MURPHY spoke on Measure V and the money from that will go to

roads and sidewalks. He also discussed Animal Control and having more resources.

Victor GONZALEZ, Merced - spoke on immigration, protection and not being afraid to go to school.

Kimberly REJOS, Merced - spoke on racism and doesn't want her family to be separated.

Karla GONZALVES, Merced - stated she is proud to be a part of this community. She spoke on bathroom maintenance at McNamara Park and the limited access to the park. She also stated that there are people wanting to volunteer to help cleanup the park.

Miguel GARCIA, Merced - spoke on unsafe routes to school and rising water bill.

Guadalupe CARVAJAL, Merced - thanked the Council and the audience for their attendance. She spoke on a petition to allow Merced to be a Sanctuary City.

Adriana FLORES, Merced - asked about Merced becoming a Sanctuary City. She also spoke on the disrepair of the alleys in the City.

Randi OCENA, Merced - spoke on the Immigration Police having the ability to train local law enforcement and if our local law enforcement will participate.

Pali MOUA, Merced - spoke on the fee increase for funeral services on Sundays.

Kaitlyn OVIERA, Merced - spoke on limited access residents have at McNamara Park.

Anna Maria FABIAN, Merced - asked for Merced to be a Sanctuary City.

Arlet, Merced - spoke on Merced becoming a Sanctuary City, the limited access to McNamara Park, and the VIPER Program.

Liliana PRADO, Merced - thanked Council for having a Town Hall Meeting in South Merced. She asked to meet with Council Members to discuss Sanctuary Cities.

Caesar DURAN, Merced - spoke on the conditions of McNamara Park and

the bathrooms. He asked how the community and the City could work together to clean up McNamara Park.

Dianna WESTMORELAND, Merced - spoke on Sanctuary City, dual use for tax payer dollars, partnerships with schools to provide more activities for the youth, park and tree maintenance, County islands, and safe routes to school. She also asked why a for-profit entity was controlling McNamara Park and if there will be an oversight committee for Measure V.

Elizabeth ARIANO, Merced - asked the Council to invest more in the youth and more funding for the Youth Council.

Kelly TURNER, Merced - spoke on meeting with Council Members to discuss the Youth.

Nathaniel ROMOS, Merced - spoke on the conditions of McNamara Park and giving the public access to the park. He stated he wants a safer and better community.

Marilyn MOCHELLE, Merced - spoke on advocating for equity in Merced.

Molly CAROL, Merced - spoke on bicyclist interactions with police. She asked about the release of police body cameras and for clear and official policy to achieve clarity and transparency.

David DANIELS, Merced - asked the City to declare Merced a Sanctuary City and to protect LGBT rights.

Mi HAN, Merced - spoke on trees up-rooting sidewalks and stated her support for a Sanctuary City.

Alexander SALAS, Youth Council, Merced - announced cleanup dates for City parks.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk's Note: The Town Hall Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Blake, seconded by Council Member Martinez, that the Town 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