



MINUTES SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 20, 2020

City of Watsonville
Council Chambers
275 Main Street, Top Floor

10:07 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Mayor García, Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez and Council Members Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, and Parker were present.

Staff members present were City Manager Huffaker, City Attorney Smith, City Clerk Vázquez Flores, Deputy City Managers Manning and Vides, Assistant Police Chief Sims, City Clerk Ortiz, and Interpreter Landaverry.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

3.A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Steve Trujillo spoke about his efforts to clean the community and asked the City to further its 5076 community cleaning efforts.

3.B. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL

Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez asked the public to comply with COVID-19 shelter in place directive and stay safe during the pandemic. 5074

Member Estrada asked the community to stay united and safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Member Gonzalez spoke about challenges in implementing policies during the COVID-19 pandemic and asked the community to stay safe.

Member Hernandez asked the public to shelter in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Member Hurst spoke about challenges residents faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and asked the public to practice social distancing.

Member Parker thanked those in the community supporting others most vulnerable to COVID-19. She asked the public to practice social distancing and shelter in place.

Mayor García spoke about her attendance at a Pájaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) meeting to award waste reduction certificates.

Maria Elena de la Garza, executive director at Community Action Board (CAB), spoke about services being offered by CAB despite COVID-19 pandemic.

Deputy City Manager Vides read an email from Daniel Dodge Jr., PVUSD board president, asking the Council to appoint an ad hoc committee to work on lobbying efforts for action from the State and Federal Government regarding COVID-19 aid.

Dr. Nancy A. Bilicich, via phone call, spoke about her attendance at the Zone 7, Flood Control and Water Conservation District meeting and assured the public that work on River Levee improvements was underway despite COVID-19 pandemic.

Deputy City Manager Vides read an email from Jennifer Schacher asking the Council to appoint an ad hoc committee to work on lobbying efforts for action from the Federal Government regarding COVID-19 aid.

4. REPORTS TO COUNCIL—No Action Required

4.A COVID-19 ESSENTIAL SERVICES UPDATE

1) Staff Report

The report was given by City Manager Huffaker.

2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

In answering Member Hernandez, City Manager Huffaker stated business owners should contact the County Health Services Agency with questions regarding shelter in place orders. He spoke about efforts by the City to educate the community on shelter in place orders.

City Manager Huffaker, in answering Member Estrada, spoke about City efforts to educate the public about preventing spread of COVID-19.

3) Public Input

Dori Rose Inda, chief executive officer at Salud para la Gente, spoke about efforts to minimize spread of COVID-19 and asked that the public follow shelter in place orders as well as practicing social distancing. She spoke about services offered at Salud para la Gente.

Steve Trujillo stated South Korea was a prime example for containing COVID-19 and asked the City to look to them for guidance. He spoke about conflicting recommendations and allowance of certain businesses to operate while others were closed. He asked Council to contact legislators to request COVID-19 testing supplies.

Angel asked the City to create videos explaining social distancing and shelter in place orders. He suggested stores protect the most vulnerable members of the community by offering special hours. He asked for more enforcement of price gouging.

Diana Fernandez, via email, stated Second Harvest Food Bank and Pájaro Valley Unified School District needed to improve the food distribution program to better promote social distancing.

Manuel Gonzalez, via email, stated youth were not following COVID-19 shelter in place orders and asked the City to intervene.

Jennifer Ortiz, via email, asked Council to ensure that those still working despite COVID-19 be compensated for their bravery.

Emily Gutierrez, via email, asked Council to address challenges small businesses and homeless were facing.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Public Input on any Consent Agenda Item (None)

MOTION: It was moved by Member Hurst, seconded by Member Gonzalez and carried by the following vote to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: MEMBERS: Coffman-Gomez, Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, Parker, García
NOES: MEMBERS: None
ABSENT: MEMBERS: None

5.A RESOLUTION NO. 38-20 (CM):

MOTION DIRECTING CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT FOR REPAIR OF THE D8-CATERPILLAR BULLDOZER SERVING THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE LANDFILL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$111,371.65

4888

5.B. RESOLUTION NO. 35-20 (CM):

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF THREE 2020 PETERBILT MODEL 520 ROLL-OFF COLLECTION VEHICLES TO BE USED BY THE SOLID WASTE DIVISION FROM RUSH TRUCK CENTERS OF CALIFORNIA, INC., THROUGH THE PURCHASING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$806,746.80 (\$537,831.20 WILL BE FUNDED BY SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND FOR FY2018/2019 & \$268,915.60 WILL BE FUNDED BY THE SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND FOR FY2019/2020)

4888

5.C. RESOLUTION NO. 36-20 (CM):

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2021 TYMCO MODEL 600 STREET SWEEPER UNIT TO BE USED BY SOLID WASTE DIVISION FROM GCS ENVIRONMENTAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES, INC., THROUGH THE PURCHASING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SELMA, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$282,397.05 (FUNDED BY THE SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND FOR FY2019/2020)

5082

5647

5.D. RESOLUTION NO. 37-20 (CM):

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING \$30,000 GRANT FROM MONTEREY PENINSULA FOUNDATION FOR THE WATSONVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE WORKSHOP & APPROPRIATING SUCH FUNDS TO THE SPECIAL GRANTS FUND

5783

6. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA (None)

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES, & APPEALS

7.A. CONSIDERATION OF UNCODIFIED URGENCY ORDINANCE ENACTING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS DUE TO NONPAYMENT OF RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL RENT FOR TENANTS WHERE THE FAILURE TO PAY RENT RESULTS FROM INCOME LOSS RESULTING FROM THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

5820

1) Staff Report

The report was given by City Attorney Smith.

2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

City Attorney Smith answered questions from Member Parker regarding required notification of landlord by tenant about nonpayment of rent due to loss of income arising from COVID-19.

In answering Member Estrada, City Attorney Smith explained who the ordinance protected and how residents would be notified.

In answering Member Gonzalez, City Attorney Smith stated the proposed ordinance did not prohibit rent increases, but the Council could amend the ordinance to do so.

In answering Member Hernandez, City Attorney Smith explained the changes Council could make to the proposed ordinance.

City Attorney Smith and City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Mayor García regarding options tenants had in repaying deferred rent and potential aid from State and Federal Government.

City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Member Coffman-Gomez regarding available resources for residents and City efforts to minimize impacts from City utility fees. City Manager Huffaker added that there was language in the ordinance requiring tenants to show proof of hardship.

City Attorney Smith answered questions from Mayor García regarding necessary documentation to show need for rent payment deferral.

3) Public Hearing

Steve Trujillo asked that the proposed ordinance be modified to prevent rent increases for the remainder of the year.

Angel asked Council to search for ways to help tenants pay deferred rent. He also asked that the City work to inform all residents about the evictions moratorium.

Dori Rose Inda, Salud Para la Gente, asked the public to follow shelter in place orders and asked Council to retain language in the ordinance that allows tenants to demonstrate the need for rent deferral.

Clark Codiga, via phone call, stated no outreach was created regarding the proposed ordinance and asked Council to postpone action until more input from stakeholders was received. He spoke about negative effects the ordinance would have on landlords.

Henry Martin, director at Watsonville Law Center, asked Council to remove requirement of proof of need for rent deferral, specify that mobile homes are included in the ordinance, and to include landlord retaliation prevention language in the ordinance.

Jenni Veitch-Olson, via email, thanked the City for efforts to protect and inform the public regarding COVID-19. She asked Council to support the proposed ordinance and protect all tenants. 5820

Juggy Tut, via phone call, asked Council to postpone decision on the item until the effects on landlords were studied.

Marion Madrid, via email, thanked the City for their efforts to protect the public.

Neva Hansen, via email, wrote in opposition to the proposed ordinance due to negative effects it would have on landowners.

Bill Hansen, via email, wrote in opposition to the proposed ordinance due to negative effects it would have on landowners and the economy. He recommended housing assistance instead of deferred rent.

Glen Kramer, via phone call, stated the public did not receive adequate notice on the moratorium and asked Council to deny its approval until more input was received from landowners.

Kathy Oliver, Oliver Properties, via phone call, spoke in opposition to the proposed moratorium due to effects it would have on landowners.

Chris Codiga, via phone call, stated the public did not receive adequate notice on the moratorium and asked Council to deny its approval until more input was received from landowners.

Dave Molinari, via phone call, spoke in support of the proposed moratorium and spoke about challenges businesses faced in light of COVID-19.

Kelly Davis, via phone call, asked Council to deny the moratorium due to effects it would have on landowners.

4) **MOTION:** It was moved by Member Gonzalez, seconded by Mayor García to amend the proposed ordinance to remove requirement for verifiable documentation for need for rent deferral, limit the payment deferral period to sixty (60) days, and prohibit rent increases during that period for all dwellings within City limits.

5) City Council Deliberation on Motion

Member Parker stated Council could not adequately hear or participate in the discussion. She asked for postponement of the item until Council could participate and receive information adequately.

Member Hurst asked for postponement of the item until Council could participate and receive information adequately.

MOTION: The above motion failed by the following vote:

AYES: MEMBERS: Gonzalez, Hernandez, García,
NOES: MEMBERS: Coffman-Gomez, Estrada, Hurst, Parker
ABSENT: MEMBERS: None

MOTION: It was moved by Mayor García, seconded by Member Parker and carried by the following vote to adjourn the meeting to March 23, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.:

AYES: MEMBERS: Coffman-Gomez, Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez,
Hurst, Parker, García
NOES: MEMBERS: None
ABSENT: MEMBERS: None

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.


Rebecca J. García, Mayor

ATTEST:


Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk