

Minutes

City of Soledad
City Council
Special Meeting

March 21, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ledesma called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Ivan Barrera.

ROLL CALL

The Following Councilmembers were present when the meeting was called to order:

Mayor	Fred Ledesma
Mayor Pro Tem	Alejandro Chavez
Councilmember	Christopher Bourke
Councilmember	Carla Stewart
Councilmember	Anna Velazquez

BUSINESS

B-1 Resolution No. 5278, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Declaring the City of Soledad as a Sanctuary City for all Residents, Regardless of Immigrant Status

Mike Rodriguez, City Attorney, presented to Staff report.

Members of the Council asked City Attorney Mike Rodriguez for clarification on the existing funding and clarification on the language provided in the Resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gabriela Delgadillo and Jesus Mata of JR Interpreting Services provided English/Spanish and Spanish/English translation services.

- Margarita Alcantar asked the City Council if Soledad is going to become a Sanctuary City and what can we (referring to those in attendance) do?
- Mayor Fred Ledesma advised the audience that the City is moving in that direction and is here tonight to make a decision.

- Josefina Trujillo commented in support of Sanctuary City. She commented that California is a rich state full of agriculture and has a very good economy. She has heard that Salinas has some kind of a lawsuit against the government and so does Los Angeles.
- Cindy Aguilar, resident of Gonzales and a member of the Gonzales Youth Council (GYC) commented in support of Sanctuary City. She is aware that not a lot of policies have been established because it has not been such a big issue as it is now. By designating Soledad as a Sanctuary City, Soledad would be sending out a great message to the community and would set a great example for the sister cities. Great individuals will come from this City, including students who are going off to college. This would provide comfort to the community and the risk factor is minimal. She ended by stating, every individual has seeds of greatness in them regardless of where they come from, their background or their immigration status. They shouldn't live their everyday life with fear knowing their City is allied with immigration services or supports it.
- Genardo Vargas commented in support of Sanctuary City. He has lived in Soledad for 37 years and sees people who live in fear like never before. He asked the Council, what is more important to the City, our citizens or the government? He liked what the Governor of New York responded when asked the same question. The Governor said look, we could lose some of the funds but that is not important, we could get our own funds and said he was there with everyone else to support and protect the City.
- Estela Hernandez commented in support of Sanctuary City. She knows of parents who live in fear and pay others with a Green card to take their kids to school. Kids are left thinking is my mother or father going to be there when I get home. She has a Green card too but it is still challenging and she still lives in fear. She asked, what is more important, the money or the people, the immigrants?
- Ms. Oradona commented in support of Sanctuary City. She has a Green card herself and knows of people and visits people who live in panic and prays for them. She has heard that the Feds picked up 2 or 3 people from Foods Co. People have fear of even going to the store to buy groceries. Her husband is a Pastor in a church for the past 48 years and knows of many people who live in fear. This breaks her heart. She goes over to their homes and prays for them.
- Genaro Orizaba commented in support of Sanctuary City. He has lived here for 50+ years and worked as an immigrant in the fields. Feels very sad to see brother/friends being taken and treated as criminals. Very hard being an immigrant. He understands this is a very powerful and rich country. Came here for a better life and perseverance. He is proud of the City members who are trying to protect the immigrants.
- Carla commented in support of Sanctuary City. She knows the City cannot control or stop the Federal Law but knows that people won't fear the Police in case they have a traffic violation or get stopped if we are a Sanctuary City. Wants to feel safe in the community. Kids will also be able to play, go to school, and go to the parks without fear.

Some parents are not doing that because of the fear they have. She asked the City Council, what is more important to you, the safety of our citizens or the money?

- All Members of the Council spoke generally in support of Sanctuary City.

Council Action: To adopt Resolution No. 5278

Motion: Motion made to adopt Resolution No. 5278 by Mayor Pro Tem Alejandro Chavez, seconded by Councilmember Carla Stewart and carried by unanimous vote:

Ayes: Ledesma, Bourke, Velazquez, Chavez and Stewart

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

- None

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Ledesma recessed at 6:55p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The City Council of the City of Soledad will recess to closed session to confer with its legal counsel pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)- determination whether to initiate litigation.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Ledesma reconvened from Closed Session at 7:18 p.m.

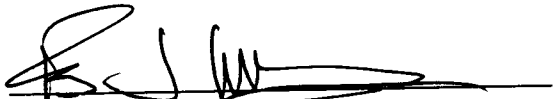
CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

With respect to Closed Session item #1 (above), City Council provided direction, no other reportable action taken.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the group, Mayor Ledesma adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Minutes Approved: April 5, 2017



FRED J. LEDESMA, Mayor/Chairman



MICHAEL MCHATTEN, City Manager/City Clerk