

Minutes

City of Soledad Joint
City Council/Successor Agency
Regular Meeting

May 20, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ledesma called the City Council/Successor Agency Meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor/Chair	Fred Ledesma
Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair	Alejandro Chavez
Councilmember/Agencymember	Marisela Lara
Councilmember/Agencymember	Anna Velazquez
Councilmember/Agencymember	Carla Strobridge Stewart

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

- None

MEETING RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

- 5:34 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

- 6:05 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

1. The City Council will recess to closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a)(d)(1) to confer with its attorney regarding pending litigation which has been initiated formally and to which the City is a party: Claim of Escutia-Lopez

2. The City Council will recess to closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a)(d)(1) to confer with its attorney regarding litigation which has been formally initiated: JVKS Harvest Solutions, LLC, et al. v. City of Soledad.
3. The City Council will recess to Closed Session to consider personnel matters pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(B)(1)- City Manager Evaluation
4. The City Council of the City of Soledad will recess to closed session to meet with its designated representatives regarding labor relations matters pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6. The employee group is the Executive Management employees.

CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

City Attorney Michael Rodriguez reported that Council was not able to finish discussing closed session Item #2. The item will need to be further discussed at the duration of the regular meeting.

1. City Attorney Michael Rodriguez reported with respect to Item No. 1, Council approved the claim and provided direction to legal counsel. No other reportable action taken.
3. With respect to Item No. 3, direction was provided to legal counsel. The Council formally recognized the designation of Brent Slama as the Acting City Manager through June 03, 2020. Legal Counsel will do what needs to be done to memorialize a compensation for the extra work entailed, considering he is both the Community and Economic Development Director and the Acting City Manager.
4. With respect to Item No. 4, Council discussed City Manager performance issues. No other reportable action taken.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Carla Strobridge Stewart

PEACEBUILDERS' PLEDGE was led by Fred Ledesma

ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Acting City Manager Brent Slama reported that there is one modification to the agenda; on 05/19/20 the City received a request from Monterey County to consider the official City position regarding their request to seek a variance from the State of California regarding stage two reopening during the COVID state of emergency. This request was received after hours, after the agenda was posted. The City would like to add the item to the agenda as item B-4.

Motion: Councilmember Velazquez made a motion to approve the adding of the item as B-4. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Strobridge Stewart and carried by unanimous vote:

Action:

Ayes: Velazquez, Strobridge Stewart, Lara, Chavez and Ledesma
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Desiree from MILPA made comment regarding Item B-3, the Measure Y use of money. She would like to see more youth services added and paid for by Measure Y.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Acting City Manager Brent Slama presented a verbal report.

1. The City is working on finalizing an agreement in terms of the grant program. Setting all of that up and bringing it back to the next meeting for final approval; this is in regards to the program that was talked about to provide loans to the business community, modeled after what the City of Gonzales is doing.
- Councilmember Velazquez would like to make sure that our first responders and police personnel have the proper PPE equipment.
 - City Manager Slama said that conversation regarding the supply of PPE is an ongoing discussion daily with staff. Police has had no issues with getting the equipment needed. The City has been able to have a supply of PPE and cleaning supplies.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- None

PUBLIC HEARING

- Receive the Staff report
- Open the Public Hearing – 6:16 p.m.
- Close the Public Hearing – 6:17 p.m.
- Council Action

- PH-1. Ordinance No. 732, An Urgency Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Soledad Extending the Term of Urgency Ordinance No. 730 Enacting a Temporary Prohibition on Covid-19 Pandemic Related Commercial Evictions.

Attorney Mike Rodriguez presented the staff report.

Motion: Councilmember Velazquez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 5582. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lara and carried by unanimous vote:

Action:

Ayes: Velazquez, Lara, Strobridge Stewart, Chavez and Ledesma
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

BUSINESS

- B-1. Resolution No. 5584, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving an Agreement for the Purchase of Real Estate at 390 East Street (Assessor's Parcel Number: 022-141-017) and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Same.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon presented the staff report.

Councilmember Velazquez asked why the property was not purchased in 2018 and why did the City not move forward when the approval was provided.

Councilmember Velazquez also asked if the City has the funding for this project; will the funding be coming out of the 19/20 allocation to cover the cost.

Acting City Manager Brent Slama said there were many issues with Pacific Gas and Electric. There were issues with funding. The sale was not completed, and the project stayed in limbo due to unforeseen circumstances. The funding will come from transportation impact fees, it would not come from the General Fund.

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez asked what was the exact issues that PG&E had at the original time this project was supposed to take place.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon said that PG&E had a few electric poles that needed to be relocated and that has now been done.

Motion: Councilmember Velazquez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 5584. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Chavez and carried by unanimous vote:

Action:

Ayes: Velazquez, Chavez, Lara, Strobridge Stewart and Ledesma
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

B-2. Consideration and Approval by Minute Motion of Fireworks 2020 Sales permits.

Acting City Manager Brent Slama presented the staff report

Attorney Mike Rodriquez asked if the new permits have specific language that says the permit is provisional on the County and or the State allowing fireworks to be sold?

Acting City Manager Brent Slama said that the application does not have language like that, but the City can add the language onto the permit that is issued back so that information is clear.

Lions Club President Richard Perez said that the fireworks orders will be coming in June and if fireworks are not allowed to be sold, the company will take merchandise back.

Councilmember Velazquez asked if any property owners of the locations that the firework stands set up, charge a fee to those setting up.

Lions Club President Richard Perez said that the he knows that Carl's JR does charge to rent the space to sell the fireworks.

The Council does feel that if any organization uses the City's space to sell fireworks, there should be liability language included in the agreement.

Motion: Councilmember Strobridge Stewart made a motion to approve the fireworks 2020 sales permits by minute motion. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Chavez and carried by unanimous vote:

Action:

Ayes: Strobridge Stewart, Chavez, Lara, Velazquez, and Ledesma
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

- B-3. Review and Approve the Measure Y Citizen Oversight Committee's Recommendation to the City Council for the Allocation of FY 2020-2021 Measure Y Funds.

Finance Director Mike Howard presented the staff report.

Measure Y Citizens Oversight Committee Chair Alexis Magdaleno said that when the Measure Y committee last met and made the first recommendations times were very different. He asked if it would be a good idea to take the item back to the Measure Y Citizen Oversight Committee for further discussion.

Councilmember Strobridge Stewart asked why the Police department needs two search and rescue drones. She would like explanation for the ballistic shield, ballistic blanket and thermal imaging camera. She would like to know if our neighboring cities have any of these items that Soledad could borrow if needed. She would like to see that money be allocated to the skateboard park or something different for the youth in the community. She would also like to know what vehicle it is that is need of the \$25,000. The City just got four new police Chargers that were supposed to be put into the fleet but sees that the Chief is driving one of those new vehicles. She would like to know if this money will be going towards a vehicle for the fleet or will this money be for a new vehicle for the chief next year and his current vehicle be put into the fleet. She thanked the Measure Y Committee for allocating money towards the general fund reserve but also feels that she cannot decide on this item without further explanation.

Mayor Ledesma also pointed out that the former Chief Sills said the K-9 program would not cost the City any money, but there is an additional \$19,000 for K-9 conversation that is listed. Now we are having to use \$20,000 for the K-9's.

Councilmember Strobridge Stewart stated that the K-9 conversion should come from the K-9 fund which is the 501C3 fund. She suggests this item be put on the 06/03/2020 regular meeting agenda for additional consideration. She hopes that the Measure Y Committee can meet again to have further conversation about this.

Councilmember Velazquez agreed with Councilmember Strobridge Stewart and would also like to see this item on the 06/03/2020 agenda for further consideration. She also thanked the Measure Y Citizen's Oversight Committee for the allocation to the General fund.

Councilmember Velazquez would like the City to get ready for the General Fund update. She would like to make sure that staff is looking into funding from the State.

Councilmember Lara would also like B-3 to be placed on the 06/03/20 meeting agenda for further discussion. She hopes that the Measure Y Citizen's Oversight can meet again to further discuss their recommendations.

Mayor Pro Tem said that he is fine with the Measure Y Committee having another meeting to further discuss the Measure Y recommendation.

Councilmember Strobridge Stewart asked if the Chief could please provide the Council with a list of items that the surrounding Cities have that could be used when needed.

Measure Y Citizens Oversight Committee Chair Alexis Magdaleno suggested that there be other options put forth in the future so that the Measure Y Committee would have more options.

- B-4. Consideration of official City position regarding a request from Monterey County seeking a variance from the State of California for Stage 2 reopening during the Covid-19 State of Emergency.

Acting City Manager Brent Slama presented the staff report. This item was received after the agenda was posted.

Councilmember Velazquez would like an opportunity to carefully review the document. She would like to make sure that the City does have the PPE compacity and has a resource to get that in the next few months. She wants to make sure that there is sufficient housing available for homeless and those that are in our agriculture community that will be affected by Covid-19.

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez would like to look at how the City can support the small business here in Soledad, that are struggling because of Covid-19.

Mayor Ledesma would like to see the Measure Y have money set aside to hire someone that can go around to the small businesses here in Soledad to help them through the process of moving forward.

Acting City Manager Brent Slama said that the date for Phase Two is Tuesday, 05/26. The City will need direction quickly as to what the Council would like the City's position on the subject to be.

MEETING RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

- 7:15 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

- 7:34 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION ITEM

2. The City Council will recess to closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a)(d)(1) to confer with its attorney regarding litigation which has been formally initiated: JVKS Harvest Solutions, LLC, et al. v. City of Soledad.

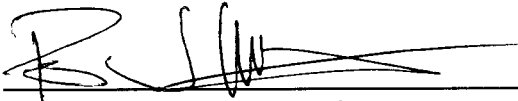
CLOSED SESSION REPORT

2. City Attorney Michael Rodriguez reported with respect to Item No. 2, Council discussed the item and provided direction to legal counsel. No other reportable action taken.

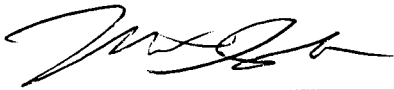
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ledesma adjourned the Regular meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes Approved: June 03, 2020



FRÉD J. LEDESMA, Mayor/Chairman



BRENT SLAMA, Acting City Clerk/Agency Secretary