

Minutes

City of Soledad Joint
City Council/Successor Agency
Regular Meeting

June 17, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ledesma called the City Council/Successor Agency Meeting to order at 5:30 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 (Arrived at 5:36 p.m.) |
| Councilmember/Agencymember | Carla Strobridge Stewart (Arrived at 5:35 p.m.) |

THE FOLLOWING COUNCILMEMBER WAS ABSENT

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

- None

MEETING RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

- 5:33 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

- 6:15 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 Rodriguez
2. The City Council will recess to Closed Session to consider personnel matters pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(B)(1)- City Manager Employment

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, Claim of Rodriguez was approved, direction was provided to the City Attorney. No other reportable action was taken.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Fred Ledesma

ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Acting City Manager Slama requested item B-7 be moved to the beginning of the Business calendar
- There were some amendments made to the minutes.
- There was a Resolution added to C-5.
- There was a change made to the attachment of C-2

Motion: Mayor Ledesma made a motion to approve the modification to the agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Velazquez and carried by unanimous vote:

Action:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Ledesma thanked all of Council for participating in the June 6, 2020 Black Lives Matter march. He felt disappointed with the over caution by the police department to tell the business owners to barricade the windows of their businesses. He feels there needs to be a discussion about the outreach that the police department makes with the public. He was embarrassed of how the City looked. He is glad that the event turned out peaceful. He hopes that for the future the police department would listen to the City Council's insight on what the people think.

COUNCILMEMBER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez reported that many members of the public were questioning why there was so many police officers present for the march and he felt the heavy police presence could have caused problems rather than helping. The police department did a wonderful job, they were smiling and walking with the crowd, but their heavy presence was not appreciated by the public.

Councilmember Velazquez said having the excessive law enforcement present did not reflect the values of our City or County. It is important to understand our community and understand the values. She feels their presence was counterproductive to what the march was about. She also reported that she attended a meeting with Alliance on Aging regarding transportation services for seniors. They provided information regarding their proposal. She also participated in the League of California Cities Housing Policy Committee twice. They are going over bills that are specific to housing and will go over the information with Mr. Slama. She also had an opportunity to meet with the Census group and she would like to know when the City Council can get together and support the census efforts, services, and funding.

Councilmember Lara reported that she attended the AMBAG via Zoom. The Board approved funding for the Regional Early Action Planning Program to support housing. Funding can only be used for planning, not for building and is based on population. The prison is included in Soledad's population. The maximum award will be \$165,000. The applications will be sent to the Planning Department. She also reported that Youth Council applications are available and will be accepted until 06/22/2020.

Councilmember Strobridge Stewart reported that she participated in an Inclusionary Housing Sub Committee meeting on 06/04/20. She also thanked Councilmember Lara for taking over the lead for the AMBAG representation. Regarding the Black Lives Matter march, she felt the police department did a great job. They were very respectful and insured the safety of all the participants. They blocked the side streets and escorted the crowd and were very respectful. The prison being present just in case dressed in their tactical gear may have felt like a lot to the public. She appreciates the mutual aid from the prison and gives praise to the organizers of the officers and of the march.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Acting City Manager Brent Slama presented an oral report.

- The City is entering into Phase 3 activities which includes the opening of more facilities: restaurants and different facilities. Parks will be open but not playgrounds.
- The City will be reviewing applications for the loans that have been approved by the Council so that funding can be disbursed.
- He attended two meetings regarding the Prop 68 Grant for the park next to the Hartnell College with the State. There are a couple things that need to be done regarding outreach, that will be impacted by Covid-19, due to public outreach that does need to be done.
- He attended a meeting with Supervisor Lopez, The County Administrative Officer, RMA, and the Ag Commissioner all regarding the Los Coches Adobe. There have been concerns from the adjacent property owner regarding needing buffers out there. Buffers on that project make it very difficult to implement. The MOU has been extended to resolve the issues. They did reiterate that decisions over buffers on City property is a City issue. The County can make recommendations but at the end of the day the City Council will decide regarding property in the City jurisdiction, how to deal with agricultural buffers.
- The City has been working on the budget and it will be presented to the Council.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Youth Commissioner Ivan Ibarra reported that the Youth Council had their End of the Year celebration on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. They recognized the outgoing seniors. Councilmember Lara was in attendance for the celebration. They have started the process of selecting the new youth council. Application for the youth council will be due June 22, 2020. They have been collaborating with the Gonzales Youth Council for the Census 2020 and have been doing videos on Facebook and Instagram and have also done outreach regarding Covid-19. Interviews for the new council should be done the week on June 22nd. The training and development will be done at the end of June. The new Council should be able to join City Council hopefully by August.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember pulled item C-3 for separate discussion. Councilmember Velazquez made a motion to approve items C-1, C-2, C-4, and C-5. 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

C-1. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. Joint City Council/Successor Agency Regular Meeting Minutes of

June 03, 2020.

- C-2. Resolution No. 5593, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Ratifying Approval of a Cost of Living Salary Adjustment for Certain Executive Management Positions Effective July 11, 2020 (First Pay Period FY 2020-21).

- C-4. Resolution No. 5595, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving Amendment #2 to the Contract for Professional Services with EMC Planning Group, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$135,000 to Provide Contract Planning Services for General Planning Purposes.

- C-5. Resolution No. 5596, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Ordering a General Municipal Election, Requesting the Monterey County Elections Department to Conduct the Election, Requesting Consolidation of the Election with the Statewide General Election and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into an Agreement with the Monterey County Registrar of Voters for Related Election Services.

Motion: Councilmember Velazquez made a motion to approve item C-3. Motion was seconded by Mayor Ledesma and carried by unanimous vote:

Action:

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

- C-3. Resolution No. 5594, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving Amendment #2 to the Contract for Professional Services with EMC Planning Group, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$113,037.50 to Provide Contract Planning Services for the Soledad Event Center Project.

Councilmember Lara asked what the actual amount of the projected cost is.

Acting City Manager Slama said the \$187,000 is the combined cost of the original contract plus the amendment. This money is paid by private development. The amendment is more than the contract. This money is paid by private development to pursue their project and there is no impact to the City finances.

EMC Principal Planner Sally Rideout said that Acting City Manager Slama is correct.

Mayor Fred Ledesma stepped out of the Meeting: 6:26 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez conducted the meeting: 6:26 p.m.

Councilmember Velazquez confirmed that the reason the contract will be approved will be so to allow the developers to do the necessary approval process. They will need environmental assessment and different zoning requirements; the item will come back to the council at a later date.

Mayor Fred Ledesma returned to the City Council meeting: 6:29 p.m.

Acting City Manager Slama agreed with Councilmember Velazquez. The developers will have to come back to Planning Commission and City Council for approvals.

PUBLIC HEARING

- None

BUSINESS

- B-7. Review of Results of City Council Goal Setting Session in Consideration of 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget.

Acting City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez asked what is the Sales Tax sales tax threshold?

Acting City Manager Slama said the City currently has a 1% add on and has a compacity to add another ½%

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez asked how the Measure would be structured, specifically for seniors, art programs and recreation.

Acting City Manager Slama said it would be structured much like the existing tax program we have. There would be a plan put into place regarding what the ballot measure would provide.

Councilmember Lara said she will be interested in moving forward with the ½% sales tax for recreation programs, the landfill and the recreation center.

Councilmember Strobridge Stewart said she agrees that recreation is vital for the growth of Soledad with the small businesses, bringing people from out of town and developing vacant spaces and she would like to see the City move forward. She would really like to see a gun range.

Councilmember Velazquez main concern is maintaining the City employees that the City already has, having no lay-off's and maintaining the services levels to the City residents. Some things that can be done better should be looked at in a separate meeting. The City should look further into specific facilities like the visitor's center. Can other things be done in the facilities that the City does have in terms of adding services for youth and seniors. In terms of the position of the Housing Manager position; can that be a mixed planning and housing position to be able to have someone that has the capacity to understand housing and the planning. The focus should be how is the City investing in the community. If there is a possibility to go out for a ½% sales tax and focused on recreational programs the City should move forward. She also agrees with Councilmember Strobridge Stewart regarding not being clear with the community regarding Measure Y.

Councilmember Velazquez excused herself from the meeting: 7:13 p.m.

Mayor Ledesma said he does feel that it is time to terminate the YMCA contract. He feels it is very important to try to pass the recreation sales tax. The City will need a funding source to add on a Recreation Director for the four additional parks. The City also needs a senior program. The City will need a person to coordinate with all the facilities. The Pinnacles has Federal funding now and would like to start a shuttle service from the Visitors Center to the Pinnacles.

Resident of Soledad Alexis Magdaleno is in favor of the City developing more community programs.

Motion:

No Action taken for this item
Direction was provided to staff.

- B-1. Resolution No. 5597, A Joint Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Amending a Contract for Professional Services with CSG Consultants, Inc. to Provide Building Official and Other Related Services.

Acting City Manager Slama presented the staff report. CSG Regional Manager John LaTorra was also present on the Zoom call and available to answer any questions.

Mayor Ledesma asked if it would be an issue if the City hired an in house Building Official during the term of the contract.

Mr. LaTorra said that CSG would be flexible to the City's needs.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Chavez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 5597. Motion was seconded by Mayor Ledesma and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

- B-2. Resolution No. 5598, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Authorizing Application for and Receipt of, Local Government Planning Support Grant Program Funds.

Acting City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

Motion: Mayor Ledesma made a motion to approve Resolution No. 5598. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Strobridge Stewart and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

- B-3. Resolution No. 5599, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Recognizing the Fight Against Racial Injustices and Encouraging Peaceful Protests Against Police Brutality.

Acting City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

Motion: Councilmember Strobridge Stewart made a motion to approve Resolution No. 5599. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lara and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

- B-4. Resolution No. 5600, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Endorsing the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020 on the November 06, 2020 on the November 06, 2020 Ballot.

Acting City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

MEETING RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

- 8:27 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

- 8:41 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

2. The City Council will recess to Closed Session to consider personnel matters pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(B)(1)- City Manager Employment

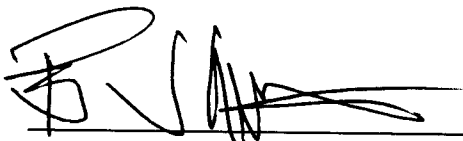
CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

2. Direction was provided to the City's legal counsel. No other reportable action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ledesma adjourned the Regular meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Minutes Approved: June 17, 2020



FRED J. LEDESMA, Mayor/Chairman



BRENT SLAMA, Acting City Clerk/Agency Secretary

Motion: Mayor Ledesma made a motion to approve Resolution No. 5600. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lara and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

- B-5. Resolution No. 5601, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into A Contract with DTA (Formally David Taussig & Associates) for a Cost Not to Exceed \$52,500 to Conduct and Complete a City AB 1600 Impact Fee Study.

Acting City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

Motion: Councilmember Strobridge Stewart made a motion to approve Resolution No. 5601. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lara and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

- B-6. Consider and Provide Direction on Potential Council Action for Urgency Ordinance to Extend Anti-Eviction Protection for Commercial Tenants or to Establish Anti-Eviction Protection for Residential Tenants.

City Attorney Mike Rodriquez presented the staff report.

Councilmember Strobridge Stewart would like to this Ordinance to be extended. She would like to see greater outreach to the residents, more than one post. She would like it shared on Facebook and the utility billing in English and Spanish.

Attorney Mike Rodriquez said the ordinance will most likely be extended for one year.

Motion:

No Action taken for this item
Direction was provided to staff.