

**Minutes**

City of Soledad Joint  
City Council/Successor Agency  
Regular Meeting

**August 19, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ledesma called the City Council/Successor Agency Meeting to order at 6:04 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 (6:08 p.m.)
Councilmember/Agencymember	Carla Strobridge Stewart
Councilmember/Agencymember	Marisela Lara
Councilmember/Agencymember	Anna Velazquez

**THE FOLLOWING COUNCILMEMBER WAS ABSENT**

- None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Junior Nuno

**ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Ledesma reported that there was 1 public comment.

1. Ms. Ida Lopez Chan introduced herself as the new CEO of the Soledad Community Healthcare District. She is very proud and excited to serve in the new role. She is a longtime member of the community. Updates of the Soledad Community Healthcare

District are 1. There are no Covid-19 cases in the Eden Valley Care Center at the moment. 2. There will be traditional nose swab Covid-19 testing, but it will be “rapid testing” which will give results within hours instead of days. Rapid testing will start to be offered in early September. There will be large tents set up in their parking lot for drive-up testing because the rainy season is approaching. 3. There will a Women’s Center opening in early October focused on women’s health, specifically mammography and ultrasounds. 4. They have recently opened services for mental health in both English and Spanish. The focus is on depression, anxiety, ADAD, behavioral problems, relationship/domestic violence, and those surviving trauma.

Councilmember Velazquez congratulation Ms. Lopez Chan on her new position.

Advisor to the Youth Council Ivan Ibarra Mora congratulated Ms. Chan on her new position. He said the youth council is very excited to work close to Ms. Lopez regarding mental health. They are very excited about the upcoming women’s Health Clinic.

Councilmember Strobbridge Stewart welcomed and congratulated Ms. Lopez Chan on her new position and said she is very happy to hear about the new mental health services that are being offered.

#### **MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Ledesma reported that he and he and few others will be doing a Veterans Flag project. The Rotary Club will be doing the initial funding for the project to move forward.

On 08/19/20 he attended the Salinas Valley Mayors and Managers meeting with Supervisor Lopez. The County of Monterey will be allocating over a million dollars towards rental assistance. He directed the City Manager to stay updated on the matter.

#### **COUNCILMEMBER’S ANNOUNCMENTS AND REPORTS**

Councilmember Velazquez reported that she did attend an MST Board of Director meeting. On 08/13 she met with Interim City Manager Slama and Alliance on Aging Teresa Sullivan regarding funding that they received from TAMC to expand services to South County. On 08/19/20 she met with Ida Lopez Chan to discuss some of their existing services that they offer through the Community Healthcare District to discuss the partnership opportunity. On 08/19/20 she also met with Monterey Bay Community Power CEO Tom Habashi regarding the hardships of residents. She would also like to know if Soledad has a PG&E Representative. She would like to know if there are any updates from Monterey County Health Department regarding the homeless encampments. And regarding the Mayor’s work in the banners for Veterans; she would like to also move forward with working with County Superintendent Deneen Guss and the program that she would like the city to partner with to showcase the graduating seniors.

Councilmember Lara reported that on 08/12/20 she attended the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments Board meeting.

Councilmember Carla Strobridge Stewart announced that SnipBus will be in Soledad on 8/18. They were able to alter 15 South County cats and 18 South County dogs. She also thanked the Public Works Department for their assistance with the SnipBus. Also, the Board of Supervisors allocated one million dollars of the County CARES funding towards the digital divide. Over 8,200 students from Monterey County Schools Districts that do not have access to a device in their home or connectivity to the internet from home and the funding will help fill that void. There was a total of three million dollars needed, MCOE was able to raise almost six hundred thousand dollars and the one million will be added to that. Tomorrow she will be attending the Monterey County Animal Control Advisory Board meeting and will be reporting on that meeting in September.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Interim City Manager Brent Slama presented an oral and written report.

- In response to Councilmember Velazquez's question as to whether Soledad has a PG&E representative, Soledad does. Her name is Jeana Arnold. Councilmember Velazquez's email address was spelled out incorrectly. Corrections will be made so that Councilmember Velazquez can start to receive updates.
- The homeless encampment on the riverbed issue has been discussed with Supervisor Lopez and the Health Department.
  - Chief Wasson gave a short update on the Riverbed fire that happened on 08/18/20. There has been an arrest made. He did reach out to the Health Department regarding the homeless encampment at the riverbed.
- There will be one more Community Center meeting and then the item will be brought back to council for a study session.

### **YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT**

Soledad Youth Commissioners Amber Solorio and Marcela Perez gave a brief update for the month of August.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Motion:** Councilmember Velazquez made motion to approve items C-1 and C-2. 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 August 05, 2020.

**C-2. Warrants**

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**BUSINESS**

- B-1. Resolution No. 5630, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving a Contract for Construction Services with Pueblo Construction Inc. in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$288,285.74 for the Community Center (YMCA) Re-roof Project and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Said Contract on Behalf of the City of Soledad

Harris and Associates Senior Project Manager Leon Gomez presented the staff report.

**Motion:** Councilmember Chavez made motion to approve Resolution No. 5630. Motion was seconded by Mayor Ledesma and carried by unanimous vote:

**Action:**

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

- B-2. Resolution No. 5631, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Declaring an Emergency Pursuant to Section 20168 of the Public Contract Code and Section 3.24.040 of the Soledad Municipal Code and Authorizing Emergency Repair Work to Well No. 9 in an Initial Amount Not to Exceed \$120,000

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon presented the staff report.

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez asked staff if it would be possible to put together a report that would show how many times a well breaks down and how much money is spent on each well.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon said he agrees with Mayor Pro Tem Chavez and will continue to move forward with creative that type of report.

Councilmember Velazquez would like to see a maintenance plan and a schedule for each well as to avoid the continuous issues with the wells.

**Motion:** Councilmember Velazquez made motion to approve Resolution No. 5631. 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

- B-3. Presentation Regarding Existing and Future City Engineering Services and Stormwater Compliance

Interim City Manager Brent Slama presented the staff report and update and shared a PowerPoint presentation.

Harris & Associates Senior Director Frank Lopez shared a presentation regarding the four areas that Harris & Associates provides services for to the City of Soledad.

Interim City Manager Brent Slama said that engineering is a very important action of the City. There is no dedicated staff to engineering. All changes and growth made to the City will need an engineer to take time develop and implement. There is no job description or formal action needed, staff is only seeking feedback.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon said his focus is to make sure the City spends the limited resources the best way possible and not be wasteful. The City sees Harris & Associates as the best option and would like to continue the relationship, but that does not mean that the City should not continue to seek out better services from other resources. The City needs to protect the investments that have been made on the infrastructure that is in place and there needs to be a team that will be aware of what is happening. The City does need the additional help.

Councilmember Velazquez said moving forward she would like the City to identify positions are needed and critical and look at what the services that the City will need to continue to need contract out for. She would like to look at the CIP's so they can be completed for the next two to five years. She would like the positions prioritized that are needed.

Councilmember Strobridge Stewart asked if it would be possible if he could share a past job description of an engineer.

**Motion:**

No Action taken for this item

Information was received and direction was given.

- B-4. Consider Proposal to Enter into an Agreement with the Astoria Logistic Group to Provide Operations and Maintenance Services for the City Owned Live Fire Shooting Range

Police Chief Wasson presented the staff report.

Junior Nuno was present in the meeting and presented a project for a public use shooting range. He shared a screen diagram of the project site. Mr. Dillon Fletcher was also available for questions.

Councilmember Strobridge Stewart asked if there would be a separate entrance for the police vehicles and how will the range ensure that the public will not be allowed in that area? Is there a plan to have an FFL license on site?

Junior Nuno said there will absolutely be a separate entrance for police officer vehicles. Plans in how to restrict that entrance and parking will be included in the project proposal. The range will include the FFL license.

City Attorney Michael Rodriguez asked Mr. Nuno for clarification regarding manufacturing.

Mr. Nuno said there are no plans for manufacturing in this proposal.

Councilmember Velazquez asked if diagrams would please be provided in advance in the future. She would have liked to have a draft business plan explaining the specific plan. Please also make sure the property has the proper zoning. She asked if Mr. Nuno has run a gun range in the past. She asked if this is just an indoor range? Also, she wants to make sure that the residents of the City of Soledad will benefit from this public facility and will be able to use it.

Mr. Nuno said that he has operated a gun range before. He said this range will only be an outdoor range.

Mr. Dillan Fletcher was also in the Zoom meeting and said that he has operated several gun ranges throughout the last 35 years.

Mayor Pro Tem asked how the public will go about using the range if the City moves forward.

Mr. Nuno said that the City residents will be able to use the facility. For City residents there will be a 25% rental fee discount, either lane or weapons rental. There will be a 10% apparel or accessories discount. They do plan on having the option to become a member and they will have a membership fee, but that fee will be different for Soledad residents.

**Motion:**

No Action taken for this item.

Information was received and direction was given.

Mayor Ledesma stepped out of the meeting at this time due to a conflict of interest for item B-5. – 8:08 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez continued the meeting

- B-5. Resolution No. 5632, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subdivision Improvement Agreement with Soledad 92, LP for the Miravale II, Parcel D Project

Harris and Associates Senior Project Manager Leon Gomez presented the staff report.

Attorney Michael Rodriguez said that if Council approves the agreement, it would be approved in its substantial form and content; the City has been using a standard agreement for a significant amount of time but there have been suggestions on how to make the agreement more user friendly with attachments of exhibits with the list of proposed costs and a legal description of the area and a map for ease of reference. The substance of the terms of the agreement will not be changed but there will be an additional three exhibits added.

Councilmember Velazquez would like a red-line version given of last-minute changes so that the changes can be obvious. She would also like to know if the changes are in regards to item 20 for clarity of the bonds and other instruments of credit needed for project cost?

Attorney Michael Rodriguez said that the form is dictated by statute. This decision is discretionary on the City's part on whether they want to attach the Bond documents.

Councilmember Velazquez would also like to know if this is standard or is for this specific SIA?

Attorney Michael Rodriguez added that this is standard for the SIA.

There were no public comments at this time.

**Motion:** Councilmember Velazquez made motion to approve Resolution No. 5632. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Strobridge Stewart and carried by unanimous vote:

**Action:**

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

Mayor Fred Ledesma reentered the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

B-6. Consideration of Appointments to the Soledad Planning Commission.

Interim City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

There are two applications that have been received.

Mayor Ledesma thanked Ms. Melody Urquidez and recommended that council move ahead with appointing Ms. Urquidez as a planning commissioner.

He is not able to move ahead with recommending continuing the appointment of Mr. Carlos Lopez because he is working for Harris & Associates and because the City of Soledad does many projects with Harris & Associates, this is a conflict of Interest. At this point he recommends that the council appoints Mr. Roberto Cruz as a planning commissioner.

**Motion:**

Mayor and Council proceeded with appointing both Ms. Melody Urquidez and Mr. Roberto Cruz.

Ms. Melody Urquidez was present online and thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve on the Planning Commission.

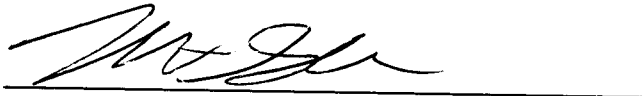
**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Ledesma adjourned the Regular meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes Approved: September 02, 2020



FRED J. LEDESMA, Mayor/Chairman



BRENT SLAMA, Interim City Clerk/Agency Secretary

