

Minutes

City of Soledad Joint
City Council/Successor Agency
Special Meeting

July 29, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ledesma called the City Council/Successor Agency Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

*Due to COVID-19 all Councilmember's Participated in the meeting by Zoom.

Mayor/Chair	Fred Ledesma
Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair	Alejandro Chavez
Councilmember/Agencymember	Anna Velazquez (6:45 p.m.)
Councilmember/Agencymember	Carla Strobridge Stewart
Councilmember/Agencymember	Marisela Lara

THE FOLLOWING COUNCILMEMBER WAS ABSENT

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- None

ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

- None

BUSINESS

- B-1. Consider and Adopt Resolution No. 5621, Ratifying Executive Order 02-2020 Adopting the California Department of Public Health's Guidance for the use of Face Coverings to be Enforceable by Administrative Citation Within the City of Soledad.

Attorney Mike Rodriguez presented the staff report.

Councilmember Lara thanked City staff for the signs that have been put up in the City around the park areas regarding masks. She does feel that the fines for being cited for not wearing a mask may be too high. She would like the first citing to be a warning. She would also like to know if there is a group walking together with no mask, would each person be cited, or would the citing be for the group?

Police Chief Wasson said the first cite would be a warning and education. If there were repeat offenders, then fines would be put forth to the person.

Mayor Ledesma feels that the fine amounts are not too much money because people need to take this law very seriously.

Attorney Mike Rodriguez addressed Councilmember Lara's question and said that each individual will be fined.

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez said that the County of Monterey said that physical activity does not have a need for a mask, is Soledad following those same guidelines?

Interim City Manager Slama and Attorney Mike Rodriguez pointed out on the County guidelines how Soledad is following the guidelines. As a family you can walk together and not have social distancing.

Councilmember Strobridge Stewart said that the Police Officers should be wearing their mask while in the community. She also asked if the City had masks that could be given out to the public that may not be able to buy masks.

Interim City Manager Slama said he will look into how the City can proceed to be able to have enough masks to be able to give away free masks to the public.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Chavez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 5621. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Strobridge Stewart and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

PUBLIC HEARING No. PH-1

- Receive the Staff report
- Open the Public Hearing – 6:30 p.m.
- Close the Public Hearing – 6:31 p.m.
- Council Action

PH-1. Resolution No. 5622, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Submitting to the voters at the General Municipal Election to be Consolidated with the Statewide General Election Held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, An Ordinance Increasing the City's Transactions and Use Tax by One-Half Percent (.50%) with the Use of the Tax Revenue to be Subject to Annual Audits by an Independent Auditor and Citizen's Oversight Committee.

Attorney Mike Rodriquez presented the staff report. There are two minor edits that will need to be made to the Ordinance and Resolution; The Resolution on Page 3 in Section 2 would be changed on the 5th line down to read "A measure, that if approved, would adopt a one-half percent increase to the City's existing transaction's and use tax for a total tax of 1.5 percent". The change to the ordinance would be on Page 7 of 9, Section 3.10.160, language should be added to read, "this tax will remain in effect until otherwise ended by the voters".

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez said there seems to be confusion between a General Sales Tax and a Special Tax. He said that the City cannot use public tax dollars for the election itself but asked what are the City's limits regarding educating the public for this.

City Attorney Mike Rodriquez said the City does have the ability to inform the voters as long as the information is not biased or take a position. The usual thing would be a pamphlet that would inform the voters of what would happen if the measure is adopted and this is what would happen if the measure is not adopted. The City must avoid advocacy. Whatever it is that is being provided to the public must be completely educational and informational and must provide both sides of the issue. Members of the council can express their support, but it must be clear that they are expressing as an individual and not as the council as a whole.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Chavez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 5622 with the two changes read into the record. Motion was seconded by Mayor Ledesma and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

City Attorney Rodriquez said that standard practice when submitting a tax measure is to have an impartial analysis which would need to be turned in by 08/13/2020. If the council desires to write

an argument in favor of the motion they can do so. That language is specifically called out in the resolution that was just adopted. Because of the timeframe that we are on the council can designate the City Manager to do so on behalf of the council.

Councilmember Lara asked if there are enough masks to do a mask distribution event or can we provide masks into the pantries that are through the City.

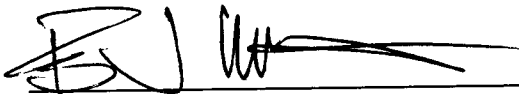
Councilmember Velazquez said there is a group of women and other local groups that can assist in providing masks to the public.

Mayor Ledesma encouraged the rest of the council to spend a few minutes at city hall every couple of weeks and spend a little time with staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ledesma adjourned the Regular meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Minutes Approved: August 5, 2020



FRED J. LEDESMA, Mayor/Chairman



BRENT SLAMA, Interim City Clerk/Agency Secretary