

Minutes

City of Soledad Joint
City Council/Successor Agency
Regular Meeting

January 06, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Velazquez called the City Council/Successor Agency Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor/Chair	Anna M. Velazquez
Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair	Carla Strobridge
Councilmember/Agencymember	Alejandro Chavez
Councilmember/Agencymember	Marisela Lara
Councilmember/Agencymember	Ben Jimenez, Jr.

THE FOLLOWING COUNCILMEMBER WAS ABSENT

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

- None

MEETING RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Velazquez recessed to Closed Session at 6:01 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Velazquez reconvened from Closed Session at approximately 6:33 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION NO. 1

1. The City Council of the City of Soledad will recess to closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1) to discuss the City Manager Recruitment.

2. The City Council will recess to closed session pursuant to Government Code 54956.8 to give instructions to the City's real property negotiator (City Manager) concerning sale/exchange/lease of property located at 31500 San Vicente Road, City of Soledad, APN: 257-081-022. Instructions will include price, terms of payment and other relevant conditions.
3. The City Council will recess to closed session to confer with its attorney regarding litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)- significant exposure to litigation. *(Two Items)*

CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

City Attorney Michael Rodriguez reported there was limited time and the council skipped item no. 1 and moved forward with items no. 2 and one of the two items in closed session no. 3. At the end of the regular meeting the council will adjourn and go back into closed session to complete the closed session item no. 1 and the second item in closed session item no. 3.

2. With respect to item no. 2, the council conferred with its property negotiator on the property located at 31500 San Vicente Road, City of Soledad, and provided direction. No other reportable action taken.
3. With respect to item no. 3, one of the two items was discussed. The council conferred with legal counsel and provided direction. No other reportable action taken.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Councilmember Lara

ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

QUARTERLY EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Mayor Velazquez gave a brief history about the Quarterly Employee Recognition program. This evening Mayor Velazquez recognized 7 employees that have been employees with the City of Soledad between 15 and 34 years.

1. Gama Romero, 34 Years of Service
2. Joel Alvarez, 24 Years of Service
3. Jeanette Boykin, 18 Years of Service
4. Gilbert Rocha, 17 Years of Service

5. Hilda Ramirez, 16 Years of Service
6. Sergeant Lionel Munguia, 15 Years of Service
7. Daniel Bravo, 15 Years of Service

Councilmember Jimenez thanked the group that was recognized for their year of service.

City Employee Hilda Ramirez thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition and looks forward to many more years of service.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge thanked the group of people that were recognized for their years of services and for everything they all do for the community of Soledad.

Councilmember Chavez also thanked the employees of the City for their years of service and all the hard work that they have put forth.

Jeanette Boykin thanked Mayor Velazquez and Council and the staff for the opportunity to be able to work for the public and be of service.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon introduced a City of Soledad new Employee, Assistant Civil Engineer Ngoc Nguyen.

Assistant Civil Engineer Ngoc Nguyen "Nash", thanked the City for the new opportunity.

The Council welcomed "Nash" to the City of Soledad team.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Velazquez had 10 items to report.

1. On 12/17 she met with Executive Director of the YWCA Christine Duncan.
2. On 12/17 she also met with City of Soledad Economic Development Housing Program Coordinator Tencia Vargas.
3. On 12/18 she met with the City of Soledad I.T. Director Steven Andranigian.
4. On 12/18 she also met with the City of Soledad Human Resources Coordinator.
5. On 12/19 she joined Jose Maria Martinez of Band Productions and the Salinas Police Department in a toy give-away.
6. On 12/28 she met with Senior Director of MCOE Early Learning Programs Sonya Jaramillo along with Interim City Manager Slama and Councilmember Lara.
7. On 01/03 she visited businesses in town and invited them to participate in a virtual town hall meeting with Senator Caballero.
8. On 01/04 she participated in the Executive briefing regarding the status of Covid-19.
9. On 01/05 she participated in the Centennial Committee meeting.
10. Also, on 01/05 she listened in on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors meeting with Dr. Moreno and a Covid-19 presentation.

COUNCILMEMBER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 4 items to report:

1. On 12/18 she participated in the Front Street Christmas Parade.
2. On 12/19 S.N.I.P. hosted a vaccination clinic and 157 animals were vaccinated.
3. On Saturday, 01/09, SnipBus will be in Soledad.
4. On 01/16 there will be a vaccination clinic in King City and that will be available for all South County residents.

Councilmember Lara 1 item to report:

1. She attended a meeting on 12/28 with Senior Director of MCOE Early Learning Programs Sonya Jaramillo along with Mayor Velazquez and Interim City Manager Slama.

COUNCILMEMBER PRAISES

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge thanked Maria and Frank Corralejo for organizing the parade festivities and all the other community events they have organized. She also thanked the police department, public works department, the participants in the parade and the community for coming out. She also thanked Interim City Manager Slama and Joel from the Public Works department for always accommodating the SnipBus. She also thanked Darlene Noriega for doing a great job and always accommodating last minute request.

Councilmember Jimenez gave praise to Chief Wasson and the Soledad Police Department for recently taking a firearm off the streets of Soledad.

Councilmember Chavez also thanked Maria and Frank Corralejo for all the work they have been doing in the community. He also thanked the police department for the community policing they've been doing.

Councilmember Lara also thanked Frank and Maria Corralejo and the police for everything they have been doing in the community. She also thanked Frank and Maria Corralejo for the toy drive they organized.

Mayor Velazquez thanked the Centennial committee members and City staff for all the contributions and the willingness to support the celebration.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim City Manager Slama presented his written report and verbally highlighted a few items:

1. The City continues to recruit for a Community Engagement Manager and the Recreation Manager.
He has received a request from the Recreation District to have a joint meeting to discuss collaborations efforts before hiring.
2. The City will be shutting down parks because they are not being used in a responsible manner within the stay-at-home order.

3. More information is coming out regarding the Covid-19 vaccine for our community members.

CENTENNIAL UPDATE

1. The Centennial logo is starting to be seen on our agendas and City correspondence.
2. Moving forward in the council meetings, the agenda will have a "Centennial Spotlight". This will give the opportunity for Mayor and Councilmembers to invite community member that have contributed to the community over the century.
3. There is a Gazebo project that should be done this year.
4. The Centennial committee is talking about a few things that can be done on March 9th; having a baker bake a cake that commemorates the date, a firework show, a car show/parade.
5. There has been a meeting with the Arts council and discussion of doing an art piece under the rail bridge on Front Street.

Councilmember Strobridge asked Interim City Manager Slama if there were any plans for the County to separate the inmate Covid count from the general 93960 Covid count.

Interim City Manager Slama said he is not sure of any plans to do that.

Mayor Velazquez agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and feels that would be great to separate the numbers. Mayor Velazquez agreed to send a letter to pursue the separation.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Soledad Youth Commissioners Amber Solorio and Marcela Perez gave a brief verbal update.

PRESENTATIONS

- Monterey County District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Center Program Manager Pamela Patterson gave a presentation of services offered in Soledad and the South County. She also provided her contact information for further questions.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge asked if there are other agencies in South County that they do collaboration with and asked if stats are kept on the numbers of who is being serviced.

Ms. Patterson said they do collaborate with other agencies. The grant in King City is a collaboration with the YWCA. There is also collaboration with the Rape Crisis Center, Behavioral Health and the Natividad Medical Center and the Child Advocacy Center. Stats are kept, she asked that Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge email her in detail the information needed, and Ms. Patterson will get the information.

Councilmember Jimenez asked if there has ever been a time that services were not able to be provided in South County?

Ms. Patterson said they that has not happened since the grant was received, in at least three years.

Mayor Velazquez congratulated the Monterey County District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Center Program on receiving the grant and thanked Ms. Patterson for the presentation. She would also like to see any data that could be provided regarding the South County Cities.

Councilmember Lara asked if the services provided are bilingual/bicultural.

Ms. Patterson said that all services provided are bilingual/bicultural. They also assist with the U visa process.

Councilmember Chavez thanked Ms. Patterson for the work she's done with the immigrant population and the U visa process and thanked her for the work she has done with law enforcement, the community, non-profits and the United Farm Workers Foundation.

Mayor Velazquez thanked Ms. Patterson for the presentation with all the information and also, all the work she has done and the partnership.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Lara made motion to approve items C-1 through C-4. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimenez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

C-1. Approval of Minutes

Joint City Council/Successor Agency Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2020.

C-2. Warrants

042880 - 043020

C-3. City of Soledad Monthly Department Activity Reports.

C-4. Accept Status Report on City of Soledad Assistance Program.

PUBLIC HEARING

- None

BUSINESS

- B-1. Consider Approval of a Lease Agreement Between the City of Soledad and Astoria Logistics Group, LLC, For Operation of a Public Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun Range. *(Continued item of 12/16/2020 City Council meeting)*

City Attorney Mike Rodriquez reported that this matter is not ready for action. The item can either be continued to the 01/20/2021 meeting or the item can be tabled.

Councilmember Chavez said he believes there is still negotiations that need to take place and it might be best to table the item.

Mayor Velazquez said the item will be tabled until further notice.

Motion: Councilmember Chavez made motion to table the item. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by Unanimous vote:

Action:

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

- B-2. Resolution No. 5672, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Authorizing the Interim City Manager to Execute an Amendment to the Lease Agreement Between the City of Soledad and Windy Acres for Preschoolers (273 Soledad Street).

Interim City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

Ms. Cindy Enriquez was also in the Zoom meeting available for comment or to answer questions.

Councilmember Jimenez asked if Windy Acres is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit.

Ms. Cindy Enriquez said yes, Windy Acres is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit.

Councilmember Lara asked if she should recuse herself from this item because she does have applications pending with Windy Acres for her own children and plans to have them attend when the school is opened again.

City Attorney Rodriquez said that recusing herself might be a good idea.

Councilmember Lara has recused herself from the discussion.

Mayor Velazquez also disclosed that her children did attend Windy Acres when her children were very small, many years ago.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge also disclosed that she had a lengthy text conversation with a member of the community, Chris Braga regarding the concern of Windy Acres closing. She does not believe it will impact her decision on the item.

Ms. Cindy Enriquez said that Windy Acres did close in March and the situation has continued and will continue until things are safer for the children and the families. She hopes to be able to get back to normal when it is safer but does need a little help with this.

Councilmember Chavez also disclosed that his children attended Windy Acres many years ago.

Motion: Councilmember Chavez made motion to approve Resolution 5672. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by Unanimous vote:

Action:

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

B-3. Resolution No. 5673, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Establishing A Measure "S" Citizens Oversight Committee and Defining the Scope of the Committee Responsibilities.

Interim City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

Mayor Velazquez has a question regarding item H in the resolution; is there a possibility to meet more than two times a year and can there be quarterly meetings. Can time frames be better scheduled.

Finance Director Mike Howard said in the past meetings have been scheduled as early as February to be able to get them information on expenditures on the prior year. There are also one or two follow up meetings scheduled so the committee can evaluate and ask questions and form a proposal for council by April or May. For Measure S there may be more opportunity for evaluating programs during different season of the year. When the Recreation Manager is hired that person can help with having quarterly meetings in the year for different activities taking place.

Councilmember Chavez said that it is important to look at the language and add that they meet at least two times per year and no more than six times per year.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge would like to see added to item LE; can there be a report prepared and sent to residents in a format similar to the water report. It is important for the residents to see what their tax dollars are being used for.

There were no public comments regarding this item.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge made motion to approve Resolution No. 5673, with the noted changes. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Chavez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

B-4. Update Regarding Various Appointments to Council and City Committees.

Interim City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

Mayor Velazquez clarified on the 3CE that she will continue to be the representative until the next rotation which takes place every two years.

Councilmember Chavez will be the liaison for the Centennial Committee.

Mayor Velazquez asked Attorney Rodriquez if the Affordable Housing Ad-Hoc committee should be left as an Ad-Hoc committee or should it be modified to something else.

Attorney Rodriquez said the Affordable Housing Ad-Hoc committee can be left as it is.

Mayor Velazquez asked if the General Plan update process will need an Ad-Hoc Committee.

Interim City Manager Slama said there will be an Ad-Hoc committee formed for the General Plan process. The committee will be added to the list.

Interim City Manager Slama asked if liaisons should be added to the committees that are not currently meeting or should the City leave them blank.

Councilmember Chavez suggest leaving them blank. Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge agreed.

Motion:

Information was received by council.

No Action taken for this item.

B-5. Consideration of an Amendment to Garage Sales Permit Fees.

Interim City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

Mayor Velazquez would like to make sure the families in Soledad are supported. She would like to see a reduction in the fees.

Councilmember Lara asked if there was a certain amount that Mayor Velazquez wants. Mayor Velazquez would like it reduced by 50%.

Councilmember Lara would like to know what the process is when someone is having a garage sale with no permit.

Chief Wasson said people should have a permit and if they do not, they can receive a citation.

Councilmember Jimenez said he understands the hardships happening, but the City needs to ensure that people are following the stay-at-home order. He thinks the City should wait to get through the pandemic first and then come back to this item at the right time.

Councilmember Chavez suggests that rather than lowering the fee, allow for yard sales to be done twice per month, maybe the first and third weekend. This will help code enforcement be organized. This would give people that have purchased a permit up to four opportunities per year to have a yard sale instead of only twice per month.

This item will be tabled until further notice.

Motion:

Information was received by council
No Action taken for this item

B-6. Resolution No. 5674, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Amending the City of Soledad Rules, Policies and Procedures Regarding Election of Mayor Pro Tempore

Interim City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

There were no public comments on the item.

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to approve Resolution No. 5674. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by the following vote:

Action:

Ayes:	Jimenez, Strobridge, Lara, Chavez, Velazquez
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Chavez had 1 item:

1. Performance evaluation on the City Attorney.

Councilmember Jimenez had 1 item:

1. He would like to see a clear outline of the role of the Soledad Youth Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 7 items:

1. She would like an update on the Public Handwashing stations for around town.
2. Will there be any more PSA's needed regarding Covid and prevention measures for the community.
3. The food pantries around town need more masks. She is hoping staff can restock those.
4. She would like to make sure the police and Code Enforcement have masks to distribute.
5. She would like an update from police regarding the stats from New Year's Eve.
6. She would like an update on the K-9 unit and meet the new dog.
7. She would like police to introduce their new employees in a future meeting.

Mayor Velazquez had 3 items:

1. She would like to get an updated org chart for the City.
2. She would like to know of any updates from the school district regarding Spectrum.
3. She would like any updates from Tri-Cities regarding SB23.

MEETING RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION NO. 2

Mayor Velazquez recessed to Closed Session no. 2 at 8:28 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Velazquez reconvened from Closed Session at approximately 9:25 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS NO. 2

1. The City Council of the City of Soledad will recess to closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1) to discuss the City Manager Recruitment.
3. The City Council will recess to closed session to confer with its attorney regarding litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)- significant exposure to litigation. *(Second item)*

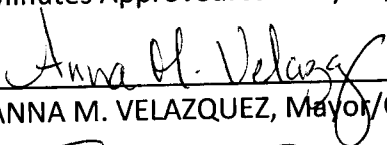
CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

1. City Attorney Michael Rodriguez reported with respect to item no. 1, the city council discussed the City Manager recruitment. No other reportable action taken.
3. With respect to the second item of closed session no. 3, the council considered the item and provided direction. No other reportable action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Velazquez adjourned the Regular meeting at 9:29 p.m.

Minutes Approved: January 20, 2021



ANNA M. VELAZQUEZ, Mayor/Chairman



BRENT SLAMA, Interim City Clerk/Agency Secretary