

**Minutes**

City of Soledad Joint  
City Council/Successor Agency  
Regular Meeting

**March 03, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Velazquez called the City Council/Successor Agency Meeting to order at 6:02 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	Marisela Lara (Arrived at 6:32 p.m.)
Councilmember/Agencymember	Ben Jimenez, Jr.
Councilmember/Agencymember	Alejandro Chavez

**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 6:04 p.m.

**MEETING RECONVENED**

Mayor Velazquez reconvened from Closed Session at approximately 6:32 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION NO. 1**

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

## **CLOSED SESSION REPORTS**

1. With respect to item no. 1, the council discussed the evaluation process for the City Attorney. No other reportable action was taken.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Mr. Tony Virrueta

## **ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There was one modification to the agenda. In the Presentation section of the agenda, Presentation No. 4 was moved to be the second presentation presented.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None

## **CENTENNIAL SPOTLIGHT**

City Manager Slama said there was a Centennial meeting on 03/02/2021. He thanked everyone who has helped in putting the event of March 9<sup>th</sup> together. There have been 40 entries of vehicles that have registered to be a part of the parade. There will also be a community cake contest, a grab-n-go community dessert giveaway and a firework show taking place on March 9<sup>th</sup>. As the number of Covid cases get better we are hoping to be able to celebrate more throughout the year. All Festivities will be broadcasted on Facebook Live.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Velazquez had 7 items to report.

1. On 02/18 she participated in the California League of Cities Presidents Task Force.
2. On 02/18 she participated in a meeting with City Manager Slama, CEO of Soledad Community Health Care District Ida Lopez Chan and City of Soledad Faith Leaders to discuss continued safety measures for the community.
3. On 02/20 she participated In the City Council Goal Setting session.
4. On 02/22 she was interviewed by Main Street Middle School Art Teacher and Newspaper Advisor Toni Siciliano and students at Main Street Middle School.
5. On 02/23 she met with community members of Rancho San Vicente.
6. On 03/02 she participated in "Read Across America" as a virtual guest reader for San Vicente Elementary School, Jack Franscioni Elementary School and Frank Ledesma Elementary school.
7. On 03-03 she met with the South County Mayors and Monterey County Supervisor Chris Lopez.

### **COUNCILMEMBER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Councilmember Chavez had 3 items to report:

1. On 02/20 he participated in the City Council Goal Setting session.
2. On 02/24 he attended a TAMC meeting regarding their budget; a public hearing regarding unmet transit needs also took place and "Play to Learn" kits were also distributed to some schools.
3. On 03/02 he participated in the "Read Across America" as a virtual guest reader for San Vicente Elementary School.

Councilmember Jimenez had 3 items to report:

1. On 02/20 he participated in the City Council Goal Setting session.
2. On 02/18 he participated in the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority meeting.
3. He will not be able to attend the March 9<sup>th</sup> Soledad Centennial celebrations.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 3 items to report:

1. On 02/20 she participated in the City Council Goal Setting session.
2. On 03/02 She participated in the Centennial meeting on Face Book Live.
3. She will not be able to attend the employee appreciation luncheon of 03/09.

### **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISES**

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge praised I.T. Director Steven Andranigian and City Manager Brent Slama for the video regarding the Soledad Community Center.

Councilmember Jimenez gave praise to the Centennial Committee for all the work they have been doing. He also praised Soledad Wastewater Supervisor Gama Romero for his hard work and dedication. He thanked all the staff that work on the weekends.

Mayor Velazquez also praised the Centennial Committee for the work and planning they have done.

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

City Manager Slama presented his written report and verbally highlighted 2 items:

1. There will be an employee appreciation luncheon on 03/09.
2. There have been additional groups that are now able to get the vaccine which includes emergency services and the public works staff. There will be an update given by CEO of the Soledad Community Health Care District Ida Lopez Chan at the 03/17 meeting regarding everything being done in Soledad.

### **YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT**

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

## **PRESENTATIONS**

1. City of Soledad Chief of Police Damon Wasson gave a brief introduction of the City's K-9 Officer Bo, accompanied by his handler, Officer Cecilio Lozano. An Oath of Office was also presented.
4. A proclamation was presented to the American Red Cross declaring March as Red Cross Month. Mr. Tony Virrueta and Ms. Patsy Gasca were present in the Zoom meeting to accept the proclamation on behalf of the American Red Cross.
2. A brief presentation update regarding the Soledad Education Center was given by Hartnell College President Dr. Raul Rodriguez and Board of Trustees President Erica Padilla-Chavez. A PowerPoint presentation was also provided to the council.

Councilmember Chavez thanked Hartnell College and the previous City Council for agreeing to move forward with the opportunity to expand the minds of the community and give the youth something to look forward to in higher education in the City, which will also give the community many new opportunities.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobidge also thanked Hartnell and Board of Trustees President Erica Padilla-Chavez for the opportunity that the community will now have. She feels very proud and is very excited for the future students.

Councilmember Jimenez thanked Hartnell College President Dr. Raul Rodriguez and Board of Trustees President Erica Padilla-Chavez for the presentation. He is looking forward to the doors opening to students.

Mayor Velazquez said it is amazing to see the transformation of the land. The education center will be transformative for the community. Now that Hartnell will be here in Soledad, transportation will not be an issue for the students who do not have vehicles. She thanked Hartnell College President Dr. Raul Rodriguez and Board of Trustees President Erica Padilla-Chavez for the presentation.

Councilmember Lara said not only will the Hartnell Educational Center be closing the gap of education in Soledad but also the promissory note that students will be able to attend for free is instrumental for the Community.

3. A brief presentation update was given by Kari Wagner and Brent Buche of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency. A PowerPoint presentation was also provided to the city council.

Councilmember Chavez asked if the cost for Soledad would be Factors A and B.

Monterey County Water Resources Agency Kari Wagner said that is correct.

Mayor Velazquez asked if residents in San Luis Obispo County will also be going through the assessment or does this assessment only apply to the residents in Monterey County living within the specific areas noted.

Monterey County Water Resources Agency General Manager Brent Buche said the assessment will apply to the residents in Monterey County living within the specific areas noted.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilmember Jimenez asked that a correction be made to Item C-1, section B-3. He also asked for further explanation on item C-2, Page 2, item no. I00530 and Page 9, item no. I175089.

- City Manager Slama gave explanation to item C-2, Page 2, item no. I00530.
- Public Works Director Oscar Antillon gave explanation to Page 9, item no. I175089

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge made motion to approve items C-1, C-2, and C-3 with the correction made to item C-1, section B-3. Motion was seconded by Mayor Velazquez and carried by the following vote:

#### **Action:**

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

#### **C-1. Approval of Minutes**

Joint City Council/Successor Agency Regular Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2021.

#### **C-2. Warrants**

043340 - 043440

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

- Receive the Staff report
- Open the Public Hearing at 7:59 p.m.
- Close the Public Hearing at 8:16 p.m.
- Council Action

PH-1. Ordinance No. 736, Adoption and Second Reading by Title Only of An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Soledad Adding New Chapter 12.02 – Maintenance and Repair

of Sidewalks to Title 12 – Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places of the Soledad Municipal Code.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon presented the staff report and shared a screen presentation.

City Attorney Mike Rodriguez said Ordinance 736 will establish a variety of tools that the City has to compel sidewalk performance, repair and establish liability and responsibility to keep sidewalks maintained.

Councilmember Lara asked if the sidewalk program is just for sidewalks in the community or is it for sidewalks owned by the City as well.

Mayor Velazquez clarified the program is just for sidewalks that homeowners would have responsibility for, not for sidewalks owned by the City. City sidewalks are the responsibility of the City.

Andrea Jones Brinson asked if this includes any of the Front Street businesses whose sidewalks need repair. She would also like to know if people who are buying a new home are aware of the sidewalk maintenance responsibility.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon said there are areas on Front Street that are public access, ADA areas, crosswalks, and intersections and those are all taken care of by the City. California is not very clear to incoming homeowners as to what their responsibility is, but it is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain the sidewalk adjacent to their property.

**Motion:** Councilmember Chavez made motion to approve Ordinance No. 736. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by the following vote:

**Action:**

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

- Receive the Staff report
- Open the Public Hearing at 8:17 p.m.
- Close the Public Hearing at 8:21 p.m.
- Council Action

PH-2. Resolution No. 5688, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving an Amendment to the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program Coronavirus Response Round 1 (CBDG-CV1) Standard Agreement to Add Additional Funds From the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program-Coronavirus Response Round 2 and 3 NOFA Dated December 18, 2020.

City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

Councilmember Chavez asked how many businesses were assisted in the last round.

Ms. Angel Johnstone said 14 businesses were assisted.

**Motion:** Councilmember Jimenez made motion to adopt Resolution No. 5688. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by the following vote:

**Action:**

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

**BUSINESS**

B-1. Presentation By Monterey County Health Department Director Elsa Jimenez and Discussion of the City Response and Expenditures to Address Impacts Related to Covid-19.

Monterey County Health Department Director Elsa Jimenez presented the report and PowerPoint presentation.

Councilmember Jimenez thanked Monterey County Health Department Director Elsa Jimenez for the presentation. He is concerned that 22,000 doses of the vaccine were distributed to the Peninsula, and the whole South County was only given 5,000 doses. He was disappointed to see the Health Department did not make the adjustments at the time of seeing the numbers of who was being most affected. He hopes in the future the vaccine will be distributed to those who are in most need.

Councilmember Chavez asked if the Health Department knows the number of deaths specifically from 93960 zip code. He is thankful that food services workers are being vaccinated. He hopes that the farmworkers will be moved into the essential worker category.

Monterey County Health Department Director Elsa Jimenez said she does not know the specific number of deaths according to zip codes. She said the supply of the vaccine is extremely limited. Before the general public would have access to the vaccine, the State will make an effort to continue to move through the essential workforce list.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge thanked Monterey County Health Department Director Elsa Jimenez and the staff at the Monterey County Health Department for their efforts in working through the pandemic.

Councilmember Lara would like to know if the childcare workers who do not have a license can be added to the list of essential workers as well as MST and Uber drivers.

Monterey County Health Department Director Elsa Jimenez said they are working towards supporting both formal and informal childcare workers. With respect to MST, all drivers are eligible to be vaccinated.

Mayor Velazquez would like to know how the City can be an advocate for the people of Soledad. She also thanked Monterey County Health Department Director Elsa Jimenez for the presentation.

Monterey County Health Department Director Elsa Jimenez said she encourages the council to continue to advocate for the City and continue to reach out to Clinica De Salud for additional information.

Andrea Jones Brinson thanked Ms. Elsa Jimenez and the Monterey County Health Department for their efforts. She has had numerous local restaurants contact her because they have not been able to get appointments set up for their food service employees to be vaccinated.

Monterey County Health Department Director Elsa Jimenez hopes that everyone takes the opportunity to recognize the inequitable distribution of resources and inequitable access to resources and the lack of affordable housing in the community. Some community members have continued to experience disparate impacts through wages, housing, educational attainment, and healthcare. She hopes people seize this as an opportunity to help address systemic challenges and policies that are in place that favor certain sectors of the community over others. Systemic challenges that need to be addressed are income, lack of affordable housing and the inability to be able to go to work.

Councilmember Chavez asked why there is a difference between Monterey County and Santa Cruz County because as of two weeks ago Santa Cruz County had already administered over 73,000 vaccines.

Monterey County Health Department Director Elsa Jimenez said that being in a county that does not have a multi-county entity has set Monterey County behind in terms of doses available. Multi-County entities such as Santa Cruz County, received the vaccine doses first and then the rest was distributed to local health departments and vaccinators within those counties. Santa Cruz County has three Multi-County entities: Kaiser, Dignity Health and Sutter. Monterey County does not have a multi-county entity.

**Motion:**

Information was received by council.

No Action taken for this item.

B-2. Update on the City of Soledad Information Technology (I.T.) Department Projects and the Internet for All/Digital Divide Project.

Information Technology Director Steven Andranigian presented the staff report update and presentation.

Mayor Velazquez thanked Information Technology Director Steven Andranigian for the projects that he is moving forward. She looks forward to new funding that will be coming soon to help support the I.T. efforts in the City.

Councilmember Chavez thanked I.T. Director Andranigian for his hard work that he has done up to this point in the City.

Ivan Ibarra Mora thanked the council and staff for the City's initiative to move forward. The school district has been working towards building LTE towers but have not been successful. He hopes there is possibility for collaboration between the City of Soledad and the Soledad Unified School District to fulfill the similar mission to provide internet access to all, especially the students within the District. Soledad Unified School District has allocated close to \$600,000 for LTE towers.

**Motion:**

Information was received by council.

No Action taken for this item.

- B-3. Resolution No. 5689, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving a Proposal for Professional Services with Yamabe & Horn Engineering, Inc., in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$38,000 to Provide Civil Engineering Design Services for the Dixi Street Sewer and Water Line Replacement Project.

City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

**Motion:** Councilmember Jimenez made motion to adopt Resolution No. 5689. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by the following vote:

**Action:**

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

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

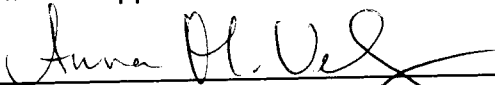
Councilmember Jimenez had 2 items:

1. He would like to establish future dates for the goal setting categories.
2. He would like staff or Police to contact and help bring direction and assistance to the individual who is camped behind Mi Fiesta store.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Velazquez adjourned the Regular meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Minutes Approved: March 17, 2021

  
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ANNA M. VELAZQUEZ, Mayor/Chairman

  
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BRENT SLAMA, City Clerk/Agency Secretary