

Minutes

City of Soledad Joint City Council/Successor Agency Regular Meeting

April 07, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

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

THE FOLLOWING COUNCILMEMBER WAS ABSENT

Mayor/Chair	Anna M. Velazquez
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PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

- None

MEETING RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge recessed to closed session at 6:07 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge reconvened from closed session at approximately 6:32 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

1. The City Council will recess to Closed Session to consider personnel matters pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(B)(1)-City Attorney Evaluation
2. The City Council will recess to Closed Session to consider personnel matters pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(B)(1)-City Manager Evaluation
3. 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.

CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

City Attorney Michael Rodriguez reported the council skipped Item No. 1 and Item No. 3 and moved forward with Item No. 2. The council did not finish the discussion regarding Item No. 2. At the end of the regular meeting the council will adjourn and go back into closed session to complete the Closed Session Items No. 1, 2 and 3.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Officer Walter Tinay

ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

City Manager Slama requested the following modification to the Agenda under the presentation portion:

1. A proclamation recognizing Soledad Police Department K-9 Huro on the occasion of his retirement.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge presented Officer Tinay and K-9 Huro a proclamation recognizing Soledad Police Department K-9 Huro on the occasion of his retirement. She also presented a personalized shadow box as a gift of gratitude for K-9 Huro's service to the City of Soledad.

Officer Tinay expressed his gratitude for recognizing this special day to celebrate K-9 Huro's retirement. He thanked many professionals that have been a part of K-9 Huro's life while serving the community of Soledad.

The Council thanked Officer Tinay and K-9 Huro for his service.

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge recessed for break at 6:49 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

Councilmember Chavez reconvened at approximately 7:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Soledad Resident John Kaupp had questions regarding a property at the end of San Vicente Road, he believes the property was talked about during closed session. He believes one section of the property is in the works to become a gun range. He would like to know what the other portion of that land will be.

- City Manager Slama asked Mr. Kaupp to please email him contact information so that he can speak with him further about the future plans of the property. City Manager Slama provided his email address.

Soledad Resident Celia Solorio asked if this was the correct portion of the meeting for parents of neurodiverse children to ask questions about the planned Orchard Lane Park and its inclusivity.

- City Manager Slama said the Orchard Lane Park is listed as Item No. B-2 on the agenda. The questions and comments should be discussed at that time of the agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge rejoined the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

CENTENNIAL SPOTLIGHT

Community & Economic Development Housing Program Administrative Secretary Ariana Mora presented a brief update regarding Centennial events that have taken place and events that are still to come.

COUNCILMEMBER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Lara had 1 item to report:

1. On 03/30 she attended the Joint City Council meeting with the Soledad Unified School District.

Councilmember Jimenez had 3 items to report:

1. On 03/18 he attended the SVSWA meeting.
2. On 03/31 he participated in the Sub-Committee regarding the Soledad Gun Range.
3. On 04/08 he will be attending the ACCAPS meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 5 items to report:

1. On 03/30 she attended the Joint City Council meeting with the Soledad Unified School District.
2. On 03/31 she participated in the Sub-Committee regarding the Soledad Gun Range.
3. On 04/01 she met with Mayor Velazquez regarding the State of the City presentation.
4. On 04/06 she met with City Manager Brent Slama.
5. She reported that she also received her second Covid-19 vaccination and encouraged everyone to move forward with getting the vaccine when it is possible. Starting 04/15 anyone over the age of 16 can make an appointment to get the vaccine. Please continue to check the City of Soledad website for updates.

COUNCILMEMBER PRAISES

Councilmember Chavez had 1 praise:

1. He praised the Community of Soledad and all the organizations for moving forward in making sure the youth of Soledad have activities to do this spring and summer.

Councilmember Jimenez had 1 praise:

1. He thanked the Soledad Health Clinic for dispensing the Covid-19 vaccines.

Councilmember Lara had 1 announcement:

1. There will be a vaccination clinic in Soledad on Friday, 04/09 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 1 praise:

1. She praised the Community of Soledad for their endurance during difficult times. She feels happy to see kids out in the neighborhoods playing and people being safe around town.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Slama presented his written report and verbally highlighted 3 items.

1. Starting 04/09 there will be 2,000 vaccinations being done at the Soledad Community Center. He thanked staff for organizing the event.
2. On 04/15 there will be new guidance for the indoor activities and by 06/15 the County is hoping to be able to be rid of the tier system.
3. The City also looks forward to having Regular in-person city council meetings again soon.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

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

Councilmember Chavez thanked the Youth Council for the wonderful job they have done in moving forward on the youth council and in their initiatives.

PRESENTATIONS

Economic Development & Housing Program Coordinator Tencia Vargas gave a presentation update regarding the Monterey County SB91 Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Councilmember Chavez asked if the City has reached out to local businesses.

Economic Development & Housing Program Coordinator Tencia Vargas said the City has reached out to the local businesses.

Councilmember Jimenez would like to make sure the information and all updates regarding the rental assistance is on the City's website.

Councilmember Lara asked how private workers can apply for the assistance and can someone apply for both the rental assistance and utility assistance at the same time.

Economic Development & Housing Program Coordinator Tencia Vargas said there is a form that private employees can fill out and apply with. The form is in Spanish and English and people can apply for both rental assistance and utility assistance at the same time.

Councilmember Lara would like to have either a poster, flyers or a banner put up at the food distribution area at the high school.

Economic Development & Housing Program Coordinator Tencia Vargas said there are funds for marketing and a banner is a great idea and she will move forward with posters, flyers or a banner at the food distribution area at the high school.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to approve items C-1 through C-5. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lara and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

C-1. Approval of Minutes

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

C-2. **Warrants**

043574 - 043781

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

C-4. Resolution No. 5697, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Accepting Subdivision Improvements Associated With the Orchard Villas (Vintage Estates) Subdivision.

C-5. Accept by Minute Motion the 2020 Water System Consumer Confidence Report.

I. **PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1**

- Receive the Staff report
- Open the Public Hearing at 7:47 p.m.
- Close the Public Hearing at 7:50 p.m.
- Council Action

PH-1. Ordinance No. 738, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Soledad Amending Title 6-Animals of the Soledad Municipal Code, Including the Addition of New Section 6.12.065-Breeding Licenses and Fees to Chapter 6.08.040-Dogs.

Attorney Mike Rodriquez presented the staff report.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge opened the Public Hearing at 7:47 p.m.

Founder and owner of the SnipBus Melony Scherer commended the Soledad City Council regarding the amazing new change of that is being made in the City. This ordinance will serve in conjunction with the low cost spay and neuter services that are being offered by the SnipBus.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge thanked founder and owner of the SnipBus Melony Scherer on behalf of the Soledad City Council and the residents of South County, for her commitment of coming monthly to the City's of the South County. The service is needed, and the City is grateful for the commitment.

Seeing no other public comments, Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge closed the Public Hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge thanked the City Council for considering the item. She believes this ordinance and Measure Y will impact the number of animals impounds in the City and other animal related issues.

Councilmember Chavez thanked Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge in bringing forth this new ordinance. He also thanked City Attorney Mike Rodriguez and City Manager Brent Slama for helping to bring this ordinance forth in a way that helps the City move forward with something new and good.

Motion: Councilmember Chavez made motion to adopt Ordinance No. 738, Amending Title 6-Animals of the Soledad Municipal Code, Including the Addition of New Section 6.12.065-Breeding Licenses and Fees to Chapter 6.08.040-Dogs. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lara and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

II. PUBLIC HEARING NO. 2

- Receive the Staff report
- Open the Public Hearing at 7:57 p.m.
- Close the Public Hearing at 7:58 p.m.
- Council Action

PH-2. Ordinance No. 737, Consider Adoption and Second Reading by Title Only of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Soledad Adding New Section 17.38.370-Employee Housing to Chapter 17.38-Special Standards and Requirements of Title 17-Zoning of the Soledad Municipal Code to Allow Employee Housing with a Conditional Use Permit in the R-1.5, R-2, R-3, and C-R Zoning Districts.

Attorney Mike Rodriguez presented the staff report.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge opened the Public Hearing at 7:57 p.m.

Seeing no public comments, Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge closed the Public Hearing at 7:58 p.m.

Motion: Councilmember Lara made motion to adopt Ordinance No. 737, Adding New Section 17.38.370-Employee Housing to Chapter 17.38-Special Standards and Requirements of Title 17-Zoning of the Soledad Municipal Code to Allow Employee Housing with a Conditional Use Permit in the R-1.5, R-2, R-3, and C-R Zoning Districts. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimenez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

III. **BUSINESS**

- B-1. Resolution No. 5698, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Establishing an On-Call Consultant List of Professional Services, and Authorizing Execution of a Standard City Contract with 1) Harris & Associates for an Amount Not to Exceed \$360,000 for a Twelve (12) Months Period to Serve as City Engineer and Provide General Engineering Services; and 2) Cannon for Water and Wastewater Engineering Services and Approving a Task Order No.1 in the Amount Not to Exceed \$155,338 for Water Department SCADA Upgrades.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon presented the staff report.

City Manager Slama said the City is excited about the number of responses received because this will continue to be helpful. The City is actively wanting to hire a City Engineer and Harris is working with the City through this time of trying to hire a City Engineer.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge believes the engineer position needs to be reevaluated along with the salary schedule for that position. She thinks the City may need to offer a creative incentive to be able to fill the position.

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to adopt Resolution No. 5698. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lara and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

- B-2. Final Design Review Update for Orchard Lane Park Project.

BFS Landscape Architects Lead Designer and Project Manager Elizabeth Matz gave an update regarding the final design of Orchard Lane Park.

Councilmember Jimenez asked if the slide area would have a rubber area where the children would land and asked how long the surface will last.

BFS Landscape Architects Lead Designer and Project Manager Elizabeth Matz said the surface in the slide area is a rubberized surfacing. It has a lifespan of 15 to 20 years, and if maintained with quarterly and yearly maintenance, that adds an even longer lifespan to the material.

Councilmember Lara asked if the park will be gated.

BFS Landscape Architects Lead Designer and Project Manager Elizabeth Matz said there will be a 4-foot-tall barrier fence. Gates will not be provided because they more of a risk; children like to climb and play on them and that is not safe.

Soledad Resident Ms. Silvia Solorio thanked the City of Soledad for consulting experts regarding the design of the inclusivity of the park. She would like to know if the swings and other playground items will support an older child or individuals with disabilities. Tatum's Garden in Salinas has a swing that is wheelchair accessible, she would like to have that in Orchard Lane Park. She would also like to know if there will be anything else in the park that could benefit children that are older than 12 years old, the neurodiverse population or children with physical disabilities.

BFS Landscape Architects Lead Designer and Project Manager Elizabeth Matz said there is a nature-walk pathway which will provide an opportunity for kids older than 12 years old, a place where they can sit and hangout. She feels confident that the equipment that has been chosen for this park will be good for kids over the age of 12.

Councilmember Chavez said he would like for BFS Landscape Architects to look further into the age and weight requirements of the structures and equipment. He would like staff to move forward with the project.

- B-3. Resolution No. 5699, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving A Contract for Construction Services with the Ross Recreation Equipment Company in the Amount of \$118,936.00 for the Gazebo Project and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Said Contract on Behalf of the City of Soledad.

City Manager Slama presented the staff report. Public Works Director Oscar Antillon also presented a visual presentation.

Councilmember Jimenez is not in favor of building a gazebo. He believes the City needs additional retail, not another park.

City Manager Slama asked Councilmember Jimenez to clarify if he is hoping to take out the existing Cesar Chavez park block and convert the park block into retail.

Councilmember Jimenez said he would like to look at all the options. He would like to utilize the space to create retail dollars, and put something there other than a park.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon said by building the gazebo, the City is only utilizing the existing park, not taking away from the park.

Councilmember Chavez thinks the gazebo will be positive because all of Soledad can be seen from the passing cars on the freeway. He thinks before the City tries to bring in more retail on Front Street, the City needs to work with bringing up the design standards of the retail stores that are already there.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge believes the location for the gazebo is a great plan and also agrees with Councilmember Jimenez in the idea of reevaluating the two empty lots.

Councilmember Lara is not in favor of the gazebo at this time. She feels the area can be used for something else like retail and housing.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon added that this space could also be used for a rail station so putting to much in this area will not be a good idea for the future.

Motion: Councilmember Chavez made motion to adopt Resolution No. 5699. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and failed by the following vote:

Action:

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

Direction was given to return the item at an appropriate time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Lara had 1 item:

1. She would like to have further discussion regarding the funds allocated for the youth council and look into what the funds can be utilized for.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 2 items:

1. Please add additional doggie waste disposals on Orchard Lane extension. She would also like it if the dispensers can be changed out for something with a smaller insert because people are throwing their entire garbage's into the dispensers.
2. She would like the statistics for the City's text-phone number, which is where people can text in issues.
3. She would like to see the City's vehicle lease schedule regarding who is next and when.

MEETING RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge recessed to closed session at 8:42 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge reconvened from closed session at approximately 9:40 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

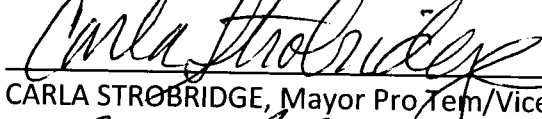
1. City Attorney Michael Rodriguez reported with respect to item no. 1, the council conferred with its real property negotiator. No other reportable action taken.

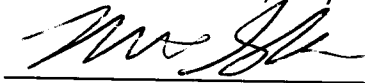
2. With respect to item no. 2, the council discussed the matter with its attorney. No other reportable action taken.
3. With respect to item no. 3, the council conferred with its attorney. No other reportable action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge adjourned the Regular meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Minutes Approved: April 27, 2021


CARLA STROBRIDGE, Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair


BRENT SLAMA, City Clerk/Agency Secretary

