

**Minutes**

City of Soledad Joint  
City Council/Successor Agency  
Regular Meeting

**April 21, 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	Marisela Lara
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 6:06 p.m.

**MEETING RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Velazquez reconvened from closed session at approximately 6:23 p.m.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

1. The City Council will recess to closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) to confer with its attorney regarding litigation and is hereby of the opinion that a significant exposure to litigation exists.
2. The City Council will recess to closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a) to confer with its attorney regarding pending litigation which has been initiated formally and to which the City is a party. The title of the litigation is Barrera, et al. v. County of Monterey, City of Soledad, et al.

## **CLOSED SESSION REPORTS**

1. City Attorney Michael Rodriguez reported with respect to item no. 1, the council conferred with its attorney regarding the exposure to litigation. No other reportable action was taken.
2. With respect to item no. 2, the council conferred with its attorney regarding the listed litigation item. No other reportable action was taken.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Councilmember Alejandro Chavez

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

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

1. A presentation by 211 United Way Monterey County.

**Motion:** The request was approved unanimously by the City Council.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- There were no public comments.

## **CENTENNIAL SPOTLIGHT**

- There was no Centennial Spotlight presentation.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Velazquez had 12 items to report:

1. On 04/12 she attended the MST Board meeting.
2. On 04/17 she attended the weekly elected Leaders Covid-19 update meeting.
3. On 04/19 she attended the weekly elected Leaders Covid-19 update meeting.
4. On 04/13 she attended the Ad-Hoc Recreation Sub-Committee meeting.
5. She continues to attend the South County Mayor's meetings with Supervisor Lopez.
6. She announced there will be a Covid-19 vaccination clinic scheduled for 05/08, hosted by the Soledad Health Care District.
7. She announced there will be a Covid-19 vaccine clinic on 04/24 and 04/25, hosted by Mee Memorial Healthcare.
8. On 04/15 She attended a meeting with City Manager Slama and LULAC representatives to discuss district elections.
9. On 04/16 she attended a meeting with City Manager Slama and the Massa Family to discuss economic development opportunities in Soledad.
10. On 04/17 she attended a meeting with Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge, City Manager Slama and Congressman Panetta to discuss infrastructure priorities for the City of Soledad.
11. She has been participating in the American Rescue Plan webinars.
12. She announced the City is working on finalizing the State of the City Address. The meeting is scheduled for 04/29/2021.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 7 items to report:

1. On 04/14 she attended the AMBAG Board of Directors meeting.
2. On 04/20 she attended the Board of Supervisors meeting.
3. On 04/15 she attended the Soledad Farmers Market.
4. On 04/17 she attended a meeting with Mayor Velazquez, City Manager Slama and Congressman Panetta.
5. On 04/17 S.C.A.R. held a pet vaccination clinic.
6. She thanked the City's Public Works Department for helping with the 04/17 pet vaccination clinic event.
7. She thanked the Monterey County 4-H Program for making and donating 107 pet blankets and 50 cat toys and donated 150 pounds of pet food.

Councilmember Jimenez had 4 items to report:

1. On 04/08 he attended the ACCAPS meeting.
2. On 04/15 he attended the SVSWA meeting.
3. On 04/20 he met with City Manager Slama.
4. On 04/20 he met with Deputy Chief Lombardi.

Councilmember Lara had 1 item to report:

1. She announced that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and this year the Monterey County Child Abuse Prevention Center put together a video. Youth Council Commissioner Jimena Manojando participated in the video.

Councilmember Chavez had 3 items to report:

1. On 04/09 he met with a group of Soledad Residents regarding housing, road issues and a variety of other issues.
2. The Executive Director of TAMC Debbie Hale will be retiring. There will be a search for a new Executive Director for TAMC.
3. On 04/13 he attended the Ad-Hoc Recreation Sub-Committee meeting.

### **COUNCILMEMBER PRAISES**

Councilmember Chavez had 2 praises:

1. He praised the local Soledad Medical Clinic who have done many vaccinations in the City.
2. He praised Monterey County for working with all the healthcare vendors in moving forward with getting the people of Monterey County vaccinated.

Councilmember Lara had 1 announcement:

1. She thanked Ms. Solorio and Ivan Ibarra for mentoring the youth of the Soledad Youth. They have help webinars regarding mental health for the youth and the Neurodiverse youth population in the community.

Mayor Velazquez had 3 praises:

1. She praised Ms. Solorio and Ivan Ibarra for making sure their voices were heard during the 04/07 regarding the inclusive playground.
2. She gave praise to Executive Assistant to the City Manager Darlene Noriega for her work and organization.
3. She gave praise to the Soledad High School Seniors for sending her a series of photos that the students put together over the course of the last year experiencing the Covid-19 pandemic and life here in Soledad through the eyes of the students. She thanked the photography teacher, Ms. Steel. She also thanked high school seniors; Connie Young, Elizabeth Martinez, Yessica Ornelas and Carla Vasquez.

Councilmember Jimenez had 1 praise:

1. He thanked the Soledad Historical Society and Craig Stephens for bringing back the Farmers Market. He hopes that the public will continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 2 praises:

1. She praised the Classified School Employees; Classified School Employees week and California Day of the Teacher is coming up in the month of May.
2. She gave praise the City of Soledad City Attorney Michael Rodriquez for helping bring forth the new Breeder Ordinance. She appreciates his hard work that was put into creating the ordinance.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

1. There was a Measure Y Citizens Oversight Committee meeting on 04/20.
2. The City will be allowing for the public to attend the City Council meetings starting at the next Regular City Council meeting of 05/05. Mask and social distancing will be required. The City will still be offering viewing of the meeting on Facebook Live, and the public can still attend via Zoom.
3. City Manager Slama introduced 4 new employees:
  - Rebecca Hall, Recreation Manager
  - Lynnelle Sanchez, Community Engagement Manager
  - Joe Zavala, Water Technician Level II
  - Jessica Potts, Recreation – Limited Term

Mayor Velazquez and the Council welcomed the new employees to the City of Soledad and their new positions.

Mayor Velazquez asked City Manager Slama and Public Works Director Oscar Antillon if there were any internal candidates that applied for the Water Technician Level II position.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon said the position was offered to a current employee but unfortunately the employee decided to not pursue the classification needed for the position.

## **YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT**

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

## **PRESENTATIONS**

1. A Presentation of Certificates of Recognition for Vaccination Site Volunteers and Partners.

Mayor Velazquez thanked all the agencies for moving forward with bringing assistance in different way to the City of Soledad. On the dates of 04/09/, 04/10, 04/11 and 04/12 over 2,000 vaccines were given.

She would like to recognize Monterey County District 3 - Supervisor Chris Lopez; representatives of California Governor Newsom's office, Emmy Verdures and Maria Rivera; The Salvation Army; and Ida Lopez Chan, CEO of Soledad Community Health Care District.

Mayor Velazquez read a Certificate of Recognition that will be mailed to:

- Lideres Campesinas
- VIDA Project
- Community Foundation for Monterey County
- United Farm Workers (UFW)
- United Farm Workers Foundation (UFW Foundation)

- Dr. Melissa Nothnagle, MD, MSc

Senator Anna Caballero Field Representative Marisa Hernandez read a certificate of Recognition from the office of Senator Anna Caballero. She also read the certificate of Recognition in Spanish.

Mayor Velazquez read the Certificate of Recognition from the City of Soledad in Spanish.

**MEETING RECESSED**

Information Technology disruption at 7:29 p.m.

**MEETING RECONVIEND**

Mayor Velazquez reconvened the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Mayor Velazquez read the Certificate of Recognition from the City of Soledad in Spanish.

**MEETING RECESSED**

Information Technology disruption at 7:29 p.m.

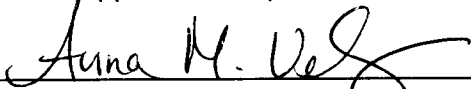
**MEETING RECESSED**

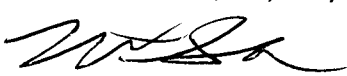
Information Technology disruption at 7:46 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Velazquez adjourned the Regular meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Minutes Approved: May 05, 2021

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ANNA M. VELAZQUEZ, Mayor/Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BRENT SLAMA, City Clerk/Agency Secretary