

Minutes

City of Soledad Joint
City Council/Successor Agency
Regular Meeting

June 02, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Velazquez called the City Council/Successor Agency Meeting to order at 6:31 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	Alejandro Chavez (Arrived at 6:34 p.m.)
Councilmember/Agencymember	Ben Jimenez, Jr.

THE FOLLOWING COUNCILMEMBER WAS ABSENT

- None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Led by Councilmember Marisela Lara

ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Velazquez requested the following modification to the Agenda:

1. The council has a certificate to present to the NJROTC. The group will be arriving later in the meeting. The certificate will be presented upon arrival.
2. Items B-4 and B-5 should be taken into consideration after B-1 in order for all councilmembers to be present for the discussion.

Motion: Mayor Velazquez made motion to approve the requested modifications to the agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimenez Mayor and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Resident of Soledad, Pauline Tomasini announced the Soledad 4th of July Committee will be having a fund raiser on Friday, June 18, 2021. There are plans to have a small children's walking parade on July 4th and maybe a car show and clown show.

COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

1. Mayor Velazquez read the Certificate of Recognition what will be presented to the Soledad High School NJROTC for the Distinguished Unit Award. The NJROTC was not present at this time.
2. Mayor Velazquez presented a Certificate of Recognition to Leily Garcia for Academic Achievements.

All City Councilmembers congratulated Leily Garcia for academic achievements.

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Velazquez recessed the meeting briefly at 6:49 p.m.

MEETING RECONVIEND

Mayor Velazquez reconvened the meeting at 6:51 p.m. and at this time continued the council presentation portion of the meeting.

The Council presented Certificates of Recognition to the graduating members of the Soledad Youth Council Senior Class of 2021.

- Marcela Perez
- Amber Solorio
- Ximena Mandujano
- Christian Pantoja
- Maya Padilla-Chavez

Soledad Youth Councilmember Christian Pantoja was present at the meeting and was presented a Certificate of Recognition and a sash by Soledad Youth Council Advisor Ivan Ibarra Mora.

Soledad Youth Councilmember Maya Padilla-Chavez was present via Zoom. She thanked the youth council group for the time she was able to spend on the youth council.

- All City Councilmembers congratulated and praised the graduating Youth Councilmembers for their academic achievements and thanked them for their efforts. The Councilmembers also thanked the Soledad Youth Council Advisors Ivan Ibarra Mora and Celia Solorio for their time they invested into the young people on the Soledad Youth Council.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to approve items C-1 through C-4. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried unanimous vote:

Action:

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

C-1. Approval of Minutes

Joint City Council/Successor Agency Regular Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021.

C-2. Warrants

044216 - 151600

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

C-4. Resolution No. 5711, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving an Amendment to a Non Exclusive Consulting Services Agreement for Design Services with BFS Landscape Architects for the Metz/Orchard Park Development Project in an Amount Not to Exceed Forty Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$40,300), and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Said Amendment and Authorizing the Director of Public Works to Submit State of California Payment Reimbursement Requests and Change Orders with Consultants and Contractors Necessary for the Completion of the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Park Grant.

BUSINESS

- B-1. Resolution No. 5712/SA-2021-01, A Joint Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad and the Successor Agency of the Soledad Redevelopment Agency Accepting and Approving the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Proposed Budget and Approving and/or Directing Implementation of Other Budget Related Actions.

City Manager Slama presented the staff report and PowerPoint presentation.

At this time Mayor Velazquez asked if there were any public comments regarding the item. There were two public comments received via Zoom participation:

Soledad resident Alexis Magdaleno said he likes that purposed budget of the City Council. He would like to see resources offered that will retain services in Soledad. He hopes the American Rescue plan funds can be used towards a resource center. He would like it used towards the parks department or a public resource center. He hopes Measure Y funds go towards community-based organizations.

Community member of Soledad Benito said he believes the American Rescue Plan funds would cover a resource center that includes public health related activities. The City needs something that can offer an increase local hiring. He would like the Measure Y \$94,000 be used towards Parks and Maintenance instead of a police officer.

Councilmember Lara asked for clarification regarding the \$94,000 in Measure Y funds.

City Manager Slama said the funds will go towards Parks, under staffing and in the future, add a third full time position. The money can also be used for other things specifically under parks.

Councilmember Lara proposed the City hire a resource advocate. This person would be someone who can organize workshops and events regarding mental health for youth.

Councilmember Jimenez thinks a resource center is a great idea. The funding may not need to be used for a resource coordinator because he believes that can be funded by other means; Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategy Program, Families and Schools Together Program (F.A.S.T.) He is not in favor of a resource coordinator at this time. He feels hesitant in bringing on a new manager, but he is not against it. He feels good about the \$94,000 going towards an additional position as long as it benefits the City.

City Manager Slama said the \$94,000 will go into Parks. The Parks Manager will then determine where it is most necessary.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge agrees having a Resource Advocate but believes the job description can be built into the Victim Advocate position. She is agreeable to the Measure Y funds going towards recreation services.

Councilmember Chavez made motion to move forward with the recommendations as is. He does agree with Councilmember Lara regarding hiring a resource advocate but believes the council should wait until the American Act dollars are received. At that time there can be a better discussion.

Mayor Velazquez would like to look further into Sun Street Centers, Soledad High School and Main Street Middle School. Regarding a Manager position verses a coordinator position, a manager position will come with expertise and the background regarding regulatory requirements, possible grants and for profit and non-profits.

Motion: Councilmember Chavez made motion to approve Resolution No. 5712/SA-2021-01. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimenez and carried unanimous vote:

Action:

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

B-4. Resolution No. 5715, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving A Consulting Services Agreement with Voler Strategic Advisors Effective July 01, 2021, for Public Information Officer, Social Media and Other Marketing Services in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$60,000.

City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

Voler Strategic Advisors CEO Perla Rodriguez was present via Zoom and presented a presentation.

At this time Mayor Velazquez asked if there were any public comments regarding the item.

There were no public comments.

Councilmember Lara feels disappointed because the Council had come together to create videos, but those videos were never published.

City Manager Slama said the timeliness of the videos were done too late and that was the reason the videos were not published.

Councilmember Chavez feels having Voler is a good investment because they can handle emergency announcements quicky. He believes Voler can be utilized in a different way than how the City has utilized the company.

Councilmember Jimenez would like to have the services done through the services the City staff can offer. This is not a good time to make this amount of investment. The City does not need the Voler level of service.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge sees the \$60,000 as too much, she feels the amount of \$30,000 is too much. There was a time when she took a half day of work off to make a video regarding the fires that were happening at that time, the video was never published. There was a press release that was done for a K-9 and the proclamation that she wrote was used as the press release and the City was charged for \$5,000. There is an auto-post done on the Pinnacles Facebook page every day at 6:00 a.m. and that is not the best time for the public to see posts. She believes if the City is going to agree to a \$60,000 contract than the City should go out for bids. She would rather work with a company that is local and knows the area. For the past year, the Pinnacles had been closed but the City was paying for the services of Voler monitoring the Pinnacles Facebook and the Pinnacles was not even accessible to the public. The City staff has done great videos and announcements and she feels staff can take care of these types of services.

Mayor Velazquez feels the crucial information received by a survey that communication between the City and the community was missing. She would like to better communicate to the community. The City is working towards the goal. The City does have an I.T. Director, but he does not have the bandwidth to handle all the communications needed. The City now has a Community Engagement Manager, but she does not have the bandwidth either. She would like to utilize the service through Voler. She does feel the amount Voler is asking for is too much and she would like to see that amount come down.

Councilmember Lara reminded the council that they have just approved a new I.T. position which can also grow into doing the functions that Voler does.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge asked why the City needs to have a contract with Voler; would it be possible to contract as a retainer and pay as services are done.

Voler Strategic Advisors CEO Perla Rodriguez said Voler works at the direction of the City Manager and the Council request. The Partnership is only as good as good as the time invested. There is a great opportunity for staff to meet with Voler on a weekly basis. If \$60,000 is too much, Voler is willing to entertain a different market rate and they will consider a lower monthly rate.

Councilmember Chavez would like to continue the item to the next meeting so council can discuss the concerns brought up today.

Mayor Velazquez agrees with Councilmember Chavez to continue the item to the next meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge would like City Manager Slama to have a conversation with the City staff regarding what their workload will be and what does I.T. Director Steven

Andranigian will be having the added positions handle so that council can have a better idea of what Voler would be needed for.

Councilmember Jimenez would like the council to identify what the expectation are of Voler and the City staff; what does the council want to see Voler do and what do they want to see staff do.

Item B-4 will be continued to the Regular council meeting of 06/16/2021.

Councilmember Chavez disconnected from the Zoom meeting at 8:13 p.m.

B-5. A Presentation Regarding Economic Development Initiatives and Front Street Development and Reconsideration of 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 and PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Velazquez has requested to continue this item so that all councilmembers can attend and be a part of the conversation.

Motion: Mayor Velazquez made motion to continue Item No. B-4 to the next council meeting. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

B-2. Resolution No. 5713, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving the Master Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Finance Director Mike Howard presented the staff report.

Parks and Recreation Manager Rebecca Hall presented a presentation regarding updates of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Soledad Resident Ivan Ibarra Mora asked if there will be a discount or scholarship or volunteer access to the community center services and programs.

Parks and Recreation Manager Rebecca Hall is looking for ways to address social equity for youth who volunteer. The City is currently making sure the correct structure is in place for everyone to have access to programs.

Councilmember Lara is impressed with the structure that is being set forth. She is amazed by how much work that has been done in such a small amount of time.

Councilmember Jimenez likes the format. The key will be delivering what is said will be done. He would like to know if scholarships will be offered. Can there be a morning program for dropping of children.

Parks and Recreation Manager Rebecca Hall said staff is looking at ways to address scholarships and other social equity services. She is looking into how programs and transportation can be implemented to meet the needs.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge asked if the high school students that will be hired for the community center will need to take the mandated reporter training.

Parks and Recreation Manager Rebecca Hall said the mandated reporter training is a part of the hiring process and will need to be completed before an employee can start.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge said she is very impressed with what is being done. She praised City Manager Slama for all that has been done in the short time.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge would like to recommend for # 37, Non-Neuter licensing fee and increase it to a more significant amount. She would also like to lower the amount for #36.

Finance Director Mike Howard said the council can modify the schedule at any time. The recommendations are purposed but changes can be made.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge recommends that non-neuter fee be raised to \$75.00 and \$10.00 for neutered.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge. asked if the CCW class can be done through the Soledad Police department.

Chief Wasson said if the CCW is obtained through the Soledad Police Department then it is only good for within the City of Soledad, if it is obtained through the County, then it is valid County wide.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge asked if citations can be given to people that park too close to stop signs.

Chief Wasson said citations can only be given if the vehicle is parked in the limit line which is the first line of the cross walk. He also said there will be many educational points added to the website to help people understand.

Mayor Velazquez asked that the Police Department help bring more awareness to people with alarm systems at their home regarding the false alarm fees.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge suggested putting an announcement on the utility billing.

Mayor Velazquez also asked that lower cost fees and scholarships be offered for families that would like to attend the Soledad Community Center

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to adopt Resolution No. 5713 with an amendment of the non-neuter fee be raised to \$75.00 and \$10.00 for neutered. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by the following vote:

Action:

Ayes: Jimenez, Strobridge, Lara, Velazquez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Chavez

B-3. Resolution No. 5714, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving Garbage Collection and Disposal Rates for Fiscal Year 2021-22, With an Effective Date of July 1, 2021

City Manager Slama presented the staff report and introduced Salinas Valley Recycles Contracts and Grants Analyst Elia Zavala. Ms. Zavala provided a PowerPoint presentation. Patrick Mathews, Ray Hendricks, and Tom Parola were also present via Zoom to answer any questions regarding the presentation.

At this time Mayor Velazquez asked if there were any public comments regarding the item. There were no public comments.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge made motion to adopt Resolution No. 5714.

Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lara and carried by the following vote:

Action:

Ayes: Strobridge, Lara, Jimenez, and Velazquez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Chavez

B-6. Resolution No. 5716, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Authorizing the City Manager to Dispense with Bidding Pursuant to Soledad Municipal Code Section 3.24.040 and to Purchase Three Water Pumps for Use at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant for a Cost Not-to-Exceed \$65,000.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon presented the staff report.

At this time Mayor Velazquez asked if there were any public comments regarding the item.

There were no public comments.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon is working towards seeing the anticipated repairs that will be needed for preventative maintenance.

Mayor Velazquez said she feels having a CIP in place will help with the process of repairing failing equipment.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge asked if the equipment will be installed by City staff or will a pump company have to do the install.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon said City staff will doing the installation of the equipment.

Councilmember Lara asked if this expense can be something eligible for the American Rescue Plan.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon said it may be eligible.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge made motion to adopt Resolution No. 5716.

Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lara and carried by the following vote:

Action:

Ayes: Strobridge, Lara, Jimenez, and Velazquez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Chavez

B-7. A Resolution No. 5717, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Authorizing the Issuance of City of Soledad (Monterey County, California) 2021 Water Refunding Revenue Bonds, Approving the Form and Authorizing Execution of an Indenture of Trust and a Bond Purchase Agreement and Authorizing Actions Related Thereto.

Finance Director Mike Howard presented the staff report.

Urban Features Financial Advisor Doug Anderson was also present via Zoom to answer any questions.

At this time Mayor Velazquez asked if there were any public comments regarding the item. There were no public comments.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge made motion to adopt Resolution No. 5717. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lara and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

PRESENTATIONS

Presenters will have a total of 7 minutes to present no more than 5 slides. The presentation is included in the agenda. Questions or comments should be asked at the end of each presentation.

- None

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Youth Commissioners Amber Solorio and Marcela Perez updated the council with a brief update.

At this time Mayor Velazquez and Councilmember Lara presented Certificates of Recognition to Youth Commissioners Amber Solorio and Ximena Mandujano.

CITY REPORTS

Mayor Velazquez

- Citizen Advisory Committee – She reported there has been no scheduled meeting for this committee.
- On 05/21 she attended the League of California Cities Monterey Bay Division Executive Committee.
- She thanked Ivan Ibarra Mora for inviting the council to be a part of the Rotary Aztecs Top Scholar virtual event.
- She also reported that she attended the CTF ribbon cutting ceremony for the “Veterans Healing Veterans From the Inside Out” event.
- On 05/31 she attended the Memorial Day event. She thanked the American Legion Post 32, the Soledad High School NJROTC and Chief Peaches for putting together the organizing the event.

COUNCILMEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge

- She did not attend the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments Board (AMBAG) on 05/12.
- On 05/20 She attended the Monterey County Animal Control Advisory Board.
- On 05/26 she attended the City Council Special Meeting Budget Workshop.
- On 05/31 she attended the Soledad Memorial Day event.

- She has requested to adjourn the meeting in Memory of Mr. Tom Vaughn.

Councilmember Jimenez

- He will be attending the scheduled ACCAPS meeting on 06/10.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Slama submitted a written report.

- The 06/16 meeting will have no restrictions and will be set up in the normal way the City has set up council meetings before the pandemic.
- The Soledad Community Center will open on 06/26.
- The Gateway Center will open in July.
- The theater is still set to open.
- The roundabout should be finished by the end of the month.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Jimenez had 2 items:

1. He has requested the phone tree for city hall please be simplified or updated. He has called city hall many times and has been unable to reach a person. Members of the public have also expressed the difficulty of the process as well.
2. He would like to make sure the front desk staff is available to the public.

Councilmember Lara had 1 item:

1. She would like an update on the \$10,000 regarding the allocation for the youth council.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 2 items:

1. She would like to do a time lapse video for the new range.
2. She would like to know what the chances are in being able to have City firework for the 4th of July.

City Manager Slama said staff will find out the pricing for fireworks.

Mayor Velazquez had 1 item:

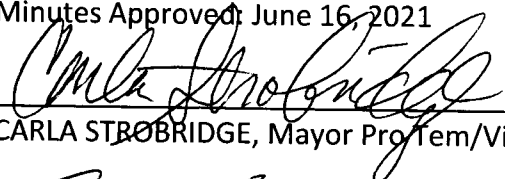
1. She would like an update on the 50/50 sidewalk program.

ADJOURNMENT

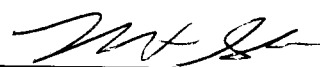
Mayor Velazquez adjourned the Regular meeting at 10:07 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Mr. Thomas Vaughan. Mr. Vaughan was an American Legion Post 32 member. He was a veteran of the American Coast Guard; famous for his BBQ, love for his County, and his Legion brothers. May he rest in peace.

Minutes Approved: June 16, 2021



CARLA STROBRIDGE, Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair



BRENT SLAMA, City Clerk/Agency Secretary

