

Minutes

City of Soledad Joint
City Council/Successor Agency
Regular Meeting

June 16, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge called the City Council/Successor Agency Meeting to order at 6:03 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	Alejandro Chavez
Councilmember/Agencymember	Ben Jimenez, Jr.

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 6:05 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge reconvened from closed session at approximately 6:38 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

1. The City Council of the City of Soledad will recess to closed session to meet with its designated representatives regarding labor relations matters pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6. The employee organizations are the Soledad Police Officers' Association (SPOA), SEIU Local 521 General Unit and SEIU Local 521 Mid-Management Unit and unrepresented employees.
2. 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.
3. The City Council will recess to closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a)(d)(1) to confer with its attorney regarding pending litigation which has been initiated formally and to which the City is a party: Claim of Lugo
4. The City Council will recess to closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a)(d)(1) to confer with its attorney regarding pending litigation which has been initiated formally and to which the City is a party: Claim of Ortiz
5. The City Council will recess to Closed Session to consider personnel matters pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(B)(1) - City Manager Evaluation.

CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

1. City Attorney Michael Rodriguez reported with respect to item no. 1, the council met with its City representative and provided direction. No other reportable action was taken.
2. With respect to item no. 2, the council met with legal counsel. No other reportable action was taken.
3. With respect to item no. 3, the council denied the claim of Lugo and provided direction to legal counsel. No other reportable action was taken.
4. With respect to item no. 4, the council denied the claim by the direction of legal counsel. No other reportable action taken.
5. With respect to item no. 5, the council decided to move the item to the next scheduled meeting of July 21, 2021.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Led by Attorney Mike Rodriguez

ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments.

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to approve items C-1 through C-3. 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

- a. Joint City Council/Successor Agency Special Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2021.
- b. Joint City Council/Successor Agency Regular Meeting Minutes of June 02, 2021.

C-2. Warrants

044378 - 044529

- C-3. Resolution No. 5718, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving Task Order No. 2 with Cannon Corporation, Inc. In the Amount Not to Exceed \$142,400 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Said Amendment on Behalf of the City of Soledad.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- None

BUSINESS

B-1. Resolution No. 5719, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving an Agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for Services from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024, at a Not to Exceed Cost of \$4,325,774 for the duration of the Term and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Said Agreement on Behalf of the City of Soledad.

Finance Director Mike Howard presented the staff report. CalFire Chief George Nunez was present in the meeting available to any questions by the council.

Councilmember Chavez asked if the City is closer to being able to provide a 3/0 staffing level with the new newest approved budget, if not, how close is the City to the 3/0 staffing. Also, if Council would look towards another \$200,000, would that amount bring the City closer to the 3/0 staffing or is the City far from the 3/0 staffing level.

Finance Director Mike Howard said the 3/0 staffing would still not be attainable. 3/0 staffing would need an amount of 2.4 or 2.6 million dollars.

Councilmember Jimenez asked how much it would cost for the City to have a Battalion Chief.

CalFire Chief George Nunez said it would cost the City \$225,000 to have a Battalion Chief.

Councilmember Jimenez said he sees the CalFire team here in Soledad goes on a lot of medical calls, and not so many structure fires and that is why he is having a hard time with agreeing to the amounts that have been presented.

Councilmember Chavez asked if the insurance rating would improve with the newest agreement.

CalFire Chief George Nunez said he does not believe there has been enough significant buildout for a change in the insurance rating.

There were no public comments on this item.

Motion: Councilmember Chavez made motion to approve Resolution No. 5719. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimenez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

B-2. Discussion Regarding Consideration of a District-Based Election System.

City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

There were no public comments for this item.

LULAC Vice President Andrew Sandoval was present in the Zoom meeting.

LULAC Vice President Andrew Sandoval said right now is a good time to have a discussion about district elections. The results from the census should be in shortly and those results will help determine how the districts will be divided up. The census results will also help the council determine if district elections will be right for the City.

Councilmember Lara said she would like to know if the community is interested in district elections. She would like to know if the City is subject to the Federal Voting Act. She asked who would decide the boundaries of the sections for the district elections.

City Manager Slama said the City will need to get the official results from the census. Each district would be broken up evenly. The City would hire a demographer. There would be a number of options presented before any decisions would be made.

Councilmember Chavez said he believes the City may not be ready for district elections. The City may still need growth that needs to take place.

Councilmember Jimenez said he is concerned about the more mature part of town; he feels there is not good representation. He would like to know if people are interested in district elections. He would like to start looking into it if that is what the public wants.

Councilmember Chavez said he has been a part of district elections before and has learned that if there is not a strong representation in a particular section then the other sections of the city will get all the resources and the section of the city with weak representation will lack resources.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge would like to have this discussion annually. She does not believe district elections are needed in the City right now but does think the discussion needs to be had with the community so they can decide.

PRESENTATIONS

- Sun Street Centers Program Manager Denise Velasquez was present via Zoom and presented a brief presentation update of the Road to Success program and its benefits to Soledad.

MAYORS' REPORT

- None

COUNCILMEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Lara

- She took a tour of the Family Resource Center.

Councilmember Chavez

- The TAMC Executive Director is retiring, there will be a review of applicants in July.

Councilmember Jimenez

- On 06/10 he attended the ACCAPS committee meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge

- She attended the AMBAG meeting.
- There will be a low-cost vaccination clinic on 06/19 in Greenfield
- On 06/26 there will be a free microchip clinic for South County residents in Soledad, Greenfield, and King City.
- There will be a grand opening of the Soledad Community Center on Saturday, 06/26 at 10:00 a.m.

COUNCILMEMBERS' PRAISES

Councilmember Lara said she is excited for the Soledad Community Center grand opening. She thanked staff for their hard work.

Councilmember Chavez thanked the staff for their hard work. He also thanked Mayor Pro Tem for bringing services to the City for residents and pets.

Councilmember Jimenez gave praise to all the recent graduates from the City of Soledad.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge also gave praise to all the recent graduates from the City of Soledad. She also praised City Manager Slama for the excellent job he has done in putting a strong team together.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Slama submitted a written report and highlighted a few items from his report.

- He introduced the new Soledad Community and Economic Development Director Bryan Swanson.
- He premiered a video of the Soledad Community Center; there are summer camps, basketball league, sports camp, 2-to-5-year old's Messy Hands group, Zumba and many more activities being offered.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

- There was a written report included in the agenda regarding updates of the Soledad Youth Council.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 3 items:

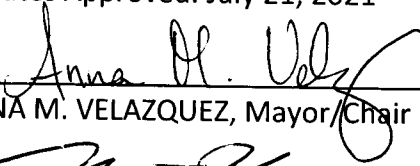
1. Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge has asked if the council can get an update at the next meeting regarding the recruiting of a public works engineer.
2. She is disappointed that the Voler contract item was not on the current agenda and would like to make sure the item is on the next agenda of 07/21/2021. She realizes the contract will end on 06/30/2021 and would like to make sure the City does not pay beyond that date unless the council decides they would like to move forward with Voler again.
3. She also thought the gazebo item would be on this current agenda and hopes it will be on the upcoming agenda of 07/21/2021

City Manager Slama said there are a few things that need to be discussed regarding Voler. Both the Voler and gazebo items will be on the 07/21/2021 meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

- 7:51 p.m.

Minutes Approved: July 21, 2021



ANNA M. VELAZQUEZ, Mayor/Chair



BRENT SLAMA, City Clerk/Agency Secretary

