

**Minutes**

City of Soledad Joint  
City Council/Successor Agency  
Regular Meeting

**August 04, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Velazquez called the City Council/Successor Agency Meeting to order at 6:00 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	Alejandro Chavez
Councilmember/Agencymember	Ben Jimenez, Jr.
Councilmember/Agencymember	Marisela Lara

**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 6:01 p.m.

**MEETING RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Velazquez reconvened from closed session at 6:37 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 Manager Evaluation.

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.
3. 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 group is the Executive Management employees.

### **CLOSED SESSION REPORTS**

2. With respect to item no. 2, the council conferred with its attorney regarding pending litigation. No other reportable action taken.
3. With respect to item no 3, the council conferred with the City Manager regarding labor relations matters. No other reportable action was taken.

The council commenced item no. 1, the City Manager evaluation but did not complete it. The council will return to closed session at the end of the regular session to complete the evaluation.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- Led by the Soledad High School NJROTC

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

- None

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

City of Soledad Water Reclamation Operator II Rafael Hernandez thanked the council for their support in the negotiation process for the SEIU General Unit.

City of Soledad Maintenance Manager Hilda Ramirez thanked the council for their support in the negotiation process of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Mid-Management group.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge asked to pull C-2 for further discussion.

**Motion:** Councilmember Chavez made motion to approve items C-1, C-3 and C-4. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by the following vote:

**Action:**

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

**C-1. Approval of Minutes**

Joint City Council/Successor Agency Regular Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2021.

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

**C-4. Resolution No. No. 5736, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Ratifying Approval of a Cost-of-Living Salary Adjustment for Certain Executive Management Positions Effective July 10, 2021 (First Pay Period FY 2021-22)**

**C-2. Warrants**

044812 – 045026

Mayor Pro Tem would like further clarification on the charges from the SPCA. The animal control report notes 9 animals were impounded, but the bill was \$12,225, the information does not make sense when compared to prior bills. She understands the City is charged for surrenders that are taken directly to them from residents of Soledad, but there should be more diligence of a disposition record from the SPCA to be sure the City is not being over charged or charged for services not received. She would like to see the reports for the year to date.

City Manager Slama will report back to the council regarding the services that the City was charged for.

Chief Wasson said he did receive two pages of reports from the SPCA detailing what those charges are for. He will email the City Manager and council the report he received. The City is charged by zip code even if it is not within the City limits. He believes those details are in the contract between the City and the SPCA.

Mayor Velazquez and Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge would like to review the contract.

Councilmember Jimenez said he seen that the City paid Voler; he would like to know if there were services rendered for the City this month.

City Manager Slama said no services have been rendered this month, but the monthly retainer was paid.

Mayor Velazquez said she would be meeting with Voler to develop a calendar for the next couple of months of what the council would like to see from them.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge said the whole council should take part in that discussion and it should take place soon because the City is paying them for no services.

**Motion:** Councilmember Jimenez made motion to approve items C-2. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by the following vote:

**Action:**

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

**BUSINESS**

B-1. Resolution No. No. 5726, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving a Consulting Services Agreement with Sun Street Centers for the Continued Implementation, Operation, Management, Staffing and Administration of Road to Success Youth Pre-Diversion Program.

City Manager Slama presented a review of the item.

Mayor Velazquez would like clarification on the indirect cost. The agreement seems to be a stand-alone agreement for Soledad only. She would like to know what the actual expenses of the overhead cost and indirect expenses and why are those cost in two different places in the contract. She would like to know why Soledad is paying 50% of the case management salary. This also includes 16 youth and four months of additional activity of one-on-one counseling with the youth and their families.

Sun Street Centers Chief Executive Officer Anna Foglia said the indirect expenses are the general administrative expenses based on the expenses of human resources, accounting, and other positions. The expenses lined in the line-item budget are the direct expenses related to servicing the youth of Soledad. The main office is in the City of Gonzales and that is why you would see expenses with that rental language. There are 16 students from Soledad and that does include the parents and life skills class.

Mayor Velazquez said she does not understand why the rental expense is a part of the indirect expenses; she would like to know what expenses are being accounted for in the indirect expenses.

Sun Street Centers Chief Executive Officer Anna Foglia said that Sun Street follows the Non-Profit Gap Policies and General County Administrative Procedures; rental insurance is considered a direct expense and administration is counted as indirect. The expenses are divided up in a micro-level based on the operation of the program in Soledad. All the indirect people have an expense attached to them. This process is audited by an outside audit firm yearly.

Mayor Velazquez said it seems things are being double charged. She would like the Soledad Finance Manager Mike Howard to review the information being described to be sure that it is in accordance with the City's policies.

Finance Manager Mike Howard said after hearing the Sun Street representative it does seem that everything is in accordance with Soledad's policies.

Sun Street Centers Chief Executive Officer Anna Foglia said there used to be one contract for all of South County and now it is divided up between the four Cities.

Councilmember Jimenez asked Finance Director Mike Howard if he has seen a breakdown of each charge.

Finance Director Mike Howard said he has not seen a breakdown report of the items.

Mayor Velazquez would like to see the breakdown of the direct and indirect expenses.

City Manager Slama said the break down would not be something normally be something that is needed because it is a small amount.

Mayor Velazquez would like to see the breakdown. She would also like to see an annual report in May or April before getting into the budget.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge made motion to adopt resolution No. 5726. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Chavez and carried by the following vote:

**Action:**

Ayes: Strobridge, Chavez, Jimenez, Lara and Velazquez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

B-2. League of California Cities Annual Conference & Expo – September 22-24, 2021.  
Designation of Voting Delegates and Alternates.

The council agreed that Mayor Velazquez will be the voting delegate for the League of California Cities Annual Conference & Expo – September 22-24, 2021. Alternate voting delegates will be Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and a second alternate of Councilmember Jimenez.

Both Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and Councilmember Jimenez are not clear on whether they will be able to attend the actual League of California Cities Annual Conference.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge made motion to move forward with the council's recommendations. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Chavez and carried by the following vote:

**Action:**

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

**MAYORS' REPORT**

- She thanked Chief Wasson for the information he provided regarding the Citizens Oversight Committee.
- There was no July meeting for the Monterey County Mayors Association and the scheduled meeting of 08/06 has also been cancelled due to lack of quorum.
- There has been no 3CE meeting in August.
- She met with the Deputy Chief Lombardi and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee regarding the Friday night Cruise.
- On 06/26 she met with Senior Director of Monterey County Office of Education Early Learning Sonya Jamario regarding childcare opportunities through Measure S.
- On 07/27 she met with the ACLU and Voices of Monterey Bay regarding police budgets.
- On 06/28 she met with Community Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez, Recreation Manager Rebecca Hall and Amy Wu regarding the Women in Ag exhibit in Soledad.
- On 06/29 she attended the Board of Directors meeting as an Advisor to the Monterey County Convention Visitors Bureau.
- On 08/03 she attended National Night Out. She thanked Chief Wasson and the rest of the police department for doing an amazing job.
- ON 08/04 she met with Community Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez, Recreation Manager Rebecca Hall and Recreation Manager Jessica Potts regarding the Workforce Readiness Program.
- The Ad-Hoc Sun-Committee has not met yet but there is a meeting scheduled for 8/10.

**COUNCILMEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Councilmember Chavez

- TAMC did have a special closed session on 07/28. There with interviews with candidates for the new position.

Mayor Velazquez has asked staff to provide a certificate or resolution on behalf of the City for retiring Executive Director Debbie Hale.

Councilmember Lara

- She thanked Chief Wasson and staff for the successful event of National Night Out.

Councilmember Jimenez

- SVSWA did not have a July meeting.
- On 08/06 he will be attending ACCAPS Golf Tournament.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge

- She loved the National Night Out event and thanked Chief Wasson and all the Police Department Officers and staff for all of their efforts.
- There was no AMBAG meeting in July
- On 08/14 she will be participating in a Girl Scouts ceremony.
- There is a warrant for the Spay/Neuter Imperative Clinic for Soledad residents only. She thanked City Manager Slama and the council for moving forward with helping in providing that service to the City residents.

### **COUNCILMEMBERS' PRAISES**

Mayor Velazquez thanked Chief Wasson for the National Night Out. She also thanked Public Works Director Oscar Antillon for the report that Public Works Provided to the council. She also appreciates all the different features used to be able to see workings through Google Earth.

Councilmember Chavez praised the Soledad Unified School District and School Board for getting school going for the students of Soledad. He also praised Hartnell for moving forward with the Education Center for students. Though Facebook people were inquiring, and the right people were being connected.

Councilmember Lara praised the Police Department, City staff and the Soledad Unified School District. She also thanked Maria Corralejo and her Family and the Front Street Facebook group for all the work they have been doing in the City.

Councilmember Jimenez praised Public Works Director Oscar Antillon for the works he has done in the City of Soledad.

Public Works Director Oscar Antillon thanked the council and the City staff for making work a pleasure to come to everyday. He will be leaving the City of Soledad for a new venture in the City of Los Altos Hills.

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

- City Manager Slama announced there will be a Measure S Oversight Committee meeting on Monday, 08/09 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center.
- There will be a Planning Commission meeting on 08/12 at 6:00 p.m.
- On Wednesday, 08/11, there will be an all-day training regarding the City's Emergency Operations Plan.

- There were issues with the City's generators during the power outage and he will be addressing those issues. The generators have been fixed but there will be further discussion about it.
- The City's sewer and water rates will be coming forward to the council.
- The first half of the ARPA funds have been received and review of those funds will be soon.
- There will be an Economic Development workshop scheduled.
- The City is working with the School District on the housing project and the joint use facilities project.
- He thanked Public Works Director Oscar Antillon for his time here in the City and all the accomplishments that have been achieved.

Mayor Velazquez asked if the City has a PG&E representative that is the direct contact for Soledad. She would like an update regarding how the City can handle the impacts of power outages better and who will be the City's direct representative.

Councilmember Chavez agreed with Mayor Velazquez; the City needs a direct contact with PG&E, someone who can provide updates and information when there are power outages whether planned or not. There should also be back-up generators in the school facilities.

Soledad Unified School Boardmember Ivan Ibarra-More said the school district does not have generators, but the subject should definitely be talked about with the school District.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 3 items:

1. She would like to know why both generators failed during the power outage.
2. She would like to have an Oath of Office ceremony for K-9 Coda. She would like the media to be notified so the public can be aware of it.
3. She would like an update on the City's movie theater.

Councilmember Jimenez had 2 items:

1. He would like to move forward with a senior program.
2. He would like to look into why the catering trucks are being able to park in the same spot everyday. Per the City's ordinance, that should not be allowed.

City Manager Slama said the Economic Development Department will be meeting internally regarding the food trucks.

Mayor Velazquez read a comment by Recreation Manager Rebecca Hall:

The South County Senior Social in partnership with Meals on Wheels is scheduled on 09/14 from 11:00 to 1:00. There will be a free lunch and live music. This will be held on the second Tuesday of the month.

Mayor Velazquez had 2 items:

1. would like an update on the Community Development Block Grant.
2. She would also like an overview on Code Enforcement.

**MEETING RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Velazquez recessed to closed session at 7:49 p.m.

**MEETING RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Velazquez reconvened from closed session at 8:59 p.m.

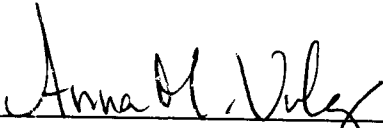
**CLOSED SESSION REPORTS NO. 2**

1. City Attorney Michael Rodriguez reported with respect to item no. 1, the council completed the City Manager evaluation. No other reportable action taken.

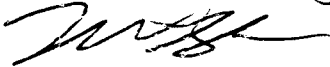
**ADJOURNMENT**

- 9:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved: August 18, 2021



ANNA M. VELAZQUEZ, Mayor/Chair



BRENT SLAMA, City Clerk/Agency Secretary

