

**Minutes**

City of Soledad Joint  
City Council/Successor Agency  
Regular Meeting

September 01, 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	Alejandro Chavez
Councilmember/Agencymember	Ben Jimenez, Jr.
Councilmember/Agencymember	Marisela Lara (Via Zoom)

**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 6:03 p.m.

**MEETING RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Velazquez reconvened from closed session at 6:40 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.

### **CLOSED SESSION REPORTS**

1. With respect to item no. 1, no reportable action taken.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

1. Soledad High School NJROTC led the Presentation of Colors
2. Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge led the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Velazquez asked for a moment of silence be given for 13 United States Soldiers and over 200 people from Afghanistan killed in an airport attack in Kabul.

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

- None

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Hartnell College Board of Trustees President Erica Padilla-Chavez introduced the Director of the Hartnell Education Center, Soledad, Ms. Anna Gonzales.

Ms. Anna Gonzales introduced herself and shared information regarding a list of classes that will be offered Fall of 2021. There will also be a Community open house. There will be more classes added for Spring session.

### **COUNCIL PRESENTATION**

1. Mayor Pro Tem Carla Strobridge commenced the Swearing in of K-9 Koda accompanied by her Handler, Officer Fredy Ambriz.

- Officer Ambriz thanked the City for the opportunity to serve with K-9 Koda.

2. A Proclamation of Appreciation for Transportation Agency for Monterey County Executive Director Debra L. Hale, June 10, 2006 – October 08, 2021, was presented by the council.

- Mayor Velazquez thanked Transportation Agency for Monterey County Executive Director Debra L. Hale for her years of service to the City and for all improvements that have been made possible through her hard work and commitment.
- Councilmember Chavez thanked Transportation Agency for Monterey County Executive Director Debra L. Hale not only for her service to Monterey County, but to the Salinas Valley. She brought great transformation and a cohesive plan for the whole area.
- Transportation Agency for Monterey County Executive Director Debra L. Hale thanked the council for the proclamation and thanked the City for the opportunity to be a part of the growth in the City of Soledad.

3. A Proclamation was presented Honoring Jacob’s Heart Children’s Cancer Support Services and Declaring September 2021 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Soledad.

- The representative from Jacob’s heart was not present. The Proclamation will be mailed to Jacob’s Heart Children’s Cancer Support Services.

4. The Soledad Youth Council will members introduced themselves:

- |                      |                        |                  |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| • Angeline Flores    | 9 <sup>th</sup> grade  | Adrianna Escobar | 12 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| • Liliana Negrette   | 10 <sup>th</sup> grade | Perla Espinoza   | 12 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| • Chinemerem Elleleh | 11 <sup>th</sup> grade | James Pantoja    | 12 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| • Jacqueline Urena   | 11 <sup>th</sup> grade | Devannie Ruiz    | 12 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| • Ethan Solorio      | 11 <sup>th</sup> grade | Hernan Valdez    | 12 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| • Layla Ahmed        | 12 <sup>th</sup> grade | Daynalei Valdez  | 12 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| • Alan Briseno       | 12 <sup>th</sup> grade | Sofia Vargas     | 12 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| • Israel Crystalinas | 12 <sup>th</sup> grade |                  |                        |

Mayor Velazquez welcomed the newest members of the Soledad Youth Council.

Councilmember Chavez thanked Ivan Ibarra Mora, Ms. Solorio and also welcomed all the youth council.

Ivan Ibarra Mora thanked the City Council for welcoming the Soledad Youth Council. He also thanked Ms. Amber Solorio for continuing to support the Soledad Youth Council. On Friday, 09/03 there will be interviews conducted for the purpose of selecting the new youth commissioners.

Councilmember Lara asked that a picture be taken of the Soledad Youth Council sitting in the council seating area.

The council came down from the dais to allow the newest youth councilmembers to take a photo.

The City councilmember were reseated and continued the meeting.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilmember Jimenez asked to have further discussion regarding item C-2.

There were no public comments at this time.

Councilmember Jimenez asked for clarification for items I-1051 and I-1255, two checks to Voler; he would like to know what services were received for the payments made.

City Manager Slama said the first check was due for the previous contract; there was a missing invoice from 2020. The second check issued was for the current contract for the Public Information Officer on going services and video components they will be providing.

**Motion:** Councilmember Jimenez made motion to approve items C-1 through C-9. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by unanimous vote:

#### **Action:**

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

#### **C-1. Approval of Minutes**

Joint City Council/Successor Agency Regular Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2021.

#### **C-2. Warrants**

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C-3. Resolution No. No. 5739, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Adopting Legal Holidays for Calendar Year 2022.

C-4. City Hall Office Closure December 20, 21 and 22, 2021.

- C-5. Resolution No. 5740, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Accepting the FY 20/21 SB Preventative Maintenance Project as Complete by VSS International and Authorizing the Release of Retention Payment.
- C-6. Resolution No. 5741, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Accepting the Installation of Fence Netting at Chester Aaroe (Little League) Park as Complete by Cyclone Fence & Iron, Inc., and Authorizing the Release of Retention Payment.
- C-7. Resolution No. 5742, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving Amendment No. 1 of the Summary of Job Classifications and Salary Schedule For Fiscal Year 2021/22.
- C-8. Resolution No. 5743, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving a Memorandum of Understanding Between South Monterey County Fire Protection District, Aromas Tri-Cities Fire Protection District, and the City of Soledad for the Purchase of a Vehicle for the Fire Battalion Chief.
- C-9. City of Soledad Monthly Department Activity Reports.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1**

- Receive the Staff report
  - Open the Public Hearing – 7:27 p.m.
  - Close the Public Hearing – 7:35 p.m.
  - Council Action
- PH-1. Resolution No. 5744, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Accepting the 2021 Development Impact Fee Justification Study.

Ordinance No. 739, Introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Soledad Amending Chapter 14.06 – “Public Facilities Development Impact Fees” of Title 14 – “Impact Mitigation Fees” of the Soledad Municipal Code Adjusting City of Soledad Development Impact Fees.

City Manager Slama presented an overview of the item.

David Tausig & Associates Managing Director Nathan Perez presented the staff report and updates regarding the work that has been accomplished.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge thanked David Tausig & Associates Managing Director Nathan Perez for updating the report and including the information of the City of Greenfield.

Mayor Velazquez asked if the numbers are adopted, will there be any impact if adopted before the completion of the General Plan.

David Tausig & Associates Managing Director Nathan Perez said the General Plan might bring an opportunity to come back to the item and refresh for an increase instead of a reduction, but it is not expected.

Mayor Velazquez asked if there was any feedback from developers, affordable or for-profit, and will the fees have any potential to deter affordable housing or does it not count because of density bonus laws.

City Manager Slama said projects that are already approved will not be subject to these fees. Current developers that are working now are not concerned with this. The City is hoping to go to LAFCO soon regarding the Miramonte project, which will provide more than 90% of future growth of Soledad and will have a separate impact fee structure.

**Motion:** Councilmember Jimenez made motion to adopt Resolution No. 5744. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lara and carried by unanimous vote:

**Action:**

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

**Motion:** Councilmember Chavez made motion to adopt Ordinance No. 739, Introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Soledad Amending Chapter 14.06 – “Public Facilities Development Impact Fees” of Title 14 – “Impact Mitigation Fees” of the Soledad Municipal Code Adjusting City of Soledad Development Impact Fees. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by unanimous vote:

**Action:**

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

**BUSINESS**

B-1. Provide Direction on Changes to Water and Wastewater Utility Rates.

Finance Director Mike Howard presented the staff report. He introduced Willdan Consultant Kevin Burnett.

Willdan Financial Services Kevin Burnett presented the item through a PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Velazquez thanked Willdan Financial Services for their updated presentation. She would like to make sure that council does not delay the impact studies again in the future.

Councilmember Jimenez appreciates that the council made every effort to lighten the impact on the residents, but unfortunately it seems the council will probably need to move forward with the increase.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge agrees with Councilmember Jimenez.

Councilmember Chavez said he feels the council will need to move forward with the increase.

**Motion:** Councilmember Chavez made motion to move forward with the original proposed increase of August 18, 2021, and that also includes the staff to implement the 218 process. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lara and carried by unanimous vote:

**Action:**

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

**B-2. Code Enforcement Duties**

Police Chief Wasson presented the staff report regarding Code Enforcement duties.

Mayor Velazquez said she had initially requested clarity on the Code Enforcement duties. She feels the Code Enforcement Officer should not be doing duties such as administrative duties, his time should be utilized in other effective ways. There are many municipal code violations the code enforcement officer should be dealing with such as vehicle abatement, illegal unpermitted structures, and illegal dumping. She would like to see the officer dealing with the signage on Front Street. She would like to have further discussion on the subject regarding the details of the job duties.

Chief Wasson said code enforcement is dealing with many of the municipal code violations but even those things take time. The notice needs to be given and there is a time period that must be given before further action can take place.

Councilmember Chavez believes there needs to be further discussion regarding if the code enforcement will stay in the police department or be moved to a different department. There are many more details that need to be addressed.

Chief Wasson said he would like to have a second code enforcement officer.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge asked if the Code Enforcement Officer and the Animal Control Officer's scheduled are staggered so there is coverage seven days a week. If not, would that be possible.

Chief Wasson said the schedules are not staggered.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge feels it may be a good idea to have the Animal Control Officer scheduled days off on weekdays since weekends are when people drop off animals at Los Coches Animal Hospital. She also asked what the difference is between a level 1 and level 3 reserve officer.

Chief Wasson said the difference is a level 1 has been through the entire academy and level 3 needs to always be accompanied by an actual sworn officer. A level 1 can also transport.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge agrees with Councilmember Chavez and also believes that the City needs a part-time code enforcement officer.

Councilmember Jimenez believes the Code Enforcement Officer should be relieved of additional duties until the priority of the duties are taken care of.

**Motion:**

Information was received by council.

The council provided direction.

No Action taken for this item.

- B-3. 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 a short overview of the item.

Mayor Velazquez said the gazebo item does fit into the goals that the council approved. The brick element personalizes the park to the Community. The gazebo will also offer electrical outlets for events held in that area. It will be a unique place for families to gather and the location has potential to attract people to the City because it is visible from the freeway.

Councilmember Chavez agrees that the gazebo would be a great opportunity to showcase the City, but he realizes the rest of the council does not share that view and it does not seem there is interest in the gazebo at this time.

Councilmember Jimenez would like the council to take the opportunity to explore economic development for the whole downtown area.

Mayor Velazquez said the development of the gazebo does fit into the Downtown Specific Plan. There will need to be funding and investment into the City and this is an opportunity. King City is an example of a city that is investing into their downtown, bringing in different types of retail and shops.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge said she does not feel she can support spending \$118,000 on the gazebo project at this time. She would like to have a thoughtful and thorough discussion about it.

There was one public comment:

Ivan Ibarra-More asked if there are still plans to build an amphitheater in the new Orchard Lane Park.

City Manager Slama said there are plans to build an amphitheater in Orchard Lane Park, but not a gazebo.

There were no other public comments.

**Motion:**

The item has died due to lack of motion.

No Action taken for this item.

B-4. Review of City of Soledad Video Goals and Strategies.

City Manager Slama presented a brief overview of the item.

Mayor Velazquez recessed the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Mayor Velazquez reconvened the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Information Technology Director Steven Andranigian presented an overview of the City of Soledad video goals and strategies.

Community Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez presented the community engagement portion of the overview with a PowerPoint presentation.

Councilmember Chavez would like to see further information on the promotion of vaccinations to the Community.

Community Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez said the Soledad Community Health Care District CEO Ms. Ida Lopez Chan is hosting a Health Care Summit on 09/08. The healthcare leadership from the area will be in attendance and will be developing a plan to further work together to promote vaccination in the community. The City is also having volunteers place informational door-tags on homes in case families are not on social media reading the information on vaccinations. The door-tags also include information on water conservation.

Councilmember Chavez asked if the door-tags can be designed differently. He would also like to see leaders in the community do the messaging together. He would like to hear testimonials of the experiences of families that have been through the Covid-19 process.

Mayor Velazquez would like to focus on the people who are not being vaccinated and may want to get vaccinated. There needs to be information available to help direct people, so they know where they are able to get vaccinated.

Councilmember Jimenez said staff did a great job on the videos that were produced and thanked staff for their efforts.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge also thanked Information Technology Director Steven Andranigian and Community Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez for the videos that were produced.

City Manager Slama said the City staff are very active in creating the videos and proud of what has been created; the number of views has been significant. He thanked the staff and everyone that has been involved. If there are other projects that council would like staff to focus on, please give staff direction.

Mayor Velazquez said the City's website needs to be priority. It needs to be updated with correct information.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge would like to feature the faces of Soledad. The videos should highlight families of Soledad and also staff that work in the parks and streets daily. Also, maybe a video explaining what it takes to run the wastewater facility.

Community Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez said staff has requested that a PSA regarding wipes be done. There is a tour scheduled of the water treatment facility.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge said she is glad to see the police officer recruitment is on the list to be done.

Community Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez said the police officer recruitment is a priority.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge asked that a video be done to help educate people on code enforcement, police, CalFire and the K-9's.

Community Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez said that particular video was scheduled to be done on 09/01 but has been rescheduled. The video will be done soon and is a priority.

Councilmember Chavez thanked the staff for the work they have done on the videos.

Councilmember Jimenez said he would like Voler to do a marketing video with the Buxton statistics regarding what Soledad has to offer.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge said in regard to the proposal included in the council packet; She would like to have monthly standing meetings with Voler. She would like to have a subcommittee in place in order to have a better perspective of what is needed. She would also like to see a Soledad Employment Fair done; this would be a day that the Soledad businesses would be able to recruit; Voler should coordinate that event. She would like to see stats once a month included

in the council packet with information on what they have been doing regarding engagement, and copies of all press releases. She asked for a press release to be done on the K-9 Oath of Office but never seen any evidence of that being done.

Mayor Velazquez said she believes City Manager Slama can handle the contract with Voler and doesn't believe there is a need for a subcommittee or a monthly standing meeting.

**Motion:**

Information was received by council.

The council provided direction.

No Action taken for this item.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- None

**MAYORS' REPORT**

- On 08/21 she attended the Coffee and Cars event in Soledad.
- On 08/22 she attended Ciclovía in Soledad. She thanked Monterey County for Ciclovía which is funded through the Active Transportation Grant that they received.
- On 08/29 she met with members of the Green Leaf Estates.
- On 08/27 she attended an open house for the Breakthrough Clinic in Soledad.
- On 08/30 she attended a Special meeting with 3CE.
- On 09/01 she attended the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- On 09/01 she did a presentation for the Steinbeck Rotary highlighting the work being done in Soledad.

**COUNCILMEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Councilmember Jimenez had 4 items to report:

1. On 08/21 he attended the Coffee and Cars event. He thanked Economic Development & Housing Program Coordinator Tencia Vargas and Chief Wasson for organizing the event.
2. On 08/22 he attended Ciclovía. He thanked Community Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez, and everyone involved.
3. In August he attended the ACCAPS meeting.
4. In August he attended the SVSWA meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 1 item to report:

1. On 08/22 she attended Ciclovía.

Councilmember Lara had 2 items to report:

1. On 08/21 she attended Coffee and Cars.
2. On 08/22 she attended Ciclovía.

Community Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez said there is a debriefing meeting scheduled for 09/02 regarding the Ciclovía event. Following the Ciclovía event, their staff thanked the City for their participation and engagement. They feel the City of Soledad has had the greatest staff engagement in the eight years the event has been done. They appreciated the coordination by the Police Department and staff.

### **COUNCILMEMBERS' PRAISES**

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge thanked the Public Works Department for installing the speedbump on Granada Street. She also thanked city hall staff for doing a great job. She was able to provide lunch for staff on 08/30 and staff, in turn, sent her a thank you card.

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

- City Manager Slama reported that he has finished coaching the first season of youth basketball at the Soledad Community Center.
- Staff will be polling the council with a date of availability for a joint meeting date with the Soledad Unified School District regarding the future housing project, joint use and other things that have been discussed in the past.
- By the 09/15 meeting there should be a settled date for the Soledad movie theater opening. There will be marketing efforts done for this because of restrictions that are in place.

Mayor Velazquez would like to make sure that future meeting dates are established before adjourning the next Joint meeting between Soledad City Council and the Soledad Unified School District.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 1 item:

1. She would like to know if ARPA money can be used towards vaccination incentive programs.
  - Finance Director Mike Howard said the regulations do say the money can be used for vaccination clinics. He will look into further information.

Mayor Velazquez had 1 item:

1. She would like to have a presentation regarding the tobacco retail in the City.

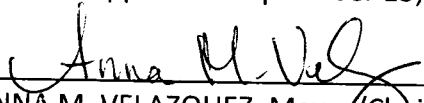
Councilmember Jimenez had 1 item:

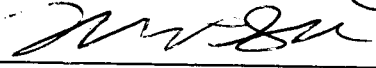
1. He would like an update regarding the Victim Advocate position.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- 9:55 p.m.

Minutes Approved: September 15, 2021

  
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ANNA M. VELAZQUEZ, Mayor/Chair

  
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BRENT SLAMA, City Clerk/Agency Secretary

