

Minutes

City of Soledad
Joint City Council/Successor Agency
Regular Meeting

November 03, 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	Ben Jimenez, Jr.
Councilmember/Agencymember	Marisela Lara
Councilmember/Agencymember	Alejandro Chavez

THE FOLLOWING COUNCILMEMBER WAS ABSENT

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT- CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There were no public comments at this time.

MEETING RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Velazquez recessed to closed session at 6:02 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Velazquez reconvened from closed session at 6:51 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- Lugo Claims (2).

CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

1. City Attorney Mike Rodriguez reported with respect to item no. 1, direction was given by the council for the process and format for the evaluation. No other reportable action taken.
2. City Attorney Mike Rodriguez reported with respect to item no. 2; council was not able to discuss item no. 2 and they will need to return to closed session at the end of the regular meeting to talk about item no. 2.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Soledad High School NJROTC led the Presentation of Colors
2. Chief Ronald Dunn led the Pledge of Allegiance

ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Resident of Soledad, Pauline Tomasini said the 36th Annual Christmas Parade will be on Saturday, December 04, 2021. She will provide a written presentation in the regular meeting agenda of 11/17/2021. The parade will start at 5:00 p.m. beginning at California Gourmet Pizza. The parade will march down Front Street and end at Kidder Street. There will be many festivities going on at Cesar Chavez Park. She thanked Tencia Vargas, Jessica Potts and the Soledad Police Department because they will be helping with keeping the evening organized.
2. Councilmember Lara read through many public comments she received through email from Soledad Residents, all requesting installation of speedbumps be placed in various streets throughout Soledad. Streets mentioned were San Vicente Road, 3rd Street, La Colina Street,

Market Street, and Entrada Street. Councilmember Lara would like staff to place this item on an upcoming agenda in order to address the public comments and concerns regarding speedbumps.

- Mayor Velazquez asked that the emails be forwarded to the Public Works Department. She will also be forwarding comments and emails from residents hoping to have streetlights installed by the Soledad High School because of the congestion happening in that area every day.
- Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge added that she has the subject of an update of the traffic studies for many of the areas mentioned by Councilmember Lara.

There were no further public comments during this portion of the meeting.

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

- None

YOUTH COUNCIL'S REPORT

- Soledad Youth Commission members Sophia Vargas and Adriana Escobar presented the brief verbal update of November 03, 2021.

Mayor Velazquez thanked the youth council for providing the report. She congratulated the youth council for doing a great job coordinating the Halloween costume contest. She also congratulated Adriana on moving forward with becoming the youth council's social media coordinator.

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments.

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to approve items C-1 through C-4. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by 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 October 20, 2021.

C-2. Warrants

045981 - 046091

C-3. Temporary Use of Land Permit for the Soledad Lions/Lioness Club Arts & Crafts Fair.

C-4. Resolution No. 5752, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Accepting the East Street and Metz Road Roundabout Project as Complete, Ratifying and/or Approving Contract Change Orders and Authorizing the Release of Retention Payment.

PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1

- Receive the Staff report
- Open the Public Hearing at 7:28 p.m.
- Close the Public Hearing at 8:10 p.m.
- Council Action

PH-1. Resolution No. 5751, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Establishing New Water and Sewer Rates from FY 2021-2022 through 2025-2026.

Finance Director Mike Howard presented the staff report. He introduced Willdan Consultants Kevin Burnett and Chris Fisher who were present in the meeting via Zoom.

Councilmember Chavez asked Finance Director Mike Howard for clarification regarding protest of the item.

Finance Director Mike Howard and Attorney Mike Rodriguez both addressed the issue and agreed that protest for this item must be in writing and signed and received by the council before the public hearing is closed. Writing a comment in the Zoom chat box or Facebook is not valid. This direction was specifically clarified in the notice to the public.

Willdan Consultant Kevin Burnett presented a brief overview of the information that had already been presented at previous council meetings.

Mayor Velazquez opened the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

Mayor Velazquez asked Deputy City Clerk Darlene Noriega to read the written protest received, into the record.

Soledad Resident Manuel J. Medina
1384 Major Avenue, Soledad

As the owner of the property at 1384 Major Avenue, Soledad, I am protesting the proposed water and sewer rate increases.

Soledad Resident Manuel J. Medina
1718 Vosti Avenue, Soledad

As the owner of the property at 1718 Vosti Avenue, Soledad, I am protesting the proposed water and sewer rate increases.

Soledad Residents Francisco Javier Pinedo & Fausta Pinedo
1260 La Paz Ct. Soledad
APN# 022-302-010-000

Dear Soledad Council Members and Mayor Velazquez, I am a lifelong resident of Soledad California. I am writing this letter in opposition to the proposed water and sewer rates. Over the past decade, rates seem to increase a lot here in Soledad, City tax rate, property taxes and not to mention, process so high for many things from local merchants. I agree, maybe down the line, such a rate increase can be done. This 2021, increasing rates on water and sewer seems a bit of insult over injury with prices increasing for food and gas, and to have the rates increase starting December 1, during the holiday season seems a bit unreasonable to do. I would also like to see more information given as to why the increase in rates is needed, as in other letters I have seen posted on websites like the City of San Diego (<https://www.sandiego.gov/publicutilities/customer-service/water-and-sewer-rates/increases>) that provides much more details of financial plan, costs of service and not just vague figures and tables on the City of Soledad website (<https://www.cityofsoledad.com/2021/09/21/sewer-rate-increases/>). Please model your site for this issue like the City of San Diego did, where it had information in English/Spanish and other languages like Arabic for our Arabic speaking population. Again, I am opposing the rate increasing for our water and sewer rates as of now. When more information is available, I will be willing to change my mind on this issue.

Soledad Resident Joe Garcia
1038 San Rafael, Soledad

Dear City of Soledad, I am writing to express my protest of rate increases to water rates beginning December 1, 2021. I do not think these increases are justified. The water rate increase at over 54%, over the next 5 years, is just unbelievable. These are just too much for Soledad households to endure. We are still recovering from the Covid 19 pandemic. The City of Soledad needs to look for alternatives in saving water, like not watering the grass when it is raining. I had seen this practice over the years. I recall, the sewer rate was increase from around ten dollars to forty-six. You should let the residents decide on this matter and allow us to vote on this issue. These rate increases are not necessary, and I do protest.

Santa Cruz Resident Leticia Medina Kohrs
118 Hagar Court, Soledad

Dear City Clerk of Soledad, I, Leticia Medina Kohrs, Property owner at 1201 Palm Avenue, Soledad CA 93960, am in opposition to the current proposed rate changes for water and sewer services that are to be adopted beginning December 1, 2021. I am not entirely opposed to a rate increase; however, the proposed 7% increase each year over the next 5 years seems very steep. Please consider a more equitable and sustainable rate increase where families are able to afford. Perhaps this 34% increase would be more suitable over the next 10 to 15 years instead of five years. Thank you for your consideration.

Soledad Resident and Veteran, Ivan A.
1316 Walker Drive, Soledad

To whom it may concern, I would like to share my discontent with this City's management of resources. Given that this Country is currently going through an unemployment crisis, inflation crisis, supply chain crisis, and most importantly, a mental health crisis, this City decides to impose a detrimental financial burden on the families of this community. In case you were unaware, as you increase taxes and fees, our communities hourly and salaries do not increase. If they do, they are outperformed by the continued tax burden you impose on your citizenry. I can only suggest you look within your own budget and see what can be reconstructed in order to relieve the citizens of such burdens, the cost of living in Soledad will soon reflect one of San Francisco. Smart meters do not equate safety, citizens must have options when their health is imposed upon. Meter piping size change to 1" has effects that show poor performance, and regulation. Lack of maintenance, system failure and deadlines should not warrant such imposing measures taken upon its citizens in such a short amount of notice, for it is lacking transparency and honesty.

Soledad Resident, The McCabes.
1130 Walker Drive, Soledad

To whom it may concern, I would like to share my discontent with this City's management of resources. Given that this Country is currently going through an unemployment crisis, inflation crisis, supply chain crisis, and most importantly, a mental health crisis, this City decides to impose a detrimental financial burden on the families of this community. In case you were unaware, as you increase taxes and fees, our communities hourly and salaries do not increase. If they do, they are outperformed by the continued tax burden you impose on your citizenry. I can only suggest you look within your own budget and see what can be reconstructed in order to relieve the citizens of such burdens, the cost of living in Soledad will soon reflect one of San Francisco. Smart meters do not equate safety, citizens must have options when their health is imposed upon. Meter piping size change to 1" has effects that show poor performance, and regulation. Lack of maintenance, system failure and deadlines should not warrant such imposing measures taken upon its citizens in such a short amount of notice, for it is lacking transparency and honesty. We strongly oppose the increase in the water rate to supplement the City of Soledad's mishandling of funds!

Soledad Resident Manuel J. Medina was present in the meeting
1384 Major Avenue, Soledad

He is not in favor of the water and sewer rate increases. He echoes what was said in the letters read. He understands the presentation as far as the upgrades and he understands that everyone would like to improve their living, but not everyone can afford it. He would like to know what

improvements will be noticed in the homes of the residents of Soledad. He seen through the presentation does have a back-up plan if the increase does not pass and there will be no disaster if the rates do not pass. He knows many residents are not aware of the rate increases and if they knew, he is confident, more residents would be present. He said the council represents the residents of Soledad and he hopes they would make the right decision.

Soledad Resident was present in the meeting.

She said during the presentation she heard the meter size, depending on the home, would not be changed. A City worker working on the meters told her that certain meters would be replaced with new meters and the new meters have a 1" piping which would make a significant increase in charges. She would like to know if a resident would know if they had a newer meter with the 1" piping and does the resident have a choice to decline the new meter? She has seen the City promote many great things to help the Community, but she feels this rate increase is unfair. The Smart meters are signaling device and would eventually eliminate positions. This point has come because of the lack of maintenance. She would rather go without many social events and prioritize the finances.

Interim Public Works Director addressed the Soledad Residents question regarding whether residents will have a choice of having a new smart meter installed for their home; he said the public works department has been looking into the infrastructure and working on a new CIP (Capitol Improvements Program) for the next five years. He is not sure at this time if residents will have a choice.

City Manager Slama said the smallest meter of 5/8" does not accommodate modern fire sprinkler flow. Bigger meters are needed for new construction. Smaller meters do get phased out over time. The size of the meter dictates the size of the base water belt. The smart meters are something the City is moving towards because it will eliminate the need to go read the meter and will leave more time to perform needed maintenance to the system. There are costs in terms of the infrastructure to support the pipes in the older part of town. Those costs are reflected in the water studies that have been done.

Soledad Resident Manuel J. Medina was present in the meeting
1384 Major Avenue, Soledad

Mr. Medina asked what improvements will be seen by residents after the changes.

Finance Director Mike Howard said the City has many old pipes that include led pipes, that need to be replaced. The changes will mean the City will have reliable drinking water. There is old infrastructure that was not done because of the recession. The residents will see reliable delivery of drinking water and can feel secure that old pipes are not collapsing underground.

Soledad Resident Rosa Camacho was present in the meeting via Zoom
522 San Fernando, Soledad

She is not in favor of rate increases currently. She would like to know if there is a possibility of phasing the rate increase or addressing the most urgent repairs needed. She would have liked

the public to have more input. The seniors that live on a fixed income will be impacted by the rate increase. She hopes council will keep the elderly in mind. She would like to know what "Decreased prison revenue" means, which was mentioned in the presentation.

Mayor Velazquez said she is aware of the impacts. The council has had many meetings exploring alternatives to decrease the rate increase. The council does not take the rate increase lightly and staff looked at all alternatives. Regarding the prison system and the "Decreased prison revenue" mentioned; the prison wastewater is connected to the City's wastewater system. About six months ago CTF closed a wing at the facility which brought a decrease of about one hundred inmates and that is why the decreased prison revenue was seen in the presentation.

Soledad Resident Adriana was present in the meeting via Zoom

She is not in favor of the rate increase. She feels the rate increase is very high. The water in Soledad is ruining her dishwasher, washer, refrigerator so she had to buy water softener. She also had to fix her sidewalk and fence. She is not sure how people in hardship can afford a rate increase.

Mayor Velazquez said because there is no written protest vote from Ms. Adriana, her verbal comment will be reflected in the minutes from the meeting but will not be able to be included in the written comments for the Public Hearing.

City Manager Slama clarified the number of written protest votes needed for this item is 2,000.

Mayor Velazquez said the council did not take the outreach process for this item lightly. They had several meetings and deferred the item to make sure every alternative was looked at and had full understanding of all impacts. Above and beyond outreach was conducted. A recommended rate study is recommended every five years and the last time Soledad did this was 2014. The price to repair differed maintenance is very costly. She thanked everyone for their comments. There is also new construction that has been authorized to be done.

Mayor Velazquez closed the public hearing at 8:10 p.m.

Councilmember Chavez asked Finance Director Mike Howard to explain what an enterprise fund is.

Finance Director Mike Howard said an enterprise fund is one that needs to operate on its own because it is a stand-alone business. It is required to reserve money for routine maintenance of fixed assets. The enterprise funds have the highest value of fixed assets in the City. The City owns a state of the art forty-three-million-dollar sewer treatment facility, and it takes money to maintain the aging of it. The City has had numerous emergency repairs done to the wells. There is aging infrastructure that will need to be dug up and replaced. The revenue generated through the enterprise funds stays in those systems and the City cannot use those funds to pay for Police or fire or any expenses in city hall. Water must stay in water and sewer must stay in sewer.

Councilmember Chavez asked if enterprise funds can be borrowed from sewer for financial issues in the community like police.

Finance Director Mike Howard said the City can authorize a loan from the enterprise fund, but the money must be repaid at an interest rate, it cannot be free money.

Councilmember Jimenez clarified that new construction is paid for by impact fees that the City pays so that cost is not being passed down to citizens and new construction pays for itself.

Finance Director Mike Howard said there are impact fees to help cover installation, outside of that, the operating fund pays for the maintenance.

Mayor Velazquez said the rate study was announced at the regular city council meeting of 08/18/2021. On 09/16/2021 the Prop 218 notices were mailed to property owners. There were also Facebook posts, website updates and public hearing notice was posted in the Salinas Valley Tribune and The Salinas Californian newspapers.

Councilmember Chavez asked the Willdan representatives what the cost was for delaying this issue for the one month.

Finance Director Mike Howard said there was an \$86,000 cost for the delay.

Councilmember Lara asked what would happen if the City increased the rates out every 10 years instead of 5 years.

Finance Director Mike Howard said there would be no increases on the supplies, salaries, and wages. All the capitol infrastructure would be differed, and the City would not be able to spend money on needed maintenance. The City would go back into crisis management and things could only be repaired when it falls apart.

Mayor Velazquez said the City is at where it is today because in the past the City has deferred it.

City Manager Slama said the rates have not been done for many years.

Finance Director Mike Howard said other cities just do their CPI every year, but by doing this, the operating costs and capitol out-perform what the CPI is. He does not recommend doing this.

Mayor Velazquez said the City would also not be able to meet the debt service obligation.

Finance Director Mike Howard said that is correct. The City would fall outside of the covenants of the current loan. The sewer side must hit the 1.2 ratio, this is critical.

Councilmember Lara would like to know the date of the last time rates were increased.

Finance Director Mike Howard said in 2014 the City did a rate study for five years and 2018 was the last rate increase.

Councilmember Lara asked what would happen if the City left the rates the way they are.

Finance Director Mike Howard said if the rates were left the way they are the sewer side would be in default of the loan and the water side would go broke.

Motion: Councilmember Chavez made motion to approve Resolution No. 5751 with the updates mentioned. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimenez and carried by unanimous vote:

Action:

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

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge reminded the public there is a utility assistance program available at this time. City staff can assist with the paperwork needed for that program.

Mayor Velazquez said this was not an easy decision for the City council, the council does understand how important it is to have facilities, systems and infrastructure working correctly as the residents deserve.

BUSINESS

B-1. Lease with the Soledad Historical Society for 137 Soledad Street.

Community and Economic Development Director Bryan Swanson presented the staff report.

Mayor Velazquez thanked Community and Economic Development Director Bryan Swanson for the report and thanked the Community and Economic Development Department for coordinating the visit to the Historical Society building. She also thanked the Historical Society for all that has been done in preserving historical artifacts. The Historical Society has been working more as a museum. She would like more information about who are the current Board of Directors. She would like to see a viable plan for the outreach and improvements needed. She would like to know the costs of the extensive rehabilitation needed and what grants are being sought after and what are the requirements for the grants. What will the funding sources be and what is the plan in terms of staffing and the long-term maintenance of the museum.

Councilmember Jimenez said the purpose for wanting to extend the lease is so the Historical Society can apply for the grants available. There are many items being stored but these items have not been able to be put on exhibit. He would like the Historical Society to be able to

collaborate with the City in order to move forward. They should come forward with their plans. Extending the contract will not hurt the process.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge thanked the Historical Society for the information that was included in the agenda.

Councilmember Chavez would also like to see the plans in writing. He would like to look further into the sustainability of the organization. He used the Steinbeck Museum as an example and said They have a strong foundation and a huge interest worldwide, but even they struggled, so a plan of sustainability would be helpful in moving forward.

Mayor Velazquez said the council would like to be fully aware of the rehabilitation costs along with the long-term sustainability and viability plan.

Mayor Velazquez said she would also like an inventory of artifacts done of what belongs to the City.

B-2. Resolution No. 5753, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving A Subordination Agreement with JP Morgan Chase Bank Concerning the Market Street Townhome Project.

Community and Economic Development Director Bryan Swanson presented the staff report. He also added the resolution should reference the Successor Housing Agency not the Successor Agency

City Attorney Mike Rodriguez asked Community and Economic Development Director Bryan Swanson if he is sure this should be a Successor Housing Agency action. He believes the original agreement prepared noted the Successor Agency. He said the issue should be investigated further before moving forward. He recommends moving this item to the regular meeting of 11/17/2021.

Motion: Mayor Velazquez made a motion to continue the item to the next meeting of 11/17/2021. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge and carried by unanimous vote:

Action:

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

B-3. Mayor Appointment to the Measure "S" Citizens Oversight Committees to fill an Existing Vacancy.

Mayor Velazquez said she received an email from Soledad Youth Commissioner Sophia Vargas resigning from the Measure S Committee, due to conflicting schedules. There has been a Measure S application submitted by Liliana Negrette for the youth representative vacancy. There was also a Measure S Committee application submitted by Isabel Mesa.

Mayor Velazquez would like to move forward with appointing both applicants to the Measure S Committee.

There were no public comments regarding this item.

PRESENTATION

1. Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency General Manager Donna Meyers gave a brief update and PowerPoint presentation via Zoom.

Mayor Velazquez asked what steps would be expected of the City of Soledad for the sustainability that was talked about in the presentation.

Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency General Manager Donna Meyers said there will be no changes expected at this time.

The council thanked Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency General Manager Donna Meyers for the presentation.

MAYORS' REPORT

- On 10/21 she had a Zoom meeting with Randy Flores who is a Soledad resident and a journalism student at Cal State Northridge regarding Soledad's upcoming plans for Covid clinics.
- On 10/22 she met with Soledad Health Care District CEO Ida Lopez Chan to discuss upcoming Covid vaccination clinics.
- On 10/23 she attended the Hartnell Soledad Education Center Community Celebration.
- On 10/25 she attended the LAFCO public hearing for the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District application. The meeting was postponed to December.
- On 10/26 she spoke at the Cadre Leadership Program with the Monterey County Workforce Development Board.
- On 10/27 she attended the VIP opening for Premier Cinemas.
- On 10/28 she attended the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors meeting.
- On 10/29 she attended the ribbon cutting for Premier theater.
- On 10/31 she attended the Front Street Spook Fest.

- On 11/01 she attended the Mayors and City Managers meeting.
- On 11/01 she met with City Manager Slama, Information Technology Technician Howard Aguilar and Vast Technology regarding broadband strategies.
- On 11/02 she did a tour of the Historical Society building.
- She announced, on Sunday, 11/07 there will be a pop-up vaccination clinic from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Soledad McDonalds.
- There will be a Veterans Breakfast Appreciation Day scheduled for 11/11 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- The mask mandate will go into effect on 11/05.
- She reminded council there are redistricting meetings happening. There is a meeting scheduled in the City of Greenfield and the meeting would be a good opportunity to be able to look at the preliminary maps. The preliminary maps may have Soledad and other south county cities being a part of San Luis Obispo. She does plan on attending the upcoming meeting but would like to know if staff has any additional information.
- She congratulated Officer Carrillo for becoming a part of the Soledad Police Department.
- She would like to go over the committee appointments for the City of Soledad council. She knows most appointments are in place but realizes there may be a need to revise the appointments to be sure there is a representative or alternate attending the meetings, especially the AMBAG meetings.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge is currently appointed to attend AMBAG meetings, but has not been able to attend and the alternate has also not been able to attend. Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge said if Mayor is available to attend the AMBAG meetings then she should be the representative. She is willing to be the alternate if needed.
 - Mayor Velazquez said she can start attending the meetings since they are virtual. She asked Councilmember Chavez if he can continue as alternate.
 - Councilmember Chavez said he can continue as the alternate.
 - City Attorney Mike Rodriguez clarified the list can be revised during the current meeting, but the item should be agendaized so it can be formally ratified along with any other changes needed.

COUNCILMEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Jimenez had 2 items to report:

1. On 10/21 he attended the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority meeting; a letter was received by SVSWA from the City of Salinas rescinding their separation from SVSWA.
2. He will be attending the next scheduled ACCAPS meeting on 11/16.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 4 items to report:

1. On 10/23 she attended the Hartnell Soledad Education Center Community Celebration.
2. On 10/29 she attended the Premier Cinema movie theater ribbon cutting.
3. On 10/31 she participated in the Soledad Spook Fest. She also thanked everyone who was a part of organizing the event.

4. On 11/03 she attended the Oath of Office ceremony for Officer Andre Carrillo.

Councilmember Chavez had 3 items to report:

1. On 10/23 he attended the Hartnell Soledad Education Center Community Celebration. He thanked Hartnell for all they have done for the Community.
2. On 10/27 he attended the TAMC meeting. He will be emailing all councilmembers regarding legislative platform from TAMC so council can see where the region stands on transportation needs.
3. On 10/27 he attended the TAMC Rail Policy meeting.

Councilmember Lara had 5 items to report:

1. On 10/23 She attended the Hartnell Soledad Education Center Community Celebration.
2. On 10/27 she was able to attend the soft opening/grand opening event of Premier Cinema with her family.
3. On 10/29 she attended the Premier Cinema movie theater ribbon cutting.
4. On 10/31 she participated in the Soledad Spook Fest.
5. On 10/31 she attended the Liberty Chapel Harvest Night at the Soledad Community Center.

COUNCILMEMBERS' PRAISES

Councilmember Lara praised the Community of Soledad, Liberty Chapel, the City Staff and all the different entities coming together to create great events.

Councilmember Chavez praised the Community for engaging in the events that have been taking place in the City. He also thanked the City staff, Premier Cinemas and Hartnell for the hard work they have put forth.

Councilmember Jimenez praised Mr. Terry B. Davis who passed away October 23, 2021. He was a citizen of Soledad, a Veteran, and a State Parole Agent. He raised his family in Soledad and Salinas. He was a member of the Freemasons of King City, and always made it a point to make sure there was scholarships available for graduating students from Soledad High School.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge praised the Front Street Group and City staff for organizing the Spook Fest. She also praised all the Veterans and thanked them for their service.

Mayor Velazquez agreed with all the praises of council and thanked Liberty Chapel for organizing the Harvest Night event at the Soledad Community Center. She also thanked everyone who participated in the Spook Fest.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- City Manager Slama reported the council has his written report.

- He gave special praise to the Public Works Department, Community and Economic Development Department, Community Engagement Department, and council for allowing the vision to come through.
- There will be a new batch of military banners being hung in the upcoming week.
- There will be more announcements regarding the Soledad Gala.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Jimenez had 1 item:

1. He would like a report on the progress of the range. He would like the group that the City contracted with, to do the report with a timeline.

Mayor Pro Tem Strobridge had 4 items:

1. She would also like a report on the progress of the range. She hopes to see either a video or photos along with the report.
2. She would like an update on what is happening in the Soledad Pharmacy building.
3. She announced Veterans Day is coming up 11/11. There will be a Veterans Day parade in Salinas and if anyone is interested in participating, attending or volunteering, please contact her.
4. She would like the Animal Control Officer to add a line item to his report regarding breeder permits issued or consulted.

Councilmember Lara had 1 item:

1. She would like to see if there is a way the City could put a budget aside for 4th of July.

Mayor Velazquez has 2 items:

1. She would like to have an update regarding the Christmas lights for Front Street.
2. She would also like an update on conversations regarding commercial retail coming to the City.

MEETING RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Velazquez recessed to closed session at 9:18 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Velazquez reconvened from closed session at 9:36 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

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- Lugo Claims (2).

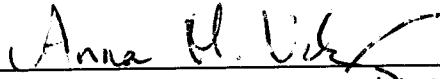
CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

2. City Attorney Mike Rodriquez reported with respect to item no. 2; the council conferred with legal counsel about the listed item and provided direction. No other reportable action was taken.


ADJOURNMENT

- 9:37 p.m.

Minutes Approved: November 17, 2021



ANNA M. VELAZQUEZ, Mayor/Chair



BRENT SLAMA, City Clerk/Agency Secretary