

Minutes

City of Soledad
Joint City Council/Successor Agency/Housing Authority/Successor Housing Agency
Regular Meeting

December 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Velazquez called the Joint City Council/Successor Agency/Housing Authority/Successor/Housing Agency/Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Following Councilmembers/Agencymembers were present when the meeting was called to order:

Mayor/Chair	Anna M. Velazquez
Councilmember/Agencymember	Ben Jimenez, Jr.
Councilmember/Agencymember	Marisela Lara
Councilmember/Agencymember	Alejandro Chavez

THE FOLLOWING COUNCILMEMBER WAS ABSENT

Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair	Carla Strobridge
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PUBLIC COMMENT- CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There were no public comments on closed session items.

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 6:32 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 54956.8 to give instructions to the City's negotiator concerning the sale/exchange/lease of property located at 183 Soledad Street (Assessor Parcel Numbers 022-026-001, -002, and -017). Instructions will include price and terms of payment.

CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

1. City Attorney Mike Rodriguez reported with respect to item no. 1; the item was only partially completed the City Manager evaluation. The council will need to go back into closed session at the close of the regular meeting.
2. City Attorney Mike Rodriguez reported with respect to item no. 2, the council met with the City's negotiator concerning the properties listed on the agenda and provided direction. No other reportable action taken.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Ben Jimenez, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

- None

A moment of silence was taken at this time of the meeting to extend condolences to the family of Ms. Lupe Galaviz. Ms. Galaviz worked extensively with MST and advocated for the Measure Q which served the senior Veterans and people with disabilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

YOUTH COUNCIL'S REPORT

Soledad Youth Commission members Alan Briseño and Sophia Vargas presented a brief verbal update along with their written report of December 15, 2021.

Councilmember Jimenez thanked the members of the youth council for presenting a clear written report.

There were no public comments.

COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

1. Astoria Logistics Group, LLC. Junior Nuno gave a brief presentation regarding the rifle, pistol and shotgun range located at 31500 San Vicente Road, City of Soledad.

Councilmember Jimenez asked what the hours of operations will be and what will the cost be to use the range.

Astoria Logistics Group, LLC., Junior Nuno said the range hours will be about 12 to 14 hours a day. The cost is still being structured. The residents of Soledad will receive a discount.

Mayor Velazquez asked what outreach is being done for the residents of Soledad.

Astoria Logistics Group, LLC. Junior Nuno said the outreach being planned will include weapon safety and firearms awareness. They will be reaching out to the local community first. This will be a complete public range.

Mayor Velazquez thanked Astoria Logistics Group, LLC., Junior Nuno for including an ADA lane.

Astoria Logistics Group, LLC., Junior Nuno said the group has reached out to the California Sportsmen Association and has partnered with them to make sure the ADA lane is focused on.

Mayor Velazquez said she looks forward to the ribbon cutting on 02/21/2022.

There were no public comments.

2. Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez will give an overview regarding the City of Soledad Centennial celebration event held on December 11th, 2021. She thanked Economic Development & Housing Program Coordinator Hortencia Vargas, Community member Maria Corralejo, Recreation Supervisor Jessica Potts, City Manager Brent Slama, Public Works Supervisor Joel Alvarez, and all City staff, for all their efforts.

Councilmember Lara felt disappointed regarding the awards given at the Soledad Gala event. She said the public voted on four awards, but a total of five awards were given. She said Community members felt upset and felt as if their vote did not matter. She feels this action was disrespectful and should never happen again. She feels the council should value the opinion or vote of the Community.

Mayor Velazquez said she did not violate any policies or disrespect anyone. She believes it is important to recognize people who make a difference in the Community.

Councilmember Chavez agreed with Councilmember Lara. He said changing the rules is not something that should be done.

Mayor Velazquez said the council can put policies in place regarding committees for City events so in the future, these types of issues will be avoided.

Councilmember Jimenez said he enjoyed the event. He said the next time awards are to be given, the council should be sure to have clear criteria in place that everyone is aware of and adheres to.

Mayor Velazquez thanked Community Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez and staff for organizing the event.

Community Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez said there was criteria for three awards, not four.

Councilmember Lara asked how the fifth award was decided.

Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez said the fifth award was decided internally.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Velazquez asked to have further discussion regarding item C-3, C-5, and C-6.

Members of the public and City of Soledad Water Reclamation Operator II Rafael Hernandez and City of Soledad Water Reclamation Operator I Paul Rendon asked to discuss item no. C-6.

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to approve items C-1, C-2, C-4, C-7, C-8, C-9, and C-10. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Chavez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

C-1. Approval of Minutes

Joint City Council/Successor Agency Regular Meeting Minutes of
November 17, 2021.

C-2. Warrants

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- C-4. Resolution No. 5755, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving a Facilities Joint Use Agreement Between the Soledad Unified School District and the City of Soledad.
- C-7. Resolution No. 5758, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving Amendment #3 to the Contract for Professional Services with EMC Planning Group, Inc. to Provide Contract Planning Services for General Planning Purposes Until December 2022.
- C-8. Resolution No. 5759, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Authorizing and Approving Amendment #10 to the Contract for Professional Services Agreement with EMC Planning Group, Inc. in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$100,000 to Provide Contract Planning Services for the Miramonte (Former Miravale III) Project and Extend the Term if Said Agreement.
- C-9. Resolution No. 5760, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Authorizing the City of Soledad to enter into the Settlement Agreements with McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health, Inc., Amerisourcebergen Corporation, Johnson & Johnson, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Orthmcneil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Janssen Pharmaceutical, Inc., to Agree to Terms of the State Subdivision Agreements Allocating Settlement Proceeds, and to Authorize Entry Into the State Subdivision Agreement with the Attorney General.
- C-10. City of Soledad Monthly Department Activity Reports.

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to approve items C-3, C-5, and C-6. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lara and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

C-3. Youth Council Budget

Mayor Velazquez would like this item to come back to the agenda after there is more discussion with the school board to develop a more cohesive relationship so the City can provide better support for the youth council and their goals. She would like to know if the Soledad School District would also like to provide funding for the youth council.

C-5. Resolution No. 5756, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving a Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Soledad and the Soledad Unified School District for Student Job Opportunities.

Mayor Velazquez said the MOU has language discrepancy and needs clarification regarding the district's discretions. The MOU does not seem like a partnership, and she would like to know if that is because of their policies.

City Manager Brent Slama said the Soledad Unified School District's mission is different than the City's mission, in terms of who they serve. Their focus is the younger population, under 18, and the City's focus is the general public. This is a one-year agreement and there is no money changing hands so there is no real risk, and the agreement can be changed in one year.

City Attorney said after the one-year period changes can be made if needed.

Soledad Unified School District School Board Vice President Ivan Ibarra Mora said the Board did approve the agreement on 12/15/2021. He hopes in the future when joint agreements need discussion or approval, the groups should discuss together.

Mayor Velazquez agrees with Soledad Unified School District School Board Vice President Ivan Ibarra Mora and requested a calendar of Soledad Unified School District School Board meeting dates so council can get those dates on their calendars.

C-6. Resolution No. 5757, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving the Purchase of a Combination Sewer Cleaner Truck from MME and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Equipment Sales Purchase Order for the Procurement of Said Equipment for \$466, 298.12.

Interim Public Works Director and City Engineer Oscar Espinoza presented the staff report.

Mayor Velazquez said in the future when equipment is approved to be purchased, the equipment should be purchased. She said there has been many concerns about the piping in Dixie Street and the costs associated with repairs. She would like a policy in place that would assure diameters needed for infrastructure and/or piping. Dixie Street has costed a lot of money to fix.

City of Soledad Water Reclamation Operator II Rafael Hernandez and City of Soledad Water Reclamation Operator I Paul Rendon both came to speak. Mr. Hernandez said the Combination

Sewer Cleaner Truck was approved to be purchased in 2016, but never got purchased and he does not know why. The equipment is very much needed for the water department to complete needed repairs on trouble areas. He hopes their suggestions are taken seriously. It costs the City \$4,000 for two days when the City must borrow the equipment from another City.

Mayor Velazquez would like to see the CIP plan annually, so council is able to see the needs and priorities, and these needs can be known during the time the City is planning the budget.

Councilmember Lara asked how many times a week this piece of equipment is needed.

City of Soledad Water Reclamation Operator I Paul Rendon said the equipment is needed daily. Staff have been using a different piece of equipment to meet some needs, but they are unable to do everything needed.

City of Soledad Senior Utility Maintenance Mechanic Jose Trujillo said the Water Board issues fines to Cities for sewer spills. When people flush wipes and pour grease down the drains this causes back-ups and people can sew the City when this happens. He knows of two times this has happened in recent years and both times, the City was sued. Not only can the people sue the City, but the State Water Board will place huge fines on the City. This piece of equipment is needed to prevent these types of events.

Councilmember Jimenez thanked the City's employees for coming and helping the council to understand how important this equipment is.

He would like to know why the equipment was not purchased back in 2016 when first approved.

There were no further public comments.

BUSINESS

- B-1. Resolution No. 5761, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving the Metz/Orchard Park Development Plans and Specifications and Authorizing the City Manager to Advertise the "Notice to Bidders".

Interim Public Works Director and City Engineer Oscar Espinoza presented the staff report. He also introduced BFS Landscape Architect Associate Principal Beth Matz.

BFS Landscape Architect Associate Principal Beth Matz presented a Power Point presentation of the design.

Soledad resident Alexis Magdeleno Mora said he hopes to see culture represented in the mural and he would like to see the original native people of the land be honored in the mural; the Ohlone, Costanoan, Esselen and Salinan.

There were no further public comments.

Motion: Councilmember Chavez made motion to approve resolution no. 5761. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimenez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

B-2. Resolution No's. 5762, 5763, 5764, 5765, Resolutions of the City Council of the City of Soledad Initiating Proceedings and Declaring Intent to Annex Territory into the Orchard Villas/Miravale II Assessment District for the Liberty Court Development.

1. Resolution No. 5762, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Initiating proceedings for the Annexation of Territory into the Orchard Villas/Miravale II Maintenance Assessment District Fiscal Year 2021/22.
2. Resolution No. 5763, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Initiating Proceedings for the Annexation of Territory into the Orchard Villas/Miravale II Benefit Assessment District Fiscal Year 2021/22.
3. Resolution No. 5764, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Declaring its intention to Annex Territory into the City's Orchard Vallas/Mirvale II Maintenance Assessment District and to Levy Annual Assessments Therein Commencing with Fiscal Year 2021/22.
4. Resolution No. 5765, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Declaring its Intention to Annex Territory Into the City's Orchard Villas/Miravale II Benefit Assessment District and to Levy Annual Assessments Therein, Commencing with Fiscal Year 2021/22.

Interim Public Works Director and City Engineer Oscar Espinoza presented the staff report. He also introduced Harris & Associates Senior Engineer Leon Gomez and Project Manager Rick Clark who was present via Zoom.

Harris & Associates Senior Engineer Leon Gomez and Project Manager Rick Clark explained the staff reports, resolutions and actions needed. They also shared a Power Point presentation.

Councilmember Chavez asked if any members of the council would be affected the same way as in voting on the assessment districts; would councilmembers need to recuse themselves.

City Attorney Mike Rodriquez said the voting for these items is done in the same way as voting on the assessment districts. Councilmember Lara is the only councilmember that would need to recuse herself during the voting on this item.

Councilmember Lara recused herself at this time.

There were no public comments.

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to approve resolution no. 5762 and 5763. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimenez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to approve resolution no. 5764 and 5765. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimenez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

Councilmember Lara returned to the meeting at this time.

B-3. Resolution No. 5766, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Amending the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget to Appropriate \$4,000,000 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Use on Eligible Infrastructure Projects.

Interim Public Works Director and City Engineer Oscar Espinoza presented the staff report and PowerPoint presentation.

City Manager Slama said the items presented are the items that are most important for the City to get done. He said staff have full intend of coming back to council for further discussion regarding initiatives, economic development programs and other things wanted.

Mayor Velazquez asked if the money being infused from the ARPA funds into Kidder and Dixie streets, will be the remedy for those consistent issues in that area.

Interim Public Works Director and City Engineer Oscar Espinoza said he based his choices on that area.

Mayor Velazquez would like to see either a survey or a community workshop done so the Community can also have input in where they would like to see ARPA funds used.

City Manager Slama said there are other programs that are more appropriate for the community to comment on. It will be hard for the public to make suggestions regarding the pipes because they are not familiar with the system. Today staff is needing direction in appropriating funds and budgeting the items in a separate ARPA budget so Interim Public Works Director and City Engineer Oscar Espinoza can go out for bids.

There were no public comments.

Motion: Councilmember Lara made motion to approve resolution no. 5766. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimenez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

B-4. Resolution No. 5767, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Approving an Agreement with Surveillance Grid Integrations, Inc. for the Purchase and Installation of an Additional Four (4) City Wide Camera System Stations to Augment the Current Surveillance System Project in an Amount No-To-Exceed \$68,632.16 and Authorize the City Manager to Execute Said Agreement on Behalf of the City of Soledad.

Chief Damon Wasson presented the staff report.

Soledad resident Alexis Magdeleno Mora is not in support of resolution no. 5767.

Mayor Velazquez said the City is vigilant in making sure of always looking for opportunities to the City's youth and that was the intend of Measure S. Through the camera system that the City has, law enforcement has been able to catch perpetrators and crimes have been able to be solved.

Chief Damon Wasson said the camera system is not a surveillance system to watch people, the cameras are for solving crimes and keeping the community safe.

Soledad resident Benito is not in support of resolution no. 5767

There were no further public comments.

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to approve resolution no. 5767. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Chavez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

- B-5. Ordinance No. 740, Status of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Soledad Adding Chapter 5.55- Tobacco Licensing to Title 5-Business Taxes, Licensing and Regulations of the Soledad Municipal Code.

City Attorney Mike Rodriguez presented the staff report. The ordinance will be addressed again after the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors meets about a County Ordinance regarding the subject.

There were no public comments.

Motion:

Information was received by council.
No Action taken for this item.

- B-6. Ordinance No. 741, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Soledad Adding Chapter 13.06 Organic Waste Disposal Reduction, Recycling and Solid Waste Collection to Title 13- Public Services of the Soledad Municipal Code.

City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

City Attorney Mike Rodriguez said it is mandatory for the City to adopt the rules and regulations that will be imposed on both residents and commercial businesses.

Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority General Manager Patrick Mathews and Mandy Brooks were present in the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Matthews provided additional information regarding the item.

Mayor Velazquez asked Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority General Manager Patrick Mathews to confirm that there are no noncompliance penalties until 2024.

Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority General Manager Patrick Mathews said there are some things that are subject to fines if not in place by March 01, 2022, such as the code, updates to the franchise agreement and a few other administrative items.

There were no public comments.

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to introduce and waive the reading of ordinance no. 741. Motion was seconded by Mayor Velazquez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

B-7. Resolution No. 5768, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Soledad Establishing 2022 City Council Meeting Dates.

City Manager Slama presented the staff report.

The council agreed to not have council meetings on: January 05, 2022, December 21, 2022.

Council agreed to adopt resolution no. 5768 and directed staff to bring it back to council once all councilmembers have had a chance to review their personal calendars.

Motion: Councilmember Jimenez made motion to adopt resolution no. 5768. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Chavez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

B-8. Election of Mayor Pro Tempore

City Manager Slama presented the staff report. The next councilmember in line on the rotating policy for the election of Mayor Pro Tempore is Councilmember Lara.

Mayor Velazquez asked staff to update the City Council Policies and Procedures with the updated information regarding the procedure of election of Mayor Pro Tempore.

Motion: Councilmember Chavez made motion to pass minute motion. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimenez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

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

MAYORS' REPORTS

Mayor Velazquez had 13 items to report:

1. On 11/20 She attended a redistricting meeting with the Board of Supervisors.
2. In the week on Thanksgiving, she attended a food give away with the Salvation Army. She thanked all the volunteers, the Salvation Army, Soledad Rotary, Girl Scout Troop 235331, Soledad Police Department and Explorers and the VIDA community healthcare workers.
3. She participated in a webinar with Cal Cities regarding the 2021 legislative report.
4. On 12/04 she participated in the Soledad Christmas parade. She thanked Pauline Tomasini, Eva Banuelos, Soledad Police Department, Soledad Public Works Department, Soledad Community & Economic Development Department, the Recreation Department, and everyone who participated.
5. On 12/06 she participated in the LAFCO meeting.
6. On 12/08 she attended the AMBAG Special Board of Directors meeting.
7. On 12/11 she attended the City of Soledad Gala.
8. On 12/12 she attended a food distribution with Celebration Nation.
9. On 12/13 she attended the MST Board of Directors meeting.
10. On 12/14 attended the senior social with Meals on Wheels and Soledad Recreation Department.
11. On 12/14 she met with YWCA Chief Executive Officer Christine Duncan and Eva Banuelos regarding a holiday toy drive. She thanked the 4th of July committee members, American Revolution Car Club, and the Community.
12. On 12/15 she attended a Policy meeting with 3CE.
13. She announced that there is a Statewide face mask mandate that went into effect on 12/15.

COUNCILMEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Jimenez had 7 items to report:

1. On 11/18 he attended the SVSWA meeting.
2. On 11/18 he attended the ACCAPS meeting. There will be a strategic planning meeting in February in the City of Soledad regarding SB 262.
3. On 12/04 he participated in the Soledad Christmas parade.
4. He also attended a meeting with Supervisor Lopez regarding redistricting.
5. On 12/14 he attended a meeting a planning meeting with ACCAPS.
6. On 12/11 he attended the City of Soledad Gala.
7. On 12/15 he attended the City of Soledad staff holiday luncheon.

Councilmember Chavez had 2 items to report:

1. On 12/01 he attended a TAMC Board meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS' PRAISES

Councilmember Lara thanked City staff for their efforts in creating the Gala event. She also thanked Frank and Maria Corralejo.

Councilmember Chavez praised the Hartnell College Women's soccer team. The team are the State Champions. There are three players on the team from Soledad: Micaela Mojica, Belinda Ascencio, Monique Ascencio. The team is amazing and are an example to the young people in the Salinas Valley.

Mayor Velazquez thanked Councilmember Chavez for his praise, and she would also like to have the team present at a council meeting in January.

Councilmember Jimenez praised the Soledad Community for all their support. They have supported the Veterans Day Breakfast, the Christmas parade, and the Soledad Gala. He encouraged the community to be each other's protectors, if we see something we should say something. The Community should support one another, be supportive and positive.

Mayor Velazquez praised the Community Volunteers who volunteer in many ways daily. She thanked the Soledad Recreation team, City staff and Community Engagement Manager Lynnelle Sanchez for the Soledad Gala event. She also thanked them for the clean up the following day.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Slama reported the following items:

1. Staff met with Centrica regarding solar power, generators, and making sure the City's power is secure in the future.
2. Both himself and Information Technology Director Steven Andranigian met with VAST Networks regarding pilot projects and more service to residential areas at very low cost.
3. He thanked everyone who participated in the staff holiday luncheon.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Velazquez had 4 items:

1. She reminded City Manager Slama of the Clean California Local Grant Program.
2. She announced the Coalition of Homeless Service Providers will be doing a Point in Time Count on 01/27/22 and 01/28/22, and they are looking for numerators.
3. She would like an update presentation regarding the 50/50 program.
4. She would like a Community survey done regarding the ARPA funding.

Councilmember Chavez had 1 item:

1. He asked that staff please find a solution for the small lights downtown; most look broken or may not even have lights.

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 6:32 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.

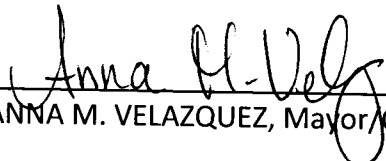
CLOSED SESSION REPORTS


1. City Attorney Mike Rodriguez reported with respect to item no. 1; the council completed its performance evaluation of the City Manager. The evaluation will be agendized for consideration of additional matters. No other reportable action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

- 10:15 p.m.

Minutes Approved: January 19, 2022


ANNA M. VELAZQUEZ, Mayor/Chair


BRENT SLAMA, City Clerk/Agency Secretary

