

Minutes

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

January 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Velazquez called the Joint City Council/ Successor Agency/ Housing Authority/ Successor Housing Agency/ Regular 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	Ben Jimenez, Jr.
Councilmember/Agencymember	Alejandro Chavez
◆ Councilmember/Agencymember	Maria Corralejo
◆ Councilmember/Agencymember	Fernando Cabrera

◆ Councilmember Maria Corralejo and Councilmember Fernando Cabrera attended the meeting from location: Hyatt Regency Sacramento 1209 L. Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

THE FOLLOWING COUNCILMEMBER WAS ABSENT

- None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Jimenez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

1. Community Engagement Manager Jesus Valenzuela presented a brief presentation update regarding the Community Engagement Department. Community Engagement Coordinator Dina Uribe added further details of department activities and future events.

Mayor Velazquez said she is glad the City has moved forward with the Community Engagement Department. The department has brought a sense of good communication, access to information, resources, transparency, and engagement.

Councilmember Corralejo appreciates the presentation. She would like to know if there are plans to do more inclusive events, such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day. She feels doing this would help bring education into the Community regarding civil rights.

Community Engagement Manager Jesus Valenzuela said the City is looking forward to celebrating more inclusive dates and events.

Councilmember Cabrera asked if it possible to have events where people can highlight their cultures. Also, he would like to have events that include the wind. Local businesses could sponsor a kite that can be flown.

Mayor Pro Tem Jimenez said he does have expectation of what the department can become. He believes the Community Engagement Department should be the main source of where people can get current information needed regarding what is happening in town. He would like to also move forward with highlighting more cultures on the website. He would like to know how the Community Engagement Department plans to do fund development, and who will be heading that project. Also, who will be deciding on how those funds are distributed.

Community Engagement Manager Jesus Valenzuela said the Community Engagement Department has been making sure the people of Soledad have accurate information. In terms of fund development, he knew applying for a 501c3 would take a long time and be complicated, which led him to reach out to the Community Foundation for Monterey County. The foundation has created a draft contract for the City of Soledad, which would allow the City to raise private funds through the Community Foundation. The City Manager will have further information regarding how funds are spent.

Mayor Pro Tem Jimenez said he would like to reach out to Dole involved, he would also like to have Taylor involved.

Councilmember Chavez said he wants to make sure there is Community involved in the Recreation Master Plan and the General plan. He agrees with Mayor Pro Tem Jimenez regarding featuring different cultures and a variety of events.

Mayor Velazquez said she looked back at what the approved positions of Community Engagement Manager and Coordinator are, and she believes some of the elements being done. The department should be creating strategic partnerships, looking into funding sources, and bringing in resources that are needed in Soledad. The City has a good relationship with Dole, who helped in creating the baseball fields and donated the score boards. There should be an engagement strategy put together for partnering in events. The PIO has been discussed previously and is important because

communication with the residents is important. If the City is not giving people the correct information than they will look to social media, which may not be correct. The goal setting session will also be important because it will give council the opportunity to look at the job description and how will it align with council goals. She thanked staff for the work that is being done for the Summer Internship program. She also wants to make sure there is feedback from the Community regarding the Recreation Master Plan and the General Plan. These are documents that will be in the Community for the next 20 years. She would like effort done to be able to hear from the Community.

Interim City Manager Tewes said much of his report will be regarding the communication effort. Based on the schedule for the recruitment of the City Manager, he will also be recommending a purposed budget to the council. Each department will be presenting clear objectives, so the council understands what is hoped to accomplish.

Soledad Resident Eva Banuelos thanked the Community Engagement Department for doing a great job. She sees their energy and passion to make change in the City.

There were no further public comments.

2. Public Works Director Don Wilcox presented a brief update regarding the City of Soledad Parks and Recreations Master Plan. He introduced Blue Point Planning Principal Mindy Craig, who presented further information and a PowerPoint presentation.

Soledad Resident Eva Banuelos asked if there could be a health benefit added to the plan, such as workout stations with pullup and other types of exercises.

Public Works Director Don Wilcox said Blue Zones and the Soledad Health Care District will be giving input regarding the aspect of exercise.

There were no further public comments.

Councilmember Chavez said he is happy to hear there is a lot of community engagement planned for the project, such as workshops and smaller cohorts to include seniors, the arts, and others. He is also happy to hear about the surveys that will be done. He would like the surveys to be included in the utility billing, online, and on the website. He is happy to see it will all be done in three phases. Getting the information is crucial to this Community.

Mayor Pro Tem Jimenez said he is looking forward to moving forward with the process.

Councilmember Cabrera asked for clarification regarding the timeline of the planning for the project. He would like to know who are the stake holders that are mentioned, who will be able to participate in the workshops and give feedback. What kind of things will be talked about in the workshop. Also, will the survey be offered in both English and Spanish.

Blue Point Planning Principal Mindy Craig said the project planning will take 14 months, and that does sounds like a long time, but in order to get the desired engagement, this will take time. The council will start seeing great results by the middle of the process. Usually, a Parks and Recreation

plan is about 20 years and similar to a General Plan. There is a 1-to-5-year implementation plan. Everything will be looked at and included.

Councilmember Corralejo thanked Blue Point Planning Principal Mindy Craig for the presentation.

Mayor Velazquez asked if this is a separate document not related to the General Plan.

Public Works Director Don Wilcox said that information is correct. He said the last Parks Master Plan was done in 2009, this plan will go beyond that time span. This plan is Parks and Recreation, including inclusive elements of existing parks. It is separate from the General Plan parks and recreation element, but will interreact with the General Plan update process for those elements.

Mayor Velazquez thanked Blue Point Planning Principal Mindy Craig for bringing the different components and making sure there is inclusive participation and all the population within the Community are a part of the conversation. She is excited about the website launch, but she agrees there are other modes of outreach. She is excited to see all the partners the City has. She would like this to be an opportunity to bring in new partners such as Pinnacles National Park and looking towards the utilization of the infrastructure component for recreation and how it can fit in with the overall masterplan. Recreation cannot be separated from the health components. The infrastructure and design element, and bike lanes should be added. She would like to have a timeline so the community knows what will be happening in each of the 14 months so they can engage.

Public Works Director Don Wilcox said timeline will be created. Also, everything that is done will be done in both English and Spanish.

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Jimenez made motion to approve C-1. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Chavez and carried by the following vote:

Action:

Ayes: Jimenez, Chavez, Cabrera, Corralejo, Velazquez
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

C-1. Warrants

BUSINESS

B-1. Townsend Public Affairs Grant and Finding Monthly Report

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

Townsend Public Affairs Coordinator and Writer Anastasia Heaton and Grants Manager Alex Gibbs gave presented further information along with a PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Velazquez clarified that this presentation is only one of two pieces of what TPA is doing with City. The Legislative portion will be presented at the Regular City Council meeting scheduled for 02/01/2023.

There were no public comments.

Councilmember Chavez asked how the Clean California Grant will tie in with a project like the Veterans Park project.

Townsend Public Affairs Coordinator and Writer Anastasia Heaton said right now the group is still in the exploring stages. Caltrans has not released final guidelines for the grant program. Parks and park spaces are eligible under the Clean California Program, which does focus on clean-up and beautification. To move forward with improvements at Veterans park, it would need to have a strong clean up and beautification element, to be competitive. Everything does depend on the scope of the project.

Councilmember Chavez said Front Street is considered a highway or an extension of the highway.

Townsend Public Affairs Coordinator and Writer Anastasia Heaton said she will keep that in mind as things move forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Jimenez said he is interested in the Economic Development pilot program, because there has been recent discussion about bringing more retain into the Community and also bring high quality employment opportunities for citizens. He would also like to talk further about the youth violence prevention program to ensure more is done.

Councilmember Corralejo said she is excited to move forward with this because the City has many different needs. She has seen there has been issues with recruiting for the police department and for public works and she is hoping there may be some help with this. The City also has an Internship program, and she is hoping there may be grants for that as well.

Councilmember Cabrera said he is excited to have a group with the skills to be able to apply for grants. He would like to know what the success rate is for the grants that are applied to and also what is the amount charged.

Townsend Public Affairs Coordinator and Writer Anastasia Heaton said as registered lobbyist, they are not allowed to receive any grant funding that is received, they do operate on a flat monthly retainer rate. The success rate of the grants received is difficult to determine, but she

believed 98% or 99% of clients have received full return on investments within the first year of hiring Townsend. They do have a strong history of success with clients.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Velazquez said the council determined this to be important for the City because last year there was an abundance amount of funding. She realizes the funding this year will not be there as it was last year, but because of the allocations have been made so there is funding there from the State, there is a lot of money. The City wanted to make sure they had access to those funds. The City is working on having shovel-ready projects, and looking towards being able to get the funding sources. Youth violence is a priority, and the council will continue to focus on the funding sources that focus on the elements of youth violence, making sure there is a strategic comprehensive plan in order to support and develop that. Also, regarding the housing component, she knows there is farm worker housing money under the Joe Serna fund. Economic development and recreation are also priorities. She also asked how the monthly availability of applications is being filtered, who is the staff point person is.

Community and Economic Development Director Bryan Swanson said the applications are being filtered through Community Engagement Manager Jesus Valenzuela. The heads of each department look through the different grant opportunities and will then bring interested application information that aligns with council goals and priorities back to Community Engagement Director Jesus Valenzuela, and he would bring that information to the Interim City Manager.

Mayor Velazquez said she knows there have been grants that have been received by the City and she believes it is important for the council to be aware of what is received. She would like a list of grants that are being applied for and approved, to be a part of the monthly reports that are provided. It is also important for the Community to know what is coming in. She is looking forward to encampment resolution fund which addresses some of the issues with homelessness. There have been many communities who have received this, and many ways the money can be utilized to bring in different resources to address the encampment issues. She is looking forward to the workshop in February because this will help the council hear from the public as well. She would also like to start looking into the Caltrans California Local Grant Program for the parks beautification and focusing in on the opportunities to tie in the existing initiatives and work with partners that are ready to receive the grants.

Council Action:

Information was received and accepted by the Council.
Direction was given to staff

B-2. Filling a Planning Commission Vacancy

Assistant Planner Ariana More presented the staff report.

Mayor Velazquez asked each applicant to share why they would like to be appointed to the Planning Commission.

Applicant Flavio Diaz Torres said he is interested in the position as commissioner. He has spent a lot of time with staff, he has completed the City's Internship Program that was offered, and he continues to attend meetings. He has stayed open to being educated regarding the General Plan. He believes community input is and will be an important part of the General Plan. The General plan is a long plan that unfolds over many years and will affect the course of how the City develops as a whole. He has created platforms over the last few months for himself, to make sure he is engaged with the Community. He realizes the community has not been frequent when it comes to the planning commission, but he would like to make that type of positive change. He has grown up in Soledad and he wants to be a part of the planning of the future for Soledad.

Councilmember Jimenez asked Mr. Torres if he will be able to complete the four-year term of being on the Planning Commission.

Applicant Flavio Diaz Torres said he is a first-year student at Hartnell and is working on his Business Administration Degree. Once done with Hartnell, his plan is to attend CSUMB and will remain local.

Councilmember Chavez said he was concerned as Mayor Pro Tem Jimenez. He is impressed with Mr. Torres because he has remained in the process and is showing that he really wants to be a planning Commissioner. He has completed the City of Soledad Internship Program, and through that time he was able to see there are many individual projects that will come before the Planning Commission, and Flavio has had an opportunity to explore the role. He asked Mr. Torres if his time of exploring has been an advantage, or an impairment.

Applicant Flavio Diaz Torres said he has seen the opportunities as an advantage. He has done well with everyone involved and he feels he has been able to have a different perspective to be able to relate to others in his age group.

Mayor Velazquez clarified that questions were not talked about in advance. The questions will be kept equal for all applicants.

Councilmember Corralejo asked Mr. Torres what differentiates him from the other applicants.

Applicant Flavio Diaz Torres said besides his age, he feels he has a different platform than other applicants. He is able to reach out to the Community that has not been done yet. He feels lucky to be in the position he is in, and he plans to use that to move forward. He is ready to face all the projects that will come through. He likes that the planning commission is a main part of new things happening. He is excited and willing to get the community more involved in the planning of the future.

Councilmember Cabrera asked Mr. Torres how he would face opposition in the planning commission.

Applicant Flavio Diaz Torres said the Planning Commission is full of great people and he would lean on the team of the commission. He is happy to learn from those around him that are very experienced.

Mayor Velazquez asked City Attorney Mike Rodriguez for confirmation that asking the applicants questions regarding their interest of being apart of the Commission, is all right.

City Attorney Mike Rodriguez said the questions are fine.

Mayor Velazquez said the questions that will be asked are:

1. Introduction and interest in being appointed
2. Interest in the Planning Commission and can the four-year term be fulfilled
3. What differentiates the applicant from other applicants
4. How will you face opposition in Planning Commission

Applicant Eva Banuelos introduced herself and said she is interested because she is someone who knows how to implement goals and can help move forward the General Plan. She can help develop, implement, and share opinions. She is consistent and will be good at reviewing projects and sharing recommendations to the council. She would like to help the future of the City and be a public servant for the Community. She is fine with receiving constructive criticism and will be able to turn it into something positive. She wants to continue to grow the Community and be effective. She knows all the current Planning Commissioners and she knows she will be able to work with them and move forward. She already is a Community member that volunteers, and she would like to continue serving.

Mayor Velazquez asked Ms. Banuelos if she will be able to fill the four-year commitment.

Applicant Eva Banuelos said she does have a flexible schedule and she will be able to commit the four years.

Mayor Velazquez asked Ms. Banuelos what differentiates her from other applicants.

Applicant Eva Banuelos said she has been a community volunteer; she is energetic, and she knows how to use the resources of the Community. She is good at public speaking, and she enjoys all the ideas she is receiving.

Mayor Velazquez asked Ms. Banuelos how she will face opposition on the Planning Commission if appointed.

Applicant Eva Banuelos said she knows with every struggle, there are things that need to be worked on. There will always be challenges that need to be made right so there can be effectiveness. She also realizes she is not going to be doing things alone.

Mayor Velazquez said she does not see the third applicant present in the council chambers or on Zoom.

Applicant Steven Morales was not present in the meeting.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Velazquez thanked Assistant Planner Ariana Mora for the item back with additional applicants. Based on the Municipal Code, this is a Mayor-appointment with council approval. Based on the applications received and comments given by the applicants and history of engagement by the applicants, she would like to appoint Evarista Banuelos to the Planning Commission.

Motion: Mayor Velazquez made motion to appoint Evarista Banuelos to the Planning Commission. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cabrera and carried by the following vote:

Action:

Ayes: Velazquez, Cabrera
Noes: Jimenez, Chavez, Corralejo
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Mayor Velazquez said she would like to bring this item back with recommendations from the council. She would like each councilmember to write a list of individuals they recommend for the position so the City can reach out. The item will be on the next scheduled Regular council meeting of 02/01/2023.

Mayor Pro Tem Jimenez thanked both applicants, Flavio, and Eva, for their time. He has felt torn between both applicants because they would both make good commissioners. There is a need for a youth's voice to be on the Planning Commission representing the young adults in Soledad.

Councilmember Cabrera said both candidates are very qualified in the way they have represented themselves. He hopes to have someone in the planning commission that is experienced. He believes Flavio has extraordinary potential, and Eva has continuously been working in the Community and has shown her appreciation and commitment to the Community. He believes Eva will have more ability to be on the Planning Commission because he has seen her working in the Community for years. Flavio will have more opportunities in the future, and he will succeed. He supports Eva Banuelos.

Councilmember Corralejo said she believes all the applicants have their own strengths. Flavio stands out to her because he has the knowledge even though he is young, and there should be young representation to represent the future. He has also gone out of his way to attend meeting that impact planning, housing, and economic development. He has made an effort to not only volunteer, but also focusing on the growth. He has been attending County meetings, City meetings, Planning Commission meetings and meeting with staff. He has put in time and effort and has become well versed.

Councilmember Chavez said he also feels torn between the two present applicants.

Mayor Velazquez said she feels Flavio does bring a lot to the table. Youth is something that she is in support of. There was an opportunity several months ago to have the youth perspective on the City Council. She feels the Planning Commission needs representation of women. It is critical to be able to hear from different perspectives and demographics, especially in Planning Commission. The difference between both applicants is that Eva has been a part of the

Community meetings for many years. It is imperative to support women like her that are serving in the community, and it would be good to give the opportunity to be able to expand her expertise, knowledge, engagement, and voice. She commends all applicants for coming forth and submitting the applications. She is disappointed her motion to appoint Eva Banuelos has failed.

Interim City Manager Tewes clarified and summarized the information needed to move forward to the next steps for this item

1. The Mayor's appointment and confirmation process will be placed on the next agenda
 2. The councilmember should return with names of individuals they believe should be considered for the Planning Commission, and those people should submit the proper application.
 3. Staff will confirm with the current applicants that they are remaining interested.
 4. Staff will reach out to Mr. Morales to be present at the next meeting if he remains interested.
- Also, although the council has not yet established a formal community engagement process for the General Plan Update, there will be opportunities for formal advisory groups, and all of the current applicants would be good candidates for that kind of activity.

Councilmember Cabrera said to clarify, in the past when this item was on the agenda, the City Attorney made a clarification that was the appointment of the Mayor. He does not recall hearing that it needed to be approved by the council.

City Attorney Mike Rodriguez said the language for the appointment of a planning commissioner is set forth in the Municipal Code, which specifically states that members of the planning commission shall be appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of the city council. There are also committees where the Mayor has the ability to appoint, which is what is known as a consensus, unless there is a strong objection. In this case the statutory language in Municipal code dictates that it needs to be formal approval of the council for these appointments.

B-3. Workshop to Review Progress on Council Goals

Interim City Manager Tewes said he is recommending that the council fulfil one of the goals of the council, which is to have an annual goal setting session. As an Interim, he also believes that once the City has the fulltime City Manager in place, that person should be brought up to speed to participate in a goal setting session next year. He is suggesting an informal conversation among the council to review the progress on the goals that are already established, and get short status reports from the departments, rather than preparing a lengthy briefing. He suggests the council agree on a Saturday date and have the meeting at the Soledad Community Center.

There were no public comments.

She would like to have the meeting before the Budget Mid-Year reviews.

Councilmember Chavez suggested 02/11/2023.

Mayor Velazquez asked council and staff to keep in mind either 02/11/2023 or 02/25/2023.

Staff will poll the council with the two suggested date and then send out a calendar invite for the final date once it is decided.

B-4. Emergency Mutual Aid to Chualar Community

Public Works Manager Don Wilcox presented the staff report.

Mayor Anna Velazquez thanked staff for bringing the item forward and finding resolution quickly. She would like to look into expanding the facility here in Soledad because it could provide the City additional revenue.

Public Works Manager Don Wilcox said a regional plant can also offer better rates to all property owners. The City has also been asked to help Chualar assess their treatment plant. He believes the City can also offer technical advice as well.

There were no public comments.

Councilmember Cabrera thanked the Public Works Department for everything they are doing.

Councilmember Corralejo also thanked the Public Works Department for their assistance. She asked if the facility was at 40% capacity, and asked if the facility was ok to help for the six months needed.

Public Works Director Don Wilcox said the facility is at 60% capacity, 40% for the City and 20% for CDCR. The facility is able to help, it will go from 60% to 62% after adding Chualar.

Councilmember Chavez thanked Interim City Manager Tewes for guiding this along, being flexible and being able to give the mutual aid to another community that is not a City.

Mayor Pro Tem Jimenez thanked staff for the quick response in helping. He asked if there have been any complaints around the site regarding trucks or smells.

Public Works Director Don Wilcox said there have been no complaints and staff believes the current plan is working out.

Mayor Velazquez thanked the Public Works Department and the Wastewater Facility for the great work they are doing.

City Attorney Mike Rodriguez said the action that was taken on this item does need to be ratified by a vote of the council.

Motion: Councilmember Chavez made motion to approve the ratification of the decision to accept the wastewater from the Chualar community to the City's wastewater treatment plant. Motion was seconded by Mayor Velazquez and carried by unanimous vote:

Action:

Ayes: Chavez, Velazquez, Cabrera, Corralejo, Jimenez
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Interim City Manager Tewes said there was a short staff meeting on 01/17/2023 regarding preparation, response, recovery, and lesson learned through all of this. The staff here in Soledad have a culture of teamwork and collaboration and that has been reflected all the activity during the storms. They also have a “can do” attitude, and all of this is helpful. There are things that can be improved on. In terms of preparation, staff made sure all emergency response staff, including public works staff, were on call. Many on-call staff did not need to come in because there were only a few places in town that had concerns and needed response to. All emergency vehicles were filled along with all generators, in the event that gas stations were not able to be used. The Core Army of Engineers completed a levy around the wastewater treatment plant, which turned out to be helpful to the City. The public works crews did more than normal storm drain maintenance and all storm drains were cleared. During the storms, staff did reach out to the unhoused community and warned them that water would rise and CalFire also coordinated with outside agencies incase there might be river rescues needed, which was not an issue for the City. There was minimal street flooding. CalFire was staffed up and ready to go, and there was also shelter in place for potential evacuees, which ended up not being necessary. The City worked with the unhoused community encampments to help move them, most did move, but have returned once water receded. The City did not activate the Emergency Operations Center; the pros of that is the People that would have been needed at the center, were out doing what needed to be done. The con was communications with the appropriate agencies was not established initially. It did a while to connect with County OES, PG&E, the schools, and the council members. This is something the City will need to work on. Because the council is the eyes and ears of the Community and the ones who help convey accurate information, the City should be the go-to information source during these emergencies. The City wants to build a culture within the Community that assures people that they can reach out to the City’s officials for accurate information. There are many avenues of social media and even as the event transpired, the City became better at it, and that is a lesson learned. It is important to have consistent, accurate and timely information for the Community and everyone involved. The con of not setting up an EOC is that there is a Standardized Emergency Management System called SEMS. Many public safety people are familiar with the system, but many new staff are familiar with it. The system establishes roles and responsibilities to make sure that all the information comes to a single point, so there is a consistent, clear, and timely information with direction, so everyone knows what each person is doing. This was not a very disastrous emergency, which is good. The City learned many lessons. The incoming City Manager should have a tabletop exercise in an emergency operations center scenario. Staff will need to follow up with that. Staff did a great job with talking to each other, but did not necessarily initially establish communication with all the other agencies that could have helped, and the City also needs to continue to communicate more with the Community at large.

Mayor Velazquez thanked Interim City manager Tewes for pointing out what worked well, and what could improve. One thing she learned is the City knew the storms were coming and there was a lot if information regarding the atmospheric river and the potential damage that it could

cause, and she would have liked to have more conversations of how to prepare. The City does have a massive emergency response plan, but some of the new council members were not a part of the conversations, so it is important for all the council to understand what the protocols are. She seen the County EOC activated, and the Police Chief and CalFire Chief were not a part of that, and that was difficult. She also learned through the collaboration, was the sheriff's department had a lot of resources that could have assisted the City with a PIO and rumor controlling. Their PIO could have assisted Community Engagement. There should have been a comprehensive message regarding evacuations. She is glad about the levy, but she believes there could have been an expansion of the levy. She would like staff to look into opportunity to expand the levy. She would like the council to be apart of the community engagement effort to cohesively and comprehensively send out the information that the City sends out.

Mayor Pro Tem Jimenez said he is looking forward to creating a plan together so that the council is informed of the information and all the information going out is the same.

Councilmember Chavez said he feels staff did a good job overall, and also did a good job on San Vicente. The big worry is the area at the sewer treatment plant, and he is glad there were improvements right before the floods happened. In a rain event, we know what is coming, but in the event of an earthquake, we do not have the ability to plan. We need to be prepared for those types of emergencies that we do not know are coming. The City has made infrastructure improvements over the years and overall, the City is well prepared for floods, but we should be prepared for the other types of emergencies as well.

Councilmember Corralejo thanked staff for everything they did. She sees that communication is especially important and believes that is something that needs improvement. She seen the council doing efforts to reach out and help others. She also thanked City Attorney Mike Rodriguez for stepping up and filling in the gap while the City transitioned over to the Interim City Manager. She thanked the Community for being clear with their needs during that time. She would like to see everyone communicate better so the efforts are not duplicated and everyone can be more efficient.

Councilmember Cabrera thanked everyone for their efforts and effectiveness, and communications.

Mayor Velazquez said there was damage to some areas and debris that needs to be cleaned up and she would like staff to put together a preliminary assessment of the costs associated with the damages from the storms.

Interim City Manager Tewes said staff does have the forms to be able to fill out for damages. Public works has been estimated up to \$50,000. The City is not sure about other departments yet.

Mayor Velazquez said the reimbursement should be up to 75% out of the total cost, so the forms should be submitted.

City Attorney Mike Rodriguez thanked Community and Economic Development Director Bryan Swanson for stepping up into the role of Acting City Manager. He helped organize City efforts and signed the City's declaration of the local emergency.


Mayor Velazquez would like to have a presentation on the City's emergency response plan, so the council is updated on critical elements.

City Attorney Mike Rodriguez suggests staff reach out to the group that prepared the plan so they can come and do the presentation.


ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Velazquez adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Minutes Approved: February 15, 2023



ANNA M. VELAZQUEZ, Mayor/Chair



J. EDWARD TEWES, Interim City Manager