



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
January 24, 2019 3:00 PM
Training Room
319 N. Douty**

CALL TO ORDER SPECIAL SESSION:

Mayor Sorensen called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Draxler	Vice Mayor	Present	8:55 AM
Martin Devine	Council Member	Present	8:55 AM
Sue Sorensen	Mayor	Present	9:02 AM
Art Brieno	Council Member	Late	9:15 AM
Francisco Ramirez	Council Member	Present	8:55 AM

FLAG SALUTE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

*Comments from the public are limited to items listed on the agenda (GC 54954.3a). A maximum of **three minutes** is allowed for each speaker. Please begin your comments by stating your name and providing your city of residence.*

Joanne Doeter, Hanford - She represents the Hanford Mall and stated that homelessness is a problem. She noted a recent incident in which she was threatened by two homeless individuals that were camped out near Sears. She asked the Council to review the current impact fee structure. She also asked they consider the support to the Chamber of Commerce for the fireworks show. Lastly, she asked the Council to consider updating the retail/zoning for the Hanford Mall.

Evette Gomez, Hanford - On behalf of the Downtown Business Association she thanked the Council for stopping the homeless center. She suggested a committee to work on the homeless situation that would include community members. She said the focus should be on mainstreet from 11th Ave to 10th Ave and the City should provide business incentives.

Lori Porter, Hanford - She also thanked the Council for dropping the homeless center. She said she echoed Evette's [Gomez] statements regarding forming a committee. She said that downtown should be more business friendly.

Mark Pratter, Hanford - He stated that there is an urgent situation with Hidden Valley Park and that people have used the park for generations. He stated that past councils have successfully pushed back the city administration from selling Hidden Valley Park. He then said that despite signatures, the Council has declared it surplus and there isn't enough park land.

Shaka Sudds, Hanford - She thanked the staff of Hanford for their work, the development, and for making the community better. She stated she hopes the Council moves forward with the expanding Hidden Valley Park.

Mike Quinn, Hanford - He said that when he attended the Council's meeting the day before he was concerned that each Council Member stated that being a representative for the people was not their highest priority. He then said that "oversight" was the lowest for everyone; however, he feels that it's necessary to keep oversight of government.

Ms. Julia Novak responded to Mr. Quinn's comments by clarifying that the exercise of ranking each roles was not in order of what the Council Members felt were the priorities. The order of the ranking was by which roles came more naturally to them.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

On January 24 and 25, 2019, the Hanford City Council participated in a retreat to establish a foundation for effective governance and set goals for the next 12-24 months.

The report below was provided by Julia Novak of the Novak Consulting Group.

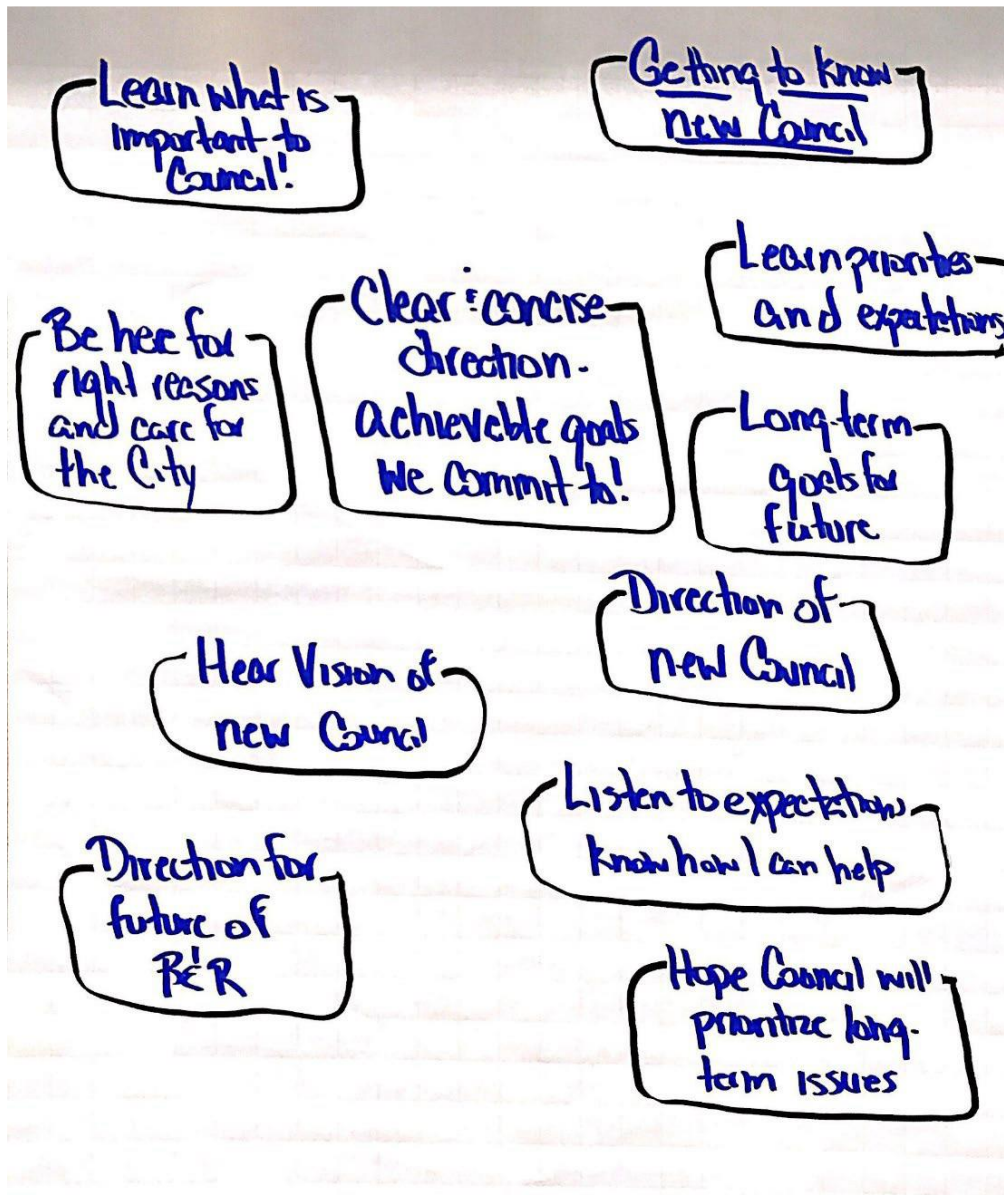
Check-in

The City Department Directors joined the second day of the retreat. They were welcomed and an overview of the first day was provided. They were asked to introduce themselves and share what expectations they have for the day. The Council was asked to reflect on the first day and share what they thought went well and what could have been better.

What went well?	What could have been Better?
• Open, honest communications and expectations • Council seemed to be on the same page—committed to being open and honest • Commend Council for working together—high hopes for this group • Worked well together! On same page. Commitment to civility • Learned to agree to disagree—value one another's opinions	• More “additions” vs. just agreeing with what was said • Look forward to interactions with department heads today • No food

- Insight, change can be uncertain; pleased with how we worked together
- Liked Governance Roles conversation gave insights into each other
- Gaining insights and understanding—heard thoughts that we are here to build a team that focuses on the whole community.

Department Director Expectations



"This I Believe..."

Each member of the City Council was invited to share their “This I believe...” statements. The exercise is loosely modeled on the essay format initiated by Edward R. Morrow on National Public Radio in the 1950s. The Council was invited to share from their heart what they believe about the future of Hanford.

Francisco

- We need to think in a futuristic mindset where we have an understanding that in order to be viable as a community, we must know how we can use technology to be more efficient. We are an agriculture hub and yet we still need to get with the future of technology. I see us partnering in the future with educational institutions to bring more technology jobs to our community. We need more community buy-in. We need to beautify the community. We need to focus on the long-term, such as the need for Fire Station Four – we need to plan for that. We need to start working on a new police station. We need to work with the county on homelessness issues. We need to coordinate knowing high speed rail is coming – “if you aren’t at the table, you don’t eat.” We need to coordinate with the Joint Powers Authority to get a station here! Some of our priorities need to focus on tenants for Courthouse Square – we need to make sure we retain that building. We need to look at opportunities for grant writing. Coordination is critical. I continue to hear that people believe staff makes policy – that is not true. It is Council and the outcomes are on us! We need to reduce regulations and improve the permitting process.

Mayor

- This is not an easy assignment. We had a lot of homework to prepare for this retreat! Mrs. Roosevelt said, “What can I possibly say that would be of any value to anyone else?” Another leader said, “It is probably easier to disrobe in public than it is to share our innermost beliefs.” This is true. What has brought me here is the desire not to complain or simply hope something will happen but the desire to be there to make good things happen! It isn’t the value of one person getting involved that makes a difference; rather it is the value of becoming a team member and come to common goals. I have watched as we have found paths to make dreams come true – it isn’t just the one or two people who start things. It takes the whole community coming together and embracing the dream to see it come to fruition. I believe that one person can make a difference, but it is not the “I” in one person, but rather their participation in the team effort. For Hanford, our community, I’d love to come up with a quotable quote, but I have heard from others “preserve the past as we prepare for the future.” I heard this already this morning: How do we move to the future that is different from what our past has been and yet hang on to what is vital? Hold on to our historic buildings. Keep the integrity of what made us Hanford. For the future we must embrace changing trends for the future. I believe that we can do that! We can set a direction for the future in short and long-term goals. Another manager said, “What we do here today now will be what we do for the next year.” Yes – and no. Things change during the year. We are going to have things that are most important to us as we move forward, so we can have a clear order to things. There will be change this year. Today we may leave saying this is our starting point, but things could change that affect that and I am willing to change as we need to, and I’m willing to come back to this day and not forget what we set as priorities and goals.

John

- I believe we are going to see a City that is more technologically friendly. We are going to have more Public Relations for the City – newsletters and online communications where people can see what is going on easily rather than learning from Facebook. We will become a model for water conservation. I see our City being more user-friendly for issuing building permits. Homelessness will change – we will work with the County to address this issue. I see Zoning being easier to change – Restaurants, Service Centers, and different businesses will be in nontypical places. I see

manufacturing in downtown and call centers in our malls – we need to make it easier for things to happen or we won't see them! I see a larger and integrated parks system. A new Indoor recreation building. I see trails to connect parks, work, and schools. I see cannabis coming into our lives and see opportunities for new revenues for the City to pay for some of the amenities we want. I believe historical buildings will be preserved. I see us continually helping the schools be strong and being a good partner with them.

Martin

I believe this Council's votes, for the most part, will be 5-0! When it is not, we will come together for compromise. That will not be difficult. We will all be fair and equitable. I believe in moving forward with our decisions carefully and reviewing from all angles. The five of us compromising can be positive for this City! We know the issues – we need to move forward with an open mind and keep working together.

Art

- Thoughts have been that we have been here most of my life and I have seen this City grow! Planning and future are important. I ran on a platform of Parks and Family Services. Any business that deals with the public must conform to the customer's needs. Growing up in Hanford, there was a lot of negativity. I recall issues with food stamps at the County Courthouse. Coming together with this group I find it isn't about me or a group. It is about the City. It's about different skills and comments. I am a go-between for the people and the decision makers! We can't lose that so our citizens don't become suspicious. As long as you have an open ear, you can come together. The dynamics of the City require that we reevaluate the zoning, form new commissions (homeless being one). I am surprised that the County Commissioners don't come and sit with us to resolve issues such as homelessness. We need interaction and to be more understanding and we need to be more proactive in looking at the City, so it grows in an orderly fashion!

Common Themes

The department shared their insight around common themes heard as the Council shared their "I Believe" Statements.

This I Believe

- ◆ Planning for the future
- ◆ Change ◆ Water Conservation
- ◆ Listen to the community
- ◆ Act on opportunities
- ◆ More technology
- ◆ Importance of teamwork - COLLABORATE
- ◆ More opportunities for recreation activities indoors & out!
- ◆ Collaborate to address homelessness
- ◆ Changing Zoning - caninbas
- ◆ City v County roles on homelessness
Understanding how this can work

SHARING A COMMON HISTORY

	Pre-1979 Distrust of Government	1979-1988 Changing Times	1989-1998 Growth and Expansion	1999-2008 Changing Leadership	2009-Present Challenges and Success
People	• City Council • James Madison Hanford • Governor Edmund Brown • Richard Nixon • Hanford School Board • Camille Richard—Wing Family • Jimmy Carter • Elected Officials	• Ronald Reagan • Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak • Dem Governor • Max Walden • Jerry Brown • John Lehn • Sid Sharp	• Hanford Council voting for Fire department expansion and City development • Bill Gates • Marcie Buford • John Zumwalt • Clinton	• Hilary Strauss • Tachi Yokut Tribe • Jan Reynolds • Fete Faconti • Bill Scroggin • Obama	• Obama • Trump • Darrel Pyle • John Doyel—Dept Head • Hanford City Council • COS • Snoop Dog • High Council Turnover • Darrel puts together awesome executive team
Actions	• Development of Railroad • Council allows commercial outside downtown • Reduced local city revenue • Distrust of government • Amtrak • Downtown parking and improvement district (Action 79) • City established	• Growth in Hanford—Business and housing • Computer development and launching of technology • Prison expansion • Inflation • Abandonment of Court Street	• Valley becomes a little more separated-politically-from California • 12th Ave Mall developed • Spreading out of large parks (Freedom, Centennial) • Hanford—two fire stations built	• Cycling through City Managers • Hwy 198 expanded again • Growth of casino • Recession • 2003 General Plan	• Public Works split • Growth and expansion • Cannabis \$\$ • Expansion of Fire Dept • City purchased historic County building • Affordable Care Act • Downtown East Precise Plan • Cannabis businesses • COS moves to 13th Ave • Helena • Sierra Pacific High School • City lease and purchase County building • City starts PAL program

	1891 • Hanford High School demolished • Hwy 198 built • HVP build • Gov Brown sets new policies in CA • Restricted access to business development		• City Hall built • Technology • GWF Mall—12 th Ave expansion • Hanford High school separates into two schools: HHS & HWHS • Hwy 198 Expanded • Wal Mart • Hanford Mall built		• Council hires Darrel Pyle • Darrel and Darlene—economic development • Hwy 43 and 198 development • Education center
Events	• Mall opens (Kings) • Prop 13 • Watergate • Vietnam War • Nixon resigned—mistrust of govt • Tearing down old Hanford High School building • County moved to new courthouse • China Alley on National Historic Register • Incorporation of Hanford 1891	• Courthouse moves from downtown • High crime • Tough on crime • Cold war • Tire Plant strike • GFW scandal in Hanford • Challenger explosion • Berlin Wall torn down • Beacon closure • COS presence established • Economic Boom Stock Market	• Forward thinking about Parks • Desert Storm • Internet • Rene Conrad kidnapped and murdered • Rodney King Tiots • Clinton • Elementary School growth	• Expansion of 12 th /Lace Shopping Center • Crime and money • Housing Crash • Furniture lawsuit --protect downtown • COS vocational center • Closure of Pirelli • Joint Learning Center • Hurricane Katrina • 9/11 • Iraq and Afghanistan War	• Well breakdowns • Matrix study • Costco • Decriminalization of cannabis • Drought • Dynasty closed • Climate change—forest fires and floods • Camp Fire • Paradise Fire • Faraday Future • City hires Darrel Pyle • Retail leakage study • The Recall • HSR • Hwy 43 and 198 development

Defining Our Legacy

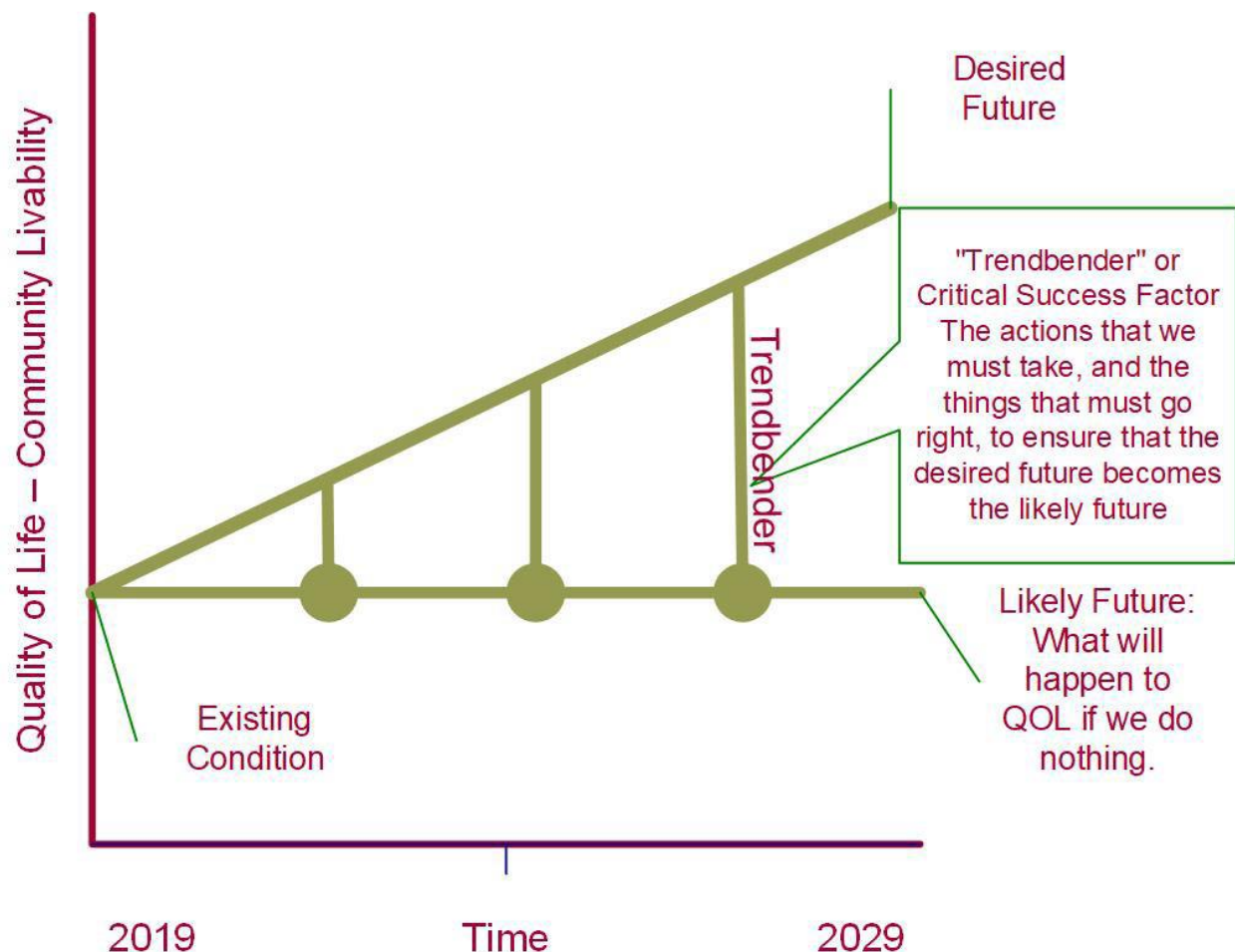
After “labeling” the time periods leading up to today, the group considered how they would want a future group to label the decade they are ushering in. Each group identified a potential theme:

- Actions Produce Results
- Thank You! Economic and Job Growth
- Stable and Progressive
- Explosive Growth With Planning
- Positive Change and Growth for a New Era

The group agreed that **ACTIONS PRODUCE RESULTS** is the tagline they hope will be used in 2029 to characterize this decade as people reflect on the **SUCCESS** of the community!

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

The group identified Key Performance Areas for the City. Key Performance Areas represent the “big buckets of things that must go well” in order for the City to continue its journey toward success.



The group brainstormed and developed the following seven Key Performance Areas:

- Efficient and Responsive City Government
- Collaborative Community Relationships

- Fiscal Sustainability
- Exceptional Quality of Life
- Strategic Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Planning
- Engaged and Informed Community
- Safe and Welcoming Community

PRIORITIES

The Mayor and Council were asked to identify the specific priorities (programs, projects or policy initiatives) that they wish to pursue in the next 12 to 24 months; 36 items were identified and 13 items received sufficient interest to move forward as Priorities for 2019-2020. The items in **bold** will move forward as the Council Priorities.

Key Performance Area	Priorities
Efficient and responsive City Govt	• Provide customer service training for City Staff and Council (4) • Provide more Council training and educational opportunities (3) • Conduct a City wide staffing study and assess Code Enforcement Staffing and practices (3) • Update the Bryce Study and develop sound labor relations strategies • Evaluate the development review/permit process • Establish property management strategy • Finish Software updates (transparency) • Less regulations
Collaborative Community Relationships	• Develop a collaborative process to address issues associated with homelessness (4) • More connections with State • Student Council Representative • Review downtown events (impacts to business owners)
Fiscal Sustainability	• Evaluate fees and revenues in light of anticipated cannabis revenues (4) • Develop an understanding of the costs and revenues associated with our city-owned historic buildings • Hire a grant writer
Exceptional Quality of Life	• Ensure an Indoor facility is included in the Parks Master Plan (4) • Expand PAL program • Develop more community events
Strategic Economic Development Infrastructure, and Planning	• Evaluate the Downtown East Plan (5) • Evaluate the City's Zoning Ordinance (4) • Evaluate cannabis regulations now that the state law has been clarified (3) • Develop a plan for job growth including job

	growth in the technology sector (4) • Develop a food truck ordinance (3) • Evaluate policies to make downtown business friendly • Increase available industrial land
Engaged and Informed Community	• Develop a public relations strategy (newsletters, social media, etc.) and address staffing needs (4)
Safe and Welcoming Community	• Address public safety staffing needs (police and fire) (3) • Lights at Train Depot • Surveillance system in all parks • Assess need for police substations

In-Progress Initiatives, Projects or Practices

The following items were identified as part of an activity or project that was already underway and will be incorporated into those initiatives:

- Community choice aggregation
- Decision and execution of vacant land/18 acres
- Parks Master Plan
 - New Park in District E
 - Add walking and biking trails
- Adopt a balanced budget
- Increase revenues
- Evaluate impact fees
- Reduce in lieu of parking fees
- CalPERS Impact

Closing/Next Steps

Each person was asked to share a parting thought to conclude the retreat.

- Mayor – Thank you! This is our year. We put it together in a day and a half – with many hours of preparation! I have taken this seriously. I hope we have all enjoyed and be comfortable with the guidelines moving forward. There are more ideas than we got on the plate for now, but I can see them creeping in as the year goes on.
- Paula – I had a good time; less painful than I thought! I like how the priorities were tackled. I like the process.
- Chief Chris – Thanks to Council for taking the time and giving us a clear picture of what we will work on. Enjoyed interacting with you on a personal basis.
- John (Vice Mayor) – I really enjoyed the process. The hard work begins with the staff – we got it easy. Thank you for that and hopefully we gave clear direction!
- Chief Parker – It was fun and a better process than I have seen in the past. Enjoyed working with you and look forward to the next couple of years.
- Art – Very interesting in that we were able to concur on the priorities. It doesn't mean we don't have other things we care about, but there are things to keep in mind. Good to give direction with such collaboration.
- Craig – Nice to do the group exercise with Council and Staff – thanks for including us in the process. It was nice to interact and share thoughts.

- Francisco – It was a real eye opener to see where we are with things. We are not only communicating our thoughts but also what we can do as a Council. I want to acknowledge the members of the public who gave us feedback on their priorities. Thank the staff for working along with us. See nothing but positive for our future.
- Darlene – Thank you for including staff in the exercises with the Council – being part of their discussion and deliberation. Appreciate the Council acknowledging that we sometimes revisit things multiple times. I am glad I don't have 20 items! It was a great process and we have clear goals – simply because we have discussed and vetted them.
- Ty – It was a very good effort by the Council and very good cooperation. Congratulations!
- Darrel – When I refer to our elected officials as “your honor,” that is out of sincere respect for putting a big chunk of your personal life on the line for the public. I have shared with staff that every time I get an opportunity to spend time with Council, I gain appreciation for you as individuals. In the past day and a half, I learned more about you and the way you are thinking and the way you will work together. There is no more powerful group in local government than a 5-0 Council.
- Sarah – I am new – it's been six months. I've enjoyed working with you and getting to know you. I appreciated this time and look forward to the “actions produce results era.”
- Martin – Having gone through this before, I found this to be engaging, interesting, and fun, and I enjoyed having staff involved. Thank staff and fellow Council for input and for making this enjoyable.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Martinez
City Clerk