The City of Hanford
CALIFORNIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
May 7, 2019 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
400 N. Douty St.

5:30 PM CALL TO ORDER SPECIAL SESSION:

Mayor Sorensen called the Study and Closed Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK:

Present: Sue Sorensen, John Draxler, Martin Devine, Francisco Ramirez, and Art Brieno

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.

Colleen Estrada, resident of Hanford and employee of the City of Hanford - She stated she is the sole employee affected by the decertification of the Lab. She said closing the lab would be a mistake and feels she is being personally targeted by management.

Courtney Hawkins, SEIU Representative - Spoke on behalf of Ms. Estrada.

STUDY SESSION:

A. Utilities & Engineering Reorganization

Utilities & Engineering Director, John Doyel provided background information on the current organizational structure of the department. Ms. Lisa Dock requested to demote to Senior Engineer from the Engineering Manager position. The proposed reorganization of the Utilities & Engineering Department would create a new position, City Engineer which would be responsible for all the development related services. A salary survey for such a position was conducted and compared the Engineering Manager's salary to other local government agencies. In comparison with the other entities, Hanford's Engineering Manager position has the lowest compensation. Dir. Doyel recommends that a City Engineer position should start at the mean of the salary survey results which is $8,619.08; further recommendation is to Y-rate the position until the market catches up. Y-rating would give the City a more competitive advantage to attracting and recruiting potential candidates.

Council Member Brieno asked what Ms. Dock would be doing as a Senior Engineer. Dir. Doyel answered that she would do design projects, prepare projects to go out to bid, and more of her regular duties that she does now except for managing others. Council Member Ramirez stated he was not supportive of the proposed reorganization because he feels that there would be a duplication of

services to have a City Engineer and a Senior Engineer. Mayor Sorensen requested Dir. Doyel to do a total compensation comparison for the City Engineer position.

B. WWTP Decertification

Dir. Doyel gave background information on the decertification of the Waste Water Treatment Plant, (WWTP). He evaluated the operations of the WWTP and had a discussion with the WWTP Superintendent about the lab. The WWTP lab was certified by the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). There is one Regulatory Compliance Analyst and two budgeted Lab Technicians I/II positions. The lab currently runs eight (8) analyses and has an outside testing laboratory conduct the other approximately thirty (30) analyses; this is due to the difficulty of tests, equipment limitations, or other quality assurance/quality control requirements.

The new requirements for ELAP certification have become more rigorous and given the size of the City's lab the new standards would require a significant amount of additional labor for no real additional benefit or output. The concern is that the lab certification will become more onerous and more expensive to run. The current annual cost to run the lab is approximately $201,441.37. The cost of contracting out for lab services is estimated to be $93,317.00; a total cost savings of $108,124.37.

If the Council decides to move in this direction, the Lab Technician I position would be eliminated. It is proposed to create a new position for WWTP that would be responsible for the administrative duties of the office. Dir. Doyel proposes to create this position now and recruit for it so the current Lab Technician can apply before the proposed changes are implemented.

Mayor Sorensen said that she felt it is important to operate as efficiently as possible. Council Members Brieno and Ramirez agreed. Council Member Devine noted that it would be fiscally responsible to go with the Staff's proposal and decertify the lab and Vice Mayor Draxler agreed. The Council reached consensus to decertify the WWTP lab and allow the proposed staffing changes.

Mayor Sorensen adjourned to Closed Session at 6:29 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING:

A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS - GC 54957.6

Agency Designated Representative: Darrel Pyle, Sarah Cardoza, Paula Lofgren, and Mario Zamora
Employee Organizations: Hanford Firefighters Local 3898, IAFF; Hanford General Employees Management Association (GEMA); Hanford Police Officers Association (HPOA); and Service Employees International Union, Local 521 (SEIU).

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNCEL - EXISTING LITIGATION - GC 54956.9(d)(1)

Avalos v. City of Hanford
Kings County Case No. 19C0096

Helena v. City of Hanford
Kings County Case No. 17C0102

Tafoya v. City of Hanford
Kings County Case No. 18C0379

State of CA v. City of Hanford
Kings County Case No.: 18C0218

C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION - GC 94956.9(d)(4)

One potential case.

7:00 PM CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION:

Mayor Sorensen called the Regular Session to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Draxler	Vice Mayor	Present	5:07 PM
Martin Devine	Council Member	Present	5:26 PM
Sue Sorensen	Vice Mayor	Present	5:29 PM
Art Brieno	Council Member	Present	5:31 PM
Francisco Ramirez	Council Member	Present	5:09 PM

INVOCATION:

FLAG SALUTE:

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

A. Proclamation for Lupus Awareness Month

Mayor Sorensen presented members of the Central Valley Lupus Support Group with a Proclamation for Lupus Awareness Month.

CLOSED SESSION ACTION REPORT:

City Attorney Ty Mizote reported the Council discussed labor negotiations and no action was taken. There was insufficient time to cover existing and potential litigation so the Council will reconvene to Closed Session after the Regular Session.

Mr. Mizote noted that Attorney Ray Carlson will step in for tonight's meeting as the Council will discuss a proposed ordinance for cannabis and zoning and as a downtown property owner, Mr. Mizote may have a conflict of interest.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Police Captain Karl Anderson - The PD is dealing with vagrancy issues around the City as well as homeless encampments.

Utilities & Engineering Director, John Doyel - They were able to get the pump out of Well 45. Well 44 has developed another tear in the casing so they have to do additional drilling.

Parks & Recreation Director, Craig Miller - He shared that registration is open for swim lessons at the Plunge. Movies at the Park will begin on June 8th.

Interim Fire Chief Erik Brotemarkle - For the first time the Fire Dept. will have 10 personnel on shift because of the SAFER grant. Two new firefighters will start on May 20th.

A. Status Report for Capital Improvement Projects in Construction

PUBLIC COMMENT:

This is the time for citizens to comment on subject matters not on the agenda within the jurisdiction of the Hanford City Council. This is also the public's opportunity to request an item from the Consent Calendar be pulled for discussion purposes or to comment on any item on the agenda. Comments related to Public Hearing items will be heard at the time the item is discussed.

*A maximum of **three minutes** is allowed for each speaker. Please begin your comments by stating your name and providing your city of residence.*

Brian Todd, CEO of Building Industry Association of Tulare/Kings - Introduced himself and left business cards for the Council Members.

James Purser, Living Word - He stated that he knows car washing fundraisers are banned in the City, but would like the Council to consider allowing his organization to hold one.

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Sorensen asked Community Development Director, Darlene Mata about car wash fundraising. Dir. Mata answered there is an ordinance that doesn't allow car washes because of water conservation rules set forth by the State. Council Member Ramirez asked if the Council would be able to supersede the State regulations and allow a car wash. Dir. Doyel replied that it is within the Council's purview to change the municipal code. Council Member Ramirez asked if the Living Word group could be given a Conditional Use permit. Dir. Doyel state that Conditional Use permits are for zoning. Mayor Sorensen said it could be a future agenda item and they could bring it back for discussion on changing the ordinance.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Consent Calendar items are considered routine and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these matters unless a request is made and then the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar to be discussed and voted upon by a separate motion.

Council Member Brieno requested to pull Item G from Consent.

Motion to approve.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Francisco Ramirez, Council Member
SECONDER:	Martin Devine, Council Member
AYES:	Draxler, Devine, Sorensen, Brieno, Ramirez

A. City Clerk: Deny Claim for Damages and Direct the City Clerk to Send Notification to Laura Camero.

B. City Clerk: Deny Claim for Damages and direct the City Clerk to send notification to Sal Alcaraz.

C. City Clerk: Deny Claim for Damages and direct the City Clerk to send notification to Darla Dunback.

D. City Clerk: Approve minutes from the City Council meeting held on March 5, 2019.

E. City Clerk: Approve minutes from the City Council meeting held on March 19, 2019.

F. City Clerk: Approve minutes from the City Council special meeting held on March 25, 2019.

G. Utilities and Engineering: Continuance of Emergency Resolution for Treatment Project on Well No. 50.

H. Utilities and Engineering: Approve the Notice of Completion for Tract No. 918 Bella Vista Subdivision Unit 1 and authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest and file said Notice with the Kings County Recorder's Office. (Centennial Drive & Devon Street)

I. Utilities and Engineering: Authorize staff to advertise the Hanford Armona Road Sanitary Sewer Extension from Foggy Bottom Road to Hanford Municipal Airport Project.

J. Utilities and Engineering: Approve the Notice of Completion for the Hidden Valley Park Pedestrian Pathway Construction Project, and authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest and file said Notice with the Kings County Recorder's Office.

K. Public Works: Accept Avigation and Clearance Easement from Victoriano and Gloria Michel in conformance with the City's Airport Layout Plan (ALP). (10th Avenue and Grangeville Boulevard)

L. Finance: Warrant Register

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT:

1. FIRE: Approve out-of-state travel to Appleton, Wisconsin for three City employees to attend the final-inspection of the Pierce ladder truck on dates to be determined in June, 2019.

(Item G)

Interim Chief Brotemarkle provided background information on the process of purchasing the ladder truck from Pierce Manufacturing. The group consisting of three personnel would go to Appleton, Wisconsin for the final inspection of the truck.

Motion to approve.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Francisco Ramirez, Council Member
SECONDER:	Art Brieno, Council Member
AYES:	Draxler, Devine, Sorensen, Brieno, Ramirez

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Community Development: Ordinance 19-05, an interim zoning/urgency ordinance of the City Council of the City of Hanford, restricting the commercial cultivation and manufacturing of industrial hemp (CBD) products in all zones.

Dir. Mata provided information on the Urgency Ordinance to restrict the commercial cultivation and manufacturing of industrial hemp (CBD) products in all zones. The urgency ordinance would last for 45 days to allow Staff time to do additional research on cultivation and manufacturing of hemp within City limits and establish parameters of such endeavors. At the end of the allotted 45 days, the urgency ordinance could be extended to 180 days.

Mayor Sorensen opened the hearing for Public Comment.

Public Comment from those IN FAVOR:

No comments.

Public Comment from those OPPOSED:

No comments.

Council Member Ramirez made a motion to approve the urgency ordinance; seconded by Council Member Devine. Motion passed 5-0.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Francisco Ramirez, Council Member
SECONDER:	Martin Devine, Council Member
AYES:	Draxler, Devine, Sorensen, Brieno, Ramirez

B. Community Development: Introduce and waive the first reading of Ordnance 19-06, approving Municipal Code Amendment 2019-02, a request to amend Title 17, Section 17.08.030 of the Hanford Municipal Code by adding to the line D8 “dispensaries (non-storefront retail)” as a conditional use in the IH zone, amending line I23 to allow storefront retail dispensaries as a conditional use in the MX-D zone and amend Section 17.69 to allow medical and adult use commercial operations and to allow dispensaries.

Mayor Sorensen recused herself from the discussion as she may hold a potential conflict of interest because she owns property downtown.

Dir. Mata explained the proposed ordinance amends the zoning ordinance to remove the limitation of medical use only. It also amends Chapter 17.08 to allow microbusinesses and non-storefront dispensaries as a conditional use in the IH zone and to add storefront dispensaries as a conditional use in the MX-D zone. The ordinance also addresses distance regulations from areas of daycares, schools, dance studios, etc. The distance parameter of 600 feet from such businesses was based on the State's regulations. Due to these regulations it is hard pressed to find a suitable location in the downtown area. However, the State does provide local agencies latitude if they wanted to approve a shorter distance parameter. Council Member Ramirez said he would recommend changing the distance to 300 feet. Council Member Devine said he'd support Ramirez's recommendation given the security features of a dispensary. Vice Mayor Draxler stated that he was comfortable with the State regulation of 600 feet because it would then push any potential dispensary to the outer edges of downtown where there would be more available parking. Council Member Brieno said that he is opposed to allowing adult use of cannabis.

Vice Mayor Draxler opened the Public Hearing for Public Comment.

Public Comment for those IN FAVOR:

Larry Thacker, San Jose - Chief Compliance Officer with Caliva. He said he looks forward to bringing a Caliva storefront to the downtown area.

Tony Cotta, Valley Pure in Woodlake - He told the Council that 6 months after Valley Pure opened a childcare recreation facility opened 50 feet away from the business. He said that since his business was there first, they were still in compliance with the State regulations. He provided a brief description of what his storefront looks like.

Public Comment for those OPPOSED:

Bob Ramos, Hanford - He voiced his opposition for recreational marijuana.

Vice Mayor Draxler closed the Public Comment portion of the Public Hearing. The Council didn't reach an agreement on the distance issue; Dir. Mata said that they can discuss that issue at another time.

Council Member Ramirez made a motion to waive the first reading of the ordinance; seconded by Council Member Devine. Motion approved 3-1-1.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [3 TO 1]**
MOVER:	Francisco Ramirez, Council Member
SECONDER:	Martin Devine, Council Member
AYES:	Draxler, Devine, Ramirez
NAYS:	Brieno
ABSTAIN:	Sorensen

C. Approve City's 2019-2023 Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan, the first year's Annual Action Plan, Amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Mayor Sorensen returned to her seat on the dais.

Sandra Lerma Martinez, Community Development Administrative Analyst, addressed the Council about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Plan. The City's CDBG allocation is $651,462.00 for the first year. The Staff recommended $52,000.00 on homelessness and will come from the Public Service budget; $10,000.00 for the Kings Tulare Continuum of Care to also address homelessness and completes some parts of the Consolidated Plan; $7,000.00 for fair housing services as a requirement for the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) department; $15,000.00 for utility assistance; $120,000.00 for housing rehabilitation for emergency repairs; $30,000.00 for improvements to the Longfield Center; $156,500.00 for playground improvements at Coe Park; $125,058.00 for pedestrian and lighting improvements for the area between Harris St. & 10th Ave and Lacey Blvd. & Florinda; and $135,904.00 for administration.

Council Member Brieno asked how many people would be paid from the administration budget. Ms. Lerma Martinez answered that it is for two people; including herself. Dir. Mata interjected that budgeted amount doesn't cover the total compensation for those two employees and rest is covered through the General Fund. The Council expressed appreciation for Ms. Lerma Martinez's efforts in preparing the CDBG plan.

Mayor Sorensen opened the Public Hearing for Public Comment.

Public Comment for those IN FAVOR:

No comments.

Public Comments for those OPPOSED:

Bob Ramos, Hanford - He felt the City failed us [citizens] by not having the projector up.*

Vice Mayor Draxler made a motion to approve the CDBG Plan as presented; seconded by Council Member Ramirez. Motion passed 5-0.

(*The projector in the Council Chamber malfunctioned earlier in the meeting. It was found to have surpassed its useful life.)

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	John Draxler, Vice Mayor
SECONDER:	Francisco Ramirez, Council Member
AYES:	Draxler, Devine, Sorensen, Brieno, Ramirez

GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. Police Department: Approve the use of the Edward Bryne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for FY 2018 and approve the Interlocal agreement between the City of Hanford and County of Kings.

Capt. Karl Anderson explained the Edward Bryne Memorial Justice Grant (JAG) was awarded the Hanford Police Department in the amount of $23,032.11 for needed equipment.

Motion to approve.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Art Brieno, Council Member
SECONDER:	Francisco Ramirez, Council Member
AYES:	Draxler, Devine, Sorensen, Brieno, Ramirez

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS:

Vice Mayor Draxler - He attended the last Planning Commission meeting where they discussed cannabis.

Mayor Sorensen - She attended the National Day of Prayer lunch. She expressed appreciation for Michelle Brown's efforts with Main Street Hanford.

Council Member Brieno - He stated that his friend's bike was stolen from Wal Mart and it is assumed that a homeless person took it. He thinks District E has gotten more than its share of homelessness.

Council Member Ramirez - He described the clean-up efforts by the Junior Amvets organization to clean up graffiti.

Council Member Devine - He attended the contract negotiation meeting between the Chamber of Commerce and the City. He also attended the Aldi grand opening.

COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Council Member Ramirez - He requested a Special Meeting or Study Session to discuss contracting a grant writer for Prop 68. Dir. Mata said that the City would first need to identify a location for a future park before contracting a grant writer. Council Member Ramirez said he would rather get started because of the deadline. Mayor Sorensen said that because we don't have a shovel-ready project, the City would probably not meet the first phase deadline of the grant. Council Member Brieno said that a consultant would have more background knowledge. Council Member Ramirez asked to hold a Special Meeting within the next week or two.

Council Member Devine - In meeting with the Chamber of Commerce the costs and difficulties of running Freddy the Fire Truck and the carousel came up. They want to know if the City is interested in taking back responsibility for Freddy and the Carousel. Council Member Devine would like to bring this discussion back in a Study Session. Dir. Doyel clarified that Freddy and the Carousel used to be under the purview of the Visitor's Agency and the City assisted with maintenance.

Mayor Sorensen - She would like to add a Study Session item on the Kings Tulare Homeless Alliance Association.

Mayor Sorensen adjourned the Council to Closed Session at 8:52 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Council returned from Closed Session and no action was taken.

Mayor Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Martinez
City Clerk