The City of Hanford
CALIFORNIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
January 21, 2020 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
400 N. Douty St.

5:30 PM CALL TO ORDER STUDY AND CLOSED SESSION:

Mayor Draxler called the Study and Closed Session to order at 5:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK:

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

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.*

Diane Sharp, Hanford - She stated she is curious about ideas on the mural ordinance and what it could mean for existing murals.

STUDY SESSION:

A. Update on Mural Ordinance

Community Development Director, Darlene Mata presented proposed updates to the current City ordinance pertaining to murals. Council Member Brieno asked about graffiti-proof coating; Dir. Mata answered that this is something other cities include in their ordinances. Council Member Sorensen asked if other communities have parameters that say murals should be of historical significance. Dir. Mata replied that a lot cities cited "historical significance" as acceptable mural subject matter. Council Member Brieno voiced his concern that the ordinance is too restrictive on acceptable depictions; Council Member Ramirez agreed. A majority of the Council Members reached consensus to direct Dir. Mata to proceed with the revisions to the mural ordinance she outlined in her presentation.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING:

Mayor Draxler adjourned the Council to Closed Session at 6:12 p.m.

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - LABOR NEGOTIATIONS (GC 54957.6)

Agency Designated Representatives: Mario Cifuentez, Sarah Cardoza, Paula Lofgren, and Ty Mizote

Employee Organizations: Hanford Police Officers Association (HPOA); Hanford Firefighters Local 3898 (IAFF); Hanford General Employees Management Association (GEMA); and Service Employees International union, local 521 (SEIU)

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL -- REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS (GC54956.8)

Property: 122 E. Eighth St. and 128 E. Eighth St. (APN 010-276-006, 010-276-008)
Agency Negotiators: Mario Cifuentez, Darlene Mata, and Ty Mizote
Negotiating Party: William and Maryan Grimm

C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (GC 54956.9(d)(2))

One potential case.

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION:

Mayor Draxler called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Draxler	Mayor	Present	5:15 PM
Martin Devine	Council Member	Present	5:15 PM
Sue Sorensen	Council Member	Present	5:25 PM
Art Brieno	Council Member	Present	4:55 PM
Francisco Ramirez	Vice Mayor	Present	5:25 PM

INVOCATION:

Invocation led by Pastor Arthur Fox.

FLAG SALUTE:

CLOSED SESSION ACTION REPORT:

City Attorney Ty Mizote said the Council discussed the Labor Negotiations item and no action was taken. The Council will reconvene after the regular meeting to discuss the remaining items.

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

Police Chief Parker Sever recognized retiring Police Captain Patrick Crowe. The Council thanked Captain Crowe for his 25 years of service to the City of Hanford.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

City Manager, Mario Cifuentez - The recruitment for the Parks and Community Resources Director has begun.

Community Development Director, Darlene Mata - Smart & Final Ribbon Cutting will be on January 29th.

Public Works Director, Lou Camara - 13th Ave. & Grangeville Blvd. traffic lights have been installed.

Finance Director, Paula Lofgren - Interviews were held for the Finance Manager position and references are now being checked.

Fire Chief, Steve Pendergrass - Firefighter interviews will begin next week for three vacancies.

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 and that are 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 city of residence.*

Lorna Martinez, Hanford - She feels the entrance to the west wing area of the Council Chamber is not ADA compliant.

Jack Schwartz, Hanford - He thanked the City staff for responsiveness regarding dog parks.

Cody Sidono, Dinuba - District Representative for TJ Cox, and he said the Congressman is looking for office space in the City of Hanford.

Bob Ramos, Hanford - He spoke about the dog parks within the city.

Jerry Irons, Hanford - He requested to pull Item F [Impact Fee Report] from the Consent Calendar.

Nate Odom, Hanford - He asked the Council to make a motion to amend the General Plan to rezone the vacant 18 acres adjacent to Hidden Valley Park to park land.

Les Vierra, Hanford - He spoke about Mussel Slough enhancement.

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.

City Attorney Ty Mizote requested to pull Item D (Water Discontinuation Policy); a member of the public requested to pull Item F (Impact Fee Report) from the Consent Calendar.

Motion to approve.

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

A. City Clerk: Approval of the minutes from the City Council Meeting held on November 19, 2019.

B. City Clerk: Approval of the minutes from the City Council Meeting held on December 3, 2019.

C. City Attorney: Amendment of Hanford Municipal Code Chapter 13.04 Regarding Residential Water Service Billing and Discontinuance of Residential Water Service.

D. Public Works: Approve the purchase of one 2019 Pipehunter Vacuum Excavator Truck from Municipal Maintenance Equipment, of Sacramento, CA, in the amount of $143,929.50 and declare the 2005 Ditch Witch Hydro Excavator trailer, which is being replaced, as surplus.

E. Finance: Warrant Register.

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT:

A. City Attorney: Adoption of Policy Regarding Discontinuation of Residential Water Service for Non-Payment.

(Item D)

Mr. Mizote explained language that was previously omitted from his staff report. Council Member Sorensen asked Mr. Mizote for more background information on this topic. Dir. Lofgren provided program specific information. A member of the public asked if delinquent water bills will be passed on to the landlords if tenants fail to pay. Dir. Lofgren answered the Finance department exhausts all efforts to get payment from the customers, even in instances when the customer has left the residence. The entire time the property owner is made aware of these efforts to get payment from delinquent bills.

Motion to approve.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [3 TO 2]**
MOVER:	Sue Sorensen, Council Member
SECONDER:	Martin Devine, Council Member
AYES:	Draxler, Devine, Sorensen
NAYS:	Brieno, Ramirez

B. Finance: Approval of the City's Annual Report for Development Impact Fees.

(Item F)

Dir. Lofgren provides the Impact Fee Report annually to show the Council what the City has received in fees over the last fiscal year.

Motion to approve.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a city wide plan for the development of recreational facilities and opportunities over the next 10-15 years consistent with the 2035 General Plan. Resolution 20-01-R

Parks Superintendent, Alvin Dias provided background information on the process of getting the Parks Master Plan completed. Mr. Mike Svetz from Pros Consulting gave information on the plan and key findings from their study. Council member Sorensen asked for clarification on what the plan accomplishes and what it means if it's adopted. Mr. Svetz answered that the plan is a roadmap aligned with the City's General Plan as resources are invested into the parks and recreation system.

Mayor Draxler opened the Public Hearing for comments from those IN FAVOR of adopting the Parks Master Plan:

Nathan Odom, Hanford - He spoke in support of the Parks Master Plan and stated it was a good starting point although he is still wants the 18 acres adjacent to Hidden Valley Park rezoned to be used as park land.

Public Comment from those OPPOSED:

Mark Pratter, Hanford - He stated his opposition to the Parks Master Plan. He said the City does not currently have enough green space. He wants the plan delayed until it can be amended to include plans for the vacant 18 acres adjacent to Hidden Valley Park.

Les Vierra, Hanford - He thinks the pond in Hidden Valley Park takes up a lot of space that could be used for walking trails. He went on to say that low wage earners and minorities cannot afford to go to places and the City should provide parks for them.

Bob Ramos, Hanford - He spoke in favor of the 18 acres adjacent to Hidden Valley Park being developed as park land.

Lorna Martinez, Hanford - She said that the Parks Master Plan has several holes in it. She asks the Council to halt a decision on this plan.

Michael Quinn, Hanford - He said the citizens have given their opinion on selling the vacant 18 acres adjacent to Hidden Valley Park. He wants to know who is driving the sale of the land and who will benefit from such a sale.

Mickey Stoddard, Hanford - He voiced his opposition to adoption of the Parks Master Plan. He stated the Parks & Recreation Commission recommended for the plan to be amended to show a plan for the vacant 18 acre lot adjacent to Hidden Valley Park. He said he has a hard time accepting that half of the city's schools are counted toward the City's open space acreage.

Jack Schwartz, Hanford - He believes the plan should be delayed. He believes the Parks Master Plan as it is written now does not point Hanford in the direction it should go.

Dennis Ham, Hanford - He stated he agrees with Mickey Stoddard and the Hanford Elementary School District doesn't allow for open use of their school grounds. He voiced his support for the vacant 18 acres adjacent to Hidden Valley Park developed as park land. He also pointed out a typo on the resolution accompanying the plan.

Jerry Irons, Hanford - He stated the cost of replacement of the 18 acres adjacent to Hidden Valley Park would be $300,000.00 per acre and it's an asset.

Kalish Morrow, Hanford - She is in favor of the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission. She stated the City has adequate housing contrary to the Staff's analysis.

Mayor Draxler closed the Public Comment portion of the Public Hearing.

Council Member Brieno asked what it would take to rezone the vacant 18 acres as park land. Dir. Mata stated the General Plan would have to be amended and acreage that is currently designated as future park land would have to be removed to make up for the 18 acres of the vacant lot. Most General Plan amendments take six to eight months. Council Member Brieno made a motion to table the adoption of the plan until they have a clearer direction on how to proceed with the vacant 18 acres. The motion died due to lack of a second.

Council Member Sorensen made a motion to approve the Parks Master Plan as presented; seconded by Vice Mayor Ramirez.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [4 TO 1]**
MOVER:	Sue Sorensen, Council Member
SECONDER:	Francisco Ramirez, Vice Mayor
AYES:	Draxler, Devine, Sorensen, Ramirez
NAYS:	Brieno

GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. City Clerk: Appointment of new members to fill vacancies and Reappointment of existing members to fill expiring terms on the various City Commissions.

Mayor Draxler nominated Mr. Roger Snow for the Planning Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2023; the Council unanimously agreed to this appointment.

Council Member Sorensen nominated Mr. David Ruiz for the Parking & Traffic Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2023; the Council unanimously agreed to this appointment.

Council Member Brieno nominated Ms. Carolyn Hudgins for the Parks & Recreation Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2023; the Council unanimously agreed to this appointment.

The following commissioners were unanimously reappointed for new terms expiring December 31, 2023 on their current commissions:

Richard Douglas, Planning Commission
Greg Kelley, Parks & Recreation Commission
Alex Dwiggins, Parking & Traffic Commission

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS:

A. Council Comments

Council Member Devine - He was present for a conference call meeting with the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agency.

Council Member Ramirez - He said he was selected to participate in a Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) six month course where he will travel throughout the state.

Mayor Draxler - He met with concerned residents of the Vintage Estates subdivision. They were concerned about the growth developing behind them. The residents are discussing making their neighborhood a gated community.

Council Member Sorensen - She said she finds value in the Parks Master Plan and is looking forward to the plans for certain areas of the city that haven't received much focus in the past.

Council Member Brieno - He stated the Groundwater Sustainability Act document was submitted for review by the State. He said that his friend from the Corcoran City Council passed away recently and offered his condolences to the City of Corcoran.

COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Council Future Agenda Items

Mayor Draxler noted the Council will have a Special Meeting for Goals and Objectives planning.

ADJOURNMENT:

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Draxler adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Martinez
City Clerk