



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
February 21, 2020 9:00 AM
Training Room
319 N. Douty**

9:00 AM CALL TO ORDER SPECIAL SESSION:

Mayor Draxler called the Special Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Draxler	Mayor	Present	8:30 AM
Martin Devine	Council Member	Present	8:30 AM
Sue Sorensen	Council Member	Present	8:55 AM
Art Brieno	Council Member	Present	8:55 AM
Francisco Ramirez	Vice Mayor	Present	8:50 AM

FLAG SALUTE:

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Mayor Draxler welcomed everyone in attendance. He offered his congratulations to the Staff and Council on the goals accomplished in the past year. City Manager, Mario Cifuentez introduced Mr. Stan Carrizosa, the facilitator for the goals setting and planning.

OVERVIEW OF BEST PRACTICES FOR PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE:

Mr. Carrizosa provided an overview of the day's agenda and best practices for a productive day of Goal Setting.

Some of the best practices for governance protocol he noted were:

1. Discuss individual interests with the Council as a whole (Public)
2. Start with a review of current, relevant policies/procedures (Public)
3. Review current, adopted Council Goals
4. Request for a topic on Council meeting agendas (Public)
5. Request for additional information (will be provided to all Council Members)
6. Seek majority Council support to advance desired Council actions (Public)

Definition of Terms:

Mr. Carrizosa outlined the following terms:

Goal - a broad, overarching statement that sets the ideals and expectations for staff to prepare measurable objectives and planned actions to achieve the desired outcomes. Goals should reflect the majority interests of the Council.

Objective - should be measurable and developed by staff.

Planned Actions - actions are developed by staff and should be supported by relevant and reliable research and data.

Roles & Responsibilities:

Mr. Carrizosa outlined the Council roles and responsibilities.

1. Govern as whole body - no authority as an individual
2. Govern in public - open, honest, and transparent
3. Hire, support, and guide the City Manager
4. Adopt operational policies and procedures
5. Adopt city goals/master plan(s)
6. Approve city budget - aligned with goals and plans
7. Regular review of progress on all goals and objectives

10:00 AM BREAK:**FORMAT FOR DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Carrizosa outlined the format for the discussion topics. Each department will report or present on specific topics of council interest or topics that were discussed at last year's goals meeting. After that there will be time for comments from the public.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR DISCUSSION:***Property Management:***

Future planning for City-owned properties such as the Courthouse, Bastille, Mechanics Bank Building, Carnegie Building, the Temple Theater, the Veteran's Building, and the Goodwill Building.

Community Development Director, Darlene Mata provided City-owned property information to the Council including their current status, values, maintenance costs, and possible future uses. The Council requested staff to organize all city properties so they can be reviewed collectively in order to maximize opportunities for the best possible uses aligned with the city's goals. Staff will prepare a comprehensive review of all properties and present to Council at future study sessions.

Expanded Assessment:

Indoor facilities such as the Civic Auditorium, Coe Park Hall, and Longfield Center.

Dir. Mata presented a summary of the current status and uses of these properties. The Council requested staff to prepare and present a review of these properties and include any recommendation for revisions to existing policy needed to reflect the desired status and uses for these properties and facilities. This will include selected MOUs in cases where an agreement may be slightly different than policy.

Parks & Recreation Discussion:

Review parks assessment, park maintenance, park safety and curb-appeal, grant funds, partnering, walking trails, and indoor recreation.

Staff presented a summary of all existing park sites and uses. This review included a summary of park maintenance, expanded services, and facility assessments from the Parks Master Plan, sports complex services and projects, possible priorities for Proposition 68 funding, and existing designations for all park sites. The Council expressed a desire to improve the maintenance and upkeep of all parks. The Council also expressed interest in reaching out to the local school districts to collaborate on use of school fields to meet some neighborhood park needs.

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.

Jack Schwartz, Hanford - He asked if the Council had a vision for the city. He further stated that neighborhood parks and facilities need to be brought up to speed and are below standard.

Steve Robinson - He stated the possible overpass/underpass project on Grangeville Blvd. needs to be addressed. He stated the project would cause economic distress to the property owners.

Nathan Odom, Hanford - He read a passage from a book titled Fragile Dominion.

Bob Ramos, Hanford - He said the dog park in Hidden Valley Park should be moved. He further stated that Hidden Valley Park needs to remain a park.

Jim Castleman, Hanford - He implored for the Council to maintain a "helicopter view" and understand the city is growing and can't afford to only consider the wants of one group.

Michael Quinn, Hanford - He stated the city motto, "Planning Tomorrows." He said that minimal taxes equals minimal services.

Mayor Draxler adjourned the meeting for lunch at 11:55 a.m.

12:00 PM LUNCH:

COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR DISCUSSION (CONTINUED):

Review of 2019 Goals and Objectives:

Review and reassess the priority of selected items.

Mario Cifuentez reviewed the status of selected goals and objectives from 2019. The Council discussed whether certain items should continue as a goal or be incorporated into measurable objectives and planned actions to be carried out as part of staff daily work assignments and operations. The Council agreed that some of the statements from 2019 may not fit the definition of an annual planning goals, but are important interests for the Council. Mr. Cifuentez agreed to incorporate interests such as staff training, advocacy letters, and partnerships with other organizations.

Public Outreach & transparent Government:

City social media platforms, multi-lingual communications, designed repetition.

Staff presented an overview of several actions being carried out to improve communication and promote transparency with the public. The Council discuss the various methods used to engage the public in important communications. Staff agreed to do a comprehensive review of all the various avenues of communication being used by different city departments. It was also discussed that it is time to revisit the logistics of televising or live-streaming City Council meetings.

Overall Customer Service:

Professional development, designed feedback, continuous improvement.

The staff presented a summary of various activities being carried out to improve customer service. Mr. Carrizosa discussed how the goal of improving customer service should be reflected in the City's budget process to show alignment. There was also an in depth discussion about the importance of more training for members of the Planning Commission. Specifically, a more detailed training on their role and responsibilities as they differentiate from the City Council.

Public Comment:

Rick Telegan, Hanford - He asked the Council what their goals would be for the City's zoning ordinance.

Bob Ramos, Hanford - He said he prefers public comment to be 5 minutes per person instead of 3 minutes.

Jack Schwartz, Hanford - He made a comment about customer service and asked the Council to look at the housing element of the city's zoning.

Nathan Odom, Hanford - He spoke in support of live-streaming Council meetings.

2:30 PM BREAK:

COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR DISCUSSION (CONTINUED):

Homeless Challenges & Opportunities:

Proven strategies, resource development, and collaborative partnerships.

Staff presented a summary of local statistic regarding homelessness in the city. Overall, the homeless population in Hanford is well-monitored and recent efforts by the Hanford Police Department and other city services has resulted in a decrease of homeless in the downtown and retail hubs. Council emphasized the importance of community education on the homeless issue and requested staff to prepare more clear and deliberate public messaging about the challenges and opportunities in addressing homelessness.

Bonus Round:

Brief opportunity for each Council Member to share other areas of interest.

Council Member Sorensen

1. Minimal tax equals minimal services - Build a case for revenue needed to prove quality of living.
2. Ensure the adopted budget aligns with city goals.
3. Explore new ways to motivate cooperation in filling vacancies from out-of-town property owners.
4. Explore new incentives to motivate various constituents.
5. When adopting city goals, place timelines for achievement.
6. When designing surveys to inform council decisions preserve survey integrity and give clear instructions for participation.
7. Continue weekly updates from the City Manager.

Council Member Brieno

1. Review/revise ordinance to eliminate inconsistencies.
2. When preparing for the review of all city-owned properties include the Courthouse and Civic Auditorium.
3. Review the city series of notifications for things like "non-conforming" building codes, etc.
4. Review ordinances on maintenance standards and create better consistency.

Council Member Devine

1. Purchase or build additional parking for downtown.
2. Monitor "set-aside" funds and "in-lieu fees" as a possible resource to help expand parking.
3. Explore incentives for mixed-use commercial/residential buildings downtown.
4. Importance of preserving "historical" designations and elements of buildings and facilities.

Vice Mayor Ramirez

1. Explore more pro-active communications for properties being fined.
2. Consider a formation of a Parking/Traffic Committee.
3. Explore new ways to incentivize to achieve expected compliance in a variety of areas.
4. Explore expanding a more formal partnership with Hanford Chamber of Commerce.
5. Keep council updated on the status and plans for Freddy the Fire Truck and the Hanford Carousel.

Mayor Draxler

1. Emphasized the importance of better management of city-owned properties and development of a comprehensive property management plan.
2. Continue all efforts discussed to improve customer service.
3. Explore all possibilities for securing additional funds for city projects and services.

Public Comment:

Mike Quinn, Hanford - He spoke in support of a half cent tax increase.

Michelle Brown, Hanford - She stated Main Street Hanford is willing to help with Freddie the Fire Truck and the carousel.

Bob Ramos, Hanford - He spoke in support of a half cent tax increase for public safety only.

Jim Castleman, Hanford - He said it would be important to meet with Hanford Elementary School District regarding open space.

Nathan Odom, Hanford - He said he enjoyed the meeting however, felt there was not enough discussion regarding Hidden Valley Park.

4:00 PM ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Draxler adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Martinez
City Clerk