



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2020 7:00 PM

Council Chambers

400 N. Douty St.

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

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

ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

*Comments from the public are limited to items 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 proposed rental assistance as a program that may use CDBG funding.

Steve Robinson, Hanford - He referenced an email he sent to the Council Members regarding the Grangeville Blvd. grade separation project.

Bill Grimm, Carmel Valley - He owns a downtown parcel on 8th Street and Harris St. He discussed real property negotiations.

STUDY SESSION:

- A. Fire: Presentation of Phase 2 of the proposed adjustments to the Fire Prevention Fee and Service Schedule.

Fire Chief Steve Pendergrass provided background information on the fire inspection fees. The goal is to establish Fire Inspection and Services Fees at 100% cost recovery for direct costs including overhead. There are 418 occupancies that meet criteria for an annual inspection rotation. Chief Pendergrass noted that Fire Prevention reviews plans for and inspects approximately 20 new commercial sprinkler and fire alarm systems each year. It is recommended to increase the sprinkler inspection fees from \$255.00 to \$315.00. Chief Pendergrass proposed more fee increases for various types of inspections.

B. Administration: Presentation and Council Discussion regarding the Fiscal Impacts of the COVID Crisis on the City of Hanford

City Manager, Mario Cifuentez discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the City's operations including Utility Billing. The number of delinquent accounts for utility billing has increased significantly; from an average of 250 to over 1,000 in the month of April 2020. A repayment process is outlined in Senate Bill 998; notices of the office closures and payment options as well as the repayment process were sent out in the March and April bills.

One of the biggest impact is the sales tax deferral which allows businesses to defer payment of state sales tax if under \$50,000.00 annually. This is estimated to be a \$1.3 million reduction in the General Fund tax revenue; furthermore the state will withhold payment until July 2021.

Mr. Lance Lipponcott from the Kings Economic Development Center provided information to the Council regarding their response and small business resources during the pandemic crisis.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING:

The Council did not have time to meet for Closed Session and will conduct the Closed Session after the regular meeting.

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS (GC 54956.8)

Property: 122 E. Eighth St. and 128 E. Eighth St. (APN 010-276-006 and 010-276-008)

Agency Negotiators: Mario Cifuentez, Darlene Mata, and Ty Mizote

Negotiating Party: William and Maryan Grimm

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION:

Mayor Draxler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Draxler		Present	5:30 PM
Martin Devine	Council Member	Present	5:30 PM
Sue Sorensen	Vice Mayor	Present	5:30 PM
Art Brieno		Present	5:30 PM
Francisco Ramirez	Council Member	Present	5:30 PM

INVOCATION:

Invocation led by Mr. Kevin Delafu.

FLAG SALUTE:

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

A. National Day of Prayer Proclamation

Mayor Draxler presented the National Day of Prayer Proclamation to Mr. Kevin Delafu.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

City Manager Mario Cifuentes spoke on current changes in the workplace due to COVID-19.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS:

A. Council Comments

Council Member Sorensen - She expressed her concern for the economic hit caused by the pandemic.

Council Member Devine - He stated he will attend a LAFCO and KCAPTA meeting the next day.

Council Member Brieno - He spoke about the City budget and he fears that it will take a big hit.

Vice Mayor Ramirez - He echoed Council Member Brieno's sentiments.

Mayor Draxler - He stated he is anxious for the state to begin opening back up and getting people back to work. He gave an update on the Kings Homeless Coalition.

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 providing your city of residence.*

Dave Clevenger, Hanford - He explained what the Kings Gospel Mission is doing during the pandemic. He said there are opportunities for CDBG funds to be used for KGM. He stated KGM is the foremost homeless service provider in the city.

Michelle Brown, Hanford - She stated that it is a scary time for small business owners. She said the City should consider helping the small business as a top priority. She stated that businesses are having a hard time getting federal aid right now and it's not as accessible as it was promoted to be.

Wendy Raygoza, Hanford - As a small business owner [Fat Albert's Pizza], she echoed Michelle Brown's sentiments and concerns.

Diane Sharp - She spoke on behalf of Kings Gospel Mission. She urged the Council to consider designating some CDBG funding to KGM.

Nathan Odom, Hanford - He spoke in favor of an ordinance to allow chickens in residential zoning in the City of Hanford.

Jacob Sanchez, Hanford - He sent a letter to be read by the City Clerk, Ms. Sarah Martinez, in favor of supporting small businesses during this time. In his letter, he also announced that the Metro 4 Cinemas has been forced to close permanently, precipitated by the pandemic.

Tina Kramer, Hanford - She stated she is representing the Court Barber Shop downtown and is frustrated that barber shops and salons cannot open, however she sees people not adhering to social distancing and the stay-at-home order.

Jack Schwartz, Hanford - He suggested the Council use CDBG funding to institute a renters' assistance program.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Consent Calendar items are considered routine and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion on 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 Sorensen requested to pull Item A [Coe Park] from the Consent Calendar.

Motion to approve.

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

- A. Public Works: Second Reading of Ordinance 20-2, Amending the City of Hanford Municipal Code 10.16 to permit three-hour parking limits and designating City Parking Lot No. 2, located off Douty Street between Sixth Street and Seventh Street, as having a three-hour parking limit.
- B. Public Works: Approval of the Notice of Completion for the FY 19/20 Iron Lifting Project, and authorization for the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest and file said Notice with the Kings County Recorder's Office.
- C. Public Works: Approval of a Sole Source Purchase of 10 (one cubic yard), 10 (two cubic yard), and 15 (three yard), for a total of 35 commercial refuse containers, from CONFAB of Van Nuys CA, in the amount of \$21,591.47 (tax and freight included).
- D. Finance: Warrant Register.

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT:

- A. Parks & Recreation: Approve the purchase and construction of two playground structures from Park Planet for Coe Park in the amount of \$247,736.73.

(Item A)

Council Member Sorensen voiced her concern that the playground equipment and design did not strike her as being very modern or too dissimilar from the equipment it is replacing. She feels the playground lacks creativity. Council Member Brieno said the function of the parks need to be reevaluated and he stated he wants to table this item for a year; Council Member Sorensen did not agree with tabling the project. Council Member Devine said he feels the Parks staff is doing a good job of updating and placing new equipment for the parks.

Motion to approve.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. Public Works: Presentation of the Grangeville Boulevard Grade Separation Report.

Public Works Director, John Doyel provided the Council with a brief history and summary of the grade separation project. The consultant completed their assessment of the possible project and constructing an underpass is projected to cost \$42,900,000.00 and the construction timeframe would be approximately 12 months. An overpass option would cost \$29,450,000.00 and would take approximately 18 months. The Council reached consensus on directing Dir. Doyel to get a proposal on the project for both an overpass and underpass.

B. Community Development: Discussion regarding the award of \$325,307 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding.

Community Development Director, Darlene Mata explained the city was funded approximately \$325,000.00 in COVID-19 CARE Act money through CDBG. The Council reached consensus to explore options to use some of the funding for small business assistance and rental assistance.

C. Public Works: Award of a contract to Pavement Coatings Co. of Sacramento, CA in the amount of \$919,370.00; Establishment of a construction contingency of \$45,000 for this project; and Approval of an additional appropriation of \$29,370 from the Gas Tax Reserves.

Dir. Doyel provided the Council with background information on the project. Council Member Brieno asked about including raising the manhole covers in the project bid. Dir. Doyel stated that going forward that will be included when the requests for proposals first go out.

Motion to approve.

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

COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Council Future Agenda Items

Vice Mayor Ramirez - He would like to discuss allocating money toward Main Street Hanford and designating the ACO fund to help small businesses.

Council Member Sorensen - She would like some clarification on Costco's sales tax revenue.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Council reconvened to Closed Session at 9:13 p.m.

With nothing to report from Closed Session, Mayor Draxler adjourned the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Martinez
City Clerk