CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
May 5, 2020 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
400 N. Douty St.

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

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

ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK:

Present: John Draxler, Francisco Ramirez, Martin Devine, Sue Sorensen, and 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.*

Nathan Odom, Hanford - He spoke in support of the chicken ordinance, however he feels that medium-density residential zoning should be included.

STUDY SESSION:

A. Finance: Review and acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2019 audit reports and financial statements for the City of Hanford, the Single Audit Report, and the Appropriations Limit Report filed by the Public Accounting firm of Hudson, Henderson & Company, Inc., Certified Public Accountants.

Finance Director, Paula Lofgren introduced a representative from the auditing firm contracted with the city, Mr. Brian Henderson. Mr. Henderson presented the results of the audit; the only significant finding was keeping accurate inventory counts. Council Member Sorensen expressed her frustration that the city is hasn't tracked inventory well enough that it has to be brought up on an audit. She stated she wants to see more accountability as this issue is addressed in the future.

Motion to approve.

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

B. Police: Discussion regarding the proposed Amendment and addition to Title 6 Animal Control Ordinance for the purpose of allowing chickens within certain residential zones.

Per Council's direction, Police Chief Parker Sever presented a background and proposed language on developing an ordinance to allow chickens to be kept within certain residential zones within the city. It is recommended to limit the number of chickens to no more than 3 per lot. Language for setbacks is also included so chicken pens are not too close to property lines. The Council reached consensus on allowing the zoning to include Medium Density Residential. Council Member Sorensen felt that a 10 foot setback would be too far into the yard, but the Council reached consensus on a 10 foot setback nonetheless.

Vice Mayor Ramirez voiced his request to include the MX-D (Commercial Downtown) zone in the chicken ordinance. The other Council Members were not in agreement.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING:

Mayor Draxler adjourned the Council to Closed Session at 6:23 p.m.

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - (GC 54957(b)(1))

Classification Title: City Manager

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

Property: Property west of Parkside Drive, south of Woodland Drive
Agency Negotiators: Mario Cifuentez, Darlene Mata, Ty Mizote
Negotiating Party: Self Help Enterprises

7:00 PM 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	
Martin Devine	Council Member	Present	
Sue Sorensen	Vice Mayor	Present	
Art Brieno		Present	
Francisco Ramirez	Council Member	Present	

INVOCATION:

Invocation led by Sylvia Gaston.

FLAG SALUTE:

CLOSED SESSION ACTION REPORT:

City Attorney, Ty Mizote reported that no action was taken on the items that were discussed. The Council will reconvene after the regular session to discuss remaining items.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

City Manager Mario Cifuentez announced that Mr. Brad Albert was selected for the Parks & Community Services Director position and is currently pending a background check.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS:

Council Member Sorensen - She said she attended the last couple of Board of Supervisors meetings. She participated in a Main Street Hanford meeting and they discussed re-opening plans to include health and safety. She congratulated Mr. Mark Daniels on his new position with the Sentinel.

Council Member Brieno - He expressed his concern for small businesses.

Council Member Devine - He attended a KCAPTA (KART) meeting and they're seeing about a 70% decline in ridership since the shelter-in-place order.

Vice Mayor Ramirez - He said that he echoes Council Member Brieno's sentiments.

Mayor Draxler - He expressed his enthusiasm for Main Street Hanford's efforts and working with the City to come up with a way to safely open up the Thursday Night Market Place.

A. Council Comments

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.*

Jeff Garner, KCAO Director - He shared with the Council some of the activities and programs KCAO has conducted in response to the COVID-19 situation. They are also busy with food distribution programs and partnered with Koinonia Church for one of the distributions. He stated KCAO would like to be considered for CDBG funding.

Diane Sharp, Hanford - She spoke on behalf of the Kings Gospel Mission and asked for KGM to also be considered for funding in order to help serve the homeless population.

Michelle Brown, Main Street Hanford - She thanked the Council for wearing shirts in support of the small downtown businesses. She thanked Mario [Cifuentez] and Armando [Da Silva] for their cooperation in organizing the farmers' market.

Bob Ramos, Hanford - He showed appreciation for the pedestrian pathway project at Centennial Park. Regarding the proposed chicken ordinance that was discussed during Study Session, he feels the limit to the number of chickens should be 6 and that the ordinance needs to include the right to slaughter chickens as well.

Judy Scott, Hanford - She stated her opposition to allowing chickens within city limits. She also expressed her encouragement to open up businesses in Hanford.

Linda Silveria, Hanford Chamber of Commerce - She described the hardships that the local businesses have been facing since the quarantine.

Jack Schwartz, Hanford - He expressed his appreciation for the streaming of Council meetings. He spoke in support of CDBG funds being used for rental assistance.

Nate Odom, Hanford - He spoke in support of small businesses.

Andreas, Hanford - He spoke in opposition of allowing chickens in residential areas He is concerned about the noise and the pests that come with keeping chickens.

Tina, Hanford - She spoke on behalf of salons and barbershops and the need for these businesses to reopen.

Joanne Doeter, Hanford Mall - She also spoke about the importance of reopening small businesses.

Jeanette Highfill, Hanford - She also spoke on the importance of opening up salons.

Kari Medeiros, Hanford - She spoke on the importance of reopening salons. She noted the health and safety guidelines that hairdressers must adhere to in order to maintain their licenses.

Crystal Martinez, Hanford - She said the City of Hanford did not qualify for COVID-19 funding.

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.

Motion to approve.

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

A. Public Works: Award a contract to J.L. Plank Inc. dba Cen-Cal Construction of Bakersfield, CA for the 11th Avenue Landscaping Project in the amount of $76,562.50 and establish a construction contingency of $8,000 for this project.

B. Public Works: Authorize the Acceptance of an easement deed, for right-of-way purposes from Janice I. Alves, trustee of the Janice I Madruga Survivor's Trust of November 4, 2012, and the trustee of the Lawrence J. Bypass Trust of November 4, 2012. (Fargo Avenue west of Centennial Drive)

C. Public Works: Award a contract for the construction of the Eastside Sanitary Sewer Trunk Main Project on Houston Avenue and 9th Avenue to Floyd Johnston Construction Company of Clovis, CA in the amount of $9,783,147.40 for the Base Bid and Additive Alternate, establish a construction contingency of $250,000.00, and approve an additional appropriation of $743,910.76 from the Wastewater Impact Fee Reserve.

D. Public Works: Approval of the Notice of Completion for the Centennial Park Pedestrian Pathway 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

E. Finance: Warrant Register

GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. Fire: Discussion of a request by the Hanford Fire Department and, if supported, Authorization for the Fire Chief to sign a letter of interest to receive an CA Office of Emergency Services (CA-OES) Type 1 Engine to be assigned to the department.

Fire Chief Steve Pendergrass provided an overview of the CA-OES program. The CA-OES program enlists the assistance of local fire departments in emergency response to incidents throughout the state. CA-OES provides reimbursements for each event that the Hanford Fire Department may respond to. The City's participation in the program will also provide additional experience for personnel, offsets costs of providing those additional services outside of the jurisdiction and provides reciprocal services when needed.

By approving the Chief to sign the letter of interest in the CA-OES program, the City is not obligated any undo expenses or commitments. If the letter is accepted, the HFD will receive a CA-OES Type 1 Fire Engine to be used during major events around the state.

Motion to approve.

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

B. Community Development: Discussion of reallocating FY 20/21 Community Development Block Grant funds in the 20/21 Action Plan.

Community Development Director, Darlene Mata reviewed the Council's direction from March 17, 2020 on priorities for CDBG funding. The City received COVID-19 Relief funding and Dir. Mata noted potential items to direct that funding toward which include an increase to the Utility Assistance program, a Rental Assistance program, and a Micro-Business program. Dir. Mata noted the Rescue Mission, KCAO, and the Agency on Aging have each expressed interest in receiving funding as well. Approximately 20% of grant funds are used to offset administrative costs as well as allowed by the law. Currently a survey has been submitted to the community to help identify the needs and priorities of the community. A couple of projects already being considered for CDBG funds are the basketball courts at Lacey Park and the floors at the Longfield Center.

Council Member expressed his displeasure that administrative costs were included as a use for the grant funding. City Manager Mario Cifuentez interjected that it is typical to see 15-20% of federal funding is allowable to use for administration costs because that's what it usually costs for municipalities to oversee these programs. Council Member Ramirez stated he would be okay with reducing funding allocated for Big Brothers/Big Sisters because it's primarily a school program and schools are not in session currently. Mayor Draxler voiced his support for the Lacey Park basketball court improvement, the rental assistance program, the micro-business program, and the utility assistance program. Council Member Sorensen agreed with Vice Mayor Ramirez's suggestion about

reducing the amount to Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Council Member Sorensen stated she would prefer an agency to administer a rental assistance program. Dir. Mata replied that they are hopeful that a non-profit will apply to be that administrator, but if no one applies it will fall on the City to administer.

C. Administration: Discussion of the State's Key Indicators for Lifting the Stay at Home Order, Consideration of Guidelines to facilitate the reopening of businesses after the Order is lifted and Approval of Letter of Support for Kings County.

City Manager Cifuentez summarized the key indicators to modify the Stay-at-Home order which include:

-Ability to test, contact trace, isolate, and support the exposed
-Ability to protect those at high risk for COVID-19
-Surge capacity for hospital and health systems
-Therapeutic development to meet the demand
-Ability of businesses, schools, and childcare facilities to support physical distancing
-Determination of when to reinstate measures like Stay-at-Home

The first step of re-opening includes the County writing an attestation of measures that are being taken to follow the State's guidelines. The Council decided to hold a Special Meeting on Friday, May 8th to discuss the outcomes of the Kings County Board of Supervisors meeting to be held earlier that same day.

COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Council Future Agenda Items

Council Member Brieno - He asked for a basic overview of how CDBG money is used.

Mayor Draxler reconvened the Council to Closed Session at 9:31 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

With nothing to report from Closed Session, Mayor Draxler adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Martinez
City Clerk