



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**May 19, 2020 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
400 N. Douty Street**

Video Teleconference via Zoom. Council Members attended remotely.
(Limited virtual access)

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

Mayor Draxler called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK:

Present: John Draxler, Francisco Ramirez, Martin Devine, Sue Sorensen
Late: Art Brieno (5:33 p.m.)

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.*

*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.*

Diane Sharp, Hanford thanked City Council for adjusting the change-of-use and sign fees. She suggested that the City notify landlords about backflow tests electronically. She also mentioned that currently, the City can charge \$15 if a dumpster lock has been removed. She suggested an across-the-board fee increase of a dollar (or another amount) for dumpster service, to cover the lock fee.

STUDY SESSION:

- A. Receive and review the Master Fee Schedule for the City of Hanford and discuss proposed new fees and increases/adjustments to existing fees for the City of Hanford for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

City Manager Cifuentez presented a review of fee-schedule goals and an overall structure for the Master Fee Schedule, providing a comparison between user fees and taxes. Finance Director Lofgren noted that fees have not been adjusted for 20 years. She is recommending that the business license process be changed from

quarterly to a semi-annual process and that business licenses for Thursday Night Marketplace be a one-time license for the entire season. City Manager Cifuentez and department directors responded to Council Members' questions.

Mayor Draxler adjourned to Closed Session at 6:45 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING:

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

Classification Title: City Manager

7:00 PM CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION:

Mayor Draxler called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

INVOCATION:

Invocation led by Chief Pendergrass.

FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Draxler led the flag salute.

CLOSED SESSION ACTION REPORT:

City Attorney Mizote reported no action taken in Closed Session.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

City Manager Mario Cifuentez introduced Bradley Albert as the newly hired Parks and Community Services Director. Director Albert greeted the Council and expressed his enthusiasm for his new position. Mayor Draxler welcomed him.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS:

A. Council Comments

Council Member Sorensen inquired as to the status of the Lacey Boulevard extension project. Public Works Director Doyel stated that he would provide an update. She expressed thanks for the Kings County position and pressure put on the governor and the state to be able to move forward with reopening. She reported that she attended Farmer's Market, which was a different experience with the current pandemic. She stated that the City Manager will be involved in a change coming in the Chamber of Commerce. She asked if there has been an update with staff checking parks restrooms.

Vice Mayor Ramirez had nothing to report.

Council Member Devine expressed his well wishes for people experiencing hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council Member Brieno reported the need to address vandalism at Centennial and Coe Parks. He stated that, on a recent trip to Bryce National Canyon in Utah, he noticed that grounds were sprinklered, with no flooding. He suggested more control of expenditures, with the State not supporting cities as much, and he encouraged support of the small business community.

Mayor Draxler referred to the homelessness situation in Kings County and the needs of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that he would like to see businesses open as soon as possible, if they can do so in a safe manner. He reported that he had been on webinars with Senator Hurtado and webinars with other mayors concerning budgets over the next year.

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.*

*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.*

Mark Pratter commented on General Business Item B: His group plans to gather signatures to have an initiative on the November ballot. Item C: He expressed his concern regarding the Kings County Supervisors' stance on the COVID-19 issue. He will write a letter expressing those concerns and asked that it be inserted into the record.

Michelle Brown, Main Street Hanford (MSH), provided an update on small businesses downtown: some are preparing for opening, and some are open (with precautions and guidelines). She reported that businesses and customers are respecting the restrictions. Main Street Hanford is providing information to business owners about where they can purchase masks and cleaning/sanitizing supplies. She mentioned a previous discussion about a possible use of Business Improvement District (BID) funds for a COVID-relief grant, to be administered through MSH, with which businesses could be reimbursed for related supplies. She noted that Thursday Night Marketplace has been greatly down-sized during the pandemic; but, they hope to grow it back, safely.

Abel Divano of Karing 4 Kids foster agency and Pastor Juan of Victory Outreach each asked that the \$250 Temporary Use Permit fee be waived for fireworks booths, during the pandemic.

Pastor Steve Luna, Christian Faith Center, requested that the \$250 Temporary Use Permit fee for fireworks booth be waived during the pandemic--and in years to come.

Jack Schwartz suggested that the attendance at the Thursday Night Marketplace be expanded, possibly by piping in music and having some food trucks. He commented on the Master Fee Schedule study session, noting that several fees went up. He felt that they should stay the same or go down, considering the present economy. He also stated that a comparison to fees in similarly sized cities should have been provided.

Jeff Garner, Executive Director, Kings Community Action Organization (KCAO), stated that they recently received State funding to help local childcare providers provide cleaning and disinfectant supplies. He encouraged providers to stay open or reopen.

Bob Ramos questioned a warrant item of over \$6,000 for purchase of hats for Public Works. He asked how many hats are purchased for that amount. Mr. Ramos also stated that the property adjacent to Hidden Valley Park should be returned to parkland.

Nate Odom welcomed Director Albert and thanked everyone for watching the meeting at home, announcing that the evening's Study Session broke 1,000 views.

Lou Martinez stated that the community has said many times that they do not want the Hidden Valley Park 18 acres to be sold. He asked if Public Comment is three minutes total or three minutes per item. Mayor Draxler stated that a person cannot speak both in the general Public Comment session and the Public Hearing Public Comment on the same topic in the same meeting.

Paul Castanon works at Kings Gospel Mission (KGM), and he requested assistance with development for KGM.

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.

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 B [Fire Department pick-up truck]; Council Member Brieno requested to pull Item D [Warrant Register].

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

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

- A. City Clerk: Approval of the minutes from the City Council Meeting held on March 17, 2020.
- B. Public Works: Authorization to advertise bids for the Well 38 Pipeline Improvement Project, and Pre-Authorization for the City Manager to award and execute the contract on behalf of the City, to the lowest responsible bidder, providing project bid is within current budget appropriation.

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT:

1. FIRE: Approval of the Purchase of one 2021 Chevrolet pickup truck from Keller Motors of Hanford, approval of the upfitting as an emergency response vehicle, and appropriation of an additional \$19,074.71 for an amount, not to exceed \$59,774.71.

Council Member Sorensen asked why the cost of upgrades is so high. Fire Chief Pendergrass gave a brief explanation of the upgrade and why it is necessary. He further stated that the funds are allocated through a privately funded grant, so there is no cost to the general fund or from tax money.

Chief Pendergrass replied to additional questions from Council Members.

Motion to approve the purchase of one 2021 Chevrolet replacement pickup truck for the Fire Department.

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

2. Finance: Warrant Register.

Council Member Brieno requested an answer to Mr. Ramos' earlier question regarding cost of hats for Public Works. Council Member Brieno had asked City Manager Cifuentez earlier about Fire Department expenses from a uniform supply company.

Public Works Director Doyel explained that City Council had approved a change of uniform colors for employees: Blue for Public Works employees and green for Parks and Recreation employees. Two new hats per uniformed employee were purchased from a local vendor, at \$16 each. Each division pays cost for their employees.

City Manager Cifuentez reported that the Fire Department uniform supply company expenses were monthly charges for changing out floor mats and rags used weekly for cleaning.

Motion to approve the Warrant Register.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. Police Department: Conduct a public hearing and approval of the use of the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program Grant funds to fund \$65,280 in overtime costs related to responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

Mayor Draxler opened the public hearing and called for the staff report.

Police Chief Parker Sever presented the staff report and answered questions from Council Members.

Mayor Draxler opened Public Comment:

OPPOSED

Mark Pratter stated his opposition toward the acceptance of the grant, citing that the Kings County Sheriff and Hanford Police have not enforced the quarantine directives from the State.

IN FAVOR

Jack Schwartz expressed support of the use of the funds. He asked if there will be a separate accounting of the funds for this grant.

Pastor Juan spoke in favor of the use of the funds.

Chief Sever replied to Council Members' questions, and Mayor Draxler called for a motion.

Motion to approve the use of the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program Grant funds to fund \$65,280 in overtime costs related to responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

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

B. Community Development: Zone Text Amendment No. 2020-01, a request to amend Title 17, Section 17.56.230 of the Hanford Municipal Code in order to expand on the City's existing mural regulations. Location: Citywide.

Mayor Draxler opened the Public Hearing and called for the staff report.

Community Development Director Mata presented the staff report and answered questions of staff.

Mayor Draxler opened Public Comment:

IN FAVOR

Nate Odom expressed support of the Zone Text Amendment and requested clarification regarding the word "insure" in the section regarding safety of the artist and public. Mayor Draxler stated that staff will look at that.

OPPOSED

None.

Mayor Draxler closed the Public Hearing and invited Council Member questions of staff. Director Mata responded to questions.

Motion to introduce and waive the first reading of Ordinance 20-04, approving Zone Text Amendment No. 2020-01.

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

C. Police: Introduction and waiver of the first reading of Ordinance 20-05, a proposed amendment to Title 6 of the Hanford Municipal Code, the addition of Chapter 6.10 to establish Keeping of Chickens - to allow the keeping of chickens within city boundaries in certain residential zones.

Mayor Draxler opened the public hearing and called for the staff report.

Police Chief Sever presented the staff report and recommended that Council waive the first reading of the ordinance and approve Ordinance 20-05.

Following Council discussion, Mayor Draxler opened Public Comment:

IN FAVOR

Nate Odom spoke in favor of the Ordinance and the 5' setback. He shared several fun facts about chickens. Mayor Draxler requested that any future fun facts be provided on paper, rather than during public comment.

OPPOSED

Abel stated that he had a neighbor with a rooster that woke him up at 4:00 every morning. He asked who would oversee that. He is in favor of chickens but not roosters. Police Chief Sever stated that Animal Control officers will respond to any complaints. Owners will be asked to remove any roosters, or they will be cited.

Judy Scott does not want chickens allowed, due to the smell.

Andrea stated that Animal Control is not available on weekends. He feels that dogs will be barking more than usual, due to the presence of chickens, and he does not like the smell.

REBUTTAL

Nate Odom commented that chickens are not smelly, if they are cared for properly, and they are not that noisy.

Council Member Sorensen asked if Chief Sever could address some of the questions/comments in opposition to the Ordinance. Chief Sever does not anticipate a huge increase in the volume of calls for service. He noted that chickens do not stink, if they are cared for properly.

Following Council discussion, Mayor Draxler called for a motion.

Motion to introduce and waive the first reading of Ordinance 20-05, approving the Municipal Code Amendment to Title 6, amending the language to stipulate a 5' set back from the property line, instead of a 10' set back.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG): Federal CARES Act (CDBG-CV) AP19 CDBG Funding Options AP20

Community Development Director Mata stated that this is not a public hearing but an overview and a time to receive input from Council.

Housing Administrative Analyst Sandra Lerma presented the staff report. She and Director Mata then answered questions from Council.

Mayor Draxler welcomed public comment:

Diane Sharp, representing the proposed Kings Gospel Mission housing project, stated three points: 1) She noted that the Kings County contract for renting rooms in hotels ends June 30, and the Kings Gospel Mission houses could be up in 90 days; 2) She thought more letters were sent to the City in favor of this project than were included in the packet and asked if the Council had been briefed on those; 3) She understood that the 2020 expenditures could be reopened and expenditures approved that may/may not be COVID related; 4) She compared the cost of building the three accessory dwelling units at \$87/sq. ft. to the cost of a slightly larger home that is on the market at \$219/sq. ft..

Jack Schwartz agreed that the administrative cost should be reviewed and perhaps reduced. He suggested that, since KCAO and The Salvation Army both already provide rental assistance, this would reduce staff cost and would be a faster, more efficient means of getting money out. He suggested reallocating Lacey Park funds to a future year and using the \$177,600 for rental assistance or food assistance.

Jeff Garner, Executive Director, KCAO presented the following points: 1) He emphasized that rental assistance is a high need; and, through KCAO, every penny would go to pay rent. Administrative costs would be covered by other funds; 2) KCAO is able to provide several services (e.g., food assistance, utility assistance, childcare assistance). They are also able to stay connected with clients; 3) The \$28,000 that the City recommended in March to go to KCAO would allow them to assist five families.

Dave Clevenger, Kings Gospel Mission (KGM), stated that the homeless population is at risk of contracting COVID-19. Funding for hotel rooms expires June 30, leaving a gap of suitable quarantine for those who have nothing else. He noted that KGM has been providing homeless services for five years and have not requested funding.

1. CDBG-CV Grant Funds

Mayor Draxler asked Director Mata to address the Small Business Grant Program. She provided comments and answered Council Members' questions. Following discussion, Director Mata requested Council's direction to staff.

By consensus, Council directed that the CDBG-CV grant fund be allocated as follows:

- Rental Assistance Program \$145,000
- Small Business Grant Program \$100,000
- Food Assistance Program \$ 50,000
- Planning and Administration \$ 30,000

2. CDBG 20/21 Allocation

Director Mata asked if Council had any changes to direction given at the March 17 meeting, remembering that Self-Help Enterprises wants to go back to their Parkside project, which was \$90,000. Due to a delay, staff had to reallocate their funds.

Following considerable discussion,

By consensus, Council directed staff to make the following changes in funds allocations:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters \$ 0
- Increase Utility Assistance by \$10,000 to \$ 20,000
- Reduce Housing Rehabilitation by \$60,000 to \$141,000
- Half of requested \$150,000 Kings Gospel Mission \$ 75,000

The remaining \$75,000 for Kings Gospel Mission housing project and the Self-Help Parkside project will be kept as alternate projects, in the event of extra pay-offs next year.

B. Community Development: Referral of the Citizen's Initiative, to change the land use and zoning on land adjacent to Hidden Valley Park and in the northwest area of the future city, to the Planning Commission for review for consistency with the General Plan.

Director Mata presented the staff report and requested direction to the Planning Commission for review and comment, with a report coming back to City Council. She stated that she would send an email to Council Members explaining the General Plan requirements for parkland.

Council Member Sorensen stated that her position has been misrepresented by some in the public. She clarified that she is in favor of selling the 18 acres adjacent to Hidden Valley Park, not in favor of selling Hidden Valley Park.

Council Member Devine expressed frustration with the ongoing discussion regarding Hidden Valley Park. He stated that all the email and phone calls he has received from the public are not supportive of the initiative's proposal.

Mayor Draxler listed several problems with the proposal, as written.

Motion to send the item to the Planning Commission for review and forward comments to City Council.

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

C. Administration: Discussion regarding Kings County's plans to reopen businesses and direction from the City Council and potential action on reopening of businesses and facilities.

City Manager Cifuentez recapped the Road Map to Reopening information from the previous week. Kings County and City of Hanford have taken the position that businesses that are licensed and reopening are urged to take caution and seek counsel. The public health agency has agreed to work with folks, at the direction of the County. They will provide guidelines. Michelle Brown, of Main Street Hanford, has offered to administer any funds that Council would like to allocate to assist downtown businesses.

Staff answered questions from Council Members.

Motion to support the Road Map to Reopening, allocate \$25,000 in Business Improvement District (BID) funds to Main Street Hanford to assist small businesses affected by COVID-19, and to approve a banner encouraging adherence to COVID-19 guidelines to be placed downtown.

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

COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Upcoming Dates

May 25: Memorial Day Holiday - City Offices Closed
June 2: City Council Meeting
June 16: City Council Meeting
July 3: Independence Day (*observed*) - City Offices Closed
July 7: City Council Meeting
July 21: City Council Meeting

A. Council Future Agenda Items

Council Member Sorensen requested the Food Truck Ordinance.

Council Member Ramirez would like add a discussion of the waiver of the \$250 Temporary Use Permit fee for fireworks booths.

Mayor Draxler requested a review of the City Attorney contract and a status update on cannabis businesses

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Draxler adjourned the meeting at 10:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Diana Black

Deputy City Clerk