



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**February 2, 2021 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
400 N. Douty St.**

Video Teleconference via Zoom. Council Members attended remotely.

4:00 PM CALL TO ORDER STUDY AND CLOSED SESSION:

Mayor Ramirez called the Study and Closed Session to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK:

Present: Ramirez, Sharp, Draxler, Morrow

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.

None.

STUDY SESSION:

- A. Presentation by the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency on the Joint Development Project for the new Downtown KART Transit Center

Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KART), Executive Director Angie Dow presented the KART Transit Center Joint Development Project Narrative and addressed questions and concerns from the Council. With no further discussion, Mayor Ramirez thanked Ms. Dow for her presentation.

- B. Public Works: Informational discussion of Assembly Bill (AB) 1383 Mandated Organic Waste Recycling requirements

Deputy Public Works Director Jim Ross presented an overview of SB 1383's Organic Waste Reduction Requirements and how it will impact the refuse department. He also discussed the roles and responsibilities of local governments. Public Works Director Doyel discussed enforcement and compliance with the States regulations. Dir Doyel and Deputy Dir. Ross addressed questions and concerns from the Council.

- C. Parks and Community Services: Presentation and Council discussion of the New Park Concept Drawing to be funded through an application for the Proposition 68 Funding

Parks and Community Services Director Brad Albert presented the New Park Concept Drawing project with ranking results, community feedback, and the next steps for the Proposition 68 Funding application. Dir. Albert also discussed the process of naming the new park. Vice Mayor Sharp spoke in favor of naming the park Veterans Park or Memorial Park. Council Member Draxler suggested including the community in the park

naming process. He also expressed his concerns regarding a utilizable grass area. Council Member Morrow complemented the park design and she would like to see the city partner with local artists in the future. She also suggested adding more basketball courts. Mayor Ramirez concurred with the Council's comments and suggestions. The Council directed staff to include the community in the process of naming the park. With no further discussion, Mayor Ramirez adjourned to closed session at 5:24 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING::

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

- A. Employment related claim received on January 6, 2021.
- B. Settlement demand received on January 21, 2021 for excessive force and wrongful arrest of Nathan Rodriguez.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION (GC 54956.9(d)(1)):

Helena v. City of Hanford
Kings County Case No. 17C0102

Cesar Pimentel v. Mark Carrillo and Alfred Rivera
Eastern District Case No.: 1:19-cv-1088

Montreal Hemphill v. Officer Farr, Officer Medeiros
Eastern District Case No.: 1:19-cv-1119

Mercury Insurance v. City of Hanford
Kings County Case No.: 20C0713

Ronald Austin v. City of Hanford
Kings County Case No.: 20C0353

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

Property: 109 E. Eighth St.
Agency Negotiators: Mario Cifuentez, Ty Mizote
Negotiating Agency: Carnegie Museum of Kings County

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT (GC 54957 (b)):

Title: Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION:

Mayor Ramirez called the Regular Session to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Draxler	Council Member	Present	3:55 PM
Diane Sharp	Vice Mayor	Present	3:50 PM
Art Brieno	Council Member	Absent	
Kalish Morrow	Council Member	Present	3:50 PM
Francisco Ramirez	Mayor	Present	3:22 PM

CLOSED SESSION ACTION REPORT :

No action reported.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was led Sylvia Gaston.

FLAG SALUTE:

The flag salute was led by Mayor Ramirez.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

City Manager Cifuentes provided a COVID-19 update from the Public Health Department and announced that restaurants can go back to outdoor dining. He also announced the Mayor's Business Roundtable event, hosted by the Hanford Chamber of Commerce.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS:

Vice Mayor Sharp attended the New Mayors and New Council Members Virtual Academy, the KART meeting, the KGAG meeting, and the Kings Abandoned Vehicle Authority meeting. She also attended several community events.

Council Member Morrow attended the League of Cities New Mayors and New Council Members Virtual Academy.

Council Member Draxler attended the Kings Waste and Recycling Authority meeting.

Mayor Ramirez discussed Kings Community Action Organization's (KCAO) food distribution program.

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.*

Mark Pratter commented on the Proposed New Park and Hidden Valley Park. He also commented on Art Brieno's resignation.

Paula Massey commented on the resignation of Art Brieno and spoke in favor of appointing Cheyne Strawn to the City Council vacancy. She also spoke in favor of the Proposed New Park to be located at 9 ¼ Ave.

Martin Devine spoke in favor of the Proposed New Park to be located at 9 ¼ Ave.

Cassandra Ramirez Sanchez spoke in favor of appointing Cheyne Strawn to the City Council vacancy.

Carolyn Hudgins spoke in favor of appointing Cheyne Strawn to the City Council vacancy and expressed her concerns regarding the cost of a special election.

Emily Burniss spoke in favor of appointing Cheyne Strawn to the City Council vacancy and expressed her concerns regarding the cost of a special election. She also spoke in favor of the Proposed New Park to be located at 9 ¼ Ave.

The Chamber of Commerce Director, Amory Marple provided an update of the organizations' events and the opening of a new position.

Dave Brown, a Lemoore resident, spoke in favor of appointing Cheyne Strawn to the City Council vacancy and thanked the Council members for their services to the community.

Bob Ramos expressed his concerns regarding the closed Council Chambers during a City Council Meeting. He also commented on Proposed New Park and the Civic Park playground structure.

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.

Council Member Morrow requested to pull item C *[General overview of the waiver of interest]*.

Motion to approve to the Consent Calendar except for the items pulled for separate consideration.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Draxler, Council Member
SECONDER:	Diane Sharp, Vice Mayor
AYES:	Draxler, Sharp, Morrow, Ramirez
ABSENT:	Brieno

A. PROCEDURAL WAIVER: Waive reading in full of resolution and ordinances and approval and adoption of same by reading title only.

B. City Clerk: Approval of the Minutes of the November 17, 2020 Meeting

Items pulled from consent:

1. Finance: Approval of a Waiver of interest and penalties for City of Hanford utility accounts that qualify for CDBG utility payment assistance

[Item C] Pulled by Council Member Morrow.

Interim Finance Director Eric Frost briefly discussed waiving the interest and penalties for the City of Hanford utility accounts that qualify for the CDBG utility payment assistance program.

Motion to approve.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- A. Finance: Presentation and adoption of Resolution 21-04-R, Adopting a Final Budget for the City of Hanford for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$66,602,025.

Interim Finance Director Eric Frost presented the budget for FY 20/21. Due to the former Finance Director leaving the agency, the budget was not finalized for the fiscal year. Dir. Frost answered questions from the Council.

Motion to adopt Resolution 21-04-R.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Draxler, Council Member
SECONDER:	Diane Sharp, Vice Mayor
AYES:	Draxler, Sharp, Morrow, Ramirez
ABSENT:	Brieno

- B. Parks and Community Services: Discussion and approval of the Park Resource Officer Pilot Program

Parks and Community Services Director Brad Albert presented the Park Resource Officer Pilot Program. The position will be funded through the Hanford Police Departments' operating budget for the initial six-month pilot program. After the pilot period ends, the funding will be allocated 50% from the Police Departments' operating budget and 50% from the Parks Division operating budget. The Officer will have a dedicated truck funded by the Parks and Community Service Department. Dir. Albert addressed questions and concerns from the Council.

Motion to approve the pilot program for the creation of a Park Resource Officer for a six-month period.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Diane Sharp, Vice Mayor
SECONDER:	John Draxler, Council Member
AYES:	Draxler, Sharp, Morrow, Ramirez
ABSENT:	Brieno

- C. Parks and Community Services: Discussion of Site Improvements for the proposed Civic Park Playground and possible alternatives

Director Brad Albert provided a background of the site improvements for the proposed Civic Park Playground. He also provided 3 alternative sites for the Council's review and consideration. The Council discussed the budget for the new park structure and the alternate locations. Mayor Ramirez and Council Members Draxler and Morrow spoke in favor of Alternate Site #3: replacement of the play structure at Centennial Park. Vice Mayor Sharp spoke in favor of Alternate Site #1: NE corner of Civic Park (in front of the Teen Center). Staff addressed questions and concerns from the Council.

Motion to relocate the proposed Civic Park playground to the NE corner of Civic Park was introduced by Vice Mayor Sharp. Motion was not seconded; motion failed.

Motion to relocate the proposed Civic Park Playground to Centennial Park and replace the existing playground structure.

The Council directed staff to prepare preliminary cost estimates for relocating the new park structure to Centennial Park and bring it back to the Council at a future meeting for review and consideration.

RESULT:	APPROVED [3 TO 1]
MOVER:	John Draxler, Council Member
SECONDER:	Kalish Morrow, Council Member
AYES:	Draxler, Morrow, Ramirez
NAYS:	Sharp
ABSENT:	Brieno

D. FIRE: Update from Hanford Fire Department on the development of departmental Guiding Documents

Fire Chief Steve Pendergrass provided the background and an update on the development of the departmental Guiding Documents and answered questions from the Council.

COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

The Council directed staff to bring back some options to fill the vacancy on the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Corral
City Clerk