



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
February 16, 2021 7:00 PM  
Council Chambers  
400 N. Douty St.**

Video Teleconference via Zoom. Council Members attended remotely.

**5:00 PM CALL TO ORDER STUDY AND CLOSED SESSION:**

Mayor Ramirez called the Study Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK :**

Present: Francisco Ramirez, Diane Sharp, John Draxler, Kalish 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. Public Works: Presentation and Discussion of the Downtown Pedestrian Safety & Traffic Circulation Study**

Public Works Director John Doyel discussed the background of the Downtown Pedestrian and Safety Study. David Peters, of Peters Engineering, presented the Downtown Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Circulation Study, with the Downtown Committee's comments and recommendation. Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KART) Executive Director, Angie Dowd shared the concerns of the KART staff. Public Works Director John Doyel responded to the comments from Ms. Dowd. Vice Mayor Sharp requested examples of roundabouts in downtown areas of other cities. She also commented on parking and sidewalk areas. Council Member Draxler questioned the Committee's comments on the mid-block crosswalks. Council Member Morrow spoke in favor of the roundabouts. The Council discussed the uncertainty of providing direction and moving forward with the staff's recommendation as presented. Both City Manager Cifuentes and Dir. Doyel addressed the Council's concerns. It was a consensus of the Council to direct staff to move forward with the staffs' recommendations.

Mayor Ramirez adjourned to closed session at 5:50 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING:**

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

Property: 426 W. Lacey Blvd

Agency Negotiators: Mario Cifuentez, Ty Mizote  
Negotiating Agency: Dirk Holkeboer

### **CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION:**

Mayor Ramirez called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL:**

| Attendee Name     | Title          | Status  | Arrived |
|-------------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| John Draxler      | Council Member | Present | 4:45 PM |
| Diane Sharp       | Vice Mayor     | Present | 4:50 AM |
| Art Brieno        | Council Member | Present | 7:00 PM |
| Kalish Morrow     | Council Member | Present | 4:55 PM |
| Francisco Ramirez | Mayor          | Present | 4:45 PM |

### **INVOCATION:**

The invocation was led by Vice Mayor Sharp.

### **FLAG SALUTE:**

The Flag Salute was led by Mayor Ramirez.

### **CLOSED SESSION ACTION REPORT :**

No action was reported.

### **STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:**

City Manager Mario Cifuentez discussed a federal grant that the city will be receiving. He also provided a COVID-19 update for Kings County and he announced upcoming events and meetings.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS:**

Vice Mayor Sharp commented on use of city's baseball fields and attended Kings County Advisory Board Meeting, the GSA meeting, the City Selection Committee and she participated in a community trash pick -up.

Council Member Morrow participated in Planning and Parks and Recreation commissioner interviews. She will be participating in an upcoming park clean up at Centennial Park.

Council Member Brieno had nothing to report.

Council Member Draxler attended the Kings County Homelessness Collaborative meeting.

Mayor Ramirez participated in the Planning and Parks and Recreation commissioner interviews.

### **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.***

Michelle Brown, Executive Director of Main Street Hanford, commented on the crow problem in the downtown area.

Luciana Borba, owner of Sojourn, commented on the crow problem in the downtown area.

Kristen Bookout, owner of Hanford Jewelry and Loan, commented on the crow problem in the downtown area.

Emily Burnias commented on the return of Council Member Brieno. She also commented on the crow problem in the downtown area.

Rachele Bergland commented on the Council Member attendance at the Study Session and the Regular Session. She also asked for an explanation for the return of Council Member Brieno.

Jason Highfill commented on crow problem in the downtown area.

Clayton Smith, Field Representative for Congressman David Valadao's District Office, introduced himself.

Amory Marple, Executive Director of Hanford Chamber of Commerce, shared the upcoming events for the organization.

Allison Sanders asked for an explanation of Council Members Brieno's attendance at the meeting.

Kevin Scott questioned Council Member Brieno's attendance at the meeting.

Miguel Reyes, owner of the Quesadilla Gorilla, commented on the crow problem in the downtown area.

Jason Kemp Van Ee commented on Council Member Brieno's attendance at the meeting.

City Attorney Ty Mizote explained the legalities of Council Member Brieno's recent resignation and his decision to return to his seat on the City Council. Mr. Mizote also addressed the agreement prepared by the City Attorney's office regarding Council Member Brieno's resignation. He then gave the Council the option to request further briefing on the issue from the City Attorney's office at a future City Council meeting.

Council Member Brieno rescinded his resignation and explained the reason for his decision to return to his seat on the City Council

With no further discussion, Mayor Ramirez moved to the next item on the agenda.

## **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.***

Vice Mayor Sharp requested to pull item D *[Reject notice of government claim.]*

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

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Kalish Morrow, Council Member           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Diane Sharp, Vice Mayor                 |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Draxler, Sharp, Brieno, Ramirez, Morrow |

- A. PROCEDURAL WAIVER: Waive reading in full of resolution and ordinances and approval and adoption of same by reading title only.
- B. City Clerk: Denial of a claim for damages and authorization for the City Clerk to send out notification of such to Julia Padilla.
- C. City Clerk: Denial of a claim for damages and authorization for the City Clerk to send out notification of such to Arnold Avila.
- D. Parks and Community Services: Approval of a new 3-year Ground Lease Agreement with Framework Racing for the Hanford BMX Track
- E. Parks and Community Services: Adoption of Resolution No. 21-06-R, Authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for funding under the Proposition 68 Statewide Park and Development Community Revitalization Program
- F. Public Works: Authorization for Reimbursements to Presidio JJR Bella Vista 128, LLC., in the amount of \$35,702.33, for the construction of off-site street improvements along the development frontage of Tract No. 918, Unit No. 2 (Centennial Drive and Devon Street), \$4,960.24, for the oversizing of the sewer main within Centennial Drive from an 8 inch to a 12 inch, and \$6,839.34, for the oversizing of the water main within Centennial Drive from an 8 inch to an 18 inch. .
- G. Public Works: Authorization to reimburse Presidio JJR Bella Vista 128, LLC., \$159,517.84 for the construction of off-site street improvements, along the development frontage of Tract No. 919, authorize an additional appropriation of \$163,943.21 from the Transportation Impact Fee Reserves, and reimburse Presidio JJR Bella Vista 128, LLC., \$15,378.95, for the oversizing of the water main within Centennial Drive from an 8 inch to an 18 inch. (Centennial Drive and Fargo Avenue)

***Items pulled from consent:***

- 1. Administration: Reject notice of government claim  
[Item D] Pulled by Vice Mayor Sharp.

City Attorney Ty Mizote explained that the recommendation to reject the claim is a procedural act, which will affect the statute of limitations of the claim.

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Diane Sharp, Vice Mayor                 |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | John Draxler, Council Member            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Draxler, Sharp, Brieno, Ramirez, Morrow |

## PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. Public Works: Conduct a public hearing for the formation of Landscape Assessment District No. 20-01 at NEC of 13th Avenue and Devon Street, and adopt Resolution 21-05-R establishing the formation of the district and confirming the levy and collection of annual assessment

Mayor Ramirez opened the public hearing at 7:50 p.m. and called for the staff report. Public Works Director John Doyel presented the staff report.

Mayor Ramirez opened public comment at 7:52 p.m.

### IN-FAVOR

None.

### OPPOSED

None.

Mayor Ramirez closed public comment at 7:53 p.m.

Motion to adopt Resolution 21-05-R.

Mayor Ramirez closed the public hearing at 7:55 p.m.

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Art Brieno, Council Member              |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | John Draxler, Council Member            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Draxler, Sharp, Brieno, Ramirez, Morrow |

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

- A. Administration: Authorization to enter into a contract with Integrated Avian Solutions to provide Falconer services to reduce the Crow Population in Downtown Hanford for an amount not to exceed \$47,600 for Calendar Year 2021.

City Manager Mario Cifuentez discussed the Bird Abatement Proposal. He also discussed the growing crow problem in the downtown area and invited questions from the Council. Council Member Draxler spoke in favor of the proposal with the exception of the crows not being directed into other areas to become a problem for other businesses. Council Member Brieno suggested expanding the proposed project area. Mayor Ramirez expressed his concerns regarding the increase in cost if the project area is expanded. City Manager Cifuentez addressed questions and concerns from the Council. The Council directed staff to request a modification of the project area to avoid directing the crows into other areas of Hanford.

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Kalish Morrow, Council Member           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Art Brieno, Council Member              |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Draxler, Sharp, Brieno, Ramirez, Morrow |

- B. Council: Appointment of new members to fill vacancies and Reappointment of existing members to serve new terms on the various City Commissions.

City Manager Mario Cifuentez discussed the past and current process of commissioner appointments for Council's review and consideration. Council Member Draxler would like to continue the new interview and scoring process going forward.

Motion to approve the appointment of the new members to fill vacancies and reappointment of existing members to serve a new term.

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | John Draxler, Council Member            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Diane Sharp, Vice Mayor                 |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Draxler, Sharp, Brieno, Ramirez, Morrow |

## **COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

### **A. Council Future Agenda Items**

The Council discussed the crow droppings and the sidewalk power washing in the downtown area. The Council directed staff to follow up on the sidewalk cleaning.

It was a consensus of the Council to address the censure of Council Member Brieno at the next City Council meeting.

Council Member Brieno suggested that the next Council meeting be held in person.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Ramirez adjourned the meeting 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Corral  
City Clerk