



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

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

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

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

ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK :

Present: Francisco Ramirez, Diane Sharp, Kalish Morrow, John Draxler, Art Brieno

PUBLIC COMMENT :

*A maximum of **three minutes** is allowed for each speaker. Please begin your comments by stating your name and providing your city of residence.*

Scott Holwell suggested naming the proposed new park 'Veterans Memorial Park'.

STUDY SESSION :

A. Recognition of Employees of the Year and Service Award Recipients

City Manager Cifuentez and staff recognized the three employees of the year and the service awards recipients.

B. Discussion and Council direction regarding the Naming of the proposed Prop 68 Regional Park

Parks and Community Services Director Brad Albert discussed the park naming campaign. The name, 'Hanford's Heroes Park' received the most votes from the community. Mayor Ramirez suggested the shortening the name to 'Heroes' Park'. It was a consensus of the Council to move forward with naming the proposed new park 'Heroes' Park'.

Mayor Ramirez adjourned to closed session at 5:34 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING :

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (gc 54956.9(d)(2))

Government Claim submitted by Paula Lofgren.

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION:

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

ROLL CALL:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Draxler	Council Member	Present	4:50 PM
Diane Sharp	Vice Mayor	Present	4:53 PM
Art Brieno	Council Member	Present	4:58PM
Kalish Morrow	Council Member	Present	4:54 PM
Francisco Ramirez	Mayor	Present	4:30 PM

INVOCATION:

Police Chief Sever led the invocation.

FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Ramirez led the flag salute.

CLOSED SESSION ACTION REPORT :

None.

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

Employee Recognition Day Proclamation

Mayor Ramirez presented the Employee Recognition Day Proclamation to staff.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

City Manager Mario Cifuentez provided the Kings County COVID-19 update. The Fire Department has trained personnel to assist the Kings County Public Health Department with administering COVID-19 vaccination.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS:

Vice Mayor Sharp attended the KCAO, KCAPTA, and KCAG meetings. She also provided a handout with further information for the Council.

Council Member Morrow attended the Fire Department Badge pinning ceremony. She also attended a meeting hosted by Senator Hurtado's office.

Council Member Brieno had nothing to report.

Council Member Draxler attended Kings Waste and Recycling Authority meeting.

Mayor Ramirez attended the Fire Department Badge pinning ceremony, and meeting hosted by Senator Hurtado's office. He also announced Council Member Morrow's appointment to the South San Joaquin Valley Division Executive Board.

Before moving to Public Comment, Mayor Ramirez suggested that General Business Item D be pulled for Council review and discussion.

Motion to pull General Business Item D for Councils review and consideration was introduced by Council Member Morrow; Motion seconded by Vice Mayor Sharp. With 4 votes in favor and one abstention by Council Member Brieno, the motion was approved.

- A. *[General Business Item D]* Adoption of Resolution No. 21-07-R, providing for the Censure of Council Member Arthur Brieno

City Attorney Bob Dowd presented the staff report and discussed the claim filed by the Community Development Director, Darlene Mata. Mr. Dowd summarized the findings of the investigation report. Mr. Dowd addressed the questions and comments from Council Member Brieno.

Mayor Ramirez opened Public Comment for General Business Item D.

Mark Kairis commented on actions of the City Council regarding the Council Member misconduct. He also commented on Council Member Brieno's resignation.

Art Perez questioned the investigation report. He also commented on the censure of Council Member Brieno.

Justin Mendes spoke in support of Darlene Mata. He also commented the Censure of Council Member Brieno.

Noor Memon commented on the Bastille.

Jason Kemp Van Ee spoke in support of Darlene Mata. He also commented on the recent actions of Council Member Brieno.

Joanne Doeter spoke in support of Darlene Mata.

Lou Martinez commended the police department and thanked the Council for allowing the public to speak on the Brieno matter.

Rachele Bergland commented on the investigation report. She also commented on Brieno's resignation.

Emily Bernius commented on Brieno's resignation. She also shared her opinion of Council Member Brieno.

Renee Irons commented on the investigation report. She also shared her opinion of Council Member Brieno.

Bob Ramos commented on the investigation report. Mr. Ramos spoke in opposition of the Censure of Council Member Brieno.

Jerry Irons shared a story. He also commented on the Censure of Council Member Brieno.

Council Member Brieno provided the details of his experience with the investigation process. Mr. Brieno also shared some of his past experiences with the city staff. Mr. Brieno addressed his resignation, and he explained why he decided to return to his seat on the City Council. Mr. Brieno requested the removal of one recommendation from Resolution 21-07-R. *[If Council Member Brieno desires to communicate with a City employee other than the City Manager, it directs that all such communication occur through the City Manager.]*

Each of the Council Members provided a statement addressing the investigation and the conduct of Mr. Brieno. Mayor Ramirez, Vice Mayor Sharp, and Council Members Morrow and Draxler spoke in favor of the Censure of Council Member Brieno as recommended.

Motion to approve Resolution 21-07-R.

RESULT:	APPROVED [4 TO 0]
MOVER:	Francisco Ramirez, Mayor
SECONDER:	Diane Sharp, Vice Mayor
AYES:	Draxler, Sharp, Morrow, Ramirez
ABSTAIN:	Brieno

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.*

Bob Ramos commented on the approval of Resolution 21-07-R. Mr. Ramos also requested to pull items D and E from the Consent Calendar.

Noor Memon commented on the Bastille and the proposals that he has submitted to the City Council in the past. He requested that the Bastille be put a future 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 [Appointment to fill unscheduled vacancy on the Parking and Traffic Commission.]. Bob Ramos requested to pull Item E [Administration: Reject Notice of Government Claim].

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

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

- A. PROCEDURAL WAIVER: Waive reading in full of resolutions and ordinances and approval and adoption of same by reading title the only.
- B. City Clerk: Approval of the Minutes of the December 1, 2020 Meeting
- C. City Clerk: Approval of the Minutes of the December 15, 2020 Meeting
- D. Community Development: Approval of the creation of a full-time Senior Plans Examiner Position to the Community Development Department and approve an increase to the personnel Budget of the department to cover the costs.
- E. Finance: Approval of a Revision of the Convenience Fees charged for Credit Card Processing for the City of Hanford Utility Billing, thereby revising Resolution 20-02-R.
- F. Public Works: Authorization to advertise for bids for the FY 20/21 Manhole Repair and Coating Project

- G. FIRE: Award of an annual contract for Annual OSHA Physicals for Firefighters to Pinnacle Training Systems for Health and Wellness Services at an annual cost not to exceed \$19,624 per year for the 5-year contract.

Pulled items:

1. City Clerk: Appointment to fill unscheduled vacancy on the Parking and Traffic Commission.

[Item D] pulled by Bob Ramos.

City Manager Cifuentez clarified that there was one unscheduled vacancy on the Parking and Traffic Commission. Staff recommended Jeffery Medlin to fill the unscheduled vacancy.

Motion to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Draxler, Council Member
SECONDER:	Kalish Morrow, Council Member
AYES:	Draxler, Sharp, Brieno, Morrow, Ramirez

2. Administration: Reject Notice of Government Claim

[Item E] pulled by Vice Mayor Sharp

City Attorney Ty Mizote explained that the claim rejection is a procedural process and invited questions from the council.

Motion to approve.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- A. Public Works: Approval of a Sole Source Contract with TelStar Instruments of Hanford, CA in the amount of \$62,686.00, for the purchase and installation of one chlorine building and associated electrical, instrumentation and programming to complete the chlorine injection system at Well 38 and approve the appropriation of \$62,686.00 from Water Capital Reserves to fund the project. (Location: Hidden Valley Park)

Public Works Director John Doyel discussed the Well 38 chlorination project and the appropriation from the Water Capital Reserves to complete this project. Dir. Doyel invited questions from the Council.

Motion to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Art Brieno, Council Member
SECONDER:	Francisco Ramirez, Mayor
AYES:	Draxler, Sharp, Brieno, Morrow, Ramirez

- B. Public Works: Approval of a Sole Source Contract with TelStar Instruments of Hanford, CA in the amount of \$21,289.00, for the purchase and installation of one Altivar 630 VFD including the programming, start-up and testing at Well 41 and appropriation of \$21,289.00 from Water Capital Reserves to fund the project. (Location: 11274 W. Fargo Ave.)

Public Works Director John Doyel discussed the background of Well 41 and the appropriation from the Water Capital reserves to fund the project. Dir. Doyel addressed the questions and concerns from the Council.

Motion to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Art Brieno, Council Member
SECONDER:	John Draxler, Council Member
AYES:	Draxler, Sharp, Brieno, Morrow, Ramirez

- C. Public Works: Authorization to purchase the property located southeast of E Whitney Drive, 300 ft south of E Ivy Street from Kurt Lavenson and Lesly R. Avedisian, Co-Trustees of the Lavenson-Avedisian Trust, as shown on the attached map, in the amount of \$328,050 plus escrow fees; accept the attached Grant Deed and authorize the City Manager to execute and the City Clerk to attest; and file said deeds with the Kings County Recorder's Office, and accept the attached Purchase and Sale Agreement and authorize City staff to execute said agreement. (APN 014-221-026 & 014-221-020).

Public Works Director John Doyel discussed the acquisition of the property and provided the background. Dir. Doyel answered questions from the Council. Vice Mayor Sharp explained the reason for her abstention on the item.

Motion to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED [4 TO 0]
MOVER:	Art Brieno, Council Member
SECONDER:	John Draxler, Council Member
AYES:	Draxler, Brieno, Morrow, Ramirez
ABSTAIN:	Sharp

COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Vice Mayor Sharp proposed a discussion to consider a second censure of Council Member Brieno at a future meeting. No other Council Members were in support.

Vice Mayor Sharp proposed directing the City Attorney to research the legalities of reducing Mr. Brieno's compensation. No other Council Members were in support.

After a minor discussion, Vice Mayor Sharp, Council Member Draxler, and Council Member Morrow were in support of directing the City Attorney to spend a small amount of time to research the legalities of a second censure of Council Member Brieno.

A. Council Future Agenda Items

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Corral
City Clerk