

## MINUTES OF MENDOTA REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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**Regular Meeting**

**September 17, 2024**

**Meeting called to order by Mayor Martinez at 6:02 PM**

**Roll Call**

**Council Members Present:** Mayor Victor Martinez, Mayor Pro Tem Libertad “Liberty” Lopez and Council Members Jose Alonso and Joseph Riofrio

**Council Members Absent:** Council Member Oscar Rosales

**Flag salute led by Mayor Martinez**

**Invocation led by Police Chaplain Robert Salinas**

### **FINALIZE THE AGENDA**

1. Adjustments to Agenda.
2. Adoption of final Agenda.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez to adopt the agenda, seconded by Council Member Alonso; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Rosales).

### **PRESENTATIONS**

1. Chief of Police Smith to introduce Police Sergeant Greg Houser.

Chief Smith introduced Police Sergeant Greg Houser and shared information about his background.

Sergeant Houser thanked the City Council, Chief Smith and the Mendota Police Department (“MPD”) for the opportunity to serve Mendota.

The City Council congratulated Sergeant Houser, wished him well, and welcomed him to the community.

### **CITIZENS ORAL AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS**

Mike Leyva and Alicia Leyva commented on the invocation led by Police Chaplain Salinas; shared information on an incident that took place in their home involving two girls that live with them; the Mendota Police Department (“MPD”) responding to the incident, including Mr. Leyva being arrested by the MPD; different issues they have with the two girls that live with them and stated they would like to submit a complaint against Sergeant Antuna and Officer Lopez.

Discussion was held on the information provided by Mr. and Ms. Leyva; the purchase of body-worn cameras for the MPD; and Chief of Police Smith meeting with Mr. and Ms. Leyva to discuss the incident.

Ofelia Ochoa and Karina Beltran stated that they have visited the proposed property that the Council is considering leasing to La Granja de Favian (“La Granja”); provided information on La Granja; and thanked the City Council for their support.

Discussion was held on the information provided by Ms. Ochoa and Ms. Beltran and translation services being offered at City Council meetings.

Kyle Savage with the Office of Congressman John Duarte provided an update on legislation, including Congressman Duarte cosponsoring H.R. 9531: Farm to Market Road Improvement Act.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND NOTICE OF WAIVING OF READING**

1. Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of September 3, 2024.
2. Notice of waiving of the reading of all resolutions and/or ordinances introduced and/or adopted under this agenda.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez to approve items 1 and 2, seconded by Council Member Alonso; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Rosales).

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. AUGUST 28, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
  - a. WARRANT LIST CHECK NOS. 55318 THROUGH 55339
  - b. TOTAL FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL = \$248,990.87
2. Proposed adoption of **Proclamation No. 24-01**, recognizing the Mendota Unified School District Expanded Learning Program and Proclaiming November 7, 2024 as “Lights on Afterschool Day.”

3. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 24-51**, declaring surplus certain City-owned personal property and authorizing the sale or disposal of such property.
4. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 24-52**, approving the Consultant Services Agreement and Proposal from Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group for Land Surveying and Engineering Services for the 2024 Local Streets Improvement Project.

A request was made to pull items 3 and 4 for discussion.

A motion was made by Council Member Alonso to approve items 1 and 2 of the Consent Calendar, seconded by Council Member Riofrio; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Rosales).

3. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 24-51**, declaring surplus certain City-owned personal property and authorizing the sale or disposal of such property.

Discussion was held on the item.

4. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 24-52**, approving the Consultant Services Agreement and Proposal from Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group for Land Surveying and Engineering Services for the 2024 Local Streets Improvement Project.

Discussion was held on the item.

*At 6:33 p.m. Mayor Martinez opened the public comment period for Item 4 of the Consent Calendar.*

Ofelia Ochoa thanked Congressman John Duarte for championing on behalf of the City for funding for road repairs and commented on the condition of the Rojas-Pierce Park Main Pavilion and thanked the City for their work.

*At 6:34 p.m. Mayor Martinez closed the public comment period for Item 4 of the Consent Calendar.*

A motion was made by Council Member Alonso to approve item 4 of the Consent Calendar, seconded by Council Member Riofrio; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Rosales).

*At 6:35 p.m. Mayor Martinez opened the public comment period for Item 3 of the Consent Calendar and seeing no one willing to comment closed it within the same minute.*

A motion was made by Council Member Alonso to approve item 3 of the Consent Calendar, seconded by Council Member Riofrio; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Rosales).

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Proposed adoption of **Resolution No. 24-53**, finding an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act and amending the City of Mendota General Plan Update 2005-2025 by adopting the 2023-2031 Housing Element.

Mayor Martinez introduced the item and Assistant City Planner Czeshinski provided the report.

Discussion was held on the report provided by Assistant City Planner Czeshinski.

*At 6:49 p.m. Mayor Martinez opened the hearing to the public.*

Discussion was held on the City of Mendota General Plan Update 2005-2025 and the 2023-2031 Housing Element.

*At 6:50 p.m. Mayor Martinez closed the hearing to the public.*

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez to adopt Resolution No. 24-53, seconded by Council Member Alonso; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Alonso).

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Animal Control, Code Enforcement, and Police Department
  - a) August Monthly Logs

The City Council thanked Chief of Police Smith for a letter he issued to businesses in the City regarding the need to beautify their locations.

Chief of Police Smith commented on the letter he issued to businesses in the City regarding the need to beautify their locations.

Discussion was held on the letter issued to businesses in the City and the need for everyone to work together to improve and beautify the community.

*At 6:53 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Lopez left the Council Chambers and returned at 6:54 p.m.*

Chief of Police Smith provided the monthly updates and reports for the Animal Control Department, Code Enforcement Department and Police Department; reported that Officer Vasquez participated in the Mothers Against Drunk Driving 5K Walk/Run; Mendota Police Department ("MPD") officers patrolling the drag racing event that took place in the City; upcoming events including the MPD conducting a Driving Under the Influence checkpoint on September 20<sup>th</sup> and September 26<sup>th</sup>; commented on MPD officers assisting with the Kerman Harvest Festival; and the MPD participating in the Breast Cancer Awareness campaign, including seeking local businesses to sponsor the MPD's Breast Cancer Awareness campaign.

Discussion was held on stray dogs in the City, including the resources that the City is expending to catch stray dogs; the possibility of purchasing pink City of Mendota hats and the grand opening of the new City Council Chambers and Mendota Police Department.

2. City Attorney

Assistant City Attorney Castro nothing to report.

3. City Manager

City Manager Gonzalez reported on the Grand Opening event for Starbucks; the Mendota Police Department's You Got Served a Starbucks by a Cop event; status of the new Police Department and City Council Chambers; a compliance inspection that took place at the 5 Points Facility; and a recent Community Center meeting and an upcoming Community Center meeting.

Discussion was held on the Citywide Streetlight Inventory and Evaluation project; the status of purchasing new streetlights; status of the Roundabout Project on State Highways 180 and 33; the possibility of connecting property owners of empty lots to potential buyers in the City; and the Pool Park Rehabilitation Project.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Council Member(s)

Mayor Pro Tem Lopez commented on the California Department of Transportation and the Fresno Arts Council painting electrical boxes in the City; the Vista Square grand opening; the status of the Community Center project; Suicide Prevention Month, including providing a quote in relation to Suicide Prevention Month; the Red Ribbon Week celebration in Tranquility, including whether the Mendota Police Department can participate; thanked the audience for attending; and thanked Mr. and Ms. Leyva for sharing their concerns.

Council Member Alonso requested that Chief Smith issue a letter regarding individuals illegally parking in handicapped spots; commented on the Vista Square grand opening; a ride along he had with City Manager Gonzalez and Luis Martinez with the office of Senator Caballero to advocate on behalf of the City.

Council Member Riofrio commented on the possibility of modifying the street sweeping hours near Mendota High School due to traffic impacting the efficiency of the street sweeper; the status of the Dirt Soccer Field and the condition of the Danny Trejo Soccer Field.

Discussion was held on the Danny Trejo Soccer Field and Dirt Soccer Field and the Facility Use Policy.

2. Mayor

Mayor Martinez thanked to staff; thanked the audience for attending; thanked the City Council for their work; commented on ongoing projects in the City and the need to continue to work to improve the community.

**CLOSED SESSION**

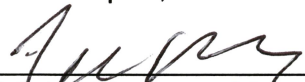
1. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS  
Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.8  
Property: APNs 012-160-25S, 012-190-56, 012-190-25ST, 012-190-09T, and 012-190-26ST  
Agency Negotiator: Cristian Gonzalez, City Manager  
Negotiating Party: Westlands Water District  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment
2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Potential initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9 (two potential cases).
3. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS  
Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.8  
Property: APN 013-050-21T  
Agency Negotiator: Cristian Gonzalez, City Manager  
Negotiating Party: Karina Beltran  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

At 7:25 p.m. the City Council moved into closed session.

At 8:17 p.m. the City Council reconvened in open session and Assistant City Attorney Castro stated that in regard to items 1 through 3 there were no reportable actions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to be brought before the Council, a motion for adjournment was made at 8:17 p.m. by Council Member Alonso, seconded by Council Member Mayor Pro Tem Lopez; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Rosales).

  
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Victor Martinez, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Celeste Cabrera-Garcia, City Clerk

Minutes of City Council Meeting



September 17, 2024