



## MINUTES SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL/PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

February 9, 2021

City of Watsonville  
Teleconference/Remote

**1. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Dutra, Mayor Pro Tempore Parker, and Council Members Estrada, García, González, Hurst, and Montesino were present via teleconference through Zoom Webinar.

Planning Commissioners Acosta, Cole, Dorantes-Pulido, and Veitch-Olson were present via teleconference through Zoom Webinar. Planning Commissioners Dodge and Rojas, and Chair Kammer were absent and excused.

Staff members present via teleconference through Zoom Webinar were City Manager Huffaker, City Attorney Smith, City Clerk Vázquez Flores, Assistant City Manager Vides, Police Chief Honda, Administrative Services Director Czerwin, Airport Director Williams, Community Development Director Merriam, and Assistant City Clerk Ortiz.

**2. REPORTS TO COUNCIL -- No Action Required**

**2.a ETHICS TRAINING (ASSEMBLY BILL 1234) (2 Hours)**

### CITY COUNCIL RESUMED AT 6:30 P.M.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Dutra, Mayor Pro Tempore Parker, and Council Members Estrada, García, González, Hurst, and Montesino were present via teleconference through Zoom Webinar.

Staff members present via teleconference through Zoom Webinar were City Manager Huffaker, City Attorney Smith, City Clerk Vázquez Flores, Assistant City Manager Vides, Public Works & Utilities Director Palmisano, Deputy City Manager Manning, Police Chief Honda, Fire Chief Lopez, Administrative Services Director Czerwin, Airport Director Williams, Community Development Director Merriam, Interim Library Director Martinez, Innovation & Technology Director Boyes, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib, Assistant Police Chief Sims, Police Captain Zamora, Police Captain Rodriguez, Assistant City Clerk Ortiz, and Interpreter Landaverry.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**5. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**5.a REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS**

**5.b MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS REPORT**

**5.c WRITTEN REPORTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS REGARDING ACTIONS TAKEN ON THEIR REGIONAL COMMISSIONS/BOARD MEETINGS THAT MAY AFFECT THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE (IF ANY)**

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
FEBRUARY 3, 2021 REPORT (Council Member Estrada)

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING  
HIGHLIGHTS (Council Member González)

**6. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**6.a ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Ben Vernazza, Aptos resident, spoke about youth airplane pilot lessons available to students at the Municipal Airport and encouraged them to participate.

Dr. Nancy A. Bilicich announced she had been appointed as Vice Chair to Zone 7, Flood Control and Water Conservation District. She spoke about efforts to improve flood prevention infrastructure and invited the public to participate in River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority meetings.

Eli, District 7, requested that all City meetings be listed in one calendar on the City's website. She asked that the public be allowed to ask questions on the City Manager's Update Report and that the time for public input not be reduced based on quantity of speakers.

Xitlali requested that agendas be posted a week in advance of the meeting.

Steve Trujillo encouraged the public to enroll in Cabrillo College courses. He spoke about City cleanup efforts and asked the public to assist in the cleaning.

**6.b ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL**

Member Montesino commended Member González for his work in the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC). He commended the Environmental Science Workshop for their work to assist youth with school supplies and activities.

Member González spoke about his participation in the shared safety community forum and his participation in First 5 Santa Cruz County. He stated SCCRTC approved the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis and Rail Network Integration Study (TCAA/RNIS) and SCCRTC would be working on auxiliary lanes on Highway 1 next.

Mayor Pro Tempore Parker announced Staff of Life would open on March 30th.

Member Estrada encouraged the public to celebrate Black History Month. He invited the public to access social media pages for the City and local non-profits. He spoke about his participation at the recent Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) meeting and announced that water service for a home 3.5 miles beyond City limits had been approved.

Member Hurst spoke about his participation in SCCRTC and invited the public to upcoming community events. He asked the public to prevent spread of COVID-19.

Member García spoke about her participation in Cabrillo College's Community Advisory Committee to discuss priorities for Cabrillo College, including potential for addition of ethnic studies. She also spoke about her participation in Reimagine Santa Cruz' conference on affordable housing. She commended City Manager Huffaker on his work with Second Harvest Food Bank.

Mayor Dutra stated he would be honoring members of the community in celebration of Black History Month. He spoke about his efforts to bring more COVID-19 vaccination sites to Watsonville. He asked the public to support local businesses.

**6.c MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SINDY HERNANDEZ AND QUEEN'S SHOES & MORE FOR THEIR VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY AND WISHING THEM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE**

**7. REPORTS TO COUNCIL -- No Action Required**

**7.a CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE REPORT**

The report was given by City Manager Huffaker.

In answering Member García, City Manager Huffaker spoke about collection of COVID-19 vaccination data and use to assist communities most affected by the disease.

City Manager Huffaker, in answering Members Estrada, spoke about need for volunteers at vaccination sites.

In answering Mayor Dutra, Assistant City Manager Vides spoke about COVID-19 vaccination centers and availability of the vaccine.

**7.b UPDATE ON CITY'S SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE**

Presentation by Public Works & Utilities Director Palmisano, Solid Waste Division Manager Rivera, & Sr. Administrative Analyst Peralta

Senior Administrative Analyst Peralta answered questions from Member García regarding food scraps composting efforts.

Member Hurst asked the public to dispose of their waste properly.

Solid Waste Division Manager Rivera answered questions from Mayor Pro Tempore Parker regarding utility rate increases.

In answering Member González, Solid Waste Division Manager Rivera spoke about changes to waste bins and cost differences between options offered.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

In answering Member García, City Clerk Vazquez Flores stated Olson Remcho, LLP. would present to Council on the redistricting process in March.

In answering Member González, City Manager Huffaker clarified the process for submitting applications for display of commemorative flags as proposed in Item 8.h.

Member Hurst commended Donald Brown and Kristal Salcido for willingness to serve on their respective commissions.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Eli, District 7, spoke about the history of the Black Lives Matter Flag.

Xitlali spoke in support of Item 8.h, but asked Council to further efforts to help vulnerable members of the community.

Chris asked Council to commit to helping disadvantaged members of the community, not only with display of commemorative flags, but with action.

City Clerk Vazquez Flores announced that the Black Lives Matter Flag may not arrive on time to be flown in February..

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Montesino, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Parker and carried by the following vote to approve the Consent Agenda:

AYES:	MEMBERS:	Estrada, García, González, Hurst, Montesino, Parker, Dutra
NOES:	MEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	MEMBERS:	None

- 8.a MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2021**
- 8.b JULY 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2020 INVESTMENT REPORT**
- 8.c OCTOBER 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 2020 INVESTMENT REPORT**
- 8.d RESOLUTION NO. 44-21 (CM):  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE  
ADOPTING AND CONFIRMING THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE INVESTMENT POLICY  
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021**
- 8.e RESOLUTION NO. 45-21 (CM):  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE  
AMENDING THE 2020-2021 BUDGET TO APPROPRIATE \$535,000 FROM THE GAS  
TAX FUND TO SUPPLEMENT OR COMPLEMENT CERTAIN EXISTING PROJECTS  
IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**
- 8.f RESOLUTION NO. 46-21 (CM):  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE  
AWARDING CONTRACT TO OLSON REMCHO, LLP., FOR REDISTRICTING AND  
DEMOGRAPHIC SERVICES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$116,800;  
AUTHORIZING A BUDGET APPROPRIATION OF \$76,800 FROM THE GENERAL**

**FUND; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAME**

- 8.g RESOLUTION NO. 47-21 (CM):  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING FIRST AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AND THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, FOR CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND ENRICHMENT CAMP SERVICES, EXTENDING TERM UNTIL JUNE 30, 2021, INCREASING COMPENSATION TO CITY BY \$133,578 FOR A CUMULATIVE TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$240,178; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAME [Amends Resolution No. 189-20 (CM)]**
- 8.h RESOLUTION NO. 48-21 (CM):  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL POLICY FOR THE OUTDOOR DISPLAY OF COMMEMORATIVE FLAGS AT THE WATSONVILLE CIVIC PLAZA**
- 8.i RESOLUTION NO. 49-21 (CM):  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AUTHORIZING THE DISPLAY OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER FLAG AT THE WATSONVILLE CIVIC PLAZA DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY IN COMMEMORATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL POLICY FOR OUTDOOR DISPLAY OF COMMEMORATIVE FLAGS**
- 8.j RESOLUTION NO. 50-21 (CM):  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE ADOPTING A POLICY FOR RESPONDING TO LAWSUITS**
- 8.k RESOLUTION NO. 51-21 (CM):  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPOINTING DON BROWN TO THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES [District 3-Hurst]**
- 8.l RESOLUTION NO. 52-21 (CM):  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPOINTING KRISTAL SALCIDO TO THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE PERSONNEL COMMISSION [District 3-Hurst]**
- 9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA (None)**
- 10. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES, & APPEALS**
- 10.a CONSIDERATION OF COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**
  - 1) Staff Report by Administrative Services Director Czerwin**
  - 2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**  
Administrative Services Director Czerwin and City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Member Montesino regarding Council involvement in the budget, challenges the Fire Department had faced with staffing levels and overtime, use

of contractors to offset staff positions, and purpose of the Parks & Community Services' impact fee study.

In answering Member García, Administrative Services Director Czerwin and City Manager Huffaker explained increased General Fund balance due to cannabis tax revenues, Fire Department overtime increase, and staff turnover.

Administrative Services Director Czerwin answered questions from Member González regarding FEMA reimbursement of staff time for the CZU Lightning Complex Fire.

In answering Mayor Dutra, Administrative Services Director Czerwin spoke about sales tax data for restaurants.

**3) Public Hearing**

Mayor Dutra opened the public hearing.

Natalie Olivas asked Council to involve the public in the budget process via committees or taskforces.

Eli asked that the presentation be uploaded to the website and asked for more input from the public on the budget.

After checking if anyone in the teleconference wanted to speak on the matter, hearing none, Mayor Dutra closed the public hearing.

**4) MOTION:** It was moved by Member Montesino, seconded by Member Estrada to accept the motions and approve the resolution listed below.

**5) City Council Deliberation on Motion**

Mayor Dutra asked the public to shop locally.

In answering Member Estrada, City Manager Huffaker spoke about planned outreach efforts as part of development of the Strategic Plan and the budget.

**MOTION:** The above motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	MEMBERS:	Estrada, García, González, Hurst, Montesino, Dutra
NOES:	MEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	MEMBERS:	Parker

**6) MOTION ACCEPTING COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2019-20**

**7) MOTION ACCEPTING THE MID-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 2020-21 FISCAL YEAR**

**8) MOTION ACCEPTING ANNUAL MEASURE G AUDIT REPORT FOR FY 2019-20**

**9) RESOLUTION NO. 53-21 (CM):  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE  
AMENDING THE 2020-2021 BUDGET TO AUTHORIZE \$414,665 BUDGET  
APPROPRIATION INTO VARIOUS FUNDS**

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**11.a CONSIDERATION OF LOCATION OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BUST IN THE  
CITY PLAZA**

Mayor Dutra announced that Mayor Pro Tempore Parker was experiencing a family emergency and would be listening in but not have her video camera on. He added the item would be continued if she was unable to fully participate.

**1) Staff Report by Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib**

**2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**

In answering Mayor García, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib explained staff recommendation and stated the Parks & Recreation Commission recommendation was an alternative. Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib added that survey results did not have demographic data associated.

Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib answered questions from Member Hurst regarding costs associated with development of a historical plaque and possible removal of the George Washington Bust.

Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib and City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Member Estrada regarding lack of criteria or policy for placing art pieces on City property and Council's authority on the matter.

In answering Member González, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib spoke about survey results and spoke about the City Plaza's historical designation. Member González stated the Pájaro Valley Historical Association had concerns regarding possible acceptance of the George Washington Bust as it might adversely affect their historical designation.

Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib answered questions from Member Hurst regarding upgrading of the City Plaza and review through CEQA thereof. City Clerk Vázquez Flores, in answering Member Hurst, spoke about costs associated with placing a measure on a ballot.

**3) Public Input**

Chris stated his concerns with removing the George Washington Bust without further efforts to help disadvantaged members of the community.

Rory, District 2, asked Council to keep the George Washington Bust at the City Plaza.

Margarito Rodriguez, District 1, asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza as it was a symbol of white supremacy.

Geri Simmons, Royal Oaks resident, asked Council to keep the George Washington Bust at the City Plaza.

Anissa Balderas, District 2, asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza. She asked that the Bust be replaced with something more representative of the community.

Rosa Noriega-Rocha asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.

Victoria Bañales, District 5, asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza. She stated the survey was ineffective and most residents were unaware of the topic.

Gabriel Medina asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza and return it to the Alaga family.

Pam Sexton asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.

Jaime Sanchez asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.

Frances Salgado-Chavez asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.

Isaiah J.O. asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.

Tim Sennet asked Council to keep the George Washington Bust at the City Plaza.

Eli asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza. She stated since the movement to remove the Bust, the opposition had harassed them with racial slurs.

Jorge Guillen asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.

Susan Kohen, Santa Cruz resident, asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.

Ramiro Medrano, Salinas resident, asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.

Jenny Sarmiento, Pájaro Valley Cesar Chavez Democratic Club, asked Council to relocate the George Washington Bust to the Watsonville Public Library.

Jeb, Santa Cruz Chapter of Democratic Socialists of America, asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.



Erin Wood, Santa Cruz resident, asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.

Michelle Leahy asked Council to keep the George Washington Bust at the City Plaza.

Xitlali asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.

Jessica Carrasco, Parks & Recreation Commissioner, stated her frustration in staff recommending something other than the Parks & Recreation Commission' recommendation. She asked Council to support Parks & Recreation Commission recommendation.

Brenda Blake asked Council to keep the George Washington Bust at the City Plaza.

Alma asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.

Vanessa Quiroz-Carter asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.

Rocio Camargo asked Council to remove the George Washington Bust from the City Plaza.

- 4) MOTION:** It was moved by Member García, seconded by Member Estrada to move the George Washington Bust to the library and add a bilingual plaque on the podium of the bust that outlines a broad historical perspective about George Washington:

**5) City Council Deliberation on Motion**

Member Garcia spoke about George Washington's moral character and spoke about the injustices suffered because of him. Member Estrada spoke about the importance of discussing controversial topics that address social and cultural injustices.

Member Hurst spoke about George Washington's accomplishments and asked for more input from the community on the matter.

Mayor Pro Tempore Parker stated she would not support any decision to move the bust and would like members of the community to place it on the ballot.

Member Gonzalez spoke about the challenges of collecting survey results. He stated he would support relocating it to the Library.

Member Montesino thanked the public for their input on the matter and asked them to participate in other topics.

Mayor Dutra stressed the importance of preserving history. He emphasized that the real issue was ending racism and creating equality.

In answering, Mayor Pro Tempore Parker, City Attorney Smith stated there were no legal repercussions in relocating the George Washington Bust.

**MOTION:** The above motion and resolution listed below carried by the following vote:

AYES:	MEMBERS:	Estrada, García, González, Montesino, Dutra
NOES:	MEMBERS:	Hurst, Parker
ABSENT:	MEMBERS:	None

**6) RESOLUTION NO. 54-21 (CM)**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING CITY STAFF TO MOVE THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BUST INSIDE THE WATSONVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY AT 275 MAIN STREET, AND ADD A BILINGUAL PLAQUE ON THE PODIUM OF THE BUST THAT OUTLINES A BROAD HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ABOUT GEORGE WASHINGTON**

**12. EMERGENCY ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA**

**13. REQUESTS & SCHEDULING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Dutra requested a presentation regarding formation of a committee to review the City's Charter regarding monuments on City property.

In answering Member García, City Manager Huffaker stated Council will consider a process for processing complaints against Council during the next Council Workshop.


Member González requested reports from social service providers on use of funding from the City.

Member Estrada requested establishment of a Watsonville history month to educate the community about local history. Member Hurst concurred.

Mayor Dutra requested formation of a committee to create a memorial for those lost to COVID-19 in Watsonville.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 p.m.

DocuSigned by:  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jimmy Dutra, Mayor

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk