



## MINUTES REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 23, 2021

City of Watsonville  
Teleconference/Remote

**4:31 p.m.**

### 1. **CLOSED SESSION**

Public comments regarding the Closed Session Agenda were accepted by the City Council at that time.

The City Council of the City of Watsonville recessed to Closed Session to discuss the matters that follow:

#### 1.a **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION**

(Government Code Section 54956.9)

Pending Litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(1):

- 1) Name of case: Monterey Bay Aviation, Inc., dba United Flight Services v City of Watsonville, et al - Santa Cruz County Superior Court (Case No. 19CV03692)
- 2) Name of case: Monterey Bay Aviation, Inc., dba United Flight Services v City of Watsonville, et al - Santa Cruz County Superior Court (Case No. 20CV01562)

#### 1.b **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

(Government Code Section 54957)

1. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT: City Attorney and City Clerk

#### 1.c **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR**

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency negotiator: Nathalie Manning, Matt Huffaker & Mike McDougall

Employee organization: Service Employees International Union, Local 521 Clerical Technical (SEIU)

IAFF Local 1272 (Fire)

### **CITY COUNCIL RESUMED AT 5:36 P.M.**

### 2. **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, Police Chief Honda, Fire Chief Lopez, Deputy City Manager

Manning, 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 Public Works & Utilities Director Di Renzo, Assistant Police Chief Sims, Housing Manager Landaverry, Principal Planner Meek, Environmental Sustainability Manager McCloud, Assistant City Clerk Ortiz, and Interpreter Vázquez-Quintero.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**4.a REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS**

**4.b. MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS REPORT**

**4.b WRITTEN REPORTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS REGARDING ACTIONS TAKEN ON THEIR REGIONAL COMMISSIONS/BOARD MEETINGS THAT MAY AFFECT THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE (None)**

**5. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Steve Trujillo, Cabrillo College Board of Trustees member, stated his concerns regarding Joy Flynn's resignation from the Policing and Social Equity Ad-HOC Committee. He asked the City to be more inclusive of the community.

Celeste spoke about her negative experience in interacting with Mayor Dutra.

Eli spoke about her negative experience in interacting with Mayor Dutra and City staff. She asked the City to allocate more funding for Parks & Community Services and to reserve the Porter Building for the arts.

Rosa Noriega-Rocha spoke about lack of transparency by the City in managing the Policing and Social Equity Ad-Hoc Committee.

Jessica Carrasco spoke about her negative experience in working with the City and Council. She asked Council to be more responsive to residents' concerns.

Frances Eiliana stated her disapproval of the way the Council meeting was being conducted.

Monike Tone, president of the homeless union, spoke about importance of human rights and listening to the community.

Gabriel Medina spoke about his negative experience in working with City Manager Huffaker and asked Council to hold him accountable for his actions.

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

Member García spoke about several events she participated in over the previous weeks. She highlighted services offered by NETworX and spoke about partnerships between Community Action Board and other agencies to support the immigrant community. She requested the City adopt a Health in All Policy Ordinance similar to that of Santa Cruz.

Member Estrada expressed his displeasure in Joy Flynn's resignation from the Policing and Social Equity Ad-HOC Committee. He spoke about his participation in Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA). He condemned the mass shooting attacks in Atlanta, Georgia and in Boulder, Colorado. He expressed his support for the Asian community in Watsonville. He invited residents of Districts 3 and 4 to participate in the upcoming public safety meetings.

Member Montesino commended City staff for helping Santa Cruz County Metropolitan Transit District (SCCMTD) obtain COVID-19 vaccinations for staff. He asked the public to be respectful and patient when communicating with Council.

Member Hurst spoke about the grand opening of Staff of Life and grand opening of the Ramsay Park Pump Track. He invited the public to participate in upcoming community events.

Mayor Pro Tempore Parker condemned the mass shooting attacks in Atlanta, Georgia, and in Boulder, Colorado. She spoke about the importance of accepting different races and cultures in Watsonville. She thanked Raquel Pulido for her efforts to improve Ramsay Park. She invited the public to participate in Slavic American Cultural Organization dinner.

Member Gonzalez spoke about City efforts to provide the community with personal protective equipment, challenges in creating park space, and challenges in balancing the budget.

Mayor Dutra condemned the mass shooting attacks in Atlanta, Georgia, and in Boulder, Colorado. He asked the Federal Government to create safeguards to prevent further mass shootings.

**5.c. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney Smith reported that Council received reports on all items listed in Closed Session and gave direction to staff on Items 1.b. and 1.c.

**5.d. MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION ACKNOWLEDGING RYOKO KOZUKI & FLOWERS BY TOSHI FOR PROVIDING BEAUTIFULLY CRAFTED FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS THAT BRING SMILES TO ALL THOSE WHO RECEIVE THEM**

**5.d. MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING WATSONVILLE YOGA, DANCE & HEALING ARTS FOR PROVIDING A SPACE & INSPIRATION TO BE PART OF A LEARNING JOURNEY IN A WAY THAT IS EQUITABLE & MINDFUL OF THE CULTURAL VALUES OF THIS COMMUNITY**

**5.e. MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING MOUNTAIN BIKERS OF SANTA CRUZ FOR THEIR WORK ON THE PUMP TRACK & THANKING THEM FOR PROVIDING A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES TO GET OUTSIDE AND GET ACTIVE**

**5.g. MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MARCH 2021 AS NATIONAL AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH & ENCOURAGING ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO REACH OUT & SUPPORT ITS HUMANITARIAN MISSION**

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6.a. PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY WIDE SURVEY RESULTS BY GREAT BLUE RESEARCH, INC.**

**1) Presentation by Project Manager Veschi (Great Blue Research, Inc.)**

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

In answering Member García, Ms. Veschi stated Council would receive a report with data on how many Spanish speakers were happy with City services. City Manager Huffaker, in answering Member Garcia, spoke about the implementation plan for recommendations received from Great Blue Research.

In answering Member Estrada, Ms. Veschi stated those who opposed a tax for youth programs, likely opposed it due to financial constraints.

Member Parker requested that the full data collected by the survey be given to Council for further research.

**3) Public Input**

Steve Trujillo stated Police should create outreach toward 18-34-year-olds, who have negative impressions of Police. He stated there was need for more youth programs.

Rosa Noriega-Rocha stated her concerns regarding questions asked in the survey and how the survey defined crime. She asked for funding from Police to be reallocated to Parks & Community Services.

Eli asked for funding from Police to be reallocated to Parks & Community Services. She listed reasons youth in Watsonville did not trust the City and police. She asked for unbiased survey questions in future surveys.

**4) MOTION:** It was moved by Member Hurst, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Parker, and carried by the following vote to accept the survey results:

|         |          |   |
|---------|----------|---|
| AYES:   | MEMBERS: | Estrada, Hurst, García, González, Montesino,<br>Parker, Dutra |
| NOES:   | MEMBERS: | None  |
| ABSENT: | MEMBERS: | None  |

Member Montesino asked that staff explore different communication options to interact with the public and find a better way for residents to receive agendas.

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

**7.a BUDGET TIMELINE & PUBLIC INPUT UPDATE**

The report was given by Administrative Services Director Czerwin.

In answering Members Garcia and Montesino, Administrative Services Director Czerwin spoke about how the American Rescue Plan Act funds could be used.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

McKenna Maness stated adjusting cannabis tax rates through Consumer Price Index (CPI) would serve the community through increased revenues for City services.

Gina Cole spoke in opposition to Item 9.l, stating lower tax meant lower revenues for City services.

Roseann Farris spoke in support of Item 9.k.

Eli asked that cannabis tax revenues be reallocated from Police to Parks & Community Services and the Watsonville Public Library. She asked Council to place a measure on the next ballot to reconsider cannabis tax revenue distributions.

Karena Brewington stated lowering tax rates on cannabis did not guarantee increased tax revenues for the City or deter the illicit cannabis market.

Brenda Jauregui stated lowering tax rates on cannabis did not guarantee increased tax revenues for the City services and asked Council to reconsider Item 9.l.

Crystal stated lowering tax rates on cannabis did not guarantee increased tax revenues for the City services and asked Council to reconsider Item 9.l.

Raul Gutierrez Martinez stated the reduction of cannabis taxes would not transfer to the consumer.

Andrea stated Item 9.l. was unnecessary as cannabis business were already willing to pay the higher cannabis taxes.

Teresa Mack spoke in support of Item 9.k.

Quicher Rubalcava, California Registered Nurses Association, spoke in support of Item 9.k.

Maria C Leonardo Anacristina stated lowering tax rates on cannabis did not guarantee increased tax revenues for the City services and asked Council to reconsider Item 9.l.

Jane Murphy, registered nurse, spoke in support of Item 9.k.

Gabriel Medina spoke in support of Item 9.k. and Item 9.l.

Mayra Guerrero stated lowering tax rates on cannabis did not guarantee increased tax revenues for the City services and asked Council to reconsider Item 9.l.

Bryce Berryesa, cannabis business operator, spoke in support of Item 9.l.

Anabelle Covington, registered nurse, spoke in support of Item 9.k.

In answering Member Garcia, City Manager Huffaker clarified staff recommendation for Item 9.k. and stated the zoning for Watsonville Community Hospital would remain the same. Member Hurst stated Item 9.l would result in increased revenues for the City and help residents obtain their prescribed cannabis products.

Members González and Estrada stated they were willing to consider changes to appropriations set for cannabis taxes by Measure M through a new ballot measure.

Member Gonzalez requested that staff monitor impacts from cannabis tax adjustments.

Mayor Dutra spoke in support of nurses in Watsonville and retaining Watsonville Community Hospital in the City. He listed his concerns with Item 9.I. not having scheduled annual increases.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member García, seconded by Member González and carried by the following vote to approve the Consent Agenda:

AYES: MEMBERS: Estrada, García, González, Hurst, Montesino, Parker, Dutra  
NOES: MEMBERS: García (Item 9.I. only), Dutra (Item 9.I. only)  
ABSENT: MEMBERS: None

**8.a MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2021**

**8.b RESOLUTION NO. 73-21 (CM):**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 1 WITH TOP LINE ENGINEERS, INC., A CORPORATION, FOR THE CORRALITOS SAND FILTER STRUCTURE ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT, NO. WA-20-14348; ADDING TO THE SCOPE OF WORK, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$238,383; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAME [Amends Resolution No. 209-20 (CM)]**

**8.c RESOLUTION NO. 74-21 (CM):**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING FOURTH AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AND RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC., A CORPORATION, FOR ASSISTANCE WITH PERMITTING FOR THE RAIL TRAIL LEE ROAD PROJECT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$12,992; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAME**

**8.d RESOLUTION NO. 75-21 (CM):**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE DIRECTING THE FILING OF THE 2021-2022 ANNUAL ENGINEER'S REPORT FOR THE GONZALES STREET ALLEYWAY LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. PK-94-1 (LLMAD)**

**8.e RESOLUTION NO. 76-21 (CM):**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE DIRECTING THE FILING OF THE 2021-2022 ANNUAL ENGINEER'S REPORT FOR THE BAY BREEZE SUBDIVISION LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. PK-03-02 (LLMAD)**

- 8.f **RESOLUTION NO. 77-21 (CM):**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE DIRECTING THE FILING OF THE 2021-2022 ANNUAL ENGINEER'S REPORT FOR THE VISTA MONTAÑA SUBDIVISION LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. PK-03-03 (LLMAD)**
- 8.g **RESOLUTION NO. 78-21 (CM):**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE DECLARING REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY LOCATED AT 280 MAIN STREET, (PORTION OF APN: 017-182-16), WATSONVILLE, AS SURPLUS LAND AND NOT NECESSARY FOR THE CITY'S USE, FINDING THAT SUCH DECLARATION IS EXEMPT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT, AND TAKING RELATED ACTIONS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54221**
- 8.h **RESOLUTION NO. 79-21 (CM):**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE DECLARING A 1928 SEAGRAVE LADDER TRUCK AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE DONATION AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP AND TITLE FROM THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE TO WATSONVILLE FIREFIGHTERS, INC.**
- 8.i **RESOLUTION NO. 80-21 (CM):**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE ACCEPTING A \$512,719 GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TOBACCO LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM FY 2020-21; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS, FUTURE AMENDMENTS IF ANY; AND APPROPRIATING SUCH FUNDS TO THE SPECIAL GRANTS FUND**
- 8.j **RESOLUTION NO. 81-21 (CM):**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPOINTING DR. NANCY A. BILICICH AND COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ AS ALTERNATE TO THE PÁJARO REGIONAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT AGENCY JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- 8.k **RESOLUTION NO. 82-21 (CM):**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE SUPPORTING THE CURRENT LAND USE AND ZONING FOR WATSONVILLE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL SERVING MONTEREY BAY, THE CENTRAL COAST, AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**
- 8.l **ORDINANCE NO. 1417-21 (CM):**  
**FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 3-6.1202 (DEFINITIONS) & 3-6.1206 (AMOUNT OF TAX OWED) OF ARTICLE 12 (WATSONVILLE CANNABIS BUSINESS TAX) OF CHAPTER 6 (TAXATION) OF TITLE 3 (ZONING) OF THE WATSONVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE [Amends Ordinance No. 1330-16 (CM) Pursuant to §3-6.1232]**
9. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA (None)**

**10. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**10.a PRESENTATION OF THE 2020 HOUSING ELEMENT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

**1) Staff Report by Housing Manager Landaverry.**

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

Housing Manager Landaverry answered questions from Member García regarding affordable units that counted toward Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) requirements and spoke about ways the City assisted low-income families.

In answering Member González, Housing Manager Landaverry explained the process for amending the affordable housing ordinance to require higher percentage of affordable units to be constructed as part of new housing developments.

Community Development Director Merriam, Housing Manager Landaverry, and City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Member Estrada regarding ways the City could meet increasing RHNA requirements, outreach efforts that would be conducted to educate residents about housing programs, ongoing housing development projects, and potential for partnership with developers to create new affordable housing.

In answering Mayor Dutra, City Manager Huffaker and Community Development Director Merriam spoke about challenges developers have faced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and gave estimates as to when housing developments would resume construction.

Community Development Director Merriam answered questions from Member Hurst regarding feedback to Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) about challenges of complying with RHNA requirements, status of several housing projects, and State efforts to create more housing.

**3) Public Input**

Eli asked Council to pursue amending the Affordable Housing Ordinance to require developers to create a higher percentage of affordable units for new housing developments, pursue establishment of rent control, and provide more mortgage assistance for residents.

Gabriel Medina asked Council to focus on creating affordable housing and helping millennials and Generation Z residents find housing. He added it was crucial for the City to pressure property owners to develop their land and fill their empty buildings.

Steve Trujillo asked Council to pursue low cost housing for Cabrillo College staff and students.

**4) MOTION:** It was moved by Member Estrada and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Parker to accept the Housing Element Annual Progress Report for 2020.

**5) City Council Deliberation on the Motion**

In answering Member Estrada, Community Development Director Merriam stated tiny homes could be permitted in the City as Accessory Dwelling Units.



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

|         |          |   |
|---------|----------|---|
| AYES:   | MEMBERS: | Estrada, García, Hurst, González, Montesino,<br>Parker, Dutra |
| NOES:   | MEMBERS: | None  |
| ABSENT: | MEMBERS: | None  |

**10.b PINTO LAKE CONSULTANT CONTRACT & LEASE WITH MAIN ST. ENTERPRISE, INC.**

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

Jesus Madrigal spoke about his plans for management of Pinto Lake Park.

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

Member Gonzalez asked that staff ensure Pinto Lake be made accessible and friendly to the community.

Member Hurst spoke about challenges of managing services and activities at Pinto Lake Park.

In answering Member Montesino, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib spoke about negotiations with Watsonville American Little League for use of the softball field at Pinto Lake Park.

3) **Public Input**

Gabriel Medina spoke in support of staff recommendation.

Eli spoke in support of staff recommendation

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

5) **City Council Deliberation on Motion**

In answering Member Hurst, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib spoke about insurance and indemnification language included in the contract.

Member Estrada asked staff to explore grant funding to create food outlets near Pinto Lake Park.

|         |          |   |
|---------|----------|---|
| AYES:   | MEMBERS: | Estrada, García, Hurst, González, Montesino,<br>Parker, Dutra |
| NOES:   | MEMBERS: | None  |
| ABSENT: | MEMBERS: | None  |

6) **RESOLUTION NO. 83-21 (CM):  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE  
AWARDING CONTRACT TO MAIN ST. ENTERPRISE, INC., A CORPORATION, TO  
PROVIDE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS AND SERVICES (CONCESSIONAIRE  
SERVICES) AT PINTO LAKE PARK LOCATED AT 451 GREEN VALLEY ROAD,**

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

- 11. EMERGENCY ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA**
- 12. REQUESTS & SCHEDULING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
- 13. ADJOURNMENT**  
The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

/s/ Jimmy Dutra  
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Beatriz Vázquez Flores  
City Clerk