



## MINUTES REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 8, 2020

City of Watsonville  
Teleconference/Remote

**4:30 p.m.**

**1. CLOSED SESSION**

(City Council Conference Room, 275 Main Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor)

(a) Public Comments regarding the Closed Session agenda were accepted by the City Council at that time.

(b) Closed Session Announcement

The City Council recessed the regular Council Meeting to discuss those items listed on the Closed Session Statement attached to the Agenda.

**1.A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

(Government Code Section 54956.9)

1. Name of case: Evangelina Ortega v City of Watsonville, Anthony Campos, Rebecca Campos - Santa Cruz County Superior Court (Case No. 20 CV 01413)
2. Name of case: Richard Stockton v County of Santa Cruz, City of Watsonville, Central Coast Landscape & Maintenance, - Santa Cruz County Superior Court (Case No. 20 CV 01084)

**1.B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR**

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

1. Agency negotiators: Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee (Councilmembers Hurst, Parker and Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez)

Unrepresented employee: City Attorney

**1.C. PERSONNEL MATTERS §54957**

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Title: City Attorney

**5:35 p.m.**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Mayor García, Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez and Council Members Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez (arrived at 6:00 p.m.), Hurst, and Parker 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, Public Works & Utilities Director Palmisano, Police Chief Honda, Fire Chief Lopez, Deputy City Managers Manning and Vides, Administrative Services Director Czerwin, Airport Director Williams, Community Development Director Merriam, Interim Library Director Martinez, Innovation and Technology Director Boyes. Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Directors Rodriguez and Di Renzo, Housing Manager Landaverry, Principal Planner Meek, Assistant City Clerk Ortiz, and Interpreters Vazquez-Quintero and Landaverry.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****4. INFORMATION ITEMS****4.A. REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS****4.B. MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS REPORT****4.C. WRITTEN REPORTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS REGARDING ACTIONS TAKEN ON THEIR REGIONAL COMMISSIONS/BOARD MEETINGS THAT MAY AFFECT THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE****5. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS****5.A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

5076 Dr. Nancy A. Bilicich, on behalf of Pájaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority, stated they had secured Federal Government funding as well as State funding for levee improvements. She added they were exploring ways to raise funding from the community.

Keith Otto stated a Council Member, as representative of Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission, falsely stated Measure D funding would be designated for passenger rail services. He asked for a formal statement of correction from that Council Member.

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

5074 Member Parker thanked everyone who supported those displaced due to the wildfires and thanked the public for respecting social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez announced that Monterey Bay Community Power had changed their name to Central Coast Community Energy (CCCE). She spoke about efforts by CCCE to be greenhouse gas emission free.

Member Estrada asked the public to excuse his absence at the previous meeting as his wife had given birth to their first child. He thanked everyone who volunteered and donated to those displaced and battling the wildfires. He encouraged the public to email the Council and staff for more information regarding COVID-19.

Member Hurst thanked Police and Fire for their work to battling the wildfires and thanked Emergency Operations Center staff for their work in assisting those displaced by the wildfires. He spoke about work to reduce spread of COVID-19 and reopen local businesses.

5074

Member Gonzalez commended field workers for working through a pandemic and unhealthy air quality. He thanked those working through COVID-19, the wildfires, and facing social distancing challenges.

Mayor Garcia spoke about the many meetings she attended over the previous weeks. She gave an update on the selection process for members for the ad-hoc committee on policing.

### **5.C. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney Smith reported that Council received reports on all items listed on the Closed Session Statement and authorized special counsel to file responsive pleadings to Items 1.A.1. and 1.A.2.

## **6. REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

### **6.A. CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE**

#### **1) Oral Presentation**

The report was given by City Manager Huffaker.

5820

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

In answering Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez, City Manager Huffaker stated staff would explore adjustments to information being requested from those submitting a survey regarding the George Washington Bust.

City Manager Huffaker, in answering Member Estrada, spoke about litigation contesting the decision to end Census data collection early.

Member Hurst thanked City staff for their efforts to manage the many challenges presented this year. He expressed his sympathy to those affected by the recent wildfires.

City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Member Gonzalez regarding outstanding utility bills, delinquency status for said accounts, efforts by staff to collect payment, and potential for utility shutoffs in the future.

City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Mayor Garcia regarding efforts by the City and Santa Cruz Community Foundation to assist residents in accessing support services.

#### **3) Public Input**

Liz stated the Washington Bust survey discouraged participation by requesting too much personal information from those participating. She asked for more protections for farmworkers from COVID-19 and poor air quality. She stated the Zoom Webinar software used to conduct Council meetings discouraged public participation and engagement.

Steve Trujillo, District 7, asked the City to not shut off utilities due to the many challenges residents were facing due to wildfires and COVID-19. He asked Council

to make meetings more accessible and encourage participation. He asked the City to better protect agricultural workers.

Kathy asked City staff to notify landlords about unpaid utility bills.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

At Member Parker’s request, Mayor Garcia removed Item 7.F. from the Consent Agenda, to be considered under Item 8.

Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Rodriguez answered questions from Mayor Garcia and Member Gonzalez regarding request from business owners for approval of Item 7.D. and reasoning staff was recommending approval.

**Public Input on any Consent Agenda Item**

Greg Wimp, Togo’s, stated he had requested Item 7.D be placed on the agenda and asked Council to approve it.

Steve Trujillo asked Council to approve Item 7.D. to support Togo’s.

Liz asked Council to support local businesses and deny Item 7.D.

In answering Member Estrada, City Manager Huffaker stated staff would explore parking adjustments for any business requesting it.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Parker, seconded by Member Gonzalez and carried by the following vote to approve the Consent Agenda, except for Item 7.F, which was removed from the Consent Agenda:

AYES:	MEMBERS:	Coffman-Gomez, Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, Parker, García
NOES:	MEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	MEMBERS:	None

7.A. **MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF AUGUST 21 & 25, 2020**

7.B. **RESOLUTION NO. 162-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS & CALLING FOR BIDS FOR  
CONSTRUCTION OF WATER WELL #4 PROJECT NO. WA-20-14557 LOCATED AT 154  
ROACHE ROAD (ESTIMATED COST OF \$670,450 WILL BE FUNDED FROM THE WATER  
ENTERPRISE FUND)**

7.C. **RESOLUTION NO. 163-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NO. 4 WITH GRANITE ROCK  
COMPANY FOR THE MONTEREY BAY SANCTUARY SCENIC TRAIL SEGMENT 18 -  
OHLONE PARKWAY TO WATSONVILLE SLOUGH TRAIL TRAILHEAD PROJECT NO. CT-  
19-02 FOR WATER LINE WORK, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$120,135 FROM THE  
WATER ENTERPRISE FUND**

7.D. **RESOLUTION NO. 164-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION APPROVING PARKING CHANGE ADJACENT TO 433 - 445 MAIN STREET  
(SR 152) REMOVING 42' OF "NO PARKING" DESIGNATION TO ALLOW FOR SHORT TERM  
PARKING**

- 7.E. RESOLUTION NO. 165-20 (CM):**  
**RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACT TO DANIEL B. STEPHENS & ASSOCIATES, INC.,**  
**FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VAPOR INTRUSION AND SAMPLING WORKPLAN FOR**  
**SITE LOCATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF 1350 FREEDOM BOULEVARD; DEVELOPMENT OF** 5807  
**A RISK ASSESSMENT; & CONDUCTING SEMI-ANNUAL MONITORING & REPORTING, IN**  
**AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$259,569; AUTHORIZING A BUDGET APPROPRIATION**  
**FROM THE WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE FUND FOR SAME AMOUNT**

- 7.F. ITEM REMOVED, SEE ITEM 8.**

- 7.G. RESOLUTION NO. 166-20 (CM):**  
**RESOLUTION RATIFYING WATSONVILLE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**ORDER NO. 2020-03 REGARDING CZU AUGUST LIGHTNING COMPLEX FIRES** 4935

**8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Parker, seconded by Member Gonzalez to approve the resolution listed below with replacement of Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez with Member Parker:

Member Hurst spoke about the funding of the Mello Center and reasoning behind the need for a board of directors.

In answering Member Estrada, Mayor Garcia explained the process for appointing members to commissions and boards.

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

AYES:	MEMBERS:	Coffman-Gomez, Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, Parker, García
NOES:	MEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	MEMBERS:	None

- 7.D. RESOLUTION NO. 167-20 (CM):**  
**REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE HENRY J. MELLO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER** 4878  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

- 9.A. FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 AND 2020-2021 UPDATE & APPROPRIATION OF \$951,479.16**  
**TO THE RISK MANAGEMENT FUND** 4924

- 1) Staff Report**  
The report was given by Administrative Services Director Czerwin.

- 2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**  
City Manager Huffaker, Housing Manager Landaverry, and Administrative Services Director Czerwin answered questions from Member Estrada regarding regional efforts to make Wi-Fi and internet accessible for all and questions regarding ability for local businesses to make deliveries of goods.

4924

In answering Member Hurst, City Manager Huffaker spoke about efforts to assist local businesses and encourage residents to shop local.

Administrative Services Director Czerwin explained use of proposed appropriation and reimbursement of said funds. Member Gonzalez stressed the importance of supporting local economy.

Member Hernandez spoke about the importance of shopping local. City Manager Huffaker and Administrative Services Director Czerwin answered questions from Member Hernandez regarding applicability of Transient Occupation Tax, use of CARES Act funding and FEMA reimbursements for creation of internet accessibility, and funding available to the County for internet access efforts.

Administrative Services Director Czerwin answered questions from Member Parker regarding account for the proposed budget appropriation, budget predictions, and recommendations for funds in excess of predictions.

Administrative Services Director Czerwin and City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez regarding use of reserve funds, reimbursement of Fire Department overtime, expectations for furloughed staff, potential for utility bill aide, and effects on City services due to staffing adjustments.

Administrative Services Director Czerwin answered questions from Mayor Garcia regarding unforeseen budget challenges due to reduced unemployment benefits and changes to the economy.

### 3) **Public Input**

Bernie asked Council to pursue rental assistance, utility payment assistance, and free internet Wi-Fi for residents.

Liz asked Council to allocate funding for Parks & Recreation, free internet Wi-Fi for residents, a program to help agricultural workers, and more training for Council.

Edgar Ibarra asked City staff and Council to simplify the budget so all residents could understand actions being taken, enable free Wi-Fi at all public buildings and parks, create a rental assistance program, and translate the budget to Spanish.

Xitlali asked Council to simplify the budget so all residents could understand.

Steve Trujillo asked Council to simplify the budget so all residents could understand actions being taken, enable free Wi-Fi at all public buildings and parks, create a rental assistance program, and translate the budget to Spanish.

- 4) **MOTION:** It was moved by Member Gonzalez and seconded by Member Estrada to approve the resolution below:

**RESOLUTION NO. 168-20 (CM):**  
**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2020-2021 BUDGET TO AUTHORIZE**  
**\$951,479.16 BUDGET APPROPRIATION TO THE RISK MANAGEMENT FUND**

4924

### 5) **City Council deliberation on the motion**

Members Estrada and Hurst asked staff to create a document that simplifies the budget so all residents understand.

4924

Member Gonzalez clarified staff recommendation for the public.

Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez spoke about the challenges of understanding and balancing the budget. At Member Coffman-Gomez' request, Deputy City Manager Vides explained the purpose of the proposed budget appropriation.

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

AYES:	MEMBERS:	Coffman-Gomez, Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst Parker, Garcia
NOES:	MEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	MEMBERS:	None

**9.B. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM & APPROPRIATION OF \$100,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO IMPLEMENT THE EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

5820

4996

**1) Staff Report**

The report was given by Housing Manager Landaverry.

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

Member Hurst spoke in support of staff recommendation.

Housing Manager Landaverry answered questions from Member Gonzalez regarding required documentation for qualifying for the program.

Member Hernandez asked staff to pursue outreach to the Spanish community through various mediums. Housing Manager Landaverry listed the sources staff would use to create outreach about the program.

Housing Manager Landaverry answered questions from Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez regarding potential assistance available per applicant, required documentation to qualify for the program, involvement of the landlord in the program, outreach to landlords and tenants about their rights, collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions on makeup of programs, access to webinars, ways to ensure funding was available to new applicants each cycle, and options for funding the program.

City Manager Huffaker and Housing Manager Landaverry answered questions from Member Estrada regarding potential for Federal aid through a stimulus package, work with the State to pursue funding, and challenges in documenting amount of evictions.

In answering Mayor Garcia, Housing Manager Landaverry explained the City could assist up to ten (10) more families by administering the program with City staff.

**3) Public Input**

Xitlali commended Council and staff for their efforts to help residents needing financial assistance.

Steve Trujillo thanked Housing Manager Landaverry for his work. He spoke in support of the program and asked for increased funding for the program.

- 4) **MOTION:** It was moved by Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez and seconded by Member Gonzalez to approve the resolution listed below:

**RESOLUTION NO. 169-20 (CM):**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ERAP) GUIDELINES TO ASSIST ELIGIBLE RESIDENTIAL TENANTS LIVING WITHIN THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY COVID-19; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE ERAP AS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR CLARIFICATION AND/OR COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS; AND APPROPRIATING \$100,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE PROGRAM**

- 5) **City Council deliberation on the motion**

Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez asked staff to take a more holistic approach to assisting families in need. City Manager Huffaker, in answering Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez, spoke about unemployment numbers and potential new funding from the State.

Member Gonzalez asked staff to explore retaining the program past the end of the Pandemic.

Member Hurst stated that false or misleading applications could result in criminal penalties.

Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez asked staff to collect demographic data from applicants.

Member Estrada requested a presentation from Community Action Board on their experience administering the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

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

AYES:	MEMBERS:	Coffman-Gomez, Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst Parker, Garcia
NOES:	MEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	MEMBERS:	None

**10. EMERGENCY ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA**

**11. REQUESTS & SCHEDULING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (None)**

Member Hernandez asked for a presentation by the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership and the Broadband Consortium regarding internet accessibility.

Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez requested a presentation from Monterey County Regional Transportation Commission regarding rail service efforts. She also asked for a discussion item on the request for proposals for evaluation of Fire Department Services and community needs.

5820  
4996



Member Gonzalez requested a report from Parks & Community Services intergovernmental use of school sites at E.A. Hall. He also asked for a report from County of Santa Cruz Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7 on Watsonville levee improvements and financial status.

Mayor Garcia requested a report on use of software applications to conduct public meetings.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

*Rebecca Garcia*

Rebecca J. García, Mayor

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

*Beatriz Vazquez Flores*

Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk

This page was left blank intentionally.