



MINUTES REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 9, 2023

City of Watsonville
City Council Chambers
275 Main Street, Top Floor

4:30 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Mayor Montesino (arrived at 4:34 p.m.), Mayor Pro Tempore Quiroz-Carter, and Council Members Clark, Dutra (arrived at 4:40 p.m.), Orozco, Parker, and Salcido were present.

1.a. MOTION TO EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBER(S) (If Any) – None

2. REPORTS TO COUNCIL - No Action Required

2.a. PRESENTATION ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LAND USE LAW BY ERIC S. PHILLIPS, PARTNER AT BURKE, WILLIAMS & SORENSEN

In answering Member Salcido, Community Development Director Merriam spoke about housing projects where Senate Bill (SB) 35 was utilized to streamline the approval process.

At City Attorney Zutler's request, Attorney Phillips spoke about the City's requirements to comply with the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) set by the State.

In answering Member Dutra, Attorney Phillips spoke about SB 35 and RHNA requirements related to resident income levels.

Attorney Phillips, in answering Member Parker, provided further clarification regarding the City's requirements under RHNA.

In answering Member Parker and Member Dutra, Community Development Director Merriam spoke about challenges and efforts to meet RHNA requirements, including equal housing opportunities throughout the City and deadlines for completion of the City's housing element.

Attorney Phillips, in answering Member Salcido, spoke about how long the Housing Accountability Act and Density Bonus Law had been in place and how it could affect housing development projects in relation to zoning and urban limit lines.

Principal Planner Meek spoke about how SB 35 and the Density Bonus Law had been applied to a recent housing development in the City.

In answering Member Salcido, Attorney Phillips spoke about how Assembly Bill (AB) 2011 and SB 6 could be applied to housing developments in the City.

Member Dutra expressed concerns with California Environmental Quality Act and traffic study exemptions allowed for projects that utilized SB 35.

Member Parker spoke about traffic and parking concerns related to SB 35 housing developments.

Mayor Montesino spoke about the need for more housing in the City.

3. CLOSED SESSION CORRESPONDENCE (IF ANY)

4. CLOSED SESSION

(a) Public Comments

(b) Closed Session Announcement:

The City Council recessed the regular meeting to discuss the matters that follow at 5:34 pm:

**4.a. PERSONNEL MATTERS
(Government Code Section 54957)**

1. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Title: City Manager and City Clerk

**4.b. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION
(Government Code Section 54956.9(a))**

Name of case: Rita Goel v City of Watsonville; Michael Christopher McKinley - Monterey County Superior Court (Case No. 23CV000482)

6:32 p.m.

5. ROLL CALL

Mayor Montesino, Mayor Pro Tempore Quiroz-Carter and Council Members Clark, Dutra, Orozco, Parker, and Salcido were present.

Staff members present were City Manager Mendez, City Attorney Zutler, City Clerk Ortiz, Assistant City Manager and Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Vides, Fire Chief Lopez, Administrative Services Director Duran, Community Development Director Merriam, IT Director Gill, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib, Library Director Martinez, Airport Director Williams, Deputy City Manager Manning, Assistant Police Chief Sims, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Green, Principal Planner Orbach, Principal Planner Meek, Housing Manager Landaverry, Division Fire Chief Avila, Police Officer Rodriguez, Police Captain Thul, Principal Engineer Theriot, Environmental Projects Manager Yasbek, Environmental Sustainability Manager McCloud, Senior Environmental Projects Analyst VuDuc, Deputy City Clerk Pacheco, and Interpreter Jauregui.

5.a. MOTION TO EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBER(S) – None

6. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

7.a. REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS

7.b. MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS REPORT

7.c. CEIBA QUARTERLY UPDATE REPORT

8. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

8.a. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (2 MINUTES EACH)

Steve Trujillo, District 7, read and submitted a letter from his sister expressing concerns with break-ins to her home.

Maria Elena de la Garza, Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County (CAB) Executive Director, stated May was Community Action Month, and spoke about CAB's various services and engagement with community assistance efforts.

Assistant City Manager Vides invited the Council and public to a community meeting regarding the winter storms and flooding.

Fabian Leonor, District 4, invited the Council and public to community meetings hosted by Santa Cruz County Parks requesting input on the parks throughout the County.

8.b. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL (2 MINUTES EACH)

Member Parker spoke about her meetings with California State University Monterey Bay students regarding equity in City services and various other meetings she attended over the past week. She thanked Assistant City Manager Vides for highlighting the community meeting regarding the flooding that resulted from the recent storms.

Member Orozco spoke about her collaboration with neighbors in her district to address speeding concerns and stated they would be requesting the City conduct a traffic study.

Member Dutra spoke about his attendance at the inauguration event for Starlight's Emeril Lagasse Culinary Garden and Teaching Kitchen. He expressed concerns with gun violence and recent mass shootings and spoke about the importance of advocating for safe communities.

Mayor Pro Tempore Quiroz-Carter spoke about her participation at Community Action Board's Town Hall meeting. She thanked City staff who repaired a water main line that broke near her home and spoke about various meetings and events she attended over the past weeks. She also invited the public to participate in the Library's poetry contest and the Mother's Day Run.

Mayor Montesino thanked Fiestas Patrias for the Cinco de Mayo event they organized at the City Plaza and spoke about his attendance to Starlight's Emeril Lagasse Culinary Garden and Teaching Kitchen inauguration event. He stated Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District had received funding which would be partly utilized to refurbish the Metro station and would include a housing element.

8.c. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Montesino stated that Council received reports on all items in Closed Session and no action was taken.

8.d. MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

9. REPORTS TO COUNCIL(Continued) -- No Action Required

9.a. PRESENTATION REGARDING OLDER ADULT PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES BY OLDER ADULT SERVICES SUPERVISOR NUÑEZ

Member Clark commended Older Adult Services Supervisor Nuñez for her work to improve the Senior Center and expand its services.

Member Parker thanked Older Adult Services Supervisor Nuñez for her efforts to assist seniors with Covid-19 vaccination services during the pandemic and for providing a wide range of programs at the Senior Center and spoke about the potential for continuing to expand them.

Member Orozco spoke about her positive experience touring the Senior Center, the success of its programs in engaging the older adult community, and its welcoming staff.

In answering Member Orozco, Older Adult Services Supervisor Nuñez spoke about the reasons for the difference in the number of Senior Center Basic Memberships versus Gold Memberships and stated there were scholarships available for that purpose through the Friends of Watsonville Parks & Community Services.

Member Dutra spoke about his late grandmother's experience using the Senior Center and spoke about the potential for offering Bingo again.

Mayor Montesino opened the item for Public Input

Antonio Rivas thanked City staff for their efforts to improve services at the Senior Center and spoke about the importance of continuing to provide funding for programs for seniors. He invited the public and Council to attend the Senior Prom.

Steve Trujillo spoke about the counseling services for LGBTQ+ seniors he was offering at the Senior Center and about the importance of continued visibility for seniors.

Lowell Hurst, District 3, spoke about his experience as an older adult in Watsonville, how the relationship between senior residents and the rest of the community had improved over the years, and the importance of continuing to support the needs of older adults.

Fabian Leonor spoke about the prevalence of diabetes among older adults and stated proper healthcare and support was essential.

9.b. CLIMATE ACTION & ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP) UPDATE BY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS MANAGER YASBEK & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER MCCLOUD

In answering Member Dutra, Environmental Sustainability Manager McCloud stated staff was exploring potential for solar panel installation at the landfill and Airport. She added staff were working with Central Coast Community Energy to identify battery storage locations.

Environmental Projects Manager Yasbek, in answering Member Dutra, stated the City had applied for grant funding that would allow additional electric vehicle charging stations in public facing locations.

Member Dutra spoke about the importance of making electric vehicles and charging stations more widely available, especially with the rising costs of gas.

Mayor Montesino opened the item for Public Input

Steve Trujillo spoke about areas on the Cabrillo College campus where electric vehicle charging stations could be installed, electrifying the City's vehicle fleet, and requested the new Nature Center include bird displays.

Tatiana Brennan, Santa Cruz County Office of Recovery, Response, & Resilience Senior Administrative Analyst, acknowledged the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan as being progressive, and stated the County's Board of Supervisors modeled their own plan after Watsonville's. She thanked all the staff that worked on the City's CAAP.

Jennifer Hernandez, intern at Santa Cruz County, spoke about the importance of the CAAP and continuing to combat climate change.

Yesenia, District 7, thanked staff for their efforts to be inclusive of all community members with the CAAP creation and implementation. She spoke in support of bike and car share programs, stated she was working on starting a community garden, and spoke about the importance of the CAAP's suggested actions being accessible for residents to participate in. She requested maintenance on the City's bike lanes.

Maria, Regeneración, requested information regarding access to grant funding sources for implementation of the CAAP.

Member Parker thanked City staff for their efforts with creating and implementing the CAAP.

**9.c. PRESENTATION REGARDING GREEN VALLEY ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS
BY ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR FONTES & POLICE
CAPTAIN THUL**

In answering Member Salcido, Police Captain Thul spoke about outreach and education efforts to improve pedestrian safety and compliance with road safety regulations.

Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes, in answering Member Salcido, spoke about the possibility of adding high visibility and light-up crosswalks to enhance pedestrian safety.

In answering Member Parker, Police Captain Thul spoke about challenges with enforcing pedestrian municipal code violations partly due to differences between Watsonville's Municipal Code and California's Vehicle Code.

Police Captain Thul, in answering Member Salcido and Member Parker, explained how Police could cite pedestrians for code violations.

Member Orozco requested a timeline for completion of proposed improvement projects and spoke about the possibility of widening narrow sidewalks and increasing pedestrian education.

In answering Member Clark, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes spoke about the collision rates on Green Valley Road in comparison to other major roadways in the City.

Police Captain Thul answered questions from Member Dutra regarding educating the homeless population regarding pedestrian safety

Assistant City Manager Vides answered questions from Member Dutra regarding the process for implementing a speed limit reduction on Green Valley Road.

In answering Member Orozco, Assistant City Manager Vides spoke about the timeline for completion of improvement projects.

Member Clark requested information regarding the effect of traffic calming measures implemented on Pennsylvania Drive and Harkins Slough Road and expressed concerns with some measures creating navigation challenges for drivers.

Mayor Montesino requested specific prices and timelines for completion of improvements on Green Valley Road.

Mayor Montesino opened the Item for Public Input

Lowell Hurst spoke about the importance of allocating funding for safety improvements and prioritizing implementation of Vision Zero.

Jonathan Pilch, Watsonville Wetlands Watch Executive Director, thanked Council and City staff for their efforts to improve pedestrian and traffic safety. He spoke about the co-relation between street safety efforts and the City's CAAP.

Antonio Rivas, District 3, thanked the Council for prioritizing improvements on Green Valley Road and expressed concerns with Pájaro Valley High School students crossing roads and streets in an unsafe manner. He spoke about the potential for a trial period of rubber speed bump installation in certain areas to address speeding and loud motor sounds.

? male, listed past traffic improvement projects that had not moved forward for various reasons and spoke about issues with traffic in specific areas in the City and on Pájaro Bridge.

Mayor Montesino announced that Council would be considering the Consent Agenda prior to Item 9.d.

9.d. PRESENTATION REGARDING THE CITY'S STRIPING & PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM BY ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR FONTES & PRINCIPAL ENGINEER THERIOT – Moved after Item 10.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT

Jonathan Pilch, Watsonville Wetlands Watch Executive Director, spoke in support of Item 10.b. and stated they looked forward to continuing to collaborate with the City.

MOTION: It was moved by Member Dutra, seconded by Member Orozco to approve the Consent Agenda.

Member Dutra spoke in support of Item 10.b. and thanked Watsonville Wetlands Watch for their commitment to the community.

MOTION: The above motion passed by the following vote.

AYES:	MEMBERS:	Clark, Dutra, Orozco, Quiroz-Carter, Parker, Salcido, Montesino
NOES:	MEMBERS:	None

ABSENT: MEMBERS: None

10.a. MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF APRIL 25, 2023

10.b. RESOLUTION NO. 76-23 (CM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AND WATSONVILLE WETLANDS WATCH FOR THE SHARED USE OF THE NEW NATURE CENTER FACILITY

10.c. ACCEPT ADDITIONAL \$75,000 IN BHJIS GRANT FUNDS & APPROVING FIRST AMENDMENTS TO CONTRACTS WITH PVPSA & CAB FOR THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

1) RESOLUTION NO. 77-23 (CM):

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE ACCEPTING AN ADDITIONAL \$75,000 IN GRANT FUNDS FROM THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH JUSTICE INTERVENTION SERVICES (BHJIS) PROJECT GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES (DHCS) TO SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE PLANNING, CAPACITY BUILDING, STRATEGIC PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAUMA INFORMED MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM; EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT THOUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS; AND APPROPRIATING SUCH FUNDS TO THE SPECIAL GRANT FUND (0260)

2) RESOLUTION NO. 78-23 (CM):

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING FIRST AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH PÁJARO VALLEY PREVENTION AND STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, A CORPORATION, ADDING TO THE SCOPE OF WORK, ADDING TO THE COMPENSATION (INCREASING THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$63,000) AND EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023, TO SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE PLANNING , CAPACITY BUILDING, STRATEGIC PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM, APPROPRIATING \$63,000, FROM THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH JUSTICE INTERVENTION SERVICES GRANT TO APPLY TOWARDS AMENDED CONTRACT; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE SAME

3) RESOLUTION NO. 79-23 (CM):

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING FIRST AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, INC. A CORPORATION, ADDING TO THE SCOPE OF WORK, ADDING TO THE COMPENSATION (INCREASING CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$12,000) AND EXTENDING THE TERM THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023, TO SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE PLANNING, CAPACITY BUILDING, STRATEGIC PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM, APPROPRIATING \$12,000, FROM THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH JUSTICE INTERVENTION SERVICES GRANT; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE SAME

10.d. RESOLUTION NO. 80-23 (CM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE ACCEPTING A \$47,039.54 GRANT FROM THE BOARD OF STATE AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FOR THE OFFICER WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS; AND APPROPRIATING SUCH FUNDS TO THE SPECIAL GRANTS FUND (0260)

9. REPORTS TO COUNCIL(Continued) -- No Action Required

9.d. PRESENTATION REGARDING THE CITY'S STRIPING & PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM BY ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR FONTES & PRINCIPAL ENGINEER THERIOT

In answering Member Dutra, Principal Engineer Theriot spoke about the location of utility lines along Freedom Boulevard and challenges with having them be placed underground.

Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes answering Member Dutra's questions regarding funding sources, timelines for certain improvement projects, the installation of traffic lights Sydney Boulevard and of a new bus stop area, and the potential for updating the City's Project Labor Agreement.

In answering Mayor Montesino, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes and Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Vides spoke about staff's efforts to identify and repair potholes around the City, funding sources and costs of repairs.

Principal Engineer Theriot, in answering Mayor Montesino, stated that the City did a demonstration project to assess its process for road repairs.

In answering Member Parker, Principal Engineer Theriot, Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Vides, and Assistant Public Works & Director Fontes spoke about the projected costs for the City to do improvement work on its roads, challenges with performing improvements, exploring grant funding, and the potential of allocating Measure R funding for road improvements.

Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Vides and City Manager Mendez, in answering Member Orozco, spoke about guidelines that would be used to ensure improvements were performed in an equitable manner across the City's seven districts.

Member Orozco requested a report on the streets that would be prioritized for repair in the future when available.

In answering Member Orozco, City Manager Mendez stated Council would be receiving a report on establishing a revenue measure oversight committee for Measure R funds and appropriation of funding soon.

Principal Engineer Theriot and Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Vides, in answering Member Dutra, spoke about the progress of the road work that was being done on Stanford Street and challenges with other entities performing road work repairing the roads appropriately.

In answering Member Parker, City Manager Mendez, City Attorney Zutler, and Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Vides spoke about requirements in the Measure R ordinance to allow funding to utilize, and Council's authority to allocate the funds.

Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes spoke about the projected timeline for completion of the Bridge Street Reconstruction Project.

Mayor Montesino requested staff to prioritize road maintenance, improvement, and repair.

In answering Mayor Montesino, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes spoke about the grant funding that would be used for the Lee Road Trail Phase I Project and challenges with incorporating additional student drop off locations because it would require encroaching on private property.

Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Vides, in answering Member Dutra, spoke about the various reasons there were metal plate covers in locations around the City and staff's efforts to address related concerns.

In answering Mayor Montesino, Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Vides spoke about the various components of placing striping on the roads.

Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes, in answering Mayor Montesino, spoke about efforts to make striping uniform around the City.

In answering Member Orozco and Member Dutra, Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Vides stated the City's roads were being analyzed on a district-by-district basis to determine necessary improvements and repairs.

Member Dutra requested information regarding the use of the City's striping machine.

In answering Member Parker, Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Vides spoke about the way the City's striping crew was utilized.

Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes and Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Vides, in answering Member Dutra, spoke about challenges with striping some roads due to the extensive preparation work that was required.

9.e. CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE REPORT – None

11. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – None

12. EMERGENCY ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA – None

13. REQUESTS & SCHEDULING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13.a. CONSIDERATION OF SCHEDULING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2023

1) Report

2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

In answering Member Parker, City Manager Mendez stated the report for Item 13.a.5. would include information regarding how the City has established committees in the past.

City Manager Mendez, in answering Member Parker, stated representatives from organizations the City could potentially collaborate with would be involved in the study session listed in Item 13.a.6.

3) Public Input – None

4) Motion Scheduling and Update on City Council Chambers Audio/Visual System Upgrades and Project Timeline – None (An oral report was given by City Clerk Ortiz)

- 5) MOTION:** It was moved by Member Parker, seconded by Mayor Montesino, and carried by the following vote to schedule an Agenda Item regarding Establishment & Procedures for Council, Mayor, & Department-Level Citywide Committees:

AYES: MEMBERS: Dutra, Orozco, Quiroz-Carter, Parker, Salcido, Montesino
NOES: MEMBERS: None
ABSENT: MEMBERS: Clark

- 6) MOTION:** It was moved by Member Orozco, seconded by Member Parker, and carried by the following vote to schedule a Study Session on Workforce Housing through Collaboration with Partnerships with Pájaro Valley Unified School District, County of Santa Cruz, & Cabrillo College:

AYES: MEMBERS: Dutra, Orozco, Quiroz-Carter, Parker, Salcido, Montesino
NOES: MEMBERS: None
ABSENT: MEMBERS: Clark

13.b. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Members Parker, Salcido, and Dutra, and Mayor Montesino requested the number of presentations be reduced for future meetings.

Member Dutra requested a presentation exploring establishing an ordinance regarding gun use, sales, and safe storage.

Mayor Montesino requested an item regarding the City's traffic calming measures, including striping and speed bumps.

Member Parker requested a list of upcoming street improvement projects.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

Eduardo Montesino, Mayor

Irwin I. Ortiz, City Clerk

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