



MINUTES REGULAR JOINT CITY COUNCIL, SUCCESSOR HOUSING AGENCY, & SUCCESSOR AGENCY MEETING

February 13, 2024

City of Watsonville
Council Chambers
275 Main Street, Top Floor

4:30 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Mayor Quiroz-Carter, Mayor Pro Tempore Orozco, and Council Members Clark (arrived 4:37 p.m.), Dutra (arrived at 4:49 p.m.), Montesino, Parker and Salcido were present. Council Member were absent.

1.a. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES & RECOGNITION OF RETIREES

2. CLOSED SESSION CORRESPONDENCE

3. CLOSED SESSION

(a) Public Comments

(b) Closed Session Announcement:

The City Council recessed the meeting to discuss the items that follow at 4:33 p.m.

3.a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

(Government Code Section 54956.9(b))

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Section 54956.9(b): [1 Case]

City Council Resumed at 5:38 p.m.

4. ROLL CALL

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

Staff members present were City Manager Mendez, City Attorney Zutler, City Clerk Ortiz, Assistant City Manager Vides, Public Works & Utilities Director Lindberg, Police Chief Zamora, Fire Chief Lopez, Administrative Services Director Duran, Community Development Director Merriam, I.T. Director Gill, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib, Library Director Martinez, Airport Director Williams, Deputy City Manager Manning, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Green, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes, Assistant Community Development Director Meek, Parks & Community Services Superintendent Medina, Police Officer Travers, Deputy City Clerk Pacheco, and Interpreter Landaverry.

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

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.a. REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS

6.b. MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS REPORT

6.c. WRITTEN REPORTS BY COUNCIL

7. CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT – None

In answering Member Clark, City Manager Mendez spoke about the efforts made by the South County Triage Group on projects to improve health and wellness in the community.

MOTION: It was moved by Member Dutra, seconded by Member Montesino, and carried by the following vote to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

7.a. MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF JANUARY 16 & 26, 2024

7.b. MOTION TO APPROVE & AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK WHEREBY SECOND HARVEST AGREES TO PROVIDE THE CITY \$248,093 FOR THE CITY TO PROVIDE BACKBONE SERVICES FOR THE SOUTH COUNTY TRIAGE GROUP (SCTG) INITIATIVE & AUTHORIZE ADDING A LIMITED TERM SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST POSITION TO BE FUNDED FROM THIS GRANT THAT WILL REPORT TO THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATION & STAFF SUPPORT FOR SCTG EFFORTS

7.c. RESOLUTION NO. 17-24 (CM)
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE (1) APPROVING SECOND AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AND DANIEL B. STEPHENS & ASSOCIATES, INC., A CORPORATION, ADDING TO "SECTION 1. SCOPE OF SERVICES" FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR SITE LOCATION IN VICINITY OF 1350 FREEDOM BOULEVARD; (2) EXTEND "TERM OF AGREEMENT" FROM DECEMBER 31, 2023, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025; (3) APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE FUND ADDING TO THE COMPENSATION (INCREASING THE CONTRACT BY \$1,061,308) FOR A REVISED AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,687,162.76 FROM 530 CONSULTANT CONTRACT ACCOUNT, PROJECT NUMBER 11046; AND (4) AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAME

- 7.d. **RESOLUTION NO. 18-24 (CM)**
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE (1) AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AND BEECHER ENGINEERING, INC., A CORPORATION, TO PERFORM HEADWORKS AND INFLUENT PUMP STATION DESIGN, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$348,680; (2) AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAME; AND (3) APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$348,680 FROM THE WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE FUND BALANCE
- 7.e. **RESOLUTION NO. 19-24 (CM)**
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND CALLING FOR BIDS FOR THE OHLONE PARKWAY STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
- 7.f. **RESOLUTION NO. 20-24 (CM)**
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE SECOND AMENDED LEASE BETWEEN THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AND MONTEREY BAY AVIATION, INC., A CORPORATION, DBA UNITED FLIGHT SERVICES FOR CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 120 AVIATION WAY, WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAME
- 7.g. **RESOLUTION NO. 21-24 (CM)**
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING 2024 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SANTA CRUZ INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM) PROGRAM BY THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAME
- 7.h. **RESOLUTION NO. 22-24 (CM)**
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 6-23 (CM) CORRECTING THE NAME OF GRANTEE FROM SANTA CRUZ INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT TO REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION IN ORDER TO EXECUTE THE LOCAL PROJECT SPONSOR AGREEMENT FOR THE ATKINSON LANE INTEGRATED FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT
- 7.i. **RESOLUTION NO. 23-24 (CM)**
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPOINTING PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR COURTNEY LINDBERG AS ALTERNATE TO THE OPERATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY ENERGY
- 7.j. **ORDINANCE NO. 1461-24 (CM)**
AN UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP TO DESIGNATE THE ENTIRE 0.917-ACRE PARCEL LOCATED AT 1926 FREEDOM BOULEVARD (APN: 014-032-17) THOROUGHFARE COMMERCIAL (CT) AND DIRECTING CHANGES TO BE MADE ON THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – None

9. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9.a. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes spoke about Engineers' Week and about the upcoming Annual Egg Drop event.

9.b. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL

Member Salcido spoke about her attendance and interaction with council members from different jurisdictions at the League of California Cities Mayors and Council Members Academy.

Member Parker spoke about the Special City Council meeting regarding the General Plan Update that was held the previous Saturday, which was well attended by the public. She spoke about other meetings she attended over the past weeks.

Member Montesino spoke about his participation at League of California Cities' Mayors and Council Members Academy and the Special City Council meeting regarding the General Plan Update. He thanked Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's (SCMTD) former Chief Executive Officer Michael Tree for his work and spoke about enhanced bus services and new routes that would be added soon.

Member Dutra thanked the public for attending the General Plan Update Special City Council meeting and spoke about potential for collaboration among various stakeholders for the benefit of the community. He spoke about the importance of continuing to work on Freedom Boulevard repairs and requested the issue of trash along the sloughs be addressed.

Member Clark wished everyone a happy Fat Tuesday. He spoke about meetings he attended over the past week, including the General Plan Update Special City Council meeting, a Vista Montaña LLMAD meeting, and the Legislative Breakfast Special Council meeting. He highlighted other events he attended.

Mayor Pro Tempore Orozco spoke about her participation on the Blue Ribbon Selection Committee for the 2024 Hunger Fighter of the Year Award and about various events and meetings she attended over the past weeks. She thanked Police Officer Ihlen for facilitating her ride along. She also thanked the community for their attendance and input at the General Plan Update Special City Council meeting.

Mayor Quiroz-Carter spoke about various meetings and events she attended including League of California Cities' Mayors and Council Members Academy, the Legislative Breakfast Special City Council meeting, the City's World Wetlands Day event, the Measure N Campaign Kickoff event, and the General Plan Update Special City Council meeting.

City Clerk Ortiz spoke about the early voting services available at the City Clerk's office for the March 5th Presidential Primary Election and provided additional information regarding registration, weekend voting, and Election Day hours.

9.c. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

City Manager Mendez stated no reportable action was taken during the Closed Session.

9.d. PRESENTATION BY SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SENIOR PLANNER BLAKESLEE REGARDING THE ZERO EMISSION PASSENGER RAIL & TRAIL PROJECT

In answering Member Montesino, Senior Planner Blakeslee spoke about efforts to bring rail trails to the City through the project and challenges in doing so.

Member Parker expressed concerns over the lack of accessibility to rail trails in Watsonville and inquired why the City was not the starting point for the construction.

10. REPORTS TO COUNCIL – No Action Required

10.a. REPORT BY PARKS SUPERINTENDENT MEDINA ON MEDIAN & ROUNDABOUT MAINTENANCE

In answering Member Dutra, Parks & Community Services Superintendent Medina stated staff was coordinating with Caltrans on installation of updated signs in certain locations.

Assistant City Manager Vides, in answering Member Dutra, spoke about installation of the new wayfinding digital signs.

In answering Member Dutra, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes spoke about the timeline for installation of a new roundabout on Ohlone Parkway.

Parks & Community Services Superintendent Medina, in answering Member Dutra, spoke about potential for improving the landscaping and adding artwork in roundabouts, exploring improvements for the medians along Freedom Boulevard and other locations, and maintenance borders necessary for worker safety.

Member Dutra requested clearing of trash in Vista Montaña.

In answering Member Clark, Parks & Community Services Superintendent Medina stated trees installed along streets were generally not irrigated and spoke about trees near the Youth Center that could potentially be removed due to safety concerns.

Member Montesino supported the idea of adding artwork to medians and roundabouts. He expressed concerns over traffic fatalities along Main Street.

In answering Member Parker, Parks & Community Services Superintendent Medina spoke about maintenance efforts along Bridge Street and other areas of District 7.

Member Parker spoke in support of maintaining the fence on the median along Freedom Boulevard to deter people from walking across the road and using crosswalks instead.

Parks & Community Services Superintendent Medina spoke about exploring ideas regarding improvements to the fencing on the median along Freedom Boulevard.

10.b. REPORT ON CAMPERS, MOTOR HOMES, OVERSIZED VEHICLES, & ILLEGAL PARKING ON CITY STREETS

City Manager Mendez answered a question from Member Clark regarding language for a possible parking ordinance.

In answering Member Clark, Police Chief Zamora spoke about challenges with vehicles parking overnight, homeless residents, and illegal activity occurring at Ramsay Park. He asked staff for additional enforcement or installing fencing in critical areas.

Member Montesino recommended towing vehicles, enforcing time limits for parking, and addressing concerns expressed by residents.

In answering Member Montesino, Police Chief Zamora spoke about the various scenarios that have led people to homelessness and challenges with enforcement on illegally parked motor homes.

Member Dutra spoke in support of installing a gate at Ramsay Park, exploring the potential for hours of operation for parks, referring individuals in illegally parked motor homes to dedicated lots. He expressed concerns with open air drug use around minors.

Member Parker spoke about challenges with providing mental health services to the homeless population due to lack of funding and spoke about the importance of ensuring parks were clean and safe. She requested more enforcement of illegally parked motor homes and oversized vehicles, establishing hours of operation for parks, stricter parking time limits, and continuing to offer services and resources to those who needed them.

Member Salcido spoke about how recent legislation changes were changing law enforcement response to drug related crime and about additional legislation that could change cities' ability to address motor home and oversize vehicle parking as well as other parking issues.

Member Clark spoke about personal experiences with observing open air drug use, drug overdosing, and the negative effects on property owners and business stemming from drug use.

Mayor Quiroz-Carter stated complex issues had been discussed and required a multi-pronged approach. She spoke about the increased number of people living in their vehicles and the importance of working with partner agencies to explore solutions.

10.c. CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE REPORT

City Manger Mendez stated County of Santa Cruz had completed its workforce housing study and the City would continue to engage with them on the topic. He spoke about other partnerships with UC Santa Cruz and with Parks & Community Services. He stated Assistant City Manager Vides had been named as Assistant City Manager of the Year by the League of California Cities.

In answering Member Dutra, City Manager Mendez stated he would check in with staff regarding a schedule for emptying the City's garbage bins.

Member Parker congratulated Assistant City Manager Vides on the award she received.

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES, & APPEALS

11.a. CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS AS PROPOSED BY THE CITY CHARTER SUBCOMMITTEE

1) Staff Report by City Clerk Ortiz

2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

In answering Member Parker, City Clerk Ortiz spoke about reasons the subcommittee suggested removing the registered voter status requirement for committee and advisory commission appointments under Section 409 of the Charter.

Member Parker stated the reasons she was not in support of the proposed change for Section 409 of the Charter.

Member Salcido spoke about the possibility of maintaining Section 409's requirements and adding additional non-voting seats on committees and advisory commissions, appointed by the Mayor.

Member Montesino spoke in support of removing the registered voter status requirement to serve on committees and advisory commissions.

Member Dutra and Mayor Pro Tempore Orozco, who formed part of the City Charter Subcommittee, spoke about the proposed change to Section 409 to increase participation and representation in City advisory committees and commissions.

Mayor Pro Tempore Orozco stated she would support amending the proposed change to Section 409 of the Charter.

Member Salcido spoke about the importance of the Council being unified in its decisions regarding changes to the Charter and in support of making changes to Section 409's suggested language.

Mayor Quiroz-Carter stated she was in support of the proposed change to Section 409 as written and would not support a change in the language.

Member Parker spoke about the importance of engaging registered voters to serve on boards, commissions, and committees. She stated she would be open to adding non-voting seats to serve in an advisory capacity.

In answering Member Dutra, City Attorney Zutler stated there were no foreseen issues preventing a resident from serving on the Personnel Commission based on their immigration status.

Member Parker expressed concerns with proposed changes to Charter Section 700, which would modify the requirements to apply for the City Manager position. She spoke about the reasons she wanted requirements to include previous experience in the position or years of experience in a managerial role in a municipality.

Member Salcido spoke about the reasons the subcommittee had proposed changes to Section 700 of the Charter and stated she would be open to changing the proposed language to set the requirements to include previous experience as a City Manager, two years as Assistant City Manager, or six to eight years of senior level municipal management experience.

Member Dutra expressed concerns with the current language in the Charter preventing an ample pool of candidates. He stated he would support adding experience in a municipality as a requirement to the proposed changes to Section 700.

3) Public Comments

Janet Hernandez spoke about the importance of forward thinking when seeking solutions for issues.

4) 1st MOTION: It was moved by Member Parker, seconded by Member Salcido, and carried by the following vote to accept all City Charter amendments as proposed by the City Charter Subcommittee, except for Sections 409, 900, and 700 and to make the following changes to those sections:

-Maintain the registered voter status requirement for being appointed to boards, commissions, and committees in Sections 409 and 900 and add language allowing the mayor to appoint two (2) Watsonville residents as non-voting members on all commissions and boards.

-Include language in Section 700 requiring the following qualifications to be eligible to apply for the position of City Manager: one (1) year previous experience as a City Manager or two (2) years previous experience as an Assistant City Manager or five (5) to seven (7) years of senior level municipal management experience in a public service setting with extensive experience working with City Council or Board of Supervisors

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

2nd MOTION: It was moved by Member Montesino, seconded by Member Clark, and carried by the following vote to set the second charter public hearing for March 26, 2024.

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

5) City Council Deliberation on Motion – None

11.b. COUNCIL MEMBER COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT

1) Staff Report by City Manager Mendez

2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

In answering Member Parker, City Attorney Zutler clarified when the compensation adjustment would take place should Council approve it.

Member Parker spoke about the reasons she was in support of the compensation adjustment and stated her hope it would increase interest in serving on the Council.

In answering Member Parker, City Attorney Zutler stated the adjustment was relative to the size of the city according to State legislation and spoke about the City Charter's

provisions regarding Council compensation and a potential amendment which would allow Council members to receive additional benefits.

Member Montesino stated the reasons he was in support of the proposed compensation adjustment.

In answering Member Montesino, City Attorney Zutler stated a 5% yearly increase was allowed by State regulations and required Council to amend the compensation ordinance every year.

Member Dutra spoke in support of the proposed compensation adjustment and stated his hope that it would increase public interest in serving as council members.

3) Public Comments – None

4) MOTION: It was moved by Member Montesino, seconded by Member Orozco, and carried by the following vote to approve Item 11.b.6 listed below.

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

5) City Council Deliberation on Motion

Mayor Quiroz-Carter spoke in support of the compensation increase and about the challenges of serving as a Council member.

6) By Motion, Introduce for First Reading, by Title Only, Waiving the Full Reading of the Text, an Ordinance Repealing Uncodified Ordinance No. 1456-23 (CM) & Replacing it with a New Codified Ordinance; by Adding Section 2-1.123 (Compensation) to Article 1 (Council Procedure) of Chapter 1 (Council) of Title 2 (Administration) of the Watsonville Municipal Code which Sets the Compensation for Each Member of the City Council & the Mayor

12. NEW BUSINESS

12.a. PROVIDE DIRECTION ON WHETHER TO UTILIZE THE ZOOM OPTION FOR COUNCIL AND OTHER PUBLIC MEETINGS, AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RULES OF DECORUM

1) Staff Report by City Manager Mendez

2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

In answering Member Salcido, City Attorney Zutler spoke about the definition of the term “limited public forum” as related to conducting business at a Council meeting and First Amendment rights.

Member Salcido spoke about the Zoom bombing incident that occurred during a Council meeting the previous year and expressed concerns with utilizing the Zoom option for Council and other public meetings.

Member Clark spoke in agreement with Member Salcido's concerns and about balancing accessibility and addressing concerns with hate speech.

Member Parker spoke about the use of Zoom during the pandemic and stated her concerns with allowing Zoom participation due to interruptions to Council meetings.

Member Dutra spoke about challenges with Zoom usage during the pandemic and spoke about other avenues to allow public participation for residents unable to attend Council meetings.

Member Clark spoke about the potential for adopting rules of decorum for in person meetings.

Mayor Pro Tempore Orozco spoke about the importance of accessibility, public participation, civic engagement, and the increased popularity of Zoom usage.

Mayor Quiroz-Carter spoke about the definition of free speech and stated the reasons she was in support of allowing utilization of Zoom for Council and other public meetings.

3) Public Input

Janet Hernandez spoke about cyberbullying and provided suggestions for allowing Zoom participation.

Member Dutra spoke about the possibility of Council monitoring public comment for Council meetings on Zoom or social media.

City Manager Mendez, in answering Member Dutra, spoke about public record concerns with allowing social media or Zoom comments.

In answering Member Parker, City Attorney Zutler spoke about the suggestions given by an earlier speaker from the public, whether it was possible to implement them, and potential legal implications.

City Clerk Ortiz spoke about potential negative impacts of requiring public speakers on Zoom to turn on their cameras and listed concerns with hacking.

Member Salcido spoke about inappropriate imagery being displayed by hackers at other public meetings and about the potential for discussing Zoom participation in the future.

4) 1st MOTION: It was moved by Member Salcido, seconded by Member Parker, and carried by the following vote to not utilize the Zoom option for Council and other public meetings.

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

2nd MOTION: It was moved by Member Parker, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Orozco, and carried by the following vote to approve Item 12.a.6. listed below.

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

5) City Council Deliberation on Motion – None

6) RESOLUTION NO. 24-24 (CM)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE
ADOPTING CITY OF WATSONVILLE RULES OF CIVILITY AND DECORUM
FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS**

13. EMERGENCY ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA – None

14. REQUESTS & SCHEDULING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Montesino requested an item regarding the sign ordinance, specifically regarding sandwich boards.

Member Parker requested an item regarding code enforcement of City ordinances.

Mayor Quiroz-Carter requested an information item regarding park restrooms.

Member Dutra requested an item to explore a pilot parking permit program.

The meeting was adjourned into Closed Session at 9:08 p.m.

The Council reconvened at 9:21 p.m. and City Attorney Zutler reported that no reportable action was taken during the Closed Session.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Irwin I. Ortiz, City Clerk

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