



MINUTES REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 11, 2021

City of Watsonville
Teleconference/Remote

4:00 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(a))

- 1) Name of Case: The Estate of Robert Castillo and Guadalupe Castillo, individually and as heir to the Estate of Robert Castillo v City of Watsonville et-al. United States District Court, Northern District (Case Number: 20-CV04395-VKD)
- 2) Name of case: Janice Guy v City of Watsonville – Santa Cruz Superior Court (Case Number: 20CV01851)

1.b **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

(Government Code Section 54956.9 (b))

Initiation of litigation pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 54956.9:
[1 Case]

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

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency negotiator: Nathalie Manning, Matt Huffaker & Mike McDougall

Employee organization: Confidential, Fire Management, IAFF Local 1272 (Fire), Management, Mid-Management, Police Management, Service Employees International Union, Local 521 Clerical Technical (SEIU)

1.d. **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

(Government Code Section 54957)

Public Employee Performance Evaluation

Title: City Manager & City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL RESUMED AT 5:38 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

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

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, Fire Chief Lopez, Deputy City Manager Manning, Administrative Services Director Czerwin, Community Development Director Merriam, Interim Library Director Martinez, Innovation & Technology Director Boyes, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib, Airport Director Williams, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Directors Rodriguez and Di Renzo, Assistant Parks & Community Services Director Heistein, Assistant Community Development Director Allen, Assistant Finance Director Duran, Police Captains Zamora and Rodriguez, Housing Manager Landaverry, Assistant City Clerk Ortiz, Administrative Analysts Paz and Jauregui, Environmental Science Workshop Coordinator Gertler, and Interpreter Vázquez-Quintero.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4.a REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS

4.b WRITTEN REPORTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS REGARDING ACTIONS TAKEN ON THEIR REGIONAL COMMISSIONS/BOARD MEETINGS THAT MAY AFFECT THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission May Meeting Highlights
(Council Member González)

5. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

5.a ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Eli requested a process of accountability be put in place for the Council and City staff.

Steve Trujillo, District 7, requested all members of the public be given an equal opportunity to speak and for the City to be transparent when forming committees. He requested the City create a process for responding to complaints submitted by the public.

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

Member Estrada wished everyone a happy Mother's Day. He congratulated Estelle González, student at Watsonville Charter School of the Arts, for her recognition by the Queer Straight Alliance. He invited members of the public to his District 4 Meeting.

Member González invited everyone to utilize the sports fields and courts at E.A. Hall Middle School.

Member Hurst thanked Scouts BSA Troop 558 and Scouts BSA Girls Troop 2558 for leading the Pledge of Allegiance. He wished everyone a happy Mother's Day.

Member García spoke about the English 1B class offered at Cabrillo College where students review essays, poetry, and songs submitted by community members. She shared a poem she wrote titled *The Voice*.

Mayor Dutra spoke about the Queer Youth Leadership Awards. He invited the public to join him on the Mayor's Bike Ride. He encouraged the public to attend the neighborhood meeting on Atkinson Lane.

5.c REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Smith stated Council received reports on all items in Closed Session, but took no final action.

5.d MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ROCKY & RU PATEL FOR THEIR MANY DELICIOUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LOCAL GASTRONOMY AS WELL AS THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

5.e MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MARCELINO BAYUGA & HBJ ORIENTAL STORE & FOOD TO GO FOR PROVIDING INTERNATIONAL CUISINE TO THE CITY, WITH WISHES FOR THEM TO CONTINUE BEING A PART OF THE COMMUNITY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME

6. REPORTS TO COUNCIL -- No Action Required

6.a. CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE REPORT

7. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

7.a MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF APRIL 27 & 30, 2021

**7.b RESOLUTION NO. 134-21 (CM):
A RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS & CALLING FOR BIDS FOR THE WATSONVILLE SLOUGH CONNECTOR TRAIL PROJECT AT RAMSAY PARK PROJECT NO. PK-21-01 (ESTIMATED COST OF \$2,384,190: \$751,190 WILL BE FUNDED FROM THE URBAN GREENING SPECIAL GRANTS FUND, \$200,000 FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUND, \$95,000 FROM THE CANNABIS MEASURE M FUND, \$150,000 FROM THE PARK DEVELOPMENT FUND, & \$1,188,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND)**

**7.c RESOLUTION NO. 135-21 (CM):
A RESOLUTION APPROVING FIRST AMENDMENT TO CONSULTANT SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH PÁJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE THE**

CITY'S EXCEL IN PLACE PROGRAM, INCREASING COMPENSATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000, & EXTENDING THE CONTRACT TERM TO JUNE 30, 2021

7.d RESOLUTION NO. 136-21 (CM):

A RESOLUTION AWARDED \$734,555.50 BID TO GRANITE ROCK COMPANY FOR THE LINCOLN STREET SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. ST-20-03 & AUTHORIZING \$100,000 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GAS TAX FUND, \$140,000 FROM THE SB1-GAS TAX FUND, & \$159,555.50 FROM THE MEASURE D-TRANSPORTATION FUND (ESTIMATED COST OF \$734,555.50: \$340,000 WILL BE FUNDED FROM THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN GRANT FUND, \$100,000 FROM THE GAS TAX FUND, \$140,000 FROM THE SB1-GAS TAX FUND, & \$159,555.50 FROM THE MEASURE D-TRANSPORTATION FUND)

7.e RESOLUTION NO. 137-21 (CM):

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A ONE-YEAR LICENSE AND AGREEMENT WITH WATSONVILLE YOUTH BASEBALL FOR THE USE OF PINTO LAKE PARK BASEBALL FIELD COMMENCING ON APRIL 1, 2021, & ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

JOINT COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY MEETING

7.f RESOLUTION NO. 138-21 (CM)

RESOLUTION NO. 1-21 (SA)

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL & SUCCESSOR AGENCY OF THE FORMER REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AMENDING THE 2020-2021 BUDGET TO AUTHORIZE \$2,947,095.50 BUDGET APPROPRIATION TO ALLOW TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS TO CORRECT NEGATIVE CASH BALANCES & TRANSFER CORRECTION TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUND

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA (*None*)

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES, & APPEALS

9.a CONSIDERATION OF 2021-2022 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

1) Staff Report by Housing Manager Landaverry & Administrative Analyst Paz

2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

Administrative Analyst Paz answered a question from Member García regarding the advertising and attendance of virtual meetings for the CDBG Annual Action Plan.

In answering Member García, Housing Manager Landaverry spoke about funding and phases of remodeling the Senior Center.

3) Public Hearing

Mayor Dutra opened the public hearing.

Eli requested staff focused efforts on broader outreach to ensure greater participation from community members for future public meetings. She suggested hiring someone to manage the City's social media accounts.

Jessica Carrasco requested information regarding the use of funds for the Youth Center and asked for increased public outreach efforts.

Steve Trujillo asked for better outreach to the community regarding City meetings and workshops.

Fernando Muñoz suggested City staff use social media to promote meetings to create greater public awareness.

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 García, seconded by Member Montesino and carried by the following vote to approve the resolution listed below:

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

- 6) **RESOLUTION NO. 139-21 (CM)**
A RESOLUTION APPROVING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ("CDBG") ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 & AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT SAME TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR APPROVAL, WITH ANY POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FUNDING LEVELS, AND WITH CLARIFYING AND/OR NON-SUBSTANTIVE MODIFICATIONS, AS NECESSARY

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.a. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT FOR SITE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH PÁJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE CITY'S ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE WORKSHOP TO OPERATE DROP-IN SCIENCE PROGRAMMING

- 1) **Staff Report by Environmental Science Workshop Coordinator Gertler**
- 2) **City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**
Environmental Science Workshop Coordinator Gertler answered questions from Member García regarding the schedule of the mobile science workshop.

In answering Member Estrada, Environmental Science Workshop Coordinator Gertler spoke about future plans for the workshop and ways in which the Council could support it.

Environmental Science Workshop Coordinator Gertler answered a question from Member González regarding the mobile science workshop's schedule for Pájaro Park.

3) Public Input

Steve Trujillo suggested an electric vehicle be purchased for the mobile workshop. He encouraged allocating more funds to them.

Jessica Carrasco requested more funding for the Science Workshop and creation of additional programs to reach more of the community's youth.

Eli requested additional funding and staff for the programs.

4) MOTION: It was moved by Member Hurst, seconded by Member González and carried by the following vote to approve the resolution listed below:

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

**6) RESOLUTION NO. 140-21 (CM)
A RESOLUTION APPROVING A \$200,000 SITE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PÁJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, FOR THE CITY'S ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE WORKSHOP TO OPERATE DROP-IN SCIENCE PROGRAMMING AT ITS THREE LOCATIONS: RIVER PARK, MARINOVICH COMMUNITY CENTER, AND THE MOBILE SCIENCE VAN, COMMENCING ON APRIL 28, 2021, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021; AND APPROPRIATING SUCH FUNDS TO THE SPECIAL GRANTS FUND**

10.b CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACTS WITH DAVEY RESROUCE GROUP & WATSONVILLE WETLANDS WATCH REGARDING URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

1) Staff Report by Assistant Parks & Community Services Director Heistein & Executive Director for Watsonville Wetlands Watch Jonathan Pilch

2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

Assistant Parks & Community Services Director Heistein, in answering Member García, explained how the plan would help conserve water during the drought and spoke about community engagement efforts. He also spoke about the timeline for implementation of a tree protection ordinance.

In answering Member Estrada, Mr. Pilch informed the public where they could obtain free trees and tree resources.

In answering Member Estrada, Assistant Parks & Community Services Director Heistein spoke about ways the public could be encouraged to plant trees on their properties.

City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Mayor Dutra regarding actions that could be taken to require developers to plant trees as part of new projects.

In answering Member Estrada, Assistant Parks & Community Services Director Heistein spoke about working with housing associations to obtain their support for residents to plant trees on their properties.

Assistant Parks & Community Services Director Heistein, in answering Member García spoke about education efforts to make the public aware of the guidelines for proper tree planting.

3) Public Input

Fernando Muñoz spoke about the potential liabilities of planting trees without first educating the public about the proper procedures to do so.

Steve Trujillo, District 7, spoke about ensuring trees are planted in adequate locations and the importance of educating community members.

Eli stated Community Action Board (CAB) listed food insecurity as an issue in the community and suggested planting fruit trees to provide accessible and free food source for all.

Raymond Cancino, Community Bridges Chief Executive Officer, spoke about expanding the urban canopy and about allocating funds for future maintenance needs relating to the planting and removal of trees

Jessica Carrasco informed the public about CAB's Watsonville Works program, which enlisted the homeless population's help with City clean up and supported the planting of fruit trees. She also expressed her hopes for Parks & Community Services to receive additional funding for all the projects.

Karina Moreno spoke about her concerns with climate change and the benefits of planting trees.

4) MOTION: It was moved by Member Hurst and seconded by Member Montesino and carried by the following vote to approve the resolution listed below:

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

**5) RESOLUTION NO. 141-21 (CM)
A RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT TO DAVEY RESOURCE GROUP, INC., TO ASSIST THE CITY IN DEVELOPING AN URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN, TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE, & OTHER RELATED SERVICES TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF A CAL FIRE FUNDED GRANT PROJECT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$268,664; AUTHORIZING A BUDGET APPROPRIATION OF \$268,664 FROM THE SPECIAL GRANTS FUND**

**6) RESOLUTION NO. 142-21 (CM)
A RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACT WITH WATSONVILLE WETLANDS WATCH TO SUPPORT THE CITY WITH TREE PLANTING, URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT & GRANT**

**ADMINISTRATION/REPORTING TO MEET GRANT PROJECT OBJECTIVES
FOR THE WATSONVILLE COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROJECT, IN AN
AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$349,800 & AUTHORIZING BUDGET
APPROPRIATION OF AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$349,800 FROM THE
SPECIAL GRANTS FUND**

10.c.STUDY SESSION WITH COMMUNITY & COUNCIL REGARDING CATERING TRUCKS

1) Presentation by Community Development Director Merriam, Police Captain Zamora & Fire Chief Lopez

2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions

In answering Member García, Police Captain Zamora spoke about the challenges the Police Department faced in citing unlicensed food trucks. Community Development Director Merriam explained code enforcement staff was sent out to speak with vendors and review the requirements for operating said trucks.

Community Development Director Merriam, in answering Member González, spoke about catering trucks being allowed to park on private property per the current City ordinance.

In answering Member Hurst, Community Development Director Merriam spoke about the brochure the City had created, which outlined the process for obtaining all necessary permits to operate a catering truck.

City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Member Estrada regarding efforts to educate the public about requirements for operating food trucks and the possibility of partnering with community organizations to ensure continuing the efforts.

City Manager, in answering Mayor Dutra Huffaker spoke about the process for taxing brick and mortar restaurants and food trucks.

Member García requested staff work on streamlining the permitting process for food trucks, and to not have police be responsible for enforcement.

Member González requested for staff to develop requirements and hours of operation that would be fair for both restaurants and food trucks.

Member Hurst requested to see the City's brochures on the permitting process for catering trucks. He asked staff to streamline the process and ensure fairness.

Member Estrada requested that staff and Council worked on uniting the business community and find ways to support them all.

Member Montesino and Mayor Dutra requested for staff to simplify the permitting process and not to have police be responsible for enforcement.

3) Public Input

Fernando Munoz spoke about the differences between taxes paid by brick and mortar restaurants and food trucks. He suggested the City set a tax for those allowing food trucks on their property, as well as a yearly fee for the trucks.

Raymond Cancino stated the process for obtaining permits to operate catering trucks was confusing. He asked for all stakeholders to be included in conversations regarding catering trucks.

Steve Trujillo presented ideas for locations where catering trucks can be allowed to operate, separate from brick and mortar businesses.

Craig Hammond explained the challenges his catering business faced with the extensive requirements.

Veronica requested information regarding locations where food trucks are required to park once they conclude business.

Eli stated food trucks contributed their time and resources to the community and asked staff to create conditions for these trucks to operate.

Gerardo Jimenez, Tacos el Jerry owner, spoke about the efforts by food truck owners to comply with permitting and sanitation regulations.

Roberto Rodriguez expressed difficulty with obtaining all necessary permits to be compliant with City requirements.

Cesario Ruiz spoke about the monetary aspect of starting a food truck business and challenges vendors faced.

Chris D spoke about willingness of catering food truck vendors to comply with all regulations. He spoke about challenges of operating a catering truck.

Celeste explained how food trucks contribute to the local economy and expressed her concerns with the regulations for food trucks.

Gabe Medina asked staff to hold monthly trainings for catering truck operators and to find appropriate spaces for them to continue operating.

The following speakers spoke about challenges catering truck operators face, contributions they made to the community, asked that the permitting process be simplified, and restrictions eased:

Judixi

Ana Jimenez, Biwise Foods owner

Arturo Silva

Jose Ortiz

Jorge Martinez, J & S Catering

Pedro, Wings with Attitude

Kasia, Ate3One

Roberto, Acapulco Tropical

Oscar Ríos

Eduardo Rentería, Tacos el Jerry

Carmen, El Pájaro CDC

Felipe Hernández

Xitlali
Jessica Carrasco
Karina Moreno

4) Appropriate Motion (none)

Member García asked staff to streamline the permit process for catering trucks, redirect enforcement on food trucks away from police, and explore location options to allow catering trucks to operate.

Member González stated Council should explore to streamline the permit process for catering trucks and redirect enforcement on food trucks away from police. He added that all business should be treated equally and should abide by same allowed hours of operation. He spoke about challenges neighborhoods face as a result of catering trucks being open late in the evening.

Member Hurst spoke about importance of supporting local businesses and asked that the process for obtaining catering truck permits be simplified. He requested the pamphlets regarding process for obtaining catering truck permits.

Member Estrada asked staff to work with food vendors to remedy issues between brick and mortar businesses and catering truck businesses and to explore location options to allow catering trucks to operate.

Member Montesino asked staff to streamline the permit process for catering trucks, redirect enforcement of food trucks to Code Enforcement, and explore location options to allow catering trucks to operate.

Mayor Dutra asked staff to streamline the permit process for catering trucks and redirect enforcement on food trucks away from police.

City Manager Huffaker stated the City would seek to partner with local organizations to help inform the community about process for obtaining catering truck permits.

12. EMERGENCY ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA

13. REQUESTS & SCHEDULING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member García requested a presentation from the Arts Council of Santa Cruz County regarding art equity in Watsonville.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Jimmy Dutra, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk