



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

March 24, 2026

City of Watsonville  
Council Chambers  
275 Main Street, Top Floor

**Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(b), Mayor Pro Tempore Clark was scheduled to participate in the meeting via teleconferencing from: 751 Larkin Valley Road, Watsonville, CA 95076. Council Member Montesino participated from Hotel El Carmen, Calle de Eduardo Ruiz 63, Centro Historico de Morelia, 58000 Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico.**

**4:31 p.m.**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Salcido, Mayor Pro Tempore Clark and Council Members Dutra (arrived at 4:35 p.m.), Montesino (arrived at 6:58 p.m.) Orozco, Parker, and Quiroz-Carter (arrived at 4:43 p.m.) were present.

Staff members present were City Manager Vides, City Attorney Zutler, City Clerk Ortiz, Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green, Police Chief Shab, Fire Chief Schaefer, I.T. Director Gill, Deputy City Manager/ Interim Community Development Director Manning, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes, Assistant Community Development Director Orbach, Wastewater Division Manager Tellez, Associate Planner Madrigal, Engineering Associate Espinosa, Senior Financial Analyst Diaz, Police Officer Bañuelos, Deputy City Clerk Pacheco and Interpreter Landaverry.

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**3.a. REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS**

**3.b. MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS REPORT**

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**PUBLIC INPUT – None**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Orozco, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Clark and carried by the following vote to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

- 4.a. **MOTION APPROVING MARCH 10, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**
- 4.b. **RESOLUTION NO. 46-26 (CM)**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AWARDING CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO SELDEN & SON, A PARTNERSHIP, FOR PHASE 1 OF THE WATSONVILLE CITY PLAZA REVITALIZATION PROJECT, NO. PK 25-09053, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,180,800; AUTHORIZING A TEN PERCENT (10%) CONTINGENCY FOR UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE SAME AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO OF A NON-SUBSTANTIVE NATURE SUBJECT TO LEGAL APPROVAL**
- 4.c. **RESOLUTION NO. 47-26 (CM)**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 8, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$357,694.67 WITH ROBERT A BOTHMAN CONSTRUCTION FOR THE RAMSAY PARK RENAISSANCE PROJECT, NO. PK-22-01, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAME**
- 4.d. **RESOLUTION NO. 48-26 (CM)**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING FOURTH AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AND BEAR ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS, LLC, A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, FOR CITY-WIDE STREETLIGHT MAINTENANCE, PROJECT NO. TR-23-14011, INCREASING CONTRACT COMPENSATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000 FOR A REVISED TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$510,000; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAME**
- 4.e. **RESOLUTION NO. 49-26 (CM)**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING FIRST AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AND PACIFIC CREST ENGINEERING, INC., A CORPORATION, FOR CONTINUED ON-CALL AND AS-NEEDED SPECIAL INSPECTION AND TESTING SERVICES ON THE WWTF ELECTRICAL SYSTEM HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECT, ADDING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000 FOR A TOTAL REVISED CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$107,000; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAME**
- 4.f. **RESOLUTION NO. 50-26 (CM)**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING A PURCHASE WITH CORE & MAIN, LP, A LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT MATERIALS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$571,944.20 PLUS ANY ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE ACTUAL COSTS OF FREIGHT, DELIVERY AND TAXES WHICH ARE CALCULATED AT THE TIME OF FINAL SHIPMENT FOR THE FREEDOM BOULEVARD (GREEN VALLEY TO**

**COMPTON TERRACE) PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE PURCHASE ORDER INCLUDING ANY EXTENSIONS OR AMENDMENTS THEREOF IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE PURCHASE**

**4.g. RESOLUTION NO. 51-26 (CM)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE ACCEPTING \$1,248,000 IN GRANT FUNDS FROM THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (SCRTC) FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO DOWNTOWN WATSONVILLE PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL AGREEMENTS AND ANY AMENDMENTS NECESSARY; AND APPROPRIATING SUCH FUNDS TO THE SPECIAL GRANTS FUND [0260]**

**4.h. RESOLUTION NO. 52-26 (CM)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION AND POSITION FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE LEAD TECHNICIAN (MID-MANAGEMENT) AT THE ESTABLISHED SALARY RANGE OF \$36.19-\$48.50 PER HOUR OR \$6,273.72-\$8,407.38 PER MONTH AND ELIMINATING THE CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER POSITION**

**4.i. RESOLUTIONS APPROVING NEW & REVISED LIBRARY CLASSIFICATIONS & SALARIES**

**1) RESOLUTION NO. 53-26 (CM)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE REVISED JOB CLASSIFICATION AND JOB DESCRIPTION FOR CIRCULATION MANAGER (MID-MANAGEMENT) AT THE ESTABLISHED SALARY RANGE OF \$33.29-\$44.62 PER HOUR OR \$5,770.98-\$7,733.64 PER MONTH**

**2) RESOLUTION NO. 54-26 (CM)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION FOR LIBRARIAN (MID-MANAGEMENT) AT THE ESTABLISHED SALARY RANGE OF \$33.31-\$44.64 PER HOUR OR \$5,774.02-\$7,737.73 PER MONTH**

**3) RESOLUTION NO. 55-26 (CM)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION FOR SENIOR LIBRARIAN (MID-MANAGEMENT) AT THE ESTABLISHED SALARY RANGE OF \$36.62-\$49.08 PER HOUR OR \$6,347.58-\$8,506.36 PER MONTH**

**4) RESOLUTION NO. 56-26 (CM)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION FOR PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN (MANAGEMENT) AT THE ESTABLISHED SALARY RANGE OF \$42.11-\$56.43 PER HOUR OR \$7,299.28-\$9,781.76 PER MONTH**

**5) RESOLUTION NO. 57-26 (CM)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION AND JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR (MANAGEMENT) AT THE ESTABLISHED SALARY RANGE OF \$48.59-\$65.12 PER HOUR OR \$8,422.72-\$11,287.27 PER MONTH**

**5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – None**

**6. REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**6.a. PRESENTATION BY ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR FONTES REGARDING CURRENT & PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FREEDOM BOULEVARD CORRIDOR**

Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green was also available for questions.

**Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**

In answering Member Orozco, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes stated he did not believe business owners along a section of Freedom Boulevard would be open to giving the City the necessary right of way to build a complete sidewalk on that side of the Boulevard.

Member Dutra requested staff speak to business owners again to verify whether they would allow the City the access needed to construct a sidewalk. He spoke about potential concerns from residents should sidewalks be constructed on only one side of Freedom Boulevard.

In answering Member Dutra, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes spoke about available funding and the status of an improvement project along Freedom Boulevard.

City Manager Vides stated staff would re-engage with business owners and stated improvements on Freedom Boulevard would be part of a phased project. She stated she did not have details regarding why the project was not taken to Council for review sooner.

In answering Member Parker, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes stated the City would work with property owners to determine whether installation of rolled curbs was the best option. He spoke about the potential need for right-of-way acquisition.

Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green spoke about the process for acquiring right-of-way. She spoke about the importance of making as much progress as possible with improvements and exploring right-of-way acquisition in the future.

Member Parker expressed her desire for constructing sidewalks on both sides of Freedom Boulevard and collaborating with the County of Santa Cruz on potential grant funding opportunities.

Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes spoke about challenges and potential delays on the project due to staffing levels. He spoke about exploring options for obtaining

the necessary right-of-way to construct sidewalks on one side of Freedom Boulevard. Mayor Salcido requested staff speak to all property owners before exploring other options.

Member Orozco clarified that Council was in favor of moving forward with the project.

In answering Member Dutra, Assistant Public Works & Utilities Director Fontes spoke about improvements made by a business owner on Freedom Boulevard and stated they had dedicated the right of way to the City.

Member Dutra suggested enlisting a business owner along Freedom Boulevard to help convince other property owners to dedicate right of way to the City, which would allow for sidewalk construction.

City Manager Vides, in response to Member Parker, stated Council would have an opportunity to provide input on further improvements to Freedom Boulevard in the future.

In answering Member Orozco, Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green provided an approximate timeframe for the traffic light improvement project on Freedom Boulevard.

*Mayor Salcido recessed the meeting at 5:25 p.m.*

## **CITY COUNCIL RESUMED AT 6:00 p.m.**

### **7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **7.a. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – None**

#### **7.b. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL**

Member Orozco spoke about various events she participated in over the past weeks and the highlighted the work of the organizations involved in the events.

Member Parker spoke about her participation at the 50<sup>th</sup> Wildcat Relay and provided background information. She stated she traveled to Washington D.C. along with other Council members and met with legislators to advocate for Watsonville.

Member Dutra spoke about his participation at various events including local business inaugurations. He spoke about new lighting installed around the City.

Mayor Salcido spoke about her participation at various events over the weekend. She congratulated the Girls' and Boys' Watsonville High School soccer teams on their accomplishments this past season.

### **8. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **8.a. MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MEALS ON WHEELS' 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

#### **8.b. MAYOR'S PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES RECOGNIZING WATSONVILLE HIGH**

## **SCHOOL BOYS' & GIRLS' SOCCER TEAMS & THEIR COACHES**

*Mayor Salcido recessed the meeting at 6:43 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:49 p.m.*

### **8.c. UPDATE ON PAJARO VALLEY ARTS BY LYNNE KARST, BOARD PRESIDENT, & MIRIAM ANTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Presentation was given by Executive Director Miriam Anton and Board of Directors Member Aurelio Gonzalez.**

Member Parker suggested involving community members to assist with capital campaign efforts.

In answering Member Dutra, Executive Director Anton spoke about funding being pursued through their capital campaign efforts.

PVA Board of Directors Member Gonzalez, in answering Member Dutra, spoke about plans for using the second floor of their building.

In answering Member Dutra, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib spoke about evaluating the status of the building previously occupied by Pajaro Valley Arts and searching for a new tenant.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **9.a. CONSIDERATION OF UTILITY RATE STUDY RESULTS FOR THE WATER, WASTEWATER, & SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUNDS, & AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH PUBLIC NOTIFICATION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF NEW UTILITY RATES**

#### **1) Staff Report by Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green, Raftelis Manager Tamargo, & Raftelis Senior Manager Kostiuik**

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

In answering Member Dutra, Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green spoke about the status of financial reserves and about the hexavalent chromium treatment project. She spoke about potential cost increases, funding opportunities for the hexavalent chromium treatment project, and reasons why rate increases had been deferred.

Raftelis Manager Tamargo spoke about staff efforts to mitigate impacts of rate increases and potential impacts of continuing to defer them.

In answering Member Dutra, City Manager Vides spoke about street sweeping in compliance with stormwater regulations and the possibility of retaining a consultant to explore increased efficiency.

Interim Public Works & Utilities Green, in answering Member Montesino, provided an explanation regarding what PFAS is and what products contain it. She spoke about the importance of the headworks project that was part of the wastewater treatment plan.

She also spoke about the State revolving fund loan program and pursuing grant opportunities to potentially revise the loan amount.

Raftelis Manager Tamargo provided additional details regarding how grant funding could impact the loan amount.

In answering Mayor Salcido, Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green spoke about an ongoing project to improve the Wastewater electrical facility to include flood protection.

Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green, in answering Mayor Pro Tempore Clark, spoke about the potential impacts of Water and Wastewater projects not being completed.

Raftelis Manager Tamargo spoke about the benefits of proactive maintenance versus emergency repairs.

In answering Mayor Pro Tempore Clark, Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green spoke about efforts to plan for the cost of future projects and increases needed to fund them. Raftelis Manager Tamargo stated rate increases could only be set for five years.

Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green, in answering Member Parker, spoke about the Clean Water Act which provided loans to assist with waterway cleanup. She stated water treatment plants received that funding. She spoke about funding pursued and received for Water-related projects.

City Manager Vides added that Congresswoman Lofgren had allocated funding the past two years for the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. She stated funding requests had been submitted to various legislators.

In answering Member Parker, City Manager Vides spoke about efforts to anticipate future funding needs for projects. She stated Council could decide not to increase rates as much if grant funding was received.

Raftelis Manager Tamargo, in answering Member Parker stated Proposition 218 required each customer to pay their cost of service. He spoke about utilizing non-rate revenues to offset costs. Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green spoke about establishing payment plans for residents should they be unable to make payments.

Member Parker requested hosting another screening of the *Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong* documentary exploring implications of aging wastewater infrastructure throughout the nation.

Mayor Salcido suggested adding online resources to provide residents information regarding the importance of Water and Wastewater projects.

### **3) Public Input**

? male, Watsonville resident, inquired whether the Water Department was a public entity. He stated there were ways to save money without affecting public safety or

quality of life and spoke about in opposition to high salaries of administrative officials.

Wastewater Division Manager Tellez spoke about building a culture of stewardship, caring for City assets, and planning for timely maintenance.

- 4) **MOTION:** It was moved by Member Orozco, seconded by Member Parker to approve the resolutions listed under Items 9.a.6. and 9.a.7. below.

5) **City Council Deliberation on Motion**

Member Dutra spoke about the need for sufficient staff to allow projects to be completed in a timely manner.

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

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

6) **RESOLUTION NO. 58-26 (CM)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE ACCEPTING THE RESULTS OF THE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS AND UTILITY RATE RECOMMENDATIONS, DIRECTING STAFF TO PROVIDE PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF THE PROPOSED UTILITY RATES, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO GIVE NOTICE THEREOF AND FIXING THE TIME FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAY 26, 2026, PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54354.5 CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 13D SECTION 6, AND THE UTILITY RATE SETTING PROCEDURES RESOLUTION**

7) **RESOLUTION NO. 59-26 (CM)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE ESTABLISHING UTILITY RATE SETTING PROCEDURES FOR WATER, SEWER, AND SOLID WASTE RATES UNDER PROPOSITION 218, AND ASSEMBLY BILL 2257 (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 53750 THROUGH 53759.2)**

10. **REPORTS TO COUNCIL (Continued) – No Action Required**

10.a. **CITY MANAGER’S UPDATE REPORT**

In answering Member Dutra, City Manager Vides spoke about road improvements planned for Freedom Boulevard. She stated staff were working on a plan to make improvements to a median near Crestview Drive. She also stated she would send all Council members information regarding closure of City roads due to Caltrans work.

10.b. **PRESENTATION BY INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR GREEN REGARDING THE CITY’S PUBLIC WORKS BIDDING PROCESS**

In answering Mayor Salcido, Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green stated bids for the Safer Access to Pajaro Valley High School and Beyond Project had not been received yet and explained that many prospective bidders waited until the end the process to submit their bid.

Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green, in answering Mayor Pro Tempore Clark,

stated the bidding process had largely remained the same over previous years except the addition of the online bidding portal. She spoke about other local agencies' bid process for comparison, the City's bid success rate, the Department of Industrial Relations' (DIR) role in ensuring contractors follow requirements.

Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green answered Member Parker's questions regarding contractors with violations with the DIR and at what point the City would be made aware of issues.

City Attorney Zutler agreed with Member Parker's statement that the City could not take back a bid it had awarded to a contractor should issues with the DIR be discovered. Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green stated such issues were rare.

In answering Member Parker, Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green spoke about how the City's labor compliance consultant conducted assessments at job sites during unannounced visits. She also spoke about review of pay stubs and reports, public availability of certified payroll records, and the City's course of action should contractors be found in non-compliance.

City Attorney Zutler added that the State could fine non-compliant contractors and the City could file a lawsuit should terms of a contract be breached.

In answering Mayor Pro Tempore Clark, Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green stated she was not aware of any instance in which the City needed to file a complaint with the DIR.

Member Orozco suggested hiring a consultant agreed upon by both City and the Trades Council to review the City's bidding requirements for possible improvements.

In answering Member Parker, Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green stated the OpenGov online bidding portal took care of requirements to keep an open bidder list and notify them of bid openings. She spoke about additional notification requirements and OpenGov's system for sending notifications.

Interim Public Works & Utilities Director Green, in answering Member Parker, stated the City relied on its labor compliance consultant to handle matters relating to contractor requirements related to apprentices on job sites. She spoke about the request for proposal process through which the labor compliance consultant was selected.

Member Parker agreed with Member Orozco's suggestion regarding hiring a consultant to review the City's bidding requirements.

- 11. EMERGENCY ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA – None**
- 12. REQUESTS & SCHEDULING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – None**
- 13. ADJOURNMENT**  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

---

Kristal Salcido, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Irwin I. Ortiz, City Clerk