



MINUTES REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 20, 2021

City of Watsonville
Council Chambers
275 Main Street, Top Floor

6:30 p.m.

1. NOTE: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(b)

Mayor Pro Tempore Montesino was scheduled to attend the Council meeting via teleconferencing from: Av. Revolución 1079, Zona Centro, 22350 Tijuana, B.C., Mexico
Tel: +52 664 685 1606

The teleconference location was accessible to the public.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Parker, Council Members Dutra, Estrada, García, Hurst and were present. Mayor Pro Tempore Montesino was absent.

Staff members present were City Manager Pro Tempore Vides, City Attorney Zutler, City Clerk Flores, Public Works & Utilities Director Di Renzo, Interim Police Chief Sims, Administrative Services Director Czerwin, Assistant City Clerk Ortiz, Executive Assistant Pacheco, Police Captain McKinley, Police Sergeant Radich, and Interpreter Landaverry.

2.a. MOTION TO EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

MOTION: It was moved by Member Hurst, seconded by Member García and carried by the following vote to excuse Mayor Pro Tempore Montesino's absence:

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

3. CLOSED SESSION CORRESPONDENCE

4. CLOSED SESSION

(City Council Conference Room, 275 Main Street, 4th Floor)

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

Gale Cruse, District 7, expressed concerns regarding homeowners' rights, property values, resident safety, water safety, and potential fire hazards in relation to the homeless encampment on Bridge Street.

Edita McQuary, District 7, stated her concerns regarding the funding source of the attorney retained by the Pajaro/Watsonville Homeless Union. She listed various other concerns and asked for government at all levels to collaborate in addressing homelessness.

Xitlali Cabadas stated more time was needed to find resources and programs to aid the residents of the Bridge Street encampment. She submitted a petition to Council requesting that the City ~~to~~ collaborate with the Pajaro/Watsonville Homeless Union, cease encampment clearings, and allow time to find adequate shelter for those residing in the Bridge Street encampment.

Shizue Shikuma, District 7, stated it was necessary to provide shelter for the homeless community and acknowledged health and safety concerns brought up by other members of the public. She stated a collaborative effort was needed to provide solutions.

The following speakers spoke against removal of the Bridge Street encampment and potential negative effects of displacing those residing there:

Eli, District 7

Yesenia, District 7

Jinx Deruise, District 7, expressed health and safety concerns regarding the Bridge Street encampment. She inquired about possible shelter options for its residents.

Cheryl asked the City to provide support for residents of the Bridge Street encampment. She spoke about safety concerns and potential fire hazards.

The following speakers spoke in support of allowing the Bridge Street encampment to remain in place, potential negative effects of displacing its residents, and requested the City provide support and resources:

Adriana, District 4

Joana Ramirez

Sofia

Rita Acosta

Ricky Carmona

Kirby Harris expressed concern for those residing in the encampment due to potential hazardous conditions. She spoke about possible alternative shelter locations.

Rooney read a letter from Jason Johnson, physician assistant, who provided medical care to residents of the encampment in support of allowing them to remain in their current location.

The following speakers spoke in support of allowing the Bridge Street encampment to remain in place, potential negative effects of displacing its residents, and requested the City provide support and resources:

Nicola Moore

Ashley

Itzel

Mr. Santoyo

Wes White, Salinas/Monterey County Homeless Union

Erik Salas continued reading the letter read by Rooney, written by Jason Johnson, Physician Assistant.

(b) Closed Session Announcement:

The City Council recessed to Closed Session to discuss the matters that follow:

4.a. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXSISTING LITIGATION**

(Government Code Section 54956.9(a))

Name of case: Pajaro/Watsonville Homeless Union et. al. v. City of Watsonville et. al.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

5.a. **REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney Zutler reported that Council received a report on the existing litigation and gave direction to staff but took no final action.

6. **EMERGENCY ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA**

7. **~~REQUESTS & SCHEDULING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS~~**

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Ari Parker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beatriz Vazquez Flores, City Clerk

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