

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
TELECONFERENCE/VIRTUAL MEETING

January 14, 2021

MCFARLAND CITY COUNCIL
MCFARLAND SUCCESSOR AGENCY
MCFARLAND PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY
MCFARLAND IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY
MCFARLAND PARKING AUTHORITY

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. via teleconference/virtual meeting.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Gonzalez (Mayor), Pérez, Rodriguez, Ayon, Cano

Council Members Absent: None

OFFICIALS PRESENT

City Manager Lara, Assistant City Manager Hanlon, City Attorney Schroeter, HR Attorney Che. Johnson, City Clerk Alvarado, Public Works Director Gonzales, Acting Community Development Director Ronk, and Acting Chief of Police Helton

INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Pérez

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Ayon

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Isaac Garza, 1152 Moscato St. McFarland- Thanked the Mayor, Council, City Manager Maria Lara, and Assistant City Manager Laura Hanlon for their help with their events. He was very happy with success of those activities.

Pastor Phil Core, 117 5th Street McFarland- Wrote in to support City Manager Maria Lara and hopes that Council will renew her contract.

Eric Veiss, 149 Robertson Ave. McFarland – Had a concern in regards to a Code Enforcement notice his parents received in regards to dry grass (landscaping).

Acting Community Development Director Ronk replied to Mr. Veiss stating that it was a notice that was sent out addressing a landscape violation but due to cold weather he understood it was hard to keep the grass green therefore they were not going to pursue any citations at the moment and to disregard the notice for now.

Mayor Gonzalez asked Director Ronk in regards to citizens that might have a hardship due to COVID-19 what they can do if they have limited income and cannot afford to maintain green grass.

Acting Community Development Director Ronk responded saying that we can work with these type of situations when that time comes.

Daniel Gonzalez, 249 Robertson Ave, McFarland- Stated that the streets are in horrible condition and wanted to know when they are going to be repaired.

City Manager Maria Lara replied to Mr. Gonzalez concern by stating that we are currently working with the state to obtain additional funds for road repair. The allocated amount is currently only enough to fix one road. We are currently working on the engineering design to repair Davis Ave. She also stated that public works department is out there patching the critical pot holes and working with the limited funds we have.

Mariela Gomez, w/ Assembly Member Rudy Salas- She informed our community that their office is here to serve the community of McFarland they assist with connecting with state departments and agencies.

Stephanie Padilla, Staff Attorney with ACLU- Stated her concern with appointing a new chief of police during closed session and asked for it to be postponed.

City Attorney Schroeter- Responded by saying that we are not appointing a new chief of police today during closed session.

J Hernandez, 904 Kala Loop- Stated that as a city resident he applauds the city for their hard work and efforts even with the limited resources we have. He realizes there is still more work to be done but he thanks the Council and City Manager for the efforts.

Mayor Gonzalez responded to Mr. Hernandez by thanking him for his acknowledgement and positive comments.

Isabel Ayon, 1015 Kala Loop- Concerned about the palm tree in front of Dollar General it has reached the power lines and she is concerned for the wellbeing of the residents and there safety.

City Manager Maia Lara informed Mrs. Ayon that Code Enforcement has already made contact with PG&E and Dollar General and that there is a ticket in for that concern. She stated that since it is touching a power line we cannot touch it.

Public Works Director urged the residents or Mrs. Ayon to contact PG&E directly to speed up the process.

Rosa Lopez, 247 E. Perkins Ave, McFarland – Stated that she would appreciate if the City would set an example for Kern County and be more transparent.

Danny Sanchez, 512 10th Street McFarland- Stated he has been a resident of McFarland for over 20 yrs. and would like more transparency from the City. He urges the administration to have thru background checks, so that they can hire the appropriate people to represent McFarland and do the right thing.

Mayor Gonzalez responded to Mr. Sanchez by stating that we are well aware of the bad history and that we are doing our best to be as transparent as possible and be better than we were before and make our City a better place.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that he understands the bad history and that we are trying to change that and make a better future to rebuild and grow McFarland. He is asking for patience he understands that they are a new council but they are trying to keep the city alive and do everything they can to better McFarland.

Council Member Ayon stated that they are doing the best they can as a new council. He asked for patience and that we are headed the right direction.

Public comment closed at 6:54 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Motion was made by:** Council Member Rodriguez **to approve the warrant register for \$812,783.97 from November 24, 2020 through January 06, 2021; 2nd by:** Council Member Pérez
Vote: 4-0
Ayes: Rodriguez, Pérez, Ayon, Cano
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstentions: Gonzalez (Mayor)
*Mayor Gonzalez recused herself from item #1 due to marriage.
- 2. Motion was made by:** Council Member Rodriguez **to approve payroll register for \$233,797.15 for December 2020; 2nd by:** Council Member Pérez
Vote: 4-0
Ayes: Rodriguez, Pérez, Ayon, Cano
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstentions: Gonzalez (Mayor)
*Mayor Gonzalez recused herself from item #2 due to marriage.

- 3. Motion was made by:** Council Member Rodriguez **to approve minutes of Regular City Council Meeting of December 10, 2020; 2nd by:** Council Member Pérez
Vote: 5-0
Ayes: Rodriguez, Pérez, Ayon, Cano, Gonzalez (Mayor)
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstentions: None
- 4. Motion was made by:** Council Member Rodriguez **to approve Resolution No. 2021-0001 Adopting the City of McFarland Equipment Policy; 2nd by:** Council Member Pérez
Vote: 5-0
Ayes: Rodriguez, Pérez, Ayon, Cano, Gonzalez (Mayor)
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstentions: None
- 5. Motion was made by:** Council Member Rodriguez **to approve and accept Notice of Completion for W. Kern Ave Elementary SR2S Connectivity Project (ATPSB1) and Authorize City Clerk to File Notice; 2nd by:** Council Member Pérez
Vote: 5-0
Ayes: Rodriguez, Pérez, Ayon, Cano, Gonzalez (Mayor)
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstentions: None
- 6. Motion was made by:** Council Member Rodriguez **to approve and accept Notice of Completion for McFarland Animal Shelter and Authorize City Clerk to File Notice; 2nd by:** Council Member Pérez
Vote: 5-0
Ayes: Rodriguez, Pérez, Ayon, Cano, Gonzalez (Mayor)
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstentions: None
- 7. Motion was made by:** Council Member Rodriguez **to approve Agreement between City of McFarland and De Lage Langen Financial Services, Inc. for the maintenance of the Konica Minolta C458 Copier for the Police Department and 2nd by:** Council Member Pérez
Vote: 3/2
Ayes: Rodriguez, Pérez, Gonzalez (Mayor)
Nays: Ayon, Cano
Absent: None
Abstentions: None
*Pulled by Council Member Ayon for discussion

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- a. Administration** – City Manager Lara informed City Hall will be closed on Monday January 18, 2021 in observance of the Martin Luther King Holiday, also we are resuming the Planning Commission Meetings the next one coming up January 19, 2021 via Zoom. She also thanked Cal - Trans and the Lions Club for cleaning up along the freeway and for removing the graffiti off the Elmo exit.
- b. Police Department** – Acting Chief of Police Helton gave Council and Community the December STAT's update. He stated he is very happy with these STAT's. He thanked his officers for working hard every day. He stated that McFarland Police Department is going in the right direction.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

8. City Manager Maria Lara requested to **pull resolution No. 2021-0002 Designating Confidential Officers and table it to the next Council Meeting on January 28, 2021.**
9. Mayor Gonzalez asked to **table Possible Approval of Agreement between City of McFarland and NBS to provide a financial analysis update for the water and sewer from the 2019 rate study until the hiring of a Finance Director or end of April.**

ORAL REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL ON COMMITTEES

- a. Delano Mosquito Abatement District (DMAD) – Council Member Cano – None to report.
- b. Kern Council of Governments (KCOG) – Mayor Sally Gonzalez – None to report.
- c. McFarland Tri-Agency Partners (MTAP) – Council Member Pérez – None to report.
- d. Kern Economic Development Corporation (KEDC) – None to report.
- e. Kern County Association of Cities (KCAC) – None to report.
- f. Poso Creek IRWMP- None to report

COUNCIL STATEMENTS

Council Member Rodriguez

Wished all the law enforcement officers a Happy Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

Council Member Pérez

Thanked the Lions Club and Police Department for everything they do for our Community.

Council Member Cano

Thanked the Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce for helping the community. He stated that he will do his best along with the rest of the council to insure the concerned citizens of this community are confident of this town.

Council Member Ayon

Thanked city workers for all their hard work out in the streets. He stated he would like to be present for more community events and thanked the community for participating in our meetings.

Mayor Gonzalez

Thanked all the City workers and Police Department for all their hard work and thanked the concerned citizens of this community for tuning in during the meeting and voicing their options.

Regular Agenda adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Motion was made by: Council Member Rodriguez to approve the closed session minutes held on January 14, 2021; 2nd by: Council Member Ayon
Vote: 5-0
Ayes: Rodriguez, Ayon, Pérez, Cano, Gonzalez (Mayor)
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstentions: None
2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS
Property: APN 060-050-24
Agency Negotiator: City Manager
Negotiating Parties: Greenlight Enterprises, LLC
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment
Action: No reportable action.

3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (3) of Subdivision (d) and Paragraph (3) of Subdivision (e) of Section 54956.9: Claim Filed by Miguel Morales
Action: No reportable action.
4. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- ANICIAPTED LITIGATION
Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Section 549.56.9: (One Potential Case)
Action: No reportable action.
5. THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES FO FACILITES
Consultation with City Manager, Assistant City Manager and Acting Chief of Police
Action: No reportable action.
6. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
Police Officer Locker Room Configuration
Action: No reportable action.
7. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT APPOINTMENT
Title: Chief of Police
Action: No reportable action.
8. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATIONS
Agency Designated Representatives: Mayor Gonzalez/ Che Johnson, City Attorney
Unrepresented Employee: City Manager
Action: No reportable action.
9. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISIPLINE/ DISMISSAL/RELEASE
Action: No reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Francisca Alvarado, City Clerk