

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**TELECONFERENCE/VIRTUAL MEETING**

February 25, 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 6:01 p.m. via teleconference/virtual meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Council Members Absent: None

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

City Manager Lara, Chief of Police Williams, City Attorney Schroeter, HR Attorney Che. Johnson, City Clerk Alvarado, Public Works Director Gonzales, Acting Community Development Director Ronk, Accounting Supervisor Lara, City Planner De Leon, Police Officer Galvan

**INVOCATION**

Mayor Pro Tem Pérez

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Rodriguez

**PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayela Bujanda-Medina 244 8<sup>th</sup> St McFarland- Comment on Agenda item # 5- Mrs. Bujanda-Medina stated she lives and works here in McFarland and knows the Nunez family, she said they are very hard-working people. She hopes her comments tonight will not affect their relationship. Mrs. Bujanda-Medina disagrees with the request made by the Nunez's because she believes the Community, the City and the Council should not have been put in this position to make this exemption. She is worried that this can turn into a problem in the future.

Mayela Bujanda- Medina- 244 8<sup>th</sup> St McFarland- Comment on Agenda item # 6 – Mrs. Bujanda-Medina stated she got to know the City Manager Maria Lara while on the school board and she did a great job. She feels Ms. Lara has done a good job so far as the City Manager. She believes that if given the opportunity to do her job Ms. Lara will excel at it.

Danny (address not stated) believes the prayer before the meeting is helping. He feels that Chief of Police Williams is the right fit and has hope that he will start to see change in our community. He asked why the past audits have taken so long to be completed (agenda item 7)?

Public Comment Closed at 6:11 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. Motion was made by:** Council Member Rodriguez to approve the warrant register for \$381,273.80 from February 1, 2021 through February 15, 2021; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Council Member Ayon

**Vote:** 3/0

**Ayes:** Rodriguez, Ayon, Pérez

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstentions:** Cano, Gonzalez (Mayor)

\*Mayor Gonzalez recused herself from item #1 due to marriage.

\*Cano recused himself due to conflict of interest (place of employment).

\*Agenda item 1 pulled by Ayon

2. **Motion was made by: Council Member Ayon to approve minutes of Regular City Council Meeting of January 28, 2021; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Council Member Cano**  
**Vote: 5/0**  
**Ayes: Ayon, Cano, Rodriguez, Pérez, Gonzalez (Mayor)**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: None**  
**Abstentions: None**

Closed at 6 :27 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

#### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

- a. **Administration** – City Manager Maria Lara was happy to inform that Adventist Health would be providing COVID vaccines to our Police Department and emergency responders here in McFarland on March 2, 2021. She also informed that due to such positive response from the McFarland Community Adventist Health has asked to come back on March 3, 2021 to issue more vaccines to residents. She encouraged everyone in the Community that are interested in receiving the COVID vaccine to reach out to Adventist Health at 661-637-8768 she also informed that the information is on our City Website and Facebook. She informed the Community that we are currently hiring if interested to check out our City Website. Ms. Lara and Chief Williams asked Council for Special Meeting as soon as possible for Anticipated Litigation the meeting was scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
- b. **Police Department** – Chief of Police Williams thanked everyone for their overwhelming support, he thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their contributions at his Swearing in Ceremony and Danny a Community Member for his comments as well. Chief Williams introduced our newest Police Officer Galvan and was very happy to have him join our Police Department. He stated that he is looking forward to starting up some community events to develop trust and transparency with the community. Some planned events are a drive up and meet McFarland Police Department, Easter egg hunt, and Coffee with a cop all these future events are going to be done following all COVID safety guidelines.
- c. **Public Works Department**- Public Works Director Mario Gonzalez informed the community that transit is still offering free rides for anyone in the city who needs it. He informed that on Monday morning at 1:00 a.m. there was a fire on Frontage Road that caused a fuel leak to run down the curb. Street department supervisor and another employee were able to assist the fire department to contain it before in made it into the storm drains. Streets department is still working on repairing potholes. He also informed that the expansion to the Serwer plant Wastewater Facility is currently on hold until the audits are complete.
- d. **Finance Department**- Accounting Supervisor Fernando Lara informed that they are in the last steps of wrapping up 2018 Audit he also informed that City Hall staff is gearing up to get ready for reopening when that time comes. He also stated he will be looking into a more affordable Credit Card Payment Processor.
- e. **Community Development**- Acting Community Development Director Larry Ronk introduced our new City Planner, Brianai De Leon to our Community. He informed that our Grant Administrator is looking into a grant that would help us obtain smart meters that would help with the meter reading process in a more convenient way. Mr. Ronk said he will have our Code Enforcement Officer go out to monitor our streets to make sure Semi Trucks are not parking on non-truck route streets to address the Councils concerns.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

3. Mayor Gonzalez requested to **table resolution No. 2021-0005 Adopting the City of McFarland Updated Employee Handbook to the next Council Meeting scheduled for March 11, 2021.**  
**Vote: 5/0**
4. Council Member Ayon **requested to table request by Council Member Cano to get unredacted copies of City Attorney's Legal Services Invoices for Calendar Year 2020, to next City Council Meeting scheduled for March 11, 2021.**  
**Vote: 5/0**

5. **Motion was made by:** Council Member Ayon to deny request by Ismael and Hector Nunez to waive Development Impact Fees; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Council Member Cano  
Vote: 5/0  
Ayes: Ayon, Cano, Rodriguez, Pérez, Gonzalez (Mayor)  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Abstentions: None

6. **Request by Council Member Ayon to discuss Municipal Code Sections 2.16.010, 2.16.020, 2.16.070, 2.16.080, 2.16.090, 2.16.140.**  
\*Council instructed HR Attorney Che Johnson to calculate estimate for updates to City of McFarland Municipal Code sections stated by Council Member Ayon.

7. **Request by Mayor Sally Gonzalez to discuss and get update of financial audit. Services by Clifton Larson Allen LLP.**  
\*Mr. Gonzalez updated status of 2018 audit he stated final documents were provided to them now they will be drafting a final report for approval estimated time to finish final report is March 25, 2021.

Administrative agenda close at 9:35 p.m.

#### ORAL REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL ON COMMITTEES

- a. Delano Mosquito Abatement District (DMAD) – Council Member Cano – Missed last meeting
- b. Kern Council of Governments (KCOG) – Mayor Sally Gonzalez – Informed last meeting was Feb 18, 2021 there is talk about rural logistics, she hopes this would bring businesses to McFarland
- c. McFarland Tri-Agency Partners (MTAP) – Council Member Pérez –. March 8, 2021
- 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 Ayon- Thanked Adventist Health for providing COVID vaccines to the McFarland residents. He also thanked the School District.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pérez - Thanked Che I. Johnson and Tom Schroeter the information they provided to the Council.

Council Member Cano – Thanked everyone who attended this meeting.

Council Member Rodriguez- Thanked everyone.

Mayor Gonzalez- Thanked Adventist Health. She also reminded the Community that Dial a Ride is offering free rides if anyone is interested in the COVID vaccine but does not have transportation.

**\*Meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m. \*Closed Session Canceled and Moved to Next Regular Meeting on March 11, 2021.**

#### CLOSED SESSION

1. Approval of the February 11, 2021 Closed Session Minutes.
2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL  
Regarding Jane Doe et al v. City of McFarland and Immigrant Legal Resource Center et al v. City of McFarland per Gov. C. Section 54956.9(d)(1).

#### ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.



Francisca Alvarado, City Clerk



