

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
TELECONFERENCE/VIRTUAL MEETING

March 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 6:06 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, Chief of Police Williams, Interim City Attorney Hodges, City Clerk Alvarado, Public Works Director Gonzales, Acting Community Development Director Ronk, Accounting Supervisor Lara,

INVOCATION

Councilmember Cano

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Ayon

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Gonzalez presented former business owners of Tacos El Cazador with an appreciation award and thanked them for their 23 years of service to the City of McFarland Community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jesus Perez – (Field Representative for Supervisor David Couch) informed council he was very pleased to have visited City Hall and present a certificate of recognition to Chief Williams. He was very impressed with the walk through he received and thanked the Chief.

Danny, 512 10th Street, McFarland – Congratulated Tacos El Cazador. He asked council what each one was doing to improve the City of McFarland. He also asked why ex-mayor Cantu was still doing interviews and giving statements regarding the City.

Note: Mayor Gonzalez replied to Danny that the news media contacted Mr. Cantu asking for his opinions.

Councilmember Ayon responded to Danny stating that he is doing his due diligence being proactive doing what he believes is best for the city.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pérez stated to Danny that she has been in contact with Assembly Member Rudy Salas and Olivia Trujillo, trying to get any help from our district representatives to improve our city.

Councilmember Cano stated to Danny that he has been meeting with multiple representatives that represent our district and informing them of our needs. He mentioned he is talking to residents of the City to listen to their needs and concerns.

Mayor Gonzalez responded to Danny stating that they are all doing their due diligence to do what is best and stated that she appreciates his positive comments.

Danny responded to Council stating that this is a small town with no secrets and asked them not to sit on the council to make a difference in the community so that the city could move up and grow.

Public Comment Closed at 6:25 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Ayon to adopt **Resolution No. 2021-0009**, Resolution of the City Council Annexing of Territory (Tract 7214 Phase 5 & 6 & The Geo Group, Inc) to a Community Facilities District, Authorizing the Levy of a Special Tax and Submitting Levy of Tax to Qualified Electors, City of McFarland Community Facilities District No. 2019-1 (Fire Protection Services) Annexation No. 1; 2nd by Councilmember Cano.

Vote: 5/0

Ayes: Ayon, Cano, Rodriguez, Pérez, Gonzalez (Mayor)

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

Closed at 6:34 p.m.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- a. **Administration** – City Manager Lara thanked Council for taking the time to meet with the department heads and getting to know what each of those department does. She informed the community that city hall is now open Monday through Thursday from 1-5 p.m. and on Friday's 12-4 p.m. She thanked Jesus Perez for taking the time to take a tour with Chief Williams and seeing our needs and challenges.

***Councilmember Cano requested 9/80 City Hall schedule be placed on a future agenda for review and discussion.**

- b. **Police Department** – Chief Williams thanked Mr. Couch's office and field representative Jesus Perez for taking the time to come to the City of McFarland and for giving him such a nice recognition. He also thanked Jesus Perez for taking the time to tour the Police Department. He addressed Danny stating that the City Council members are extremely busy contacting him during various times of the day and night with concerns. Chief Williams- introduced Police Officer Karissa Alberto to the community and council.

Police Officer Alberto stated she comes from a law enforcement family; she loves McFarland and community involvement and that she is thankful for the opportunity to work here.

Mayor Gonzalez thanked Officer Alberto.

Councilmember Ayon welcomed Officer Alberto to the City and told her to stay safe.

Councilmember Rodriguez let Officer Alberto know that the Council is here to support the Police Officers.

Chief Williams gave a brief overview on the February STATs.

Councilmember Cano thanked the Chief and Police Officers and stated that he has already noticed a difference in the Community.

- c. **Public Works Department-** Public Works Director Gonzalez informed council that Public Works has been dealing with a lot of vandalism issues throughout the city. He stated that the "Welcome to McFarland" letters were stolen off the Elmo off ramp monument and that someone keeps cutting the Fernwood sump fence.

He informed that the streets department has been crack sealing the streets.

Water department repaired hydrants and leaks.

Transit is still offering free rides.

Villa del Caribe project is estimated to be finished by the end of April 2021.

EV Charging Station construction started.

Councilmember Cano asked Public Work Director Gonzalez about adding another crosswalk on West Perkins Ave. near 10th Street, he explained that a city resident had reached out to him with this concern.

Public Work Director Gonzales responded by stating that he will talk to the Chief and that they would investigate the situation and examine that street to determine if another cross walk could be added in that area and would get back to Councilmember Cano as soon as he has a response.

Closed administrative agenda 8:08 p.m.

ORAL REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL ON COMMITTEES

- a. Delano Mosquito Abatement District (DMAD) – Council Member Cano – informed that mosquito traps were set out in March since Mosquito activity has begun.
- b. Kern Council of Governments (KCOG) – Mayor Sally Gonzalez –informed that the construction on freeway 99 is estimated to be finished by December 2021. She also informed that Caltrans approved a \$600,000 grant for highway safety and improvements.
- c. McFarland Tri-Agency Partners (MTAP) – Rebeca to inform City Clerk of new date.
- d. Kern Economic Development Corporation (KEDC) – None to report
- e. Kern County Association of Cities (KCAC) – None to report
- f. Poso Creek IRWMP- Councilmember Ayon- Possible meeting April 6, 2021.

COUNCIL STATEMENTS

Council Member Ayon- Informed Danny that he has had several meetings with the City Manager regarding future investments, is working to reduce illegal firework use in town during the Fourth of July Celebrations, and has been reaching out to District Supervisor Couch’s office for help and resources for the City.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pérez- Thanked the Hernandez family (Tacos El Cazador) for their 23 years of business. She thanked Supervisor Couch’s Representative Jesus Perez for being involved in our community. She thanked city resident Eve Henderson for always looking out for stray dogs in our community and thanked everyone who assisted with the drive through Easter Basket giveaway event.

(Muted herself audience could not hear)

Council Member Cano- Thanked everyone who gave donations for the Easter Basket giveaway event and everyone who came together to help.

He thanked the residents for reaching out to him with their concerns and informed them that he is listening to their concerns. He stated he is doing everything he can to do his part in bettering this community.

Councilmember Rodriguez- stated that he feels council is moving together in a better direction to do what is best for the City and Community. He asked for patience from the community and thanked staff for making themselves available to address any concerns and questions he has had.

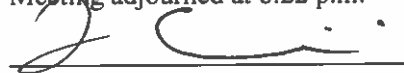
Mayor Gonzalez- Informed the community that the Council Chambers is now open for in person meetings and encouraged the community to come join us. She thanked everyone for their comments and concerns.

Interim City Attorney Hodges- thanked the council on his appointment and looks forward to working with everyone.

***Motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.



Francisca Alvarado, City Clerk

