

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

**April 8, 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 6:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Council Members Absent: Pérez

**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, HR Attorney Che Johnson

**INVOCATION**

Councilmember Cano

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Rodriguez

**PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Margie Martinez 212 7<sup>th</sup> Street McFarland- Stated she had two concerns the first one being the house on Garzoli and W. Perkins. Mrs. Martinez told council that she witnessed someone taking items out of the house and leaving it on the floor. She informed that she sent pictures to David Couch's office and they told her they would get on it right away. She is asking the City to do something about the trash problem at that property and if possible, to contact the owner before it is too late.

Her second concern is the noise coming from the new house on Garzoli Ave she told council that two weekends in a row they had loud music until about 2:30 am. She also stated a little boy running across the street from that property almost got hit by a car. She asked if that property was part of the City or if it was part of the county because when she contacted the McFarland Police Department, she was told to contact Kern County Sheriff's Department. She would like the city to do something about the noise problem.

Mayor Gonzalez asked Public Works Director Gonzales if the property Mrs. Martinez was referring too was part of the city, he answered that it was annexed into the city therefore it is part of the city.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked Mr. Gonzales that if the property on Garzoli and W. Perkins with the trash problem that Mrs. Martinez mentioned was also part of the city? Mr. Gonzales responded that it was not part of the City.

Chief of Police Williams informed Mrs. Martinez that they would investigate the noise problem coming from the property she had mentioned and come up with a solution.

Ms. Henderson 609 W. Sherwood Ave – stated the noise is a problem all over town. She stated she has driven around town to take videos of the parties going on because its horribly loud. She has called the police department multiple times, she asked if anything can be done in that regard, she would greatly appreciate it.

Isabel Bravo (America Red Cross Board member)- Called in to inform the public on what the American Red Cross could do for our community. Ms. Bravo provided information a program they are offering called "Sound the Alarm" she stated it educates people on home safety. They also install smoke detectors in the home. She encouraged everyone to sign up to become a volunteer for the program to educate

people on fire escape plans and safety. She stated that if interested she left more information on the program and how to register, with City Clerk Alvarado.

Councilmember Ayon- stated to Mrs. Martinez and Ms. Henderson that they are aware of the noise problem and the illegal firework problem. He said a full-time code enforcement officer position could help with those issues and help address those concerns.

Eve Henderson 609 W. Sherwood Ave McFarland- (Agenda Item # 12) stated that she supports the possibility of creating a new full time Animal Control position.

Public Comment Closed at 6:18 p.m.

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. Motion was made by: Councilmember Rodriguez to approve the warrant register for \$881,484.41 from March 16, 2021 through March 31, 2021; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Councilmember Ayon  
**Vote: 4/0**  
**Ayes: Rodriguez, Ayon, Cano, Mayor (Gonzalez)**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: Pérez**  
**Abstentions: None**
  
2. Motion was made by: Councilmember Rodriguez to approve Payroll Register for \$ 154,021.01 for March 2021; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Councilmember Ayon.  
**Vote: 3/0**  
**Ayes: Rodriguez, Ayon, Cano**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: Pérez**  
**Abstentions: Gonzalez (Mayor)**  
**\*Mayor Gonzalez recused herself from item #2 due to marriage.**
  
3. Motion was made by: Councilmember Rodriguez to approve minutes of Regular City Council Meeting of February 25, 2021; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Councilmember Ayon.  
**Vote: 4/0**  
**Ayes: Rodriguez, Ayon, Cano, Gonzalez (Mayor)**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: Pérez**  
**Abstentions: None**
  
4. Motion was made by Councilmember Ayon to table approval of Phantom Fireworks lease agreement to place a firework stand on city property located at the Southwest corner of East Sherwood Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilmember Cano.  
**Vote: 4/0**  
**Ayes: Ayon, Cano, Rodriguez, Gonzalez (Mayor)**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: Pérez**  
**Abstentions: None**  
**\*Tabled\***  
Agenda Item No.4 Pulled by Councilmember Ayon.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

**\*City Clerk Alvarado stated that the resolution number on the agenda (*Resolution No. 2021-0012*) for the Unmet Public Transit Needs was incorrect the correct resolution number should read as follows: (*Resolution No. 2021-0017*) for the record.**

5. Mayor opened Public Hearing for ***Resolution No. 2021-0017*** a Resolution of the City Council of the City of McFarland Finding There Are No Unmet Public Transit Needs Which Can Reasonably be Met in the City of McFarland (2020/2021).
  - a. Public Testimony- Opened at 6:25p.m.  
No comments were received.  
Closed at 6:26 p.m.
  
  - b. Motion was made by: Councilmember Rodriguez to adopt ***Resolution No. 2021- 0017*** a Resolution of the City Council of McFarland Finding There Are No Unmet Public Transit Needs Which Can Reasonably be Met in the City of McFarland (2020/2021); 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Councilmember Ayon

**Vote: 4/0**  
**Ayes: Rodriguez, Ayon, Cano, Gonzalez (Mayor)**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: Pérez**  
**Abstentions: None**

Closed at 6:26 p.m.

## DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. **Administration** – City Manager Lara informed on the upcoming events that would take place during the weekend. One is a drive thru event outside of city hall to distribute PPE to those small businesses who applied for this grant. The distribution would be Saturday April 10, 2021 from 11 am to 1pm she encouraged all the business who have not applied yet to apply to receive their free 30-day supply of COVID – 19 protective equipment for their business. She also informed that the Lions Club would be holding a city clean up on Saturday April 10, 2021 from 8 am to 10 am and would be meeting in front of City hall. She also reminded the community of the free dial a ride services for any need around the city free of charge for the next 12 months. City Hall opened to the public half day from 1 to 5pm if you need to come in before call to make an appointment.

b. **Police Department** – Chief Williams introduced Officer Newhouse and stated he is a field training officer.

Officer Newhouse introduced himself and stated that he is happy to be here.

Chief Williams recognized one of his officers, Officer Galvan for his outstanding police work and stated he is very proud of him.

Mayor Gonzalez stated great job Officer Galvan.

Councilmember Ayon stated Officer Galvan is the kind of officer we need and what a good way to be proactive.

Office Galvan replied thank you.

Chief Williams- informed that the body worn cameras for the Officers came in and hopes to begin using them by the end of the month. He informed that the property room was reorganized. He informed that they would be having a drive thru coffee and donuts with a cop on Saturday April 24 from 8 am to 10 am in front of McFarland Police Department. In hopes to interact with the community.

c. **Public Works Department**- Public Works Director Gonzales stated that the EV Charging Station groundbreaking was a great turnout. He informed that concrete work has begun at the EV Charging Station and that they are currently working with Edison to get the electricity in. He informed that the electrical panel at Villa Del Caribe was in and that they were in the process of planting grass.

Street department has been working on weed abatement and graffiti removal.

Water department working on leak repairs and meter change outs.

Transit department currently still offering free rides.

City clean up scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm. He encouraged everyone to come out and volunteer and informed that any elderly person that needed help getting rid of trash could contact them and schedule a pickup and that they would be assisted.

In a prior meeting Mayor Pro-Tem asked whose responsibility the street behind Kern Ave Elementary School was if the City or the School District Mr. Gonzales informed that he had done some research and found it to be the Cites responsibility.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked Mr. Gonzalez if he was aware of the potholes and trash problems in our alleys.

Mr. Gonzales responded that the alleys were the responsibility of the property owner's half and half. They are ultimately responsible to maintain the alley.

City Manager Lara confirmed that the responsibility of the alleys is the property owners.

Mr. Gonzales stated that the alleys are a big part of the city clean up. City clean ups are typically every 6 months.

- d. **Community Development-** Acting Community Development Director Ronk informed that they have upcoming meetings for Annexation 18 scheduled.

He informed they are moving forward with the City hall expansion.

He informed that the Planning Department has been working on updating the city's fence ordinance and working with potential developers.

Building has been working on plan checks and building inspections.

Code Enforcement working on daily routines and assisted with the PPE grant applications.

Animal control had 24 animal rescues this week.

Grants is attending meetings to obtain possible grants for water and working on Caltrans paperwork and invoices.

- e. **Finance Department-** Accounting Supervisor Lara informed that with the remodel of the building during Covid some concerns have come up and that they are working to resolve the details.

He informed that staff is sending out flyers with resources that could help residents struggling to pay their utilities and address the nonpayment concerns.

Mayor Gonzalez asked Supervisor Lara about the credit card fee concern update.

Mr. Lara stated he is still working on meeting with other potential companies.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if we are currently shutting people off for nonpayment?

Mr. Lara responded no we are not, due to the pandemic.

Mr. Lara addressed landlord concerns about renters not paying their water bills.

## ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

6. Motion was made by: Councilmember Rodriguez to table approval of the City of McFarland's Audited Financial Statements for fiscal year ending on June 30, 2018 to next regular council meeting of April 22, 2021; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Councilmember Cano

**Vote: 5/0**

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

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Pérez**

**Abstentions: None**

\*Rich Gonzalez Auditor from Clifton Larson Allen was not able to attend meeting.

\*Ron Woods commented that it was his understanding that all the auditor did was confirm what was done inhouse it was not the auditor's responsibility to correct the mistakes made. they would then critic and gave suggestions on how to improve the processes to make things smoother for a better audit process and accounting.

7. Motion was made by: Councilmember Ayon to approve **Resolution No. 2021-0014**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of McFarland Approving Urban Forestry Guidelines; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Councilmember Cano

**Vote: 4/0**

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

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Pérez**

**Abstentions: None**

8. Motion was made by: Councilmember Ayon to approve **Resolution No. 2021-0015**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of McFarland Approving an Economic Strategy; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Councilmember Cano

**Vote: 4/0**

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

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Pérez**

**Abstentions: None**

9. Motion was made by: Councilmember Rodriguez to approve **Resolution No. 2021-0016**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of McFarland Approving Urban Forestry Guidelines; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Councilmember Cano

**Vote: 4/0**  
**Ayes: Rodriguez, Cano, Ayon, Gonzalez (Mayor)**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: Pérez**  
**Abstentions: None**

10. Motion was made by: Councilmember Ayon to approve **Resolution No. 2021-0013** adopting a list of projects for fiscal year 2021-2022 funded by SB: The Road and Repair and Accountability Act 2017; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Councilmember Rodriguez

**Vote: 5/0**  
**Ayes: Ayon, Rodriguez, Cano, Pérez, Gonzalez (Mayor)**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: None**  
**Abstentions: None**

11. Motion was made by: Councilmember Ayon to approve second amendment agreement between the City of McFarland and San Joaquin Renewables LLC to extend the closing date of the agreement; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Councilmember Cano

**Vote: 5/0**  
**Ayes: Ayon, Cano, Rodriguez, Pérez, Gonzalez (Mayor)**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: None**  
**Abstentions: None**

12. Motion was made by: Councilmember Ayon to approve the creation of a new full time Animal Control Officer Position and full time Code Enforcement Officer position requested by Councilmember Ayon; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilmember Rodriguez

**Vote: 4/0**  
**Ayes: Ayon, Rodriguez, Cano, Pérez, Gonzalez (Mayor)**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: None**  
**Abstentions: None**

**Mayor Gonzalez asked Accounting Supervisor Lara if these two new positions would be sustainable?**

**Accounting Supervisor Lara replied yes. And requested COF be added**

**Eve Henderson 609 W. Sherwood Ave- Thanked everyone for doing all they can to make McFarland a safe place to live. Stated that since she became involved in 2012 with the McFarland Animal Shelter there has always been one full time and one part time Animal Control Officer, she stated that the situation is bigger than that and encouraged the Council to please give the manpower needed.**

13. Motion was made by: Councilmember Rodriguez to table Councilmember Cano's request to possibly increase the number of mobile vendors **Ordinance No 013-2011 section 5.44.020** to future agenda; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Councilmember Cano

**Vote: 5/0**  
**Ayes: Rodriguez, Cano, Ayon, Pérez, Gonzalez (Mayor)**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: None**  
**Abstentions: None**

**Miguel Pantoja McFarland resident he has been trying to get a mobile vendor license for over 7 years now and has not been given the opportunity. He is asking for the opportunity to obtain a business license the right way.**

14. Motion was made by: Councilmember Cano to table his request to possibly increase the number of garage sales in the City of McFarland **Ordinance No. 306-2005 Section 5.48.030** to future agenda; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Mayor Pro-Tem Pérez

**Vote: 5/0**  
**Ayes: Cano, Pérez, Ayon, Rodriguez, Gonzalez (Mayor)**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: None**  
**Abstentions: None**

15. Motion was made by: Councilmember Cano to waive reading and place **Ordinance No. 0001-2021** on upcoming agenda for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and adoption; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Councilmember Ayon

**Vote: 5/0**  
**Ayes: Cano, Ayon, Rodriguez, Pérez, Gonzalez (Mayor)**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: None**  
**Abstentions: None**

16. Motion was made by: Mayor Pro-Tem Pérez to waive reading and place *Ordinance No. 0002-2021* on upcoming agenda for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and adoption; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Councilmember Rodriguez

**Vote: 5/0**  
**Ayes: Pérez, Rodriguez, Ayon, Cano, Gonzalez (Mayor)**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: None**  
**Abstentions: None**

**\*Mayor Pro-Tem Pérez joined the meeting at 7:48 p.m.**

Closed administrative agenda 8:08 p.m.

#### **ORAL REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL ON COMMITTEES**

- a. Delano Mosquito Abatement District (DMAD) – Council Member Cano – Next meeting April 15, 2021.
- b. Kern Council of Governments (KCOG) –
- c. McFarland Tri-Agency Partners (MTAP) – No update.
- 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- Meeting of April 6, 2021 cancelled.

#### **COUNCIL STATEMENTS**

Council Member Ayon- Thanked the community for coming out to this meeting and encouraged them to continue. He also thanked the Attorney's and said we are moving forward.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pérez- Thanked Eve Henderson for her concern with our animals. Thanked everyone who attended the meeting the city workers and the attorneys.

Council Member Cano- Asked the Community to reach out to them with any concerns they have. Appreciated everyone that come out and thanked city staff.

Councilmember Rodriguez- Thanked everyone for their comments. Appreciates everyone for helping them out moving in a transparent direction. Thanked the staff.

Mayor Gonzalez- Thanked the community for their comments and stated they will do their best to handle their concerns. Thanked city staff, and Chief Williams. Encouraged everyone to volunteer with the city clean up this weekend Saturday 8 am to 10 am.

Kitty Woods stated the audience cannot hear the council if they do not use their microphones, she encouraged them to use their microphones.

Resident at 31168 W. Sherwood stated that they do have a stray animal problem. Pet sheep killed by a stray animal.

**\*Motion to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.



Francisca Alvarado, City Clerk

