

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 12, 2020

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem McFarland called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the McFarland Council Chambers, 103 W. Sherwood Ave, McFarland, CA 93250

ROLL CALL

Council Member Present: McFarland, Melendez, Perez, Gonzalez
Council Member Absent: None

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Interim City Manager Pennell, City Attorney Schroeter, Interim Chief of Police/Interim Assistant City Manager Davis, City Clerk Ceja, Administrative Services Director Mosqueda, Community Development Director Lara, and Public Works Director Gonzales

INVOCATION

Mrs. Pam McFarland

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Maria Perez

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim White, 364 Cliff Ave, McFarland, Ca. Mr. White expressed his concern with GEO not staying and asked the residents to think about everything that will be lost by not allowing GEO to continue with its facility.

Maribel Ramirez, Sherwood Ave, McFarland, Ca. Ms. Ramirez expressed that she is not happy with GEO opening their facility in town and asked Council to not go forward with GEO.

Alex Gonzalez, Did not state his address. Mr. Gonzalez said he is representing Faith in the Valley and asked Council not to go forward with GEO and asked for Council to be heroes for the community.

Rosa Lopez, Did not state her address. Ms. Lopez asked for the residents to be allowed to choose the Council seat that is vacant and asked if the next meeting regarding GEO is scheduled for March 26. If so she asked that the meeting be postponed.

Jose Luis Galvan, Fletcher St, McFarland, Ca. Mr. Galvan asked council not to go through with allowing GEO to open the ICE facility.

Silvia Garcia, 835 E. Perkins Ave, McFarland, Ca. Ms. Garcia asked that council make note of a financial balance of the economy of McFarland and said that as residents they have the right to know the city's financial status. She also asked that the council seat that is vacant be chosen wisely.

Esmeralda Gonzalez, San Juan St, McFarland, Ca. Ms. Gonzalez represents Faith in the Valley and said that the Bishop of Fresno does not agree with GEO staying in town and asks that the city does not go through with allowing the GEO to open an ICE facility.

Pamela Martinez, Did not state her address. Ms. Martinez said she represents the UFW foundation and asked Council to deny GEO's permit and do not allow them to expand their facility.

CONSENT AGENDA

*Note: Melendez pulled item no. 1 and 3 for discussion.

1. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Council Member Melendez, and unanimously carried to approve the warrant register for \$826,597.42 from February 20, 2020 through March 02, 2020.

Vote: 3-0

Ayes: Perez, Melendez, McFarland

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: Gonzalez

Note: Council Member Gonzales recluses herself from item #1 due to conflict of interest.

Council member Melendez asked why the warrants are so high. Finance Director Mosqueda responded and said that it is high because of the payments made to the contractor for the animal shelter.

2. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Council Member Melendez, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of regular City Council meeting of February 27, 2020.

Vote: 4-0

Ayes: Perez, Melendez, Gonzalez, McFarland

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

3. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Council Member Melendez, and unanimously carried to approve the payroll register for \$203,253.32 for February 2020.

Vote: 3-0

Ayes: Perez, Melendez, McFarland

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: Gonzalez

Note: Council Member Gonzales recluses herself from item #1 due to conflict of interest.

Council member Melendez asked why the register was high. Finance Director Mosqueda said the payroll register fluctuates but this would be the norm for payroll.

4. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Council Member Melendez, and unanimously carried to authorize the City Attorney to attend the League of California Cities Attorney's conference.

Vote: 4-0

Ayes: Perez, Melendez, Gonzalez, McFarland

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

PUBLIC HEARING

5. Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:27 pm. A quick presentation was given from Mr. Bob Snoddy from Kern COG. Mayor closed public hearing at 6:32 pm.

Motion by Council Member Melendez, seconded by Council Member Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 2020-011, Resolution of the City Council of McFarland finding there are no unmet public transit needs.

Vote: 4-0

Ayes: Melendez, Gonzalez, Perez, McFarland

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- a. Administration – Mr. Pennell reported that the tax sharing agreement is close to reaching the closing of the agreement. He also reported that the Kern County City Managers will be meeting to discuss the Coronavirus situation and will report back to Council with more information. Chief Davis updated the Council and the community and said there will be changes on how the police

department will be responding and reported that Mr. Pennell and herself are working together to see how City Hall and Police Department lobby will be handling the public.

- b. Finance Department- Mrs. Mosqueda has nothing to report.
- c. Public Works Department – Mr. Gonzales reported that the City Clean Up is scheduled for April 11, the Rule 20 A project is projected to start on Monday, the ATP project is 90% completed, and the animal shelter grand opening is scheduled for March 31.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

6. (a) Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to approve appointment of Council Member Sally Gonzalez as Mayor to serve until November 2020.

Vote: 4-0

Ayes: Perez, McFarland, Melendez, Gonzalez

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

Council Member Perez asked to resend the past motion to restrict the appointment to the Mayor's position to November of 2020 and allow to be through November of 2022.

FINAL Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to approve the appointment of Council Member Sally Gonzalez as Mayor to serve until November 2022.

Vote: 3-0

Ayes: Perez, McFarland, Gonzalez

Nays: Melendez

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

(b) Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to direct City Clerk Ceja to send out letters to the candidates that submitted a letter of interest for the Council Member vacant seat inviting the candidates to attend the council meeting of March 26 for an interview.

Vote: 4-0

Ayes: Perez, McFarland, Melendez, Gonzalez

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

ORAL REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL ON COMMITTEES

- a. Delano Mosquito Abatement District (DMAD) – None to report.
- b. Kern Council of Governments (KCOG) – None to report.
- c. McFarland Tri-Agency Partners (MTAP) – 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 Melendez – Thanked everyone and appreciates everyone.

Mayor Pro Tem McFarland – Thanked all staff for their hard work and thanked the lord for keeping the community together.

Council Member Perez – Congratulated Mayor Gonzalez and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mayor Gonzalez – Thanked the community for the support and concerns and asked that everyone be cautious with regards to the Coronavirus.


CLOSED SESSION

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) and paragraph (3) of subdivision (e) of Section 54956.9: claim dated November 14, 2019 filed on behalf of the estate of John Wooner and Family. **No reportable action.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 pm.



Claudia Ceja, City Clerk

