

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

**April 09, 2020**

**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 6:90 p.m. via teleconference.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Member Present: Gonzalez, McFarland, Perez, McFarland  
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**

Mayor Pro Tem McFarland

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

None – No flag to salute to.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**\*Note: ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL AND READ BY THE CITY CLERK.**

Alex Gonzalez, did not state address. Mr. Gonzalez voiced his concern with moving forward with a city council meeting during these unprecedented times and asked that the council member appointment and the GEO vote to be postponed until people can safely gather in large groups.

Valerie Urso, did not state address. Ms. Urso asked council to postpone the council member seat appointment.

Nataly Santamaria, did not state address. Ms. Santamaria asked that the council postpone the council member appointment to the November election and also asked to push the GEO vote until people can safely gather.

Martin Medina, did not state address. Mr. Medina asked council to vote with their minds not their hearts in regards to the GEO conditional use permit. He supports GEO and feels that if the city does not approve the conditional use permit it won't be long before employees start losing their jobs.

Silvia Garcia, did not state address. Ms. Garcia expressed her concerns with council appointing a council member at this meeting. She feels that all the community should be involved and should have the opportunity to vote.

Bryan Osorio, did not state address. Mr. Osorio is a council member for the City of Delano. Mr. Osorio suggested tabling the council member appointment and asked council to grant McFarland residents their right to choose who represent the vacancy.

Esmeralda Gonzalez, did not state address. Ms. Gonzalez expressed her disappointment with council taking decisions that are not democratic and asked that the appointment of the council member be moved to November.

Maria Figueroa, did not state address. Ms. Figueroa commented that she does not agree with a council member be appointed at this meeting due to the situation we are living in.

Cecilia Castro, did not state address. Ms. Castro is with the Dolores Huerta Foundation. She urged the City Council to push both the appointment of a new council member and the GEO vote until people can safely gather in large groups.

Brisa Cruz, did not state address. Ms. Cruz asked that the City of McFarland provide a fair democratic process to its people and push the election of the vacant City Council seat to November election and asked that the GEO vote be pushed until people can safely gather.

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to approve the warrant register for \$617,850.21 from March 03, 2020 through March 30, 2020.  
**Vote: 3-0**  
**Ayes:** Perez, McFarland, Melendez  
**Nays:** None  
**Absent:** None  
**Abstentions:** Gonzalez  
**Note:** Council Member Gonzales recluses herself from item #1 due to conflict of interest.
2. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to approve the payroll register for \$115,700.67 for March 2020.  
**Vote: 3-0**  
**Ayes:** Perez, McFarland, Melendez  
**Nays:** None  
**Absent:** None  
**Abstentions:** Gonzalez  
**Note:** Council Member Gonzales recluses herself from item #1 due to conflict of interest.
3. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of regular City Council meeting of March 12, 2020.  
**Vote: 4-0**  
**Ayes:** Perez, McFarland, Melendez, Gonzalez  
**Nays:** None  
**Absent:** None  
**Abstentions:** None
4. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of special City Council meeting of March 19, 2020.  
**Vote: 4-0**  
**Ayes:** Perez, McFarland, Melendez, Gonzalez  
**Nays:** None  
**Absent:** None  
**Abstentions:** None
5. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to approve the application for FEMA4482-DR-CA, CA COVID-19 for potential reimbursement for emergency protective measures.  
**Vote: 4-0**  
**Ayes:** Perez, McFarland, Melendez, Gonzalez  
**Nays:** None  
**Absent:** None  
**Abstentions:** None
6. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 2020-012 to apply for an incentive from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District (SJVAPCD) for an electrical vehicle charging station project.  
**Vote: 4-0**  
**Ayes:** Perez, McFarland, Melendez, Gonzalez  
**Nays:** None  
**Absent:** None  
**Abstentions:** None

7. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to approve the surplus of vehicles, equipment, and other personal property of the City and authorize its disposal.

**Vote: 4-0**

**Ayes:** Perez, McFarland, Melendez, Gonzalez

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstentions:** None

8. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to approve the agreement between the City of McFarland and Golden Empire Water to provide services related to the City's water system.

**Vote: 4-0**

**Ayes:** Perez, McFarland, Melendez, Gonzalez

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstentions:** None

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

- a. Administration – Mr. Pennell reported that all City Managers meet daily to discuss the current situation with COVID-19. He mentioned that we are trying to get through this pandemic with both the residents and the employees remaining healthy.
- b. Finance Department- Mrs. Mosqueda reported that there is staff coming in on Monday's, Tuesday's and Thursday's and the other set of staff is coming in on Wednesday's and Thursday's. There was a flyer sent out to all residents with information of how to make their utility payment and strongly encourage residents not to insert cash in the drop box. Mrs. Mosqueda mentioned that all calls are being forwarded to her cell phone.
- c. Community Development Department – Mrs. Lara mentioned that Animal Control officers are going in to work to feed dogs and clean shelter. Staff is working remotely. Code Enforcement are patrolling the city and are monitoring non-essential businesses and reporting to the County. Building Department has finished the Kendrea homes. Animal Shelter will be completed soon and the city will plan a ribbon cutting.
- d. Public Safety Department – Chief Davis reported that they are responding to priority calls of service and taking telephonic reports.
- e. Public Works Department – Mr. Gonzales reported that the Wastewater employees are still working every day, Streets Department is rotating the employees going in, Water Department is also rotating the employees, and the Transit Department is not running. The construction at Garzoli for the Widening Project had to stop due to COVID-19. Mr. Gonzales mentioned that he will be collaborating with the Parks and Recreation to disinfect all parks.
- f. City Clerk – Mrs. Ceja invited all residents to visit the City website for information regarding COVID-19.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

9. Council interviewed all candidates present. Candidates present were Eric Rodriguez, Ricardo Cano, Ariel Medina, Robert Gonzalez, Thomas Soto, Kenneth Rosson, and Santiago Gonzalez. Not present for the interviews were Isaias Rodriguez Garcia and Jose Luis Galvan. Nominations were as follows:
- Eric Rodriguez – Perez, McFarland, Gonzalez
  - Thomas Soto – Melendez
  - Ricardo Cano – None
  - Ariel Medina – None
  - Santiago Gonzalez – None
  - Kenneth Rosson – None
  - Robert Gonzalez – None

Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to close nominations.

**Vote: 4-0**

**Ayes:** Perez, McFarland, Melendez, Gonzalez

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstentions:** None

Motion to appoint Mr. Eric Rodriguez as Council Member to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of Council Member Gonzalez to the elected Mayor's position.

**Vote: 4-0 by roll call**

**Mayor Sally Gonzalez – Aye**

**Mayor Pro Tem McFarland – Aye**

**Council Member Melendez – Aye**

**Council Member Perez – Aye**

**The motion passed**

10. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to approve the agreement between the City of McFarland and Laura Hanlon to provide additional support within the police department.

**Vote: 4-0**

**Ayes:** Perez, McFarland, Melendez, Gonzalez

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstentions:** None

11. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFarland, and unanimously carried to approve the agreement between the City of McFarland and Willdan Financial Services to prepare a Development Impact Fee Study.

**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 staff for the work COVID-19 operations and thanked all candidates that interviewed.

Mayor Pro Tem McFarland – Thanked everyone for attending the meeting and mentioned that he was very impressed with Mr. Soto and asked God for protection for everyone.

Council Member Perez – Thanked everyone who showed interest in the Council Member seat and congratulated Mr. Eric Rodriguez.

Mayor Gonzalez – Thanked all candidates and congratulated Mr. Eric Rodriguez for his appointment. She encourages everyone to submit any concerns and asked everyone to be safe.

**CLOSED SESSION**

1. Motion to approve the closed session minutes of March 12, 2020.

**Vote: 4-0 by roll call**

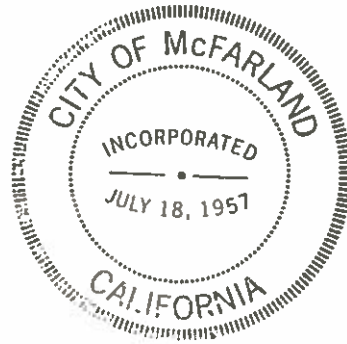
**Mayor Sally Gonzalez – Aye**

**Mayor Pro Tem McFarland – Aye**

**Council Member Melendez – Aye**

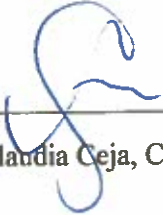
**Council Member Perez – Aye**

**The motion passed**



**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm.

  
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Claudia Ceja, City Clerk

