



# MINUTES REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 9, 2020

City of Watsonville  
Teleconference/Remote

**4:02 p.m.**

**1. CLOSED SESSION**

(City Council Conference Room, 275 Main Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor)

(a) Public Comments regarding the Closed Session agenda were accepted by the City Council at that time.

(b) Closed Session Announcement

The City Council recessed the regular Council Meeting to discuss those items listed on the Closed Session Statement attached to the Agenda.

**1.A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR**

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

1. Agency negotiators: Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee (Councilmembers Estrada, Parker and Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez)

Unrepresented employee: City Manager

Unrepresented employee: City Attorney

Unrepresented employee: City Clerk

**1.B. PERSONNEL MATTERS**

(Government Code Section 54957)

**1. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

Title: City Manager

Title: City Attorney

Title: City Clerk

**5:03 p.m.**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Mayor García, Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez and Council Members Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, and Parker were present via teleconference through Gotomeetings.

**3. INFORMATION ITEMS (None)**

**4. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**4.A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Steve Trujillo requested an update on completion of the Bridge Street Medians Project. He requested that Mayor Garcia recognize 50 years of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride. He expressed his sorrow due to the fatal shooting of Santa Cruz County

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Sheriff's Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller and asked that members of the military receive background screenings. He spoke about negative effects of fireworks use.

Celeste asked for restructuring of the Police Department and use Measure Y funding for creation of parks and recreational facilities to promote proactive policing instead of reactive approaches to crime.

Michael Baker spoke about the purpose and restrictions of Measure Y funds and stated use those funds for anything different would require it to return to a ballot for voting. He thanked Police Chief Honda for his response to backlash over the murder of George Floyd and for police efforts to assist the community.

Dr. Nancy A. Bilicich, Pájaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority Board of Directors Chair, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores) stated United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) confirmed the federal authorization to rebuild and enhance the existing flood risk reduction facilities on the Pájaro River and Salsipuedes Creek. She gave a progress report on efforts to improve said flood risk reduction facilities and spoke about challenges in progress due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**4.B. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL**

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Member Gonzalez spoke about efforts by the Salvation Army to support the community despite COVID-19 Pandemic challenges. He spoke about Friends of Watsonville Parks & Community Services Inc.'s efforts to assist the public through scholarships. He asked the public to continue practicing safety precautions to deter the spread of COVID-19. He spoke about Community Action Board's efforts to assist in distribution of financial aid for undocumented residents.

Member Estrada stated he condemned the murder of George Floyd and police brutality throughout the Country. He spoke about the importance of equal rights for colored people and ending racism.

Member Hurst spoke in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. He thanked Dr. Bilicich for her work on the Pájaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority. He asked members of the public that send correspondence to Council to identify the district in which they live in order for Council to respond appropriately.

Member Parker spoke in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. She thanked members of the public who expressed their concerns to Council over the previous days. She stated her concerns regarding people not following guidelines for prevention of COVID-19. She thanked Dr. Bilicich for her work on the Pájaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority. She stated the third phase of the Bridge Street Medians Project would take place in Spring 2021.

Member Hernandez expressed his condolences to the family and friends of slain Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller. He asked the public to test themselves for COVID-19 at Ramsay Park Family Center. He asked the public to shop local. He stated his joy at the community standing in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

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Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez expressed her condolences to the family and friends of slain Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller and to those affected by the murder of George Floyd. She asked for a moment of silence to commemorate the deceased.

Mayor Garcia spoke about her participation in congratulating LGBTQIA+ graduating students and thanked Remy Rodriguez (City intern) for his work in producing a congratulatory video with Spanish subtitles. She spoke about the City's Climate Action Plan and future Climate Adaptation Plan.

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**4.C. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Garcia reported that Council discussed the items listed on the Closed Session agenda, but took no final action.

**5. REPORTS TO COUNCIL—No Action Required**

**5.A. OVERSIGHT REVENUE SALES TAX MEASURE COMMITTEE REPORT BY REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CHAIR STEVE SNODGRASS AS REQUIRED BY WATSONVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3-6.1102**

5794

**1) Oral Presentation**

The report was given Revenue Measure Oversight Committee Chair Snodgrass.

**2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**

Member Hurst, Member Parker and Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez thanked the members of the Revenue Measure Oversight Committee for their service.

In answering Member Gonzalez, City Manager Huffaker stated the Police Activities League (PAL) would continue to be funded by Measure Y.

Mayor Garcia thanked Revenue Measure Oversight Committee Chair Snodgrass for his work.

**3) Public Input**

Steve Trujillo thanked the members of the Revenue Measure Oversight Committee for their service. He spoke about benefits PAL brought to the community and asked that it be expanded. He added crime prevention efforts helped the community more than reactive responses from Police.

Michael Baker thanked the members of the Revenue Measure Oversight Committee for their service and asked that PAL continue to serve the community. He added that organizations that engaged and served youth worked better than placing youth in Juvenile Hall.

City Manager Huffaker stated PAL would be funded by Measure Y for Fiscal Year 19/20 and would be funded by General Fund the following year.

John Sigismondi, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores) wrote about the purpose of Measure Y and asked that Police funding remain intact despite efforts by community members to defund police.

**5.B. COVID-19 ESSENTIAL SERVICES UPDATE**

**1) Oral Presentation**

The report was given by City Manager Huffaker.

5820

**2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**

Member Hurst commended Police Chief Honda for informing Council that police officers must have a State certification in order to receive employment, limiting ability for bad officers to receive employment elsewhere. He thanked Police for mutual aid efforts.

In answering Member Hernandez, Police Chief Honda stated school resource officers were assigned to high schools only.

Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez thanked City Manager Huffaker and Police Chief Honda for their report.

In answering Member Estrada, Police Chief Honda spoke about purpose of school resource officers and efforts to assist students rather than enforce laws.

In answering Mayor Garcia, Police Chief Honda stated a public forum would be held to discuss policing in Watsonville.

Member Gonzalez stated the public was unaware that the Police Chief would be doing a report during the Council Meeting regarding policing and asked that in the future the report would be agendized to provide for adequate public input.

In answering Member Gonzalez, Police Chief Honda stated all officers were required to wear a body camera and activate it when interacting with the public.

In answering Member Estrada, City Manager Huffaker spoke about unemployment rates, business closures and efforts by staff to address fireworks use during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**3) Public Input**

Steve Trujillo thanked Police Chief Honda for his presentation. He asked that fireworks be banned within City limits due to the negative effects on vulnerable residents and pets. In answering Mr. Trujillo, City Manager Huffaker spoke about challenges in reopening city facilities, such as the library.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Public Input on any Consent Agenda Item (None)**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Hurst, seconded by Member Gonzalez and carried by the following vote to approve the Consent Agenda:

AYES: MEMBERS: Coffman-Gomez, Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, Parker, García  
NOES: MEMBERS: None  
ABSENT: MEMBERS: None

**6.A. MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2020**

**6.B. RESOLUTION NO. 90-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION APPROVING FIRST AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH RAIMI & ASSOCIATES, INC., FOR THE DOWNTOWN WATSONVILLE SPECIFIC PLAN & DOWNTOWN WATSONVILLE SPECIFIC PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT,**

- BY AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$74,998 FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT TO THE COMMUNITY** 5678
- 6.C. RESOLUTION NO. 91-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION APPROVING FIRST AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH MISSION LINEN SUPPLY, FOR UNIFORM & LAUNDRY SERVICES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$160,000, & A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION TO OCTOBER 31, 2021** 5807
- 6.D. RESOLUTION NO. 92-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION APPROVING PROPOSED FY 2020/2021 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ZONE 7 BUDGET AS APPROVED BY THE ZONE 7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 4857
- 6.E. RESOLUTION NO. 93-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION APPROVING SECOND AMENDED PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX MEASURE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE BYLAWS** 5794
- 6.F. RESOLUTION NO. 94-20 (CM):  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF \$150,000 APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR A LOCAL EARLY ACTION PLANNING (LEAP) GRANT TO PARTIALLY FUND THE DOWNTOWN WATSONVILLE SPECIFIC PLAN, DOWNTOWN WATSONVILLE SPECIFIC PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR), & HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE; & APPROPRIATING SUCH FUNDS TO THE SPECIAL GRANTS FUND** 5678
- 7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA (None)**

**6:37 p.m.**

**8. ROLL CALL**

Mayor García, Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez and Council Members Estrada, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, and Parker were present via teleconference through Gotomeetings.

Staff members present via teleconference through Gotomeetings were City Manager Huffaker, City Attorney Smith, City Clerk Vázquez Flores, Public Works & Utilities Director Palmisano, Police Chief Honda, Fire Chief Lopez, Deputy City Managers Manning and Vides, Administrative Services Director Czerwin, Airport Director Williams, Community Development Director Merriam, Library Director Heitzig, Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib, Police Fiscal Manager Maldonado, Senior Information Technology Analyst Lew, Assistant City Clerk Ortiz, Recreation Supervisor Vivenzi, City Manager's Intern Rodriguez, and Interpreter Landaverry.

**9. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**10. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES, & APPEALS**

**10.A. CONSIDERATION OF TEXT AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 14 (ZONING) OF THE WATSONVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE (WMC) CHAPTERS 14-16 (DISTRICT REGULATIONS) & 14-53 (CANNABIS FACILITIES) REGARDING CULTIVATION, MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, TESTING, DELIVERY & RETAIL SALES OF CANNABIS & CANNABIS PRODUCTS; & SETTING FEES THEREOF**

5764

**1) Staff Report**

The report was given by Community Development Director Merriam.

**2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**

Community Development Director Merriam answered questions from Member Parker regarding allowed equity program licenses and importance of identifying that at least one is allowed for cannabis testing.

Member Hurst spoke about the importance of identifying that at least one equity program license is allowed for cannabis testing. In answering Member Hurst, Community Development Director Merriam stated testing licensees are restricted so that they may not obtain any other type of license.

Community Development Director Merriam answered questions from Member Estrada regarding penalties for violation of cannabis regulations, allowed cannabis cultivation area in comparison to neighboring jurisdictions, distance requirements from sports fields and play areas, and language in the ordinance limiting cannabis products in appealing to youth.

Community Development Director Merriam answered questions from Mayor Garcia regarding allowed cannabis distribution licenses, requirement for vendors operating from outside City limits to comply with City business license requirement and applicable fees.

**3) Public Hearing**

Mayor García opened the public hearing.

Steve Trujillo asked if cannabis sales would ever be allowed in or near bars and if cannabis taxes would ever be more affordable.

Dr. Nancy A. Bilcich stated her disagreement with staff recommendation due to allowing for too many cannabis licenses.

Crystal Gonzalez, policy analyst at Pájaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores), asked Council to consider postponing action on cannabis policy until more public could participate in the discussion. She added the COVID-19 Pandemic prevented a large portion of the community from participating in said discussion.

Kelly Hyland, Fog City Farms, spoke in support of staff recommendation.

Bryce Berryessa spoke in support of staff recommendation and spoke about the public participation in the policy presented before the Council. He spoke about the

many safeguards in the proposed policy and spoke about benefit the policy brought the City. 5764

Robin Bolster-Grant, attorney, spoke about her experience in creating cannabis policy and spoke in support of staff recommendation.

After checking if anyone in the teleconference wanted to speak, and hearing none, Mayor García closed the public hearing.

**4) MOTION:** It was moved by Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez, seconded by Member Gonzalez to introduce the two ordinances and approve the resolution listed below:

a) **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 14-16 (DISTRICT REGULATIONS) OF TITLE 14 (ZONING) OF WATSONVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE FOR THE REGULATION OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY** 5764

b) **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION REPEALING CHAPTER 53 (CANNABIS FACILITIES) OF TITLE 14 (ZONING) IN ITS ENTIRETY & ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 53 OF TITLE 14 (ZONING) OF THE WATSONVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING CULTIVATION, MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, TESTING, DELIVERY & RETAIL SALES OF CANNABIS & CANNABIS PRODUCTS** 5764

c) **RESOLUTION NO. 95-20 (CM): RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING & ADOPTING CANNABIS FACILITIES FEE SCHEDULE & FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE & ANNUAL RENEWAL OF CANNABIS FACILITIES IDENTIFICATION BADGES BY THE WATSONVILLE CHIEF OF POLICE TO OWNERS, MANAGERS, & EMPLOYEES OF PERMITTED & APPROVED CANNABIS FACILITIES OPERATING IN THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE** 5764  
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**5) City Council Deliberation on Motion**

Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez spoke in support of staff recommendation.

Member Hernandez stated revenues from cannabis tax would help in preserving youth programs.

Member Hurst spoke in support of staff recommendation.

Member Gonzalez thanked staff for their work on cannabis policy and clarified staff recommendation with proposed changes to the ordinances. Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez stated staff recommended changes regarding distribution and identifying that one (1) equity program license would be reserved in cannabis testing would be included in her motion.

Member Estrada commended cannabis licensee efforts to prevent youth from accessing cannabis. He spoke in opposition to allowing so many cannabis dispensary licenses.

Member Parker commended staff for their work on cannabis policy and stressed the importance of making adjustments to the ordinances as needed in the future.

Mayor Garcia spoke about her experience in using cannabis to treat arthritis. She spoke about the importance of ensuring dispensaries would be able to successfully operate and three (3) would lead to struggling cannabis businesses. She added that recreational cannabis use had increased and stated her concerns in further contributing to cannabis use in the City, potentially resulting in more youth access.

**MOTION** The above motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	MEMBERS:	Coffman-Gomez, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst, Parker
NOES:	MEMBERS:	Estrada, Garcia
ABSENT:	MEMBERS:	None

## **JOINT CITY COUNCIL, SUCCESSOR AGENCY & SUCCESSOR HOUSING AGENCY FOR THE FORMER REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING**

### **10.B. BUDGET STUDY SESSION & PUBLIC HEARING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 BUDGET & FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

4924

#### **1) Staff Report**

The report was given by Administrative Services Director Czerwin.

#### **2) City Council Clarifying & Technical Questions**

In answering Member Hernandez, Administrative Services Director Czerwin stated she would return with a budget update in August and planned to report to Council quarterly and with any major State updates.

Member Hurst spoke about challenges in working through recessions and asked the public for their support. He asked the public to shop local and invest in the community.

Administrative Services Director Czerwin, City Manager Huffaker, and Community Development Director Merriam answered questions from Member Gonzalez regarding budget savings as part of furloughs, potential for financial support for Parks & Community Services by Pájaro Valley Health Trust, potential for allowance of sports programs depending on State guidelines, and inability of further use of Community Development Block Grant funds for sports programs.

In answering Member Estrada, Administrative Services Director Czerwin stated positions vacated since March had been frozen, travel budgets were not being utilized, terminations would be effective in July, and listed criteria used for identifying terminations.

City Manager Huffaker answered questions from Member Parker regarding COVID-19 pandemic service reopening phases and metrics used identify how businesses and services in the City could remain open. He added if sports were to be allowed, they would have restrictions and require many safety precautions.



City Manager Huffaker and Administrative Services Director Czerwin answered questions from Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez regarding potential for Federal aid for cities, feasibility of cost recovery for sports programs, budget savings from early retirements, and effects the COVID-19 Pandemic had on CalPERS.

Administrative Services Director Czerwin, City Manager Huffaker, and Parks & Community Services Director Calubaquib answered questions from Mayor Garcia regarding filling of positions resulting from early retirements, plans to fill the Library Director position, use of Measure Y funds for Parks & Community Services programs, and potential for continuation and budgeting for sports programs.

### 3) **Public Hearing**

Mayor García opened the public hearing.

Recreation Supervisor Vivenzi spoke in opposition to cutting sports as part of the proposed budget. She gave suggestions on how to continue sports programs while complying with COVID-19 regulations.

Jessica Carrasco stated the budget proposed would cut four (4) positions within the Parks & Community Services Department. She asked Council to stop cuts to Parks & Community Services and find ways of retaining staff while balancing the budget.

Gabriel Medina asked Council to partner with non-profits to continue services and balance the budget without cuts to Parks & Community Services.

Luis Bernard stated cutting programming in Parks & Community Services would adversely affect the lives of those terminated employees as well as youth served by the programs. He suggested defunding Police instead of reducing funding for Parks & Community Services.

Jenna Rodriguez asked Council to allow sports programs and not reduce funding for Parks & Community Services.

Elizabeth asked Council to allow sports programs and increase funding for Parks & Community Services.

Kimberly stated recreational programs reduce crime more than policing.

Karen Chavez asked Council to sustain funding for Parks & Community Services instead of redirecting funding toward Police.

Mariana asked Council to listen to the community and sustain funding for Parks & Community Service.

Eva Ledesma asked Council to allow sports programs and sustain funding for Parks & Community Service.

The following members of the public asked Council to continue funding for sports programs because of the benefit they provide for the community:

Linda Alvarez, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)

Cesar Noel Carrillo, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)

Andres Galvan, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)

Ernesto Plascencia, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)  
 Omar, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)  
 Maria Gutierrez, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)  
 Emily Tatro, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)  
 Abel Mejia, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)  
 Chris Meyer, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)  
 Raquel Pulido, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)  
 Adrian Maldonado, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)  
 Jose Alberto Ulloa, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)  
 Carlos Campos, via email (read by City Clerk Vázquez Flores)  
 Steven Aranda, soccer coach for Santa Cruz Breakers  
 Valentin, soccer coach at Santa Cruz Breakers

Anissa Balderas, Regeneración Pájaro Valley Climate Action, asked Council to reconsider budget allocations and consider racial justice issues when revising the budget. She asked for more access to social services and reduce policing outside city limits.

After checking if anyone in the teleconference wanted to speak, and hearing none, Mayor García closed the public hearing.

#### **4) City Council Discussion**

Member Gonzalez spoke about the challenges of allowing sports programming to continue with restrictions stemming from the COVID-19 Pandemic. He spoke about potential for funding sports in the future if restrictions were eased by the State and the County.

City Manager Huffaker, in answering Member Hernandez spoke about differentiation between restriction on professional sports and recreational sports. He spoke about potential for sports programming in the future if restrictions were eased by the State.

Member Hurst spoke about the importance of community collaboration to ensure locations were available for youth to use for recreation.

Member Estrada spoke about importance of preparing to reinstate sports programming and allocating some funding for when the State eased restrictions on recreational sports. He spoke about challenges of balancing the budget due to financial challenges stemming from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Member Parker spoke about the importance exercising was for youth. She stated balancing the budget was difficult due to financial challenges stemming from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mayor Pro Tempore Coffman-Gomez stated Council budgets were cut in half and Council was exploring other ways of balancing the budget without affecting services. She spoke about the importance of sports programming and challenges in continuation of said services due to restrictions from the State.

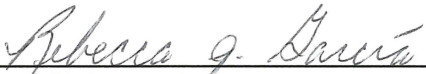
Mayor Garcia stated she contributed \$500 to Parks & Community Services for online Zumba classes. She added Council was looking for opportunities to support Parks & Community Services.

11. EMERGENCY ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA

12. REQUESTS & SCHEDULING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (None)

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca J. Garcia, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk

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