



## MINUTES

### City Council Meeting ~ via Zoom

Council Chambers, Chowchilla City Hall  
130 S. Second Street, Chowchilla, CA 93610

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

Closed Session: 6:00 p.m. - Open Session: 7:00 p.m.

#### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: 6:02 p.m.**

Mayor: Diana Palmer

Mayor Pro Tem: Ray Barragan

Council: Waseem Ahmed, John Chavez, Kelly Smith

**City staff and contract employees present:** City Administrator Rod Pruett, City Attorney Mary Lerner, Police Chief David A. Riviere, Jr., Fire Chief Fred Gaumnitz, Community & Economic Development Director Mark Hamilton, Public Works Director Jason Rogers, City Clerk Joann McClendon

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#### **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Additions and/or Deletions:

**Motion by Mayor Palmer, Seconded by Council Member Smith to Approve the Agenda as Presented. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

#### **PUBLIC ADDRESS – CLOSED SESSION**

No one spoke.

#### **CLOSED SESSION – 6:04 PM**

- 1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION** – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) or (3) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9  
Potential cases: 1
- 2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION – Initiation of Litigation 54956.9** – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 Paragraph (4) Subdivision (d) (deciding whether to initiate litigation)  
Number of Cases: 1

#### **OPEN SESSION – 7:00 PM**

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION:** Pastor Richard Walker

**CLOSED SESSION REPORT:** No reportable action.

**PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOP - Section 1**

- 1.1 Oath of Office: Kelly Smith, Council Member**
- 1.2 Robertson Boulevard / Union Pacific Railroad Median Beautification (Rogers)**

**PUBLIC ADDRESS**

No one spoke.

**COUNCIL AND STAFF VERBAL REPORTS – Section 2****2.1 COUNCIL VERBAL REPORTS**

Legislative, Collaborative Agency, Ad Hoc

Council Member Ahmed congratulated Council Member Smith for joining the council; reappointed to a Cal Cities Revenue and Taxation Committee; thanked Mr. Emil Stagnaro for being a part of the Measure T Oversight Committee.

Mayor Palmer attended the San Joaquin Valley Air Board and Madera County Transportation Committee meetings; Public Safety Task Force where a Chief from Redlands spoke about practical law enforcement changes. Attended a San Joaquin Valley REAP workshop to get information on planning funds for housing.

**2.2 STAFF VERBAL REPORTS**

City Administrator Pruettt the Finance Department is in the middle of implementing Tyler, a new financial software with individual modules that will go live at different times (not all at once). The City just received the draft audit; there is additional work to be completed. Staff is working on mid-year budget. Multiple meetings with Rancho Calera, finalizing the environmental and hoping to bring something before the Council in May. Staff met with the local school Superintendents about the City's development projects. Met with bargaining units on labor negotiations. Met with consultants on bond delinquencies in the Greenhills District. There is about 3 years left on that bond. Met with the Compensation and Classification vendor; the compensation portion of the project is underway. Attended weekly High Speed Rail meetings; MCTC meeting for project prioritization. Staff and Police Department met over Mark43 software. Finally, has been in talks with County regarding fire station agreement.

Fire Chief Gaumnitz applied for an AFG grant to update their communication radios.

Public Works Director Rogers received notice from the State Water Resources Control Board that the City was awarded a Prop. 1 Implementation Grant for a Stormwater Drainage project for Sonoma Avenue in the amount of \$3,350,000. Since 2017, UC Davis has provided Technical Assistance under a prior Prop. 1 grant to get project funding and is currently working with staff to complete the funding documents in order to bring to Council for approval.

Project Sunset's engineering team met with our engineering team and water staff to discuss our water system and design standards.

I attended the MCTC Board meeting last week. During the meeting they recognized Chowchilla resident, and outgoing Measure T Citizen's Oversight Committee member, Emil Stagnaro, for his

service on that committee and I just want to say thank you him and that it was a pleasure working with him on that committee.

Rod, Mark, Jerry Jones and I had a meeting with Self-Help Enterprises to discuss CDBG Funds and upcoming applications. We plan on having a Public Hearing on March 9 for the potential submittal of planning funding applications for a Westside Storm Drain Project and a Curb Ramps Installation Project throughout town.

Public Works also drafted a no-smoking ordinance within public areas that is currently being reviewed by legal and is expected to come before council at our next meeting for consideration.

And finally, I want to thank Councilmember Kelly Smith for meeting with me last week to discuss Public Works and going on a tour of our Public Works' facilities.

Hamilton reported that with the approval of the incentives developers are now interested to get their project moving forward; receiving numerous applications for development agreements or final/tentative maps, others asking for fee developments. Met with former Chowchilla Auto Parts owner, with their project visibly moving forward. The Chamber of Commerce is proposing erecting a welcome sign near the railroad. A dry food processor is looking to locate in the City's industrial area near Avenue 24. This processor will employ approximately 30 to 40 people to start, up to 70 in the coming years.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR – Section 3**

- 3.1 Approval of the February 9, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes (McClendon)**
- 3.2 Consideration of the January 2021 Financials (Pruett)**
- 3.3 Consideration and Adoption of a City Council Resolution Declaring the Existence of a Public Nuisance by Virtue of Certain Weed Growth (Weed Abatement 2021) (Gaumnitz)**
- 3.4 Consideration of Approving Certain Amendments to the Council Rules of Procedure (McClendon)**

**Motion by Mayor Palmer, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barragan to Approve the Consent Calendar as Presented. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS – Section 4**

### **DEFERRED BUSINESS – Section 5**

### **NEW BUSINESS – Section 6**

- 6.1 Consideration of Approving the Madera County Economic Development Commission's (MCEDC) Proposed 2021-2022 Annual Basic Service Level Budget (Pruett)**

**Motion by Council Member Smith, Seconded by Mayor Palmer to Approve the MCEDC Proposed 2021-2022 Annual Basic Service Level Budget. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

**6.2 Consideration of a Deferred Improvement Agreement Between the City of Chowchilla and Self-Help Enterprises Regarding the Development of a Pro-Rate Portion of the Remaining Subdivision Improvements for Montgomery Farms Subdivision, Phase 1, Tract 05-07 (Hamilton)**

**Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Barragan, Seconded by Council Member Smith to Approve a Deferred Improvement Agreement Between the City of Chowchilla and Self-Help Enterprises Regarding the Development of a Pro-Rate Portion of the Remaining Subdivision Improvements for Montgomery Farms Subdivision, Phase 1, Tract 05-07. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

**6.3 General (Verbal) Update Regarding the State of Emergency and COVID-19; Direction and/or Action (Pruett)**


**ANNOUNCEMENTS – Section 7**

- FEB 26 ED RAY DAY
- MAR 9 CITY COUNCIL MEETING, 7PM, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS & VIA ZOOM
- MAR 17 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING, 7PM, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS & VIA ZOOM

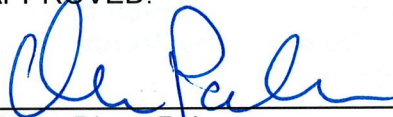
**ADJOURNMENT**

The February 23, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting Adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Joann McClendon, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED:

  
Mayor Diana Palmer