



CITY OF ATWATER

CITY COUNCIL

ACTION MINUTES

April 27, 2020

REGULAR SESSION: (Video Conferencing)

The City Council of the City of Atwater met in Regular Session this date at 6:00 PM via video conferencing in accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders N-29-20, which suspended certain requirements of the Brown Act; Mayor Creighton presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Present: *City Council Members Ambriz, Cale, Vierra, Mayor Pro Tem Raymond, Mayor Creighton*

Absent: *None*

Staff Present: *City Manager Waterman, City Attorney Splendorio, Police Chief Salvador, Deputy City Manager Del Real, Finance Director Jacobs-Hunter, Community Development Director Thompson, Public Works Superintendent Holsinger, Project Manager Lamerson, Deputy City Clerk Martin*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

The Pledge of Allegiance was not conducted.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was led by Pastor Alfred Perez.

SUBSEQUENT NEED ITEMS:

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS POSTED OR AS AMENDED:

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Raymond moved to approve the agenda as posted. The motion was seconded by City Council Member Cale and the vote was: Ayes: Raymond, Cale, Ambriz, Vierra, Creighton; Noes: None; Absent: None. The motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS:

Monthly verbal report by Merced County District 3 Supervisor McDaniel

Merced County District 3 Supervisor McDaniel provided the following updates:

- ***A lease amendment is in preparation for a \$2 million dollar investment at Castle.***
- ***Another business, an Escape Room, is opening at Castle.***
- ***Merced County is a finalist for statewide lead on a site just outside of Atwater that could bring over a \$100 million dollar investment if it's ultimately successful.***
- ***Merced County is working on an expansion project for Blaker Brewery.***

Rebecca Nanyonjo, Merced County Public Health Department Director, provided an update regarding current Merced County COVID-19 cases.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Raymond moved to approve the consent calendar as listed. The motion was seconded by City Council Member Cale and the vote was: Ayes: Ambriz, Cale, Raymond, Vierra, Creighton; Noes: None; Absent: None. The motion passed.

WARRANTS:

1. April 27, 2020

ACTION: Approval of warrants as listed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

2. March 31, 2020

ACTION: Approval of report as listed.

MINUTES: (City Council)

3. April 13, 2020 – Regular meeting

ACTION: Approval of minutes as listed.

MINUTES: (Planning Commission)

4. February 19, 2020 – Regular meeting

ACTION: Acceptance of minutes as listed.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY:

5. Claim No. 2020-2

ACTION: After consideration and investigation, it is staff's recommendation that Claim No. 2020-2 be rejected.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Waiving the first reading and introducing an ordinance amending Chapter 2.32 "Planning Commission," Section 2.32.090 "Powers and Duties," of the Atwater Municipal Code regarding Time Extension Requests (Community Development Director Thompson)

Community Development Director Thompson provided background information regarding the proposed ordinance. He expressed that approval of the proposed ordinance will save time for the staff and the applicants, as well as saving City resources.

Mayor Creighton opened the public hearing for this item.

No testimony was received, and Mayor Creighton closed the public hearing.

MOTION: City Council Member Vierra moved to waive the first reading and introduce Ordinance No. CS 1029 amending Chapter 2.32 "Planning Commission," Section 2.32.90 "Powers and Duties," of the Atwater Municipal Code regarding Time Extension Requests not to exceed six (6) months. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Raymond and the vote was: Ayes: Cale, Raymond, Vierra, Ambriz, Creighton; Noes: None; Absent: None. The motion passed.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE:

Discussion and possible direction regarding COVID-19

City Manager Waterman provided a summary of revised orders from Merced County for drive-in worships services, essential businesses, car washes, veterinary services, and business social distancing plans. She also announced that the 2020 Fourth of July celebration in Atwater has been cancelled.

City Attorney Splendorio reported that Bay Area counties are extending their shelter-in-place orders through the end of May. They have acted as a bellweather for decisions made by the State affecting all California counties and cities.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Notice to the public was read.

One comment was received via email regarding a personal property issue.

No other comments were received.

CITY COUNCIL MATTERS:

Discussion and authorization of a letter requesting modifications to the Governor's stay-at-home order and other possible direction

Mayor Creighton summarized the intent and content of the letter to be sent.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Raymond moved to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Governor, on behalf of the City, requesting modifications to the stay-at-home order to allow the City's local economy to be reopened. The motion was seconded by City Council Member Ambriz and the vote was: Ayes: Raymond, Cale, Ambriz, Vierra, Creighton; Noes: None; Absent: None. The motion passed.

City Council comments

City Council Member Vierra commented that she has received three contacts regarding lighting issues in the parking lot and that she forwarded the information to City Manager Waterman. She further advised that she asked City Manager Waterman to look into some other contacts she received regarding issues in the parks.

City Council Member Ambriz had nothing to report.

City Council Member Cale expressed his appreciation to the public for their efforts to wear masks and for keeping social distance when out in public.

Mayor Pro Tem Raymond commented that he has great confidence that we will all get over the COVID-19 crisis and come out stronger and better for it. He also advised that his aunt, Edna McAlister, passed away and he asked for prayers.

Mayor Creighton commented that the City parking lot located at Broadway and Fifth Street could use some handicapped parking stalls, and he requested that City Manager Waterman look into that issue. He also thanked the residents of the City of Atwater for their efforts regarding COVID-19. He reported that a prominent citizen, Celeste Jones, recently passed away. She was very active for many years

working with the youth of our community; she was much admired and loved by all.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Celeste Jones and Edna McAlister.

Mayor Creighton adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM.



JANELL MARTIN,
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

By: Lesa Rasmussen
PM Transcription Services