



CITY OF ATWATER

SPECIAL MEETING CITY COUNCIL

ACTION MINUTES

August 4, 2020

CALL TO ORDER:

The City Council of the City of Atwater met in Special Session this date at 1:06 PM in the City Council Chambers located at the Atwater Civic Center, 750 Bellevue Road, Atwater, California; Mayor Creighton presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge of allegiance was led by Council Member Ambriz.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was led by Mayor Pro Tem Raymond.

ROLL CALL:

Present: City Council Members (all via teleconference) Ambriz, Cale, Vierra, Mayor Pro Tem Raymond, Mayor Creighton

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Waterman, City Attorney Splendorio, Deputy City Manager Del Real, Finance Director Jacobs-Hunter (via teleconference), CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Slate, Public Works Superintendent Holsinger, Public Works/Community Development Director Thompson, Information Technology Manager Lamerson, Deputy City Clerk Martin

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Notice to the public was read.

Two people spoke addressing their concerns and recommendations towards implementing and administering the new proposed tax.

No one else came forward to speak.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS/UPDATES:

Resolution calling for and consolidating a General Municipal Election to be held on November 3, 2020 imposing a Transactions and Use Tax in the City of Atwater; and introducing an ordinance amending and restating Chapter 3.45 "Atwater Transactions and Use Tax" of the Atwater Municipal Code

City Manager Waterman provided background information regarding the proposed tax measure.

City Council Member Vierra commented on her support for placing the tax measure on the November ballot due to the concern of the public safety tax expiring in 2023.

City Council Member Cale addressed his concerns regarding the City placing a tax measure on the ballot. He also commented that the Oversight Committee for the current Public Safety Tax should review the proposed tax measure prior to the City Council making the final decision.

Mayor Pro Tem Raymond discussed his opposition regarding placing a tax measure on the November ballot, and commented that if a new poll were to be conducted during the pandemic, it would show different results than the poll being referenced.

City Manager Waterman explained the necessity of the increased half cent tax to cover the rising PERS cost along with maintaining the public safety services and resources.

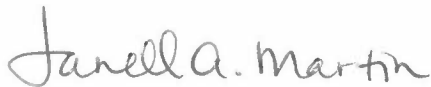
City Council Member Ambriz introduced the idea of implementing a tax measure at a rate of three quarters of a cent rather than at the proposed rate of a full one cent to compromise between the City's need to cover its rising cost and not making too big of a tax increase to the community.

Mayor Creighton entertains for a motion by the City Council. No motion was taken, and the motion dies for placing a tax measure on the November ballot for a general sales tax at a one cent rate. Mayor Creighton commented that consideration of a replacement to the Public Safety Tax can be reintroduced at a later election to avoid a rushed decision on a new tax.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Creighton adjourned the meeting in memory of Christopher Giesy.

The Special Meeting adjourned at 1:43 PM.



JANELL MARTIN,
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

By: Richard Vang
Deputy City Clerk