

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR
AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY
MEETING AGENDA
April 16, 2020**

1. CALL TO ORDER 6:00PM *Meeting conducted via teleconference.*

Council Members Present: Lander, Stolz, Adkisson, Singleton

Others Present: City Manager Marissa Trejo, City Attorney Mario Zamora, Chief of Police Darren Blevins, Assistant City Manager Sean Brewer, Financial Services Director Jasmin Bains, City Treasurer James Vosburg, Senior Administrative Analyst Mercedes Garcia, Fire Chief Dwayne Gabriel and Assistant to the City Manager and City Clerk Shannon Jensen

Council Members Absent: Ramsey

Others Absent: None

*Motion by Stolz, Second by Singleton to Approve the Agenda for the Meeting of April 16, 2020. Motion **Approved** by a 4/0 Majority Voice Vote. (Ramsey – Absent)*

2. AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS (NONE)

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

The following comments were read by the City Attorney towards the end of the meeting:

Mrs. Mary Jones commented that the Hospital Director said people should write letters directly to the County and to the State to reopen the Hospital. People had written that they were not in favor of the Hospital reopening because they were afraid of COVID-19 patients being seen there.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS (NONE)

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve MINUTES - July 11, 2019 (Amended - Special)
2. Approve MINUTES - August 1, 2019
3. Quarterly Expenditure Report for Quarter Ending March 31, 2020
4. Introduce and Waive First Reading of Ordinance No. 838 (Informal Bidding Procedures)

5. Approve Resolution No. 3961 Establishing Maintenance Responsibility for Sewer Laterals
6. Consideration and Approval of a Bid Award for the Cambridge Ave Signalization Project
7. Authorize Purchase of Two (2) New Trucks for Public Works and Utilities
8. Authorize Purchase and Installation of Three (3) Electrolytic Cells for the Hypochlorite On-Site Generators at the Water Treatment Plant
9. Waive Second Reading and Adopt Ordinance No. 837 (COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency)
10. Direct City Manager to Suspend all Hiring and Promotions during Proclaimed Local Emergency
11. Direct City Manager to Use the \$9,000 Saved from Eliminating Council Travel and Training for FY 2020 to Assist Residents Impacted by COVID-19 with City Utility Bills

Councilman Singleton pulled Item No. 5.11 for discussion.

Councilman Singleton stated he understands COVID-19 is rampant but we are not shutting anyone's utilities off. He believes any money saved may be needed later. We do not know when this is going to be over or if it will restart in the fall. I feel that we should maintain what we have. We just do not know how far this is going to go and we know we are going to be short on revenues.

Councilman Adkisson stated this was money that was already budgeted and would just be redirected. It is only \$9,000, but it may help 25 people. Yes, we are not turning anyone off, but as soon as we get out of this emergency we will be. There must be something that we can do to help people, whether it is individuals who have lost their jobs... Just something.

Councilman Singleton said we could, but we just do not have that leeway. I we do not know the future of this. The government is trying to provide more for people who need assistance, like unemployment and the stimulus checks which are already out.

Councilman Adkisson commented they ran out of money on the payment protection plan today so there is no more money for that. I spoke to a business owner yesterday who said they made \$9.00. How will these businesses come out of this when the pandemic is over? They will be so far live behind and they will never be able to catch up. How can we expect them to pay their gas bill when they are only making \$9.00? How can we expect them to continue to create revenue for us when this is all over? The City runs on the revenue they produce for us. Mr. Adkisson asked the Finance Director what our cushion was before all of this started?

Finance Director Jasmin Bains stated is was about \$126,000 to \$130,000.

Councilman Adkisson feels we need to do something to show the people we care.

Councilman Singleton stated we do care, but we must protect the City. We just have no idea where this is going to go. I am concerned we will overextend ourselves.

Councilwoman Stolz asked for clarification, are we talking about the residents or the businesses?

Councilman Adkisson stated he was referring to both residents, and businesses.

Councilman Singleton pointed out the item states the assistance would be for residents.

Councilman Adkisson said, I see that, but I asked for it to be for both and requested it updated to reflect that.

Mario Zamora read a question from the public; would the assistance with utilities also include electricity?

Mayor Lander stated no, that rests with PG&E and we do not have any jurisdiction over what PG&E will do.

Mayor Lander stated his business has been closed for a month now and he still has on-going bills. However, if it continues, I will be in deep trouble. Mr. Lander understands that a lot of Coalinga businesses are suffering. Especially people in the hair, restaurant, and bar industries. There are provisions being made by the government and the State of California, plus there are the stimulus checks. But will it carry them all the way through? I personally had a difficult time getting the unemployment thing done. As you said Adam, the money has run out as of today on that one program, however it is my understanding they are going to implement another one. He wanted to assure everyone that we are not shutting anyone off and we are providing an opportunity for them to pay their utility bill further down the road.

City Manager Marissa Trejo stated, that is correct.

Councilman Singleton commented, at the end of this we see that we have positive revenue to do this then I would be gladly in on it. I just do not want us to overextend ourselves. We are still in the early stage of this and fall is right around the corner. We do not know what fall will bring us, it could be a stronger strain.

Mayor Lander said, you are absolutely right.

*Motion by Adkisson to Approve Consent Calendar Item No. 5.11 Approving the Use of the \$9,000 Saved from Eliminated Council Travel and Training for FY 2020 to Assist Residents and Businesses Impacted by COVID-19 with Utility Bills. Motion **Failed** from lack of a Second.*

12. Declare Four Fire Department Ambulances as Surplus and Approve Disposition

Councilman Adkisson pulled Item No. 5.12 for discussion.

Councilman Adkisson asked what the plan was for the revenue received from the sale of the vehicles?

Fire Chief Dwayne Gabriel said he believed the money would go back into the General Fund.

13. Extend Eviction Moratorium an Additional Thirty Days

14. Public Works & Utilities Monthly Report for March 2020

15. 2020 First Quarter Police Report

Motion by Adkisson, Second by Singleton to Approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 5.1 through 5.10 and 5.12 through 5.15 (excludes Item No. 5.11). Motion Approved by a Roll-Call 4/0 Majority Vote. (Ramsey – Absent).

6. ORDINANCE PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion, Direction and Potential Action regarding Providing Additional Uniform Allowance to First Responders
Marissa Trejo, City Manager

City Manager Marissa Trejo explained this item was requested as a Future Agenda Item by Councilwoman Stolz. Mrs. Trejo gave a brief overview of the item and stated her recommendation for approval. The additional allowance will help minimize our First Responders exposure to COVID-19. This would be a one-time unbudgeted cost of approximately \$13,500 for the Fire Department and a one-time unbudgeted cost of approximately \$10,200 for the Police Department, for a total unbudgeted cost to the General Fund of approximately \$23,700.

Councilwoman Stolz commented there has been a lot of discussion on the citizens and businesses, but it seems like we have neglected our First Responders. They are our front line to keeping us safe and we need to do all that we can to help them out.

Councilman Adkisson inquired whether anyone knew what the evidence was with regard to the corona virus living on clothing?

The Council was unaware of the answer.

Councilman Adkisson stated between Police and Fire we are already paying \$53,500 per year on uniform allowance. The Police receive \$100 per month and Fire a little more than that. Both Police and Fire have received raises and we say we cannot afford \$9,000, but we will increase their uniform allowance to \$77,200 per year. We are being tone-deaf to everything else that is going on. I believe they have enough money to clean their uniforms for \$100 per month. It is not that we are not already paying them a uniform allowance.

Councilwoman Stolz asked the City Manager, hypothetically, if one of our First Responders gets sick with the virus, and hopefully does not pass away, but what is the cost to the City if something like this happens?

Councilman Adkisson said if someone gets sick they are most likely going to get it...

Councilwoman Stolz, I did not ask you the question, I directed my question to the City Manager.

Councilman Adkisson said, well I am a councilmember so I can jump in if I want to. I'm looking at the Center for Disease Control's website now and it says the most likely way to get the virus is through droplets. They are not going to get sick because they took it home on their clothing.

City Manager Marissa Trejo answered, if one of our First Responders contracted COVID-19 through employment and it was considered a workman's compensation claim, we would pay out the first \$25,000 which we do on every Worker's Compensation claim. That would come from the General Fund. After the first \$25,000 then our Worker's Compensation Insurance would kick in.

Councilwoman Stolz expressed concern over spending a onetime increase now of \$23,700 or possibly paying \$25,000 multiple times if our First Responders get sick.

Councilman Adkisson said, but we are already spending \$53,000 on uniforms.

Councilwoman Stolz said, you just don't get my point.

Councilman Adkisson said, and neither do you.

Councilwoman Stolz said, I'm not in law enforcement so I don't know what it entails to clean their uniforms, but I do know that when I see them out dealing with the public within 3 to 4 feet, if not closer, I feel like they need more than what they are being given in order to keep them safe.

Councilman Adkisson asked, what I do not understand is what you think they are not getting?

Councilwoman Stolz stated, she spoke with an officer today who mentioned he had to buy his own hand sanitizer. I was embarrassed that the City is not providing that.

Councilman Adkisson said, hand sanitizer is not a uniform.

Councilwoman Stolz said, you are missing the point Adam.

Councilman Singleton stated, my California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation ("CDCR") uniforms are two pieces, a shirt and pants which is roughly \$8.50. Me being overly concerned about it, I have mine dry cleaned each time. I also take the same steps Mr. Trejo takes when he gets off work. Whether I am at a hospital or on the COVID-19 unit with inmates, I always come in through the garage, strip everything off and immediately wash before coming in. Unfortunately, it comes with the territory. I cannot say that I am not going to go sit on an inmate who has COVID-19, that's my job. I do not think the Governor is going to add additional pay for uniforms because you would also need to include the medical staff. That is a big ocean for him to dive into. I can see where you are coming from Tanya, as far as the cleanliness of uniforms, but I also see where Adam is at. I do not think they need additional pay for that since they already receive an allowance. CDCRs get theirs every November. Unfortunately, we probably use it Christmas. It needs to be put to the correct use.

Mrs. Mary Jones commented that the virus dies at 133 degrees for 15 minutes. Why can't they put it in a dryer and kill anything that way?

Police Chief Darren Blevins stated he had personally picked up 242 bottles of hand sanitizer from the City of Mendota last week and has been readily available for City employees to use.

Mayor Lander said, that is correct. I saw Chief Blevins handing them out.

*Motion by Stolz, to Approve an Additional Uniform Allowance to First Responders. Motion **Failed** from lack of a Second.*

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager's Announcements:

None

Council Member's Announcements:

None

Mayor's Announcements:

Mayor Lander announced he received a phone call from a Megan at Chevron who said Chevron will be donating gas cards to First Responders of the Police and Fire Departments. The gas cards will be distributed to all personnel in the Police and Fire Departments through the Coalinga Chamber of Commerce within the next week or two.

Mayor Lander announced, he, Marissa, and Ron Ramsey had a teleconference with Assemblyman Arambula and the next day a teleconference with Representative TJ Cox. We talked about the virus of course and the hospital reopening. TJ Cox was especially positive and said he would put us in touch with the right people as well as contacting people to provide them with our information. They were both made aware of the how desperately we are trying to get this open. They kept talking about economic recovery and all the great things for the economic wellbeing of the City of Coalinga, which is all true. We need all that, but I told him we are losing people in our community because we do not have a hospital. I do not think it fell on deaf ears this time.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. CLOSED SESSION

1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS – Government Code 54957.6. CITY NEGOTIATORS: City Manager, Marissa Trejo and City Attorney, Mario Zamora. EMPLOYEE (ORGANIZATION): Coalinga's International Association of Firefighters

10. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

None

11. ADJOURNMENT 6:32PM

Ron Lander, Mayor

Shannon Jensen, City Clerk

June 18, 2020

Date