



## MINUTES

### City Council Meeting ~ via Zoom

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

**Tuesday, February 9, 2021**

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

#### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

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

---

#### CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions and/or Deletions:

**Motion by Council Member Chavez, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barragan to Approve the Agenda as Presented. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

#### PUBLIC ADDRESS – CLOSED SESSION

None.

#### CLOSED SESSION – 6:00 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: 2
- 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: 2
- 3. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS** – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6  
Agency Representatives: City Administrator Rod Pruett  
Employee Organizations: Chowchilla Police Officer Association, Chowchilla City Employees Association, Chowchilla City Office Employee Association, Mid Management/Confidential Association, Unrepresented Employees

#### OPEN SESSION – 7:10 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION:** Stacy Tennesen

**CLOSED SESSION REPORT:** The City Council will reconvene into Closed Session after the Announcements are made.

**PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOP - Section 1****PUBLIC ADDRESS**

Jeff Christensen praised the Chowchilla Police and Public Works Departments. Just before Christmas there was a lot of graffiti visible off highway 99, northbound. Chowchilla Police Department was notified, and the next morning Public Works was busy removing the reported graffiti.

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

Legislative, Collaborative Agency, Ad Hoc

Mayor Pro Tem Barragan reported out on the Chowchilla Elementary School District Zoom meeting; very emotional testimony from the parents to the teachers.

Council Member Smith thanked the Council again for appointing him.

Mayor Palmer noticed dated signs; attended shipping containers ad hoc meeting with Council Member Chavez. She attended the Prison Advisory Board meeting where she learned that many prison staff members passed away from COVID; the prison give thousands to the schools and community lately and thanked them for that. She attended the Chowchilla Community Task Force meeting. She was appointed to Cal Cities Public Safety Task Force; spoke with Joe S. about boat races, if there was a probability that Chowchilla may host this year.

**2.2 STAFF VERBAL REPORTS**

City Administrator, opened labor negotiations as the current MOU's expire on June 30, 2021; attended a couple of Project Sunset meetings with staff relating to detail design of the building and project as a whole. The other Project Sunset meeting was with the company's executives discussing all things related to CEQA. A workshop regarding the project is forthcoming. He attended the League of California Cities City Managers virtual Conference that lasted a few days. Staff met with Mr Thiel of some projects coming down the pipeline. Met with potential food processing company who wants to move to Chowchilla near the water tank. Met with sales tax consultants over quarterly reports and there is an increase in sales tax revenue to the City. Also met with boat manufacturer in town who may help with the boat dock construction at Berenda Reservoir. Staff completing special district reconciliations where some discrepancies were found that were made as far back as 2001.

Police Chief Riviere thanked Mr. Christiansen for his positive comment.

Fire Chief Gaumnitz met with Project Sunset fire engineers; attended the annual (school) District Safety meeting with Chief Riviere.

Public Works Director Rogers reported that the faded street sign replacements have been ordered; and have recently identified several missing and faded signs that need replacing and have already placed our order for them.

Update on the Police Department Security Fence Project – Engineering completed the RFP process for architectural and Geotech services and are now contracting with them. Geotech should be onsite within next couple weeks to do borings for soils report. Staff have marked out the site and submitted an Underground Service Alert (U.S.A.) request so that utilities can locate their utilities so they are not bored into. Other than that, the project is moving forward on schedule.

Concerning the Ave 24 ½ Shoulder Paving Project, staff received notice from Caltrans that the Cooperative Work Agreement extension request that was submitted, per Council direction while we looked at potential obligations from a development agreement, would not be granted. As a result, funding for the project will expire in June.

Staff met with the Chowchilla Historical Society at the Old Library. They started their survey of the facility and discussed their desire to get it recognized as an historical site and their plans for improvements and potential future operation.

Met with Mid-Valley Disposal to discuss the Annual Spring Curbside Cleanup Event. It is tentatively scheduled for mid-April, dates to come later. In addition to that event, discussion was on possibility of occasional one-time drop off events related to storm event cleanups and we discussed Fresno Mayor Dyer's Beautify Fresno Volunteer Initiative and the possibility of adapting it to Chowchilla. I have a follow up meeting with them this week get additional information.

Community and Economic Development Director Hamilton reported that staff received notice that the City submitted a successful CDBG Economic Development application and have been working with developers providing estimates for future projects.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR – Section 3**

- 3.1 Approval of the January 26, 2021 City Council / Redevelopment Successor Agency Meeting Minutes (McClendon)**
- 3.2 Approval of the February 1, 2021 Special City Council Meeting Minutes (McClendon)**
- 3.3 Review of January 2021 Check Register (Pruett)**

**Motion by Council Member Ahmed, Seconded by Council Member Smith to Approve the Consent Calendar as Presented. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS – Section 4**

- 4.1 Consideration and Adoption of a City Council Resolution Approving an Application for Funding and the Execution of a Grant Agreement and any Amendments Thereto From the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program: Coronavirus Response Rounds 2 and 3 (CDBG CV2 and CV3) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Dated December 18, 2020; and,**

**Consideration and Adoption of a Resolution Approving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Economic Development Loan Program Guidelines (Hamilton)**

Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

No one came forward for or against the item.

Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

**Motion by Council Member Ahmed, Seconded by Council Member Chavez to Approve Council Resolution #10-21, Approving an Application for Funding and the Execution of a Grant Agreement and any Amendments Thereto From the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program: Coronavirus Response Rounds 2 and 3 (CDBG CV2 and CV3) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Dated December 18, 2020. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

**Motion by Council Member Ahmed, Seconded by Council Member Chavez to Approve Council Resolution #11-21, Approving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Economic Development Loan Program Guidelines. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

#### **DEFERRED BUSINESS – Section 5**

#### **NEW BUSINESS – Section 6**

**6.1 Consideration and Adoption of a City Council Resolution Temporarily Reducing all Residential Development Fees for a Period of 24 Months Beginning July 1, 2021 and Ending June 30, 2023, in Which all Residential Development Impact Fees Shall be Reduced by Either 50% or 25% to Incentivize Construction of New Residential Units (Hamilton)**

City Clerk McClendon read an email of support of this item into record from Betsy McGovern-Garcia of Self-Help Enterprises.

**Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Barragan, Seconded by Council Member Smith to Approve Council Resolution #12-21, Temporarily Reducing all Residential Development Fees for a Period of 24 Months Beginning July 1, 2021 and Ending June 30, 2023, in Which all Residential Development Impact Fees Shall be Reduced by Either 50% or 25% to Incentivize Construction of New Residential Units. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

**6.2 Council Direction and Action on Whether to Terminate or Continue the Joint Powers Agreement with Madera County Economic Development Commission (MCEDC) (Pruett)**

Spoke:

Bobby Kahn, MCEDC Executive Director

It was the consensus of the City Council to continue with the JPA between MCEDC and the City.

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

City still in purple tier; however, we are getting lower numbers weekly. Vaccinations now open for 65+ group. Trying to get a mobile vaccination clinic in town after the last one was cancelled due

to the low number of actual vaccinations available. Save Mart will begin limited vaccine distribution.

**CLOSED SESSION REPORT:**

**Motion by Mayor Palmer, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barragan to initiate litigation versus the California High Speed Rail Authority if an agreement regarding extension of the current tolling agreement cannot be reached. Motion passed unanimously with Mayor Palmer, Mayor Pro Tem Barragan and Council Members Ahmed, Chavez and Smith voting "yes".**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – Section 7**

FEB 15            PRESIDENTS DAY – CITY OFFICES CLOSED  
FEB 17            PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING, 7PM VIA ZOOM CANCELLED

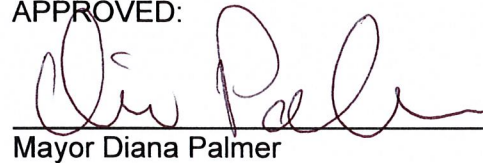
**ADJOURNMENT**

The February 9, 2021 City Council Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joann McClendon, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Diana Palmer