

PRESENT: Councilmembers Mendoza, Ortiz, G. Gonzalez Jr. & Martinez

OTHERS: Lara, Waters, Marquez, Zacarias, Farley & Student Representative Keller

ABSENT: Ray

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rita Razo, 100 E. Sierra, Woodlake – Ms. Razo expressed the following concerns: when the Self-Help houses are built on the property at Wutchumna and Valencia, will they also install sidewalks? There is currently no sidewalk and asked if the City would be responsible for adding a sidewalk on Valencia. Also, there are some areas on Valencia that need repair regarding water drainage, will the City repair this as well. City Administrator Lara stated Self-Help will be responsible for the sidewalk, curb and gutter on Valencia and the City will be responsible for Sierra and both will follow ADA guidelines. City Administrator Lara asked that Ms. Razo stay in contact with City Employee Waters to discuss any further concerns she may have regarding the Self-Help housing project. Ms. Razo asked why some of the benches on Valencia are facing the wrong direction. City Administrator Lara stated the benches are not facing the wrong way, they are been installed to meet the ADA requirements.

Chief Marquez introduced a new contract employee, Officer Clemente Clinton. City Clerk Zacarias administered Oath of Office. Mayor Mendoza welcomed Officer Clinton.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR –ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Request Approval of the Consent Calendar Action Items (IV. A-C)

- A. Action: Approval of Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 23, 2015
- B. Action: Approval of Warrants
- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of February Monthly Report and Investments

ON A MOTION BY MARTINEZ, SECOND BY ORTIZ IT WAS VOTED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Information: Presentation by Allison Pierce, Program Administrator for the Tulare County Board of Supervisors regarding LEAD project. Ms., Peirce gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the LEAD project. Lead promotes youth leadership and inspires students to make a difference in their community. The program is open to all high school juniors and seniors. Students must complete an application and the selection process is conducted in September with 34-36 students selected from the panel. The students participate in sessions twice a month where they have the opportunity to listen to college professors, community leaders and other professionals in various fields. The participants are also asked to develop a service project in their community. By the end of the program there was

a significant change in the student's confidence and ability to overcome problems at school or work and also how to properly manage finances. Councilmember Ortiz asked who the leaders of this program are. Ms. Pierce stated they are community leaders, which makes a difference with the students because then they know who they are. This program is completely funded and there is no cost to the community. City Administrator Lara asked if Ms. Pierce would be the contact for our community. She stated yes. City Administrator Lara stated city staff will reach out to the high school with Ms. Pierce's information. Mayor Mendoza also asked that this information be placed on our City Facebook page and website.

B. Information: Potential Solar Project

City Employee Waters reported the following: the City has had preliminary conversations with SolarCity regarding the installation of solar panels immediately west of the City's Wastewater Treatment Facilities. If the City elects to go forward with the project then the City will enter into a Power Purchase Agreement with Solar City. The agreement would require SolarCity to install and maintain the system and would lock in the City's electric rates for 20 years. At the end of the 20 year agreement the City could elect to purchase the system, renew the contract for up to two 5-year increments, or get the system removed at no cost. SolarCity projects a cost savings of \$824,386 to \$867,976 over the course of 20 years by adding solar panels. City Staff will continue to work with SolarCity and determine if the project would be of benefit to the City and the residents of Woodlake. City Attorney Farley asked council to proceed carefully. The savings may be incorrect and also the Power Purchase agreement may not be favorable to the City.

E. Information: Water Updates

City Employee Waters reported the following: the City of Woodlake has a four-stage plan for Water Conservation Regulations. The purpose of the regulations is to prohibit water waste at all times, while adjusting water consumption by residents as water supply becomes less available. The City currently is on Stage 4 of its Water Conservation Regulations. City Staff is considering adding additional stages or changing the structure of the City's Water Conservation Regulations that would further encourage water conservation. The City could consider further reducing watering days down to 1 day per week or the City could introduce a system where lawn watering days are reduced or increased based on the month. The City may also consider adding a stage (Stage 5) that would prohibit lawn watering entirely. Councilmember Martinez asked if any other City is at this stage. City Employee Waters stated Orange Cove currently allows no watering. He stated Stage 5 would apply to all residents, schools and businesses, no one would be exempt. Mayor Mendoza invited anyone in the audience to speak on this issue.

Lino Moran, 612 N. Palm, Woodlake – Mr. Moran stated there will be some residents will continue to try and get away with the water waste. He asked that staff be more aware of this and anyone in violation of water waste should be cited.

Mayor Mendoza agreed and stated enforcement must be strict.

Armida Martinez – Mrs. Martinez asked if City can require for any new housing construction coming in that pipes be installed to allow for grey water for watering purposes.

Rita Razo, 100 E. Sierra, Woodlake – Ms. Razo asked if the proposed water restrictions will affect the cemetery because they currently water a lot and their water is always overflowing in to the street. City Administrator Lara stated the cemetery has their own well and is not required to follow the city water restrictions. Mayor Mendoza stated that although the cemetery has their own well, we all need to do our part. He encouraged everyone to tell their friends and neighbors that this is happening and we all need to stop wasting water. Councilmember Martinez stated we are required to have meters installed by 2020. City Administrator Lara stated the water meters will be installed and fully operational by July 1, 2016. Councilmember Ortiz stated she had visited Gilroy recently and was told by a resident that they currently pay \$159.00 a month for water.

Lupe Pinon, 598 W. Mt. View, Woodlake – Ms. Pinon stated for those residents here tonight, they will not waste water, but she worries for those not attending these meetings. City Administrator Lara stated residents have been warned and are being cited.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Information: Items from Staff

City Administrator Lara – reminded everyone about the Prop. 218 hearing scheduled for April 13th at 6:30 pm. The groundbreaking for the roundabout has been scheduled for April 3rd 10 am.

Student Representative Keller – reported Kid’s Day was March 3rd and many participated for the great cause. Woodlake volunteers raised \$2620 for Kid’s Day, which was more than what was raised last year. Woodlake came in second last year for the most raised by a small city. The Woodlake FFA team competed at U.C. Davis. They took 3rd in the computer competition and 5th in the small engines. The high school band competed in Porterville and placed second.

City Clerk Zacarias – reminded councilmembers to file their Form 700 by April 1, 2015.

B. Information: Items from Council Members

Councilmember Ortiz – stated although water is a big concern, she believes residents will figure it out and understand the restrictions.

Councilmember Gonzalez – reported he was happy to see crossing guard volunteers at Castle Rock School. Spring sports are starting and he is excited to see, Softball, Baseball and Soccer begin. Congratulations to all the award winners from last week’s banquet.

Councilmember Martinez – congratulated the award winners from last week’s banquet.

C. Request from Council Members for Future Agenda Items

VII. CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL--EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9

Coa v. City of Woodlake, et al

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

As provided in the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code sections 54950 et seq., the Governing Board may meet in closed session with members of its staff and its attorneys. These sessions are not open to the public and may not be attended by members of the public. The matters the Council will meet on in closed session are identified below or are those matters appropriately identified in open session as requiring immediate attention and arising after the posting of the agenda. Any public reports of action taken in the closed session will be made in accordance with Government Code sections 54957.1

MEETING MOVED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 7:45 PM
MEETING RECONVENED AT 8:00 PM

On a motion by Ortiz, second by Gonzalez it was voted to authorize City Administrator Lara to proceed with negotiations but not exceed recommended amount.

VIII. ADJOURN

The next scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at City Council Chambers located at 350 North Valencia Boulevard, Woodlake, CA 93286.

City Council:
Rudy Mendoza - Mayor
Frances Ortiz - Vice Mayor
Chuck Ray - Councilmember
Greg Gonzalez Jr. - Councilmember
Jose L. Martinez - Councilmember

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Submitted by,

Irene Zacarias
City Clerk