

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

OTHERS: Lara, Marquez, Zamora, Sandoval & Zacarias

ABSENT: Lopez

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Manroop Turna, 489 Yokut, Woodlake – Miss Turna, a student at Woodlake Valley Middle School (WVMS), reported her concerns regarding a weed shop in the City of Woodlake. She stated they had Red Ribbon Week at WVMS and had announced to students that they should not do drugs in their life. She believes if a weed shop comes into town, it would increase the chances of kids doing drugs. She stated Woodlake would look bad to anyone visiting the town because people would be walking down the streets smoking weed or doing other drugs. She stated the Visalia Times Delta reported the city could generate from \$350,000 to \$700,000 from a 22,000-square foot cultivation space and believes money is the only reason for this. She stated the people in Woodlake love El Charro and if a drug shop is opened, El Charro would be gone. She is also concerned that adults would buy the drugs and give them out to children

Jacqueline Carranza, 456 Ascolano, Woodlake – Miss Carranza, a student at Woodlake Valley Middle School reported her concerns regarding medical drug dispensers in Woodlake. She stated Woodlake is known for being a safe place but this will change if the city inserts a dispenser because it will attract people who use the substance. No one will feel safe walking around drug addicts. She stated people will stop taking their kids to the park and Woodlake will soon become a crime scene just like Ivanhoe. She stated if the city allows these type of businesses, the city is saying its ok to do drugs.

Michelle Guizar Lopez, 420 Yokut, Woodlake - Miss Lopez, a student at Woodlake Valley Middle School reported her concerns regarding drugs in Woodlake. She reported Paulina (who is the daughter of the owners of El Charro) stated their business was closed by City Councilmembers to allow the sale of medicational drugs. She also stated Lidia's Ice Cream Shop was closed for the same reason. She stated if the sale of drugs is allowed in the city, it will take away the friendly and beautiful community we currently have. She stated she saw happy children playing in the park and they felt safe. Council will take all this away by bringing drug addicts into the community allowing them to destroy everything. She believes it will not be safe for children to walk outside. She does not accept these drugs.

Mayor Mendoza reported El Charro was not closed by City Councilmembers to allow for a cannabis business to take over their building. The owners of El Charro closed their business in Woodlake because the building they were renting was not ADA accessible.

Student Representative Sandoval thanked the Woodlake Valley Middle School students for their presentations.

Nicky Henderson, 20810 Avenue 332, Woodlake – Mrs. Henderson reported that although they do not live in the city limits, her daughter was there to support her friends.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR –ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- A. Action: Approval of Minutes of the regular meeting held on October 9, 2017
- B. Action: Approval of Warrants
- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Continuation of the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Drought Emergency for the City of Woodlake
- D. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Reaffirm the Approval of Emergency Expenditures for the Development and Implementation of the City of Woodlake Well Project

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

V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Information: Sales Tax Measure and Cannabis Measure Updates in the City of Woodlake

City Administrator Lara reported the following: The City of Woodlake City Council instructed staff to consider the potential of placing a local sales tax measure and a cannabis tax measure on the November 7, 2017 ballot. As part of the process, Council requested the creation of a Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) that would represent the community at large and give feedback to Council about potential projects, policies and procedures. As part of outreach efforts, staff engaged the public by putting a survey together with general questions about sales taxes in the City of Woodlake. The City received nearly two hundred survey responses.

At the July 24, 2017 City Council meeting, after multiple public hearings and public outreach, Council voted unanimously to put a 1 percent sales tax measure on the November 7, 2017 ballot. If the measure, known as Measure R passes, the revenues will be used to improve quality of life; parks and recreation programs; neighborhood police patrols; gang prevention programs; street maintenance; lighting, landscaping, and trails; and other essential services. The tax will undergo independent audits and have a citizens' oversight committee. Council's goal is to improve parks and recreation and public safety with the tax revenue increase.

At the same meeting Council voted to put a measure, known as Measure S, on the ballot that would impose a local general tax on cannabis businesses at a rate not exceeding \$25 per square foot (annually adjusted by CPI) or 10% of gross receipts, to maintain essential public safety and general City services for Woodlake residents. The tax will undergo independent audits and have a citizens' oversight committee. Council's goal is to have those that participate in the cannabis industry or purchase cannabis products to pay additional taxes to help with public safety, education, and youth prevention programs.

If the Sales Tax Measure was to pass on the November 2017 ballot the measure is projected to create \$430,000 annually in revenues. If the Cannabis Measure was to pass on the November 2017 ballot the measure is projected to create an undetermined amount of revenues.

- B. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Receive Public Comments, Waive 1st Reading, and Set Second Reading date for Ordinances Amending Chapter 1.12 Administrative Fines and Penalties, Chapter 1.13 Administrative Appeals, Chapter 2.36 Purchasing Systems, Chapter 2.24 Planning Commission, Chapter 2.16 Elections, Chapter 5.04 Business Licenses Generally, Chapter 6.08 Animals Generally, Chapter 12.12 Curbs, Gutters and Sidewalks, Chapter 10.04 City Traffic Code, Chapter 17.54 Site Plan Review, Chapter 17.48 Conditional Use Permits of the Woodlake Municipal Code – **Public Hearing**

City Employee Waters reported the following: the City of Woodlake is undergoing a review of the City's ADA self-evaluation and transition plan and concurrently reviewing the City ordinances to identify potential barriers in policy regarding accessibility needs for persons with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a comprehensive civil rights law, requiring a legislative mandate on municipalities to develop programs, services, policies, and facilities with accessibility for persons with disabilities in mind. The City is currently reviewing and updating the ADA self-evaluation and transition plan. The ADA self-evaluation and transition plan is part of a federal mandate designed to establish compliance with the Americans with Disability Act. All presented amendments aim to ensure that city ordinances support compliance with federal ADA regulations, and therefore further enhance the accessibility for person with disabilities to participate in city service, programs, and access city facilities. Mayor Mendoza opened the meeting for public comment.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED 6:45 PM

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED 6:45 PM

ON A MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY G. GONZALEZ JR., IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION, RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS, WAIVE 1ST READING AND SET SECOND READING DATE. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Enter Into a Purchase Agreement with Self Help Communities 1, LLC for the Property with APN NO. 061-100-085-000
City Administrator Lara reported the following: the County of Tulare notified the City of Woodlake that they would be selling the tax-defaulted property (APN No. 061-100-085-000) that the City has legal interest in, owned by Scot and Carolyn Townsend. The City has an obligation to protect its initial investment in the property and in order to do that would have to pay the outstanding taxes and lien(s) on the property. The City paid the outstanding taxes and fees on the property in the amount of one hundred thirty-eight thousand eight hundred and ninety-three dollars (\$138,893.00). Self Help Enterprises purchased an outstanding lien on the property in the amount of fifty thousand seven hundred and fifty-six dollars and fifty-three cents (\$50,756.53). After the City acquired the property it began to look at its options to recover its costs and assign the outstanding 95-HOME loan on the property. Self Help Enterprises showed interest in assuming the note on the property and reimbursing the City for any expenses it incurred during the acquisition of the property, subject to legal review. Self Help also purchased an outstanding lien on the property in the amount of fifty thousand seven hundred and fifty-six dollars and fifty-three cents (\$50,756.53) to clear all exterior debt on the property.

Self Help has requested that the City's 95-HOME loan and deferred development fees in the amount of nine hundred and eighty-seven thousand three hundred and twenty-one dollars (\$987,321.00) subordinate to their proposed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) rehabilitation loan, the outstanding lien on the property in the amount of fifty thousand seven hundred and fifty-six dollars and fifty-three cents (\$50,756.53), and their reimbursement to the City in the amount

of one hundred thirty-eight thousand eight hundred and ninety-three dollars (\$138,893.00) for outstanding taxes and fees.

Betsy McGovern Garcia, a representative from Self-Help Enterprises stated they enjoy working with the City of Woodlake and appreciate the relationship they have established.

ON A MOTION BY G. GONZALEZ JR., SECOND BY MARTINEZ, IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH SELF-HELP ENTERPRISES. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- D. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of the Donation of a 2003 Ford Truck to Woodlake Pride Inc.

City Administrator Lara reported the following: the Krakov Family donated a 2003 Ford Pickup to the City of Woodlake to be used at the Woodlake Botanical Garden by its volunteers and Woodlake Pride Inc. The truck was insured and maintained by the City but used by Woodlake Pride Inc. Woodlake Pride Inc. has requested that the 2003 Ford Pickup be donated to Woodlake Pride Inc. and have provided proof of their recently approved nonprofit status. Woodlake Pride will use the vehicle to perform beautification projects city-wide.

ON A MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY MARTINEZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND DONATE THE 2003 FORD TRUCK TO WOODLAKE PRIDE INC. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- E. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Support the Preparation of the Regional Transit Coordination Study

City Administrator Lara reported the following: the Council of Cities representatives proposed that transit-providing agencies consider supporting a study to evaluate options for regional coordination of transit in Tulare County. It is expected that such a study would evaluate various levels and variations of regional coordination and pros and cons of each. The Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) would fund the study with planning funds provided via Senate Bill 1.

ON A MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY MARTINEZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND SUPPORT THE PREPARATION OF THE REGIONAL TRANSIT COORDINATION STUDY. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Information: Items from Staff

City Administrator Lara – Reported the construction of the community center will begin tomorrow.

Student Representative Sandoval – Reported there were about 20 high school exhibitors and each placed above 10th in their species. Band has competed at various shows and continues to support the football teams at games. Homecoming Queen is Callie Vincent and King is Marcos Cruz. There are 7 girls competing for Miss Woodlake. They are selling \$1 raffle tickets and appreciate all contributions. The pageant will be held on November 5th. The FFA floral shop is now open and is making balloon arches and bouquets. Football senior night is this Friday. There are 7 FFA individuals who are currently on their way to Indianapolis to compete at nationals. Career Day was Friday the 20th and it was a great success. Rescued Treasures is a program that helps those in need and she would like to start a program like this for the community of Woodlake.

B. Information: Items from Council
Councilmember G. Gonzalez Jr. – Reported youth soccer league is ending on Friday. Kiwanis is now accepting applications for the Christmas families. They are also accepting donations for the toy drive.
Councilmember Martinez – Reported the annual Persall Thanksgiving lunch is soon approaching.

C. Request from Council Members for Future Agenda Items

VII. CLOSED SESSION

1. **PENDING LITIGATION** (Government Code § 54956.9). It is the intention of this governing body to meet in closed-session concerning:

Conference with legal counsel – **EXISTING LITIGATION** (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1)).

Parties, case/claim no. City of Woodlake v. Garibay, Tulare County Case No. VCU263067

Case name unspecified because of jeopardy to settlement negotiations or service of process.

2. **PENDING LITIGATION** (Government Code § 54956.9). It is the intention of this governing body to meet in closed-session concerning:

Conference with legal counsel – **EXISTING LITIGATION** (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1)).

Parties, case/claim no. City of Woodlake v. Woodlake Public Cemetery District, Tulare County Case No. VCU 267523

Case name unspecified because of jeopardy to settlement negotiations or service of process.

MEETING MOVED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 7:15 PM
MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:32 PM

Mayor Mendoza reported no action was taken and there was nothing to report

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 “Documents: If distributed to the Council less than 72 hours before a regular meeting, any public records which are subject to public inspection and pertain to an open-session item on the regular meeting agenda shall be available at the following address at the time they are distributed to a majority of the Council: 350 North Valencia Boulevard, Woodlake, California 93286. Public records distributed to the Council at a public meeting will be available to the public at such meeting if they were prepared by the City. Exemptions and details in Government Code § 54957.5 (a) shall apply.”

VIII. ADJOURN

The next scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 13, 2017 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

Louie Lopez - Councilmember

Greg Gonzalez Jr. - Councilmember

Jose L. Martinez - Councilmember

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM

Submitted by,

Irene Zacarias
City Clerk