

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

OTHERS: Lara, Marquez, Waters, Gil, & Zacarias

ABSENT:

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chief Marquez was happy to introduce Officer Isidrio Villarreal. Officer Villarreal is currently hired as Provisional officer. City Clerk Zacarias administered the Oath of Office to Officer Villarreal. Mayor Mendoza welcomed Officer Villarreal and asked him to uphold his oath and always make it home safely every night.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR –ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

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

A. Action: Approval of Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 26, 2018

B. Action: Approval of Warrants

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

V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approve the Resolution Supporting Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Legislation

City Administrator Lara reported the following: DACA was a program established under President Barack Obama's Administration in 2012. The program granted work permits and temporary protection from deportation to approximately 800,000 youth who came to the United States before the age of 16. In July 2017, legislation was introduced in both the House of Representatives (H.R. 3440) and Senate (S. 1615) to address DACA policy, known as the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act. In September 2017, President Donald Trump's administration acted to begin rescinding DACA, giving Congress a six-month period to consider legislative alternatives and solutions. Mayor Mendoza opened up the meeting for discussion on this item.

Vincent Salinas, 1247 E. Sunnyview, Visalia – Mr. Salinas reported they are asking council to approve a resolution in support of DACA. He stated the DREAM Act started 2001 and took 9 years to get to the House and finally reached the Senate in 2011 but didn't move from there due to lack of support. In June of 2012, President Obama signed the executive order establishing the DREAM Act. As of December 2017, there are a total of 8,000 registered and of those, 20% are under the age of 18 and 80% are 21-31. There are 500 in the military, 300 in a delayed entry program and 800 are no longer eligible. There are 3000 still registered and we are asking support to help them reach their dream.

Elian Andrade, 292 Mission Ct, Woodlake – Mr. Andrade stated this is an important issue. Students should be safe on and off campus. Students have been going door to door to gather signatures in support of DACA. They have gathered about 700 signatures in support of this issue. They are happy to see the council pass this resolution in support of DACA.

Carlos Lucatero, 378 N. Palm, Woodlake – Mr. Lucatero stated that passing this resolution is important to the community because no one should live in fear. It's good to know the community is passionate about this issue.

Genesis Gonzalez, 202 N. Acacia, Woodlake – Ms. Gonzalez stated this resolution is important because she is tired of living in fear. To see her peers, live in fear is heartbreaking. She wants to see her town thrive and live in peace. She is from a family of immigrants and knows this is very important to them as well.

Stephanie Duarte, 218 N. Palm, Woodlake – Ms. Duarte thanked council for the opportunity to speak on this important matter. She appreciates them listening and understands they are important to our community.

Sara Hutchinson, 1464 W. Barton, Fresno – Ms. Hutchinson thanked council for their support of the residents and the students.

Mayor Mendoza thanked all the speakers and asked them to come to council meetings every once in a while, to keep up with city issues and events.

Mr. Salinas stated the following have also passed a resolution in support of DACA; County of Tulare, City of Tulare, City of Porterville and City of Farmersville. The City of Exeter, City of Dinuba and City of Lindsay will pass a resolution of support next week. The City of Visalia has not passed a resolution of support for DACA. Councilmembers Martinez and G. Gonzalez Jr. both stated they understand the fear families are facing and gladly support DACA.

ON A MOTION BY G. GONZALEZ JR., SECOND BY ORTIZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND SUPPORT DACA. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Affirm, Modify or Deny the Planning Commission's Decision to Affirm the Administrative Citation for the Property Located at 363 E. Sierra Ave.

City Employee Waters reported the following: Mr. Granados has requested an appeal letter regarding an administrative fine received on his property located at 363 E. Sierra Ave. The purpose of this item is to give Mr. Granados the opportunity to appeal an administrative fine received at his property located at 363 E. Sierra. Mr. Granados received a notice indicating that his property was violating the Woodlake Municipal Code. Upon receiving the notice, Mr. Granados met with the City's Planning Department and requested that the City revoke the administrative fine. The Planning Department denied the request to revoke the fine and Mr. Granados requested the opportunity to begin the appeal process. The Planning Commission heard Mr. Granados' appeal and the Planning Commission affirmed the decision of the Planning Department to deny the revocation of the citation. Mayor Mendoza opened the meeting to Mr. Granados to speak.

Robert Granados, 363 E. Sierra, Woodlake – Mr. Granados reported he received citation 3 days after pod was delivered. He was using the pod as a storage unit for items he planned to eventually sell at a yard sale. He stated the pod would only be there temporarily. Mayor Mendoza asked how long he planned to have the pod on his property. Mr. Granados stated about 2 years. Mayor Mendoza stated 2 years is not considered temporary. Mr. Granados stated he has seen other pods in town and asked if city staff was being discriminatory towards him. Mayor Mendoza stated no, there is a process to follow and he has failed to rectify the problem. Mayor Mendoza recommended to council to allow Mr. Granados 30 days max to remove the pod.

ON A MOTION BY MENDOZA, SECOND BY MARTINEZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND AFFIRM THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S DECISION TO AFFIRM THE ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 363 E. SIERRA AVE AND GIVE THE PROPERTY OWNER 30 DAYS TO COMPLY WITH THE WOODLAKE MUNICIPAL CODE. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approve Sewer and Water Rates for the City of Woodlake Effective July 1, 2018

City Administrator Lara reported the following: on October 13, 2008, the City Council of the City of Woodlake unanimously set the sewer services rates by Resolution No. 08-32 for July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014. The rates were then

adjusted by the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI). After a careful review, by staff, sewer rates were structured to allow for the continued delivery of sewer services to City residents as efficiently as possible while maintaining solvent and strong Sewer funds that would allow for the repayment of USDA Bonds issued for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Project and continue with future maintenance and infrastructure costs. The Sewer Fund had become fiscally strong with the new rates and its infrastructure had drastically improved so Council has voted to reduce sewer rates the last two years. On April 13, 2015, the City Council set water service rates by Resolution No. 15-32 for July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021 as part of the City of Woodlake Water Meter Project. The rates were set to allow the Water Fund to increase its operating cash and start setting reserves aside for future maintenance and infrastructure projects. After reviewing the last two years audits and current standing of the Sewer and Water Funds staff believes that the recommended rates are sufficient to cover expenditures and reserve requirements for the upcoming fiscal year.

ON A MOTION BY LOPEZ, SECOND BY G. GONZALEZ JR. IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTON AND APPROVE SEWER AND WATER RATES FOR THE CITY OF WOODLAKE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2018. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- D. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approve the Woodlake Cannabis Tax and Fee Rates

City Employee Waters reported the following: on November 7, 2017 Woodlake residents voted to enact a cannabis business tax on all cannabis businesses within Woodlake city limits. The Woodlake Cannabis Tax Measure authorizes City Council to establish the tax rates for all cannabis businesses within Woodlake city limits. City staff has reviewed several rates from throughout the state to determine an acceptable and competitive rate for cannabis businesses in Woodlake. City Council can approve and change the rate as needed, but each year Council will formally adopt the rate structure for the following year. The Cannabis Tax Measure authorizes Council to establish a rate that does not exceed \$25 per SF or 10% of gross receipts.

ON A MOTION BY LOPEZ, SECOND BY ORTIZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND APPROVE THE WOODLAKE CANNABIS TAX AND FEE RATES. MOTION PASSES 4-1. G. GONZALEZ ABSTAIN.

- E. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approve All Emergency Expenditures for the Development and Implementation of the City of Woodlake Well Projects and Authorize Staff to File the Notice of Completion for Well #13 and Well #14

City Administration Lara reported the following: At this time the City has drilled two wells along the St. John's River within the City Airport Property. The design and engineering for the wells has been completed and the City has completed the process of connecting the wells to the City's water system. The overall costs for the connection for Well #13 and #14 to the City's water system is below:

Well #13:

Engineering: \$117,359.50

Drilling: \$ 136,000.00

Construction: \$708,983.30

Total: \$962,342.80

Well #14:

Engineering: \$117,359.50

Drilling: \$198,578.00

Construction: \$513,152.60

Total: \$829,090.10

ON A MOTION BY MARTINEZ, SECOND BY LOPEZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND APPROVE ALL EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITY OF WOODLAKE WELL PROJECTS. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- F. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Termination of the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Drought Emergency for the City of Woodlake
- City Administrator Lara reported the following: the City of Woodlake water system is made up of seven wells that are used as the only source to provide potable water to its residents. The wells have seen a consistent drop in groundwater level due to the drought and diversion of water, which has increased ground water pumping in the area. These conditions have created a situation where City wells will need to be updated or replaced. Due to the low water table, the wells have also become very inefficient. All these factors have created a burden on the City's water system. The City requested informal bids for the construction of a test well along the St. Johns River. Well contractors are in large demand and soliciting bids was a challenge. The City was able to secure the services of Western Strata Exploration, Inc., who drilled Well #13. The City then procured the services of Zim Industries, Inc. to drill Well #14. The well drilling has been completed and both wells have been designed and engineered and the City has completed the process of connecting them to the current system. The City system is now made up of seven wells. Staff recommends that the City Council continue the proclamation by the City Council of the City of Woodlake, State of California, proclaiming the existence of a local drought emergency for the City of Woodlake. The City Council would review the need for continuing the local drought emergency at least once every 30 days until the Council terminates the local drought emergency.

ON A MOTION BY LOPEZ, SECOND BY MARTINEZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND TERMINATE THE PROCLAMATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL DROUGHT EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF WOODLAKE. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Information: Items from Staff

City Administrator Lara – Reported Community Center is on schedule. The North Valencia project is a little slow due to the rain but still on schedule.

City Clerk Zacarias – Reported Form 700 is due April 2, 2018. Opening Day for Baseball/Softball is April 7th at 9 am at Willow Ct. park.

B. Information: Items from Council

Councilmember G. Gonzalez Jr. – Reported the Middle School Varsity Basketball is in the Semi-finals. They are also first in their league.

Councilmember Martinez – Asked staff to place the discussion of a new student representative on the agenda.

Mayor Mendoza – Reported the city selection board will meet on Monday, 3/19 at 1 pm and the water board will meet on Tuesday, 3/27 from 1-2:30.

C. Request from Council Members for Future Agenda Items

VII. CLOSED SESSION

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, April 9, 2018 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 7:33 PM

Submitted by,

Irene Zacarias
City Clerk