

PRESENT: Lara, Waters, Marquez, Zamora & Zacarias

PHONE IN: Councilmembers Mendoza, Ortiz, Valero & Martinez

ABSENT:

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC COMMENT

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 March 23, 2020

B. Action: Approval of Warrants

C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of the February 2020 Monthly Report of Investments

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

V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency for the City of Woodlake

Community Services Director Waters reported the following: The California Government Code section 8630 empowers the City Council of the City of Woodlake to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the City of Woodlake is threatened or likely to be threatened by the conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property that are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of this City.

On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in the State of California due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID -19 in the State.

On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services declared a public emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020 and on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in the State of California due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State. Locally, Tulare County declared a local emergency due to the confirmed cases of COVID-19 as did Tulare, Visalia, and Porterville.

Preparing for, responding to, mitigating, and recovering from the spread of COVID-19 requires the City to divert resources from normal day-to-day operations, and has and will continue to impose extraordinary requirements on and expenses to the City. In response to COVID-19 the City has seen impacts to every service that is provided by the City including public safety, public works, planning, parks and recreation and administration.

The above described conditions related to the COVID-19 outbreak warrants and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency in the City of Woodlake.

ON A MOTION BY MARTINEZ SECOND BY ORTIZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND PROCLAIM THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF WOODLAKE. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approve a Categorical Exemption for the City of Woodlake North Valencia Blvd. Improvements Project and Authorize the City Administrator to File a Notice of Exemption

Community Services Director Waters reported the following: The City of Woodlake North Valencia Street Improvements Project will construct curb, gutters, ramps, sidewalks, streetlights and storm drain improvements on North Valencia Blvd. from Sierra Avenue north to Sequoia Avenue. The corridor currently has none of the above-mentioned amenities which makes pedestrian and bicycle traffic unsafe. The Project as proposed by the City is classified under Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19 of the California Code of Regulations as a Class 1 project as it consists of minor alterations to an existing highway, streets and pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The improvements included in the project would reduce the exposure to existing bicycle and pedestrian safety hazards while having a negligible increase in vehicle traffic. The Project meets the criteria for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c), which states, "Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety, and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes....and other alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes)."

ON A MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY MARTINEZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND APPROVE A CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FOR THE CITY OF WOODLAKE NORTH VALENCIA BLVD. IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO FILE A NOICE OF EXEMPTION. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of the Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with the State of California for the City of Woodlake North Valencia Blvd. Extension Improvements Project

City Administrator Lara reported the following: The City of Woodlake North Valencia Street Improvements Project will construct curb, gutters, ramps, sidewalks, streetlights and storm drain improvements on North Valencia Blvd. from Sierra Avenue north to Sequoia Avenue. The corridor currently has none of the above-mentioned amenities which makes pedestrian and bicycle traffic unsafe. The City has begun the preliminary engineering, environmental and right-of-way process on the project. The City will cover the expenditures associated with these services with Measure R funds. The estimated cost for those services is one hundred and seventy-three thousand two hundred dollars (\$173,200).

To prepare the project for construction, staff will begin the process of submitting all necessary agreements for funding. The attached amendment if approved will provide one hundred and seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000) in SHOPP funding. This is one hundred thousand dollars more than the original agreement. The funding is a commitment from Caltrans to promote a partnership with the City that leads to more complete streets on State highways like Naranja Blvd. and Valencia Blvd.

ON A MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY MARTINEZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE CITY OF WOODLAKE NORTH VALENCIA BLVD. EXTENSION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Information: Items from Staff

City Clerk Zacarias – Reported all council members and planning commissioners have filed Form 700.

Community Services Director Waters – Reported city staff has noticed those businesses that are non-essential for temporary closure.

City Administrator Lara – Reported city staff, PD staff and Fire staff are all working together to continue operating as best as possible.

Chief Marquez – Continue to educate residents regarding the temporary stay home order.

B. Information from Council

Councilmember Martinez – Asked if staff was aware of any confirmed cases of COVID-19. City Administrator Lara stated no.

Councilmember Ortiz – Reported she is happy to hear the community members are following rules and seem to understand the importance of social distancing.

BOS Valero – Thank City staff all their hard work. He stated an ordinance would be presented to the board to pause eviction proceedings due to COVID-19.

Mayor Mendoza – Thanked city staff for all their work during these difficult times. Also thanked the county officials for their daily updates regarding COVID-19.

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, March 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at City Council Chambers located at 145 N. Magnolia, Woodlake, CA 93286.

City Council:

Rudy Mendoza - Mayor

Frances Ortiz - Vice Mayor

Jose L. Martinez – Councilmember

William Valero – Councilmember

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM

Submitted by,
Irene Zacarias
City Clerk