

PRESENT: Councilmembers Mendoza, Ortiz, Martinez, Llamas & Valero

OTHERS: Lara, Waters, Marquez, Zamora & Zacarias

ABSENT:

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chuck Mann, 789 N. Palm, Woodlake – Mr. Mann asked how many citations were given out due to illegal fireworks on July 4th. Chief Marquez stated he would provide that number to Mr. Mann by end of day tomorrow.

France Mann, 789 N. Palm, Woodlake – Mrs. Mann reported there are trees blocking road signs on the corner of Bravo and Acacia. Community Services Director Waters stated he will have Code Enforcement check that area.

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 May 26, 2020
- B. Action: Approval of Warrants
- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of the May 2020 Monthly Report of Investments
- D. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of the City Administrator Employment Agreement

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

V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Information: Service Award Presentations for Rachel Lira and Shane Headrick
City Clerk Zacarias presented a plaque to Rachel Lira for 20 years of service with the City of Woodlake

B. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Authorization to submit the PLHA Program Application and the PLHA Standard Agreement – **PUBLIC HEARING**
Community Services Director Waters reported the following: Applications must include a proposed plan must describe the manner in which the allocated funds will be used for eligible activities. The plan must also describe the way the City will prioritize investments that increase the supply of housing for households with incomes at or below 60% of AMI and how the Plan is consistent with programs set forth in the City’s Housing Element.

The plan must be authorized and approved by resolution, and ensuring the public had adequate opportunity to review and comment on the contents of the Plan.

The annual allocation for the City of Woodlake is \$89,885 for a five-year total of \$539,311.

The City of Woodlake’s proposed five-year plan activities are:

1. The acquisition and rehabilitation of foreclosed or vacant homes and apartments.

Five percent of each annual allocation can be used to cover administrative cost associated with the administration of the plan. Staffing and overhead cost directly related to carrying out the eligible activities are “activity costs” not subject to the cap on “administrative cost.”

PUBLIC HEARING OPEN: 6:38 PM

Chuck Mann, 789 N. Palm, Woodlake – Mr. Mann asked if city staff had any current homes in mind. City Administrator Lara stated no.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSE: 6:39 PM

ON A MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY VALERO IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND AUTHORIZE TO SUBMIT THE PLHA PROGRAM APPLICATION AND PLHA STANDARD AGREEMENT. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Seek Public Comments and Authorize Staff to Submit a Funding Application for the Sequoia Ave Pedestrian Improvement Project – **PUBLIC HEARING**

Community Services Director Waters reported the following: The City of Woodlake has scheduled this public hearing regarding the City’s intent to apply for Cycle 5 of the Active Transportation Program to better inform those that may be interested in the project. The City has worked with the Woodlake Unified School District (WUSD) and those residents to help gather and provide answers to as many questions as possible. If awarded funding, the proposed project will directly link to the improvements that were established through ATP Cycle 4. This Safe Routes to School project will close a gap on Sequoia Avenue that currently lacks sidewalk, curb, gutter, ADA ramps, streetlights, and bike lanes. Currently, there are inadequate pedestrian improvements on the north side of Sequoia Avenue from Valencia to Cypress St. which leads to pedestrian walking on the road when going to the school or athletic facilities.

PUBLIC HEARING OPEN: 6:41 PM

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSE 6:41 PM

ON A MOTION BY MARTINEZ, SECOND BY LLAMAS IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND SEEK PUBLIC COMMENTS AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SUBMIT A FUNDING APPLICATION FOR THE SEQUOIA AVE PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- D. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Authorizing Application for and Receipt of, Local Government Planning Support Grant Program Funds

Community Services Director Waters reported: City Staff is proposing to apply for \$65,000 in LEAP funding to update the City’s Housing Element and create downtown housing design standards to encourage residential development in the downtown. The two proposed tasks and outcomes are listed below:

Task 1 - Housing Element

The City expects that the updated Housing Element would have policies and procedures that encourage new housing development and simplify the development process in Woodlake.

Task 2 - Downtown Housing Design Standard Development

The City will create pre-approved design standards and examples for downtown housing development. They City has encouraged development in the downtown overlay zone but has been limited because of the design and building requirements and approvals associated with the downtown. The City hopes to create pre-approved design examples that makes it easier for developers to receive approval and reduces design costs.

ON A MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY MARTINEZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- E. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Reaffirm Sewer, Water and Refuse Rates for the City of Woodlake Effective July 1, 2020

City Administrator Lara reported the following: On January 14, 2019, the City Council set refuse service rates by Resolution No. 19-04 for January 1, 2020

through December 31, 2023. The rates were set to allow the Refuse Fund to cover all costs associated with providing refuse services.

Sewer	Water	Refuse	Total		
July 1, 2009		\$33.00	\$22.00	\$21.00	\$ 76.00
July 1, 2010		\$41.00	\$24.00	\$21.50	\$ 86.50
July 1, 2011		\$49.00	\$26.00	\$21.50	\$ 96.50
July 1, 2012		\$57.00	\$28.00	\$21.50	\$106.50
July 1, 2013		\$65.00	\$28.25	\$21.50	\$114.75
July 1, 2014		\$65.75	\$28.50	\$21.50	\$115.75
July 1, 2015		\$65.75	\$28.50	\$21.50	\$115.75
July 1, 2016		\$63.25	\$30.20	\$22.25	\$115.70
July 1, 2017		\$61.25	\$31.90	\$22.25	\$115.40
July 1, 2018		\$59.50	\$33.60	\$24.45	\$117.55
July 1, 2019		\$57.75	\$35.30	\$24.45	\$117.50
July 1, 2020		\$56.00	\$37.00	\$25.25	\$118.25

After reviewing the last four years financial statements and current standing of the Sewer and Water Funds, staff believes that the recommended rates above are sufficient to cover expenditures and reserve requirements for the upcoming fiscal year.

ON A MOTION BY MARTINEZ, SECOND BY VALERO IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND REAFFIRM SEWER, WATER AND REFUSE RATES FOR THE CITY OF WOODLAKE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Accept the Request by the Woodlake Valley Chamber of Commerce for a Waiver of City Utility Fees

City Administrator Lara reported the following: The Chamber of Commerce is requesting that the City waive their monthly utility bill from July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Like many other nonprofit organizations, the current COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the Chambers resources and ability to operate. The current monthly utility bill for the Chamber is \$90.55 for water and sewer as they use City refuse facilities at no cost. The ability to not have to pay their utility bill for the next six months will help the Chambers' current economic standing and allow them to prepare to reopen once it is safe to do so.

ON A MOTION BY MENDOZA, SECOND BY MARTINEZ IT WAS VOTED TO ACCEPT THE REQUEST BY THE WOODLAKE VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR A WAIVER OF CITY UTILITY FEES. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of the City of Woodlake Representative to the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board

City Administrator Lara reported the following: On April 20, 2020 the Tulare County Association of Governments approved a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for circulation to all Tulare County agencies for consideration. Agencies that agree to enter into the JPA will become part of the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA). The agency will focus on providing regional transit services in Tulare County.

On June 22, 2020 the City of Woodlake approved its membership into the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency. At this time the Agency is requesting that the City of Woodlake appoint a City Councilmember to sit on the TCRTA Board.

ON A MOTION BY MARTINEZ, SECOND BY ORTIZ IT WAS VOTED TO APPOINT RUDY MENDOZA AS THE REPRESENTATIVE AND EMMANUEL LLAMAS AS THE ALTERNATE TO THE TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Information: Items from Staff

City Attorney Zamora – Stated he was sad to not have a Fireworks show in Woodlake this year, but hopefully next year.

City Clerk Zacarias – Reported the candidate nomination period opened today and will close on August 7th.

Community Services Director Waters – Reported the City will need to notice some businesses this week regarding closure order from the state.

City Administrator Lara – Reported the next scheduled city council meeting will need to be held via Zoom. City staff is installing new playground equipment at Willow Ct. park. The housing developments are going well.

Police Chief Marquez – Reported an apartment complex was set on fire. A suspect was arrested and charged in the crime. Officers have been busy with illegal fireworks and citations were issued. Some residents have been complaining about the speeding cars in their neighborhood. Officers try and get to the complaint in a timely manner, but sometimes other calls have priority. The department applied and was approved for a grant to fund 1 officer and they hope to hire 1 soon. Residents are also complaining about loiters at the Botanical Garden and in front of some businesses. Officers can have them leave the garden, but it is harder to have them leave the businesses when the business owners allow them to stay. The department is currently investigating a suspicious death that occurred in the 600 block of Redwood.

B. Information from Council

Councilmember Ortiz – Asked if contractor is ready to start building homes on Cajon. City Administrator Lara stated they are not at that phase yet.

Councilmember Martinez – Reported he will be attending the next scheduled Council of Cities meeting via Zoom.

Councilmember Valero – Asked if the food truck vendors are allowed back in town. Community Services Director Waters stated yes.

Mayor Mendoza – Reported he will be attending his 1st EDC meeting.

C. Information from Public

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, July 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

City Council:

Rudy Mendoza - Mayor

Frances Ortiz - Vice Mayor

Jose L. Martinez – Councilmember

Emmanuel Llamas - Councilmember

William Valero – Councilmember

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM

Submitted by,

Irene Zacarias

City Clerk