

MINUTES
WASCO CITY COUNCIL
and Successor Agency to the
Former Redevelopment Agency
Meeting of June 16, 2020
Via Zoom Webinar
Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m

REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 p.m.

1) CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Cortez at 6:04 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being held pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20, issued Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020. All members are joining this meeting remotely via Zoom Webinar.

2) FLAG SALUTE: Led by Mayor Cortez

3) INVOCATION: A moment of silence instead of the invocation

4) ROLL CALL: Mayor Cortez, Pro Tem Espitia, Council Members: Garcia, Pallares, Reyna
All members present.

5) PRESENTATIONS: NONE

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Kern County Fire Department Battalion Chief Appleton informed that complaints of illegal firework encouraged residents to report and submit complaints via the Kern County Fire Department website at kerncountymfire.org or by calling 911. He also mentioned that there was a fire that started at the south side of the old labor camp 2 ½ units were burned, and one firefighter was minor injured.
- Congressman TJ Cox mentioned the concern of the losses incurred by the COVID19 crisis; he also said that he would be creating a letter of support for PPP Programs and other assistance that may be available.
- Participant Toni De Rosa inquired if anyone got injured at the old labor camp, how the fire started, and the cost of the damage?
- Chief Appleton replied that one firefighter had a moderate injury to his hand, and there is a possibility that the fire started by transients cooking or in-lightning a fire. The case is currently under investigation. There is no cost of damage being the buildings are abandoned and will be demolished.

7) SUCCESSOR AGENCY BUSINESS: None

8) WASCO PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY BUSINESS:

- a. Receive and file department payments totaling \$1,091.90

Motion was made by Council Member Pallares, **seconded** by Council Member Garcia, to approve item 8a by the following roll call votes:

AYES:	CORTEZ, ESPITIA,GARCIA, PALLARES, REYNA
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS:

9) CONSENT CALENDAR:

The Consent Calendar consists of items that, in staff's opinion, are routine and non-controversial. These items are approved in one motion unless a Council Member or member of the public requests removal of a particular item.

- a. Receive and file department payments totaling \$287,859.19
- b. Adopt and Waive the Second reading of an Ordinance of the City of Wasco Amending Title 8 "Health and Safety" of the City of Wasco Municipal Code, Chapter 8.30, "Control of Backflow and Cross-Connections to Water Systems."
Ordin#2020-712
- c. Adopt a Resolution Authorizing Application for, and Receipt of Local Government Planning Support Grant Program Funds.
Reso#2020-3466
- d. Adopt a Resolution Approving the Salary Schedule for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in Compliance with the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) Requirement for Publicly Available Pay Schedules.
Reso#2020-3467
- e. Adopt a Resolution to approve a coronavirus relief fund (CRF) grant agreement with the County of Kern for reimbursement of out-of-pocket costs related to Covid-19 public health response.
Reso#2020-3468

Mayor Pro Tem Espitia pulled item 9c for further consideration.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Espitia, **seconded** by Council Member Garcia to approve the Consent Calendar with separate consideration on items 9c by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CORTEZ, ESPITIA, GARCIA, PALLARES, REYNA
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

9c. Adopt a Resolution Authorizing Application for, and Receipt of Local Government Planning Support Grant Program Funds.

Mayor Pro Tem Espitia inquired if the item pertains to the City's Community Grants Program.

City Manager Ortiz, Hernandez confirmed the item pertains to a draft intended to apply for funding to update the cities housing element, not for the City's Community Grants program.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Espitia, **seconded** by Council Member Garcia to approve item 9c by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CORTEZ, ESPITIA, GARCIA, PALLARES, REYNA
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

10) PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. Adopt a Resolution Amending the increase of Traffic Impact Fees Rate Schedule.
Reso#2020-3469

Staff comments by Public Works Director Bishop

Mayor Cortez opened the public hearing at 6:28 pm

Mayor Cortez closed the public hearing at 6:30 pm

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Espitia, **seconded** by Council Member Reyna to approve item 10a by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CORTEZ, ESPITIA, GARCIA, PALLARES, REYNA
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

- b. Adopt a Resolution approving the Annual Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.
Reso#2020-3470

Reso#2020-3471

Staff comments by Interim Finance Director Briney.

Mayor Cortez opened the public hearing at 6:44 pm

Mayor Cortez closed the public hearing at 6:48 pm

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Espitia, **seconded** by Council Member Garcia to approve item 10b by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	CORTEZ, ESPITIA, GARCIA, PALLARES, REYNA
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

11) DEFERRED BUSINESS: None

12) NEW BUSINESS:

a. Adopt a Resolution Approving the Annual Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Reso#2020-3472

Staff comments by Finance Director Dan Briney

Motion was made by Council Member Reyna, **seconded** by Council Member Garcia to approve item 12a by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	CORTEZ, ESPITIA, GARCIA, PALLARES, REYNA
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

b. Approve a Resolution Adopting the Annual Statement of Investment Policy.

Reso#2020-3473

Staff comments by Interim Finance Director Dan Briney.

Motion was made by Council Member Garcia, **seconded** by Mayor Pro Tem Espitia to approve item 12b by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	CORTEZ, ESPITIA, GARCIA, PALLARES, REYNA
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

c. Review Draft Proposal to Amend the Master Fee Schedule for the City of Wasco

Staff comments by Deputy Public Works Director Sobolewski

The consensus of the Council fee amount for Animal procedure Spay/Neuter to be \$75.00

- d. Report and City Council determination regarding City participation in the State or County Community Development Block Grant program.

Staff comments by Community Development Director Keri Cobb presented information regarding the State CDBG grants program.

Laurie Adams at the CDBG funding program commented that there is a lot of opportunities and is looking forward to assisting with this project.

Staff recommended to Council not to pursue with the County programs and pursue with applying for the State CDBG grant programs.

Council Members supported with applying for the State CDBG grant program.

Motion was made by Council Member Reyna, **seconded** by Mayor Pro Tem Espitia to pursue with the State CDBG grant programs by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	CORTEZ, ESPITIA, GARCIA, PALLARES, REYNA
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

- e. Adopt a Resolution Approving the Cost Report for Abatement of Weeds, Trash, Rubbish, and Property Board-up, Assessing the Cost Thereof and Imposing Liens Pursuant to City of Wasco Municipal Code Chapters 8.24 and 17.79.

Reso#2020-3475

Staff comments by Community Development Director Keri Cobb

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Espitia, **seconded** by Council Member Garcia to approve item 12e by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	CORTEZ, ESPITIA, GARCIA, PALLARES, REYNA
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

- f. Report on the collaboration meeting with the Fire Department on educating the public regarding illegal fireworks.

Council Member Reyna provided an update on the meeting discussion that took place on June 11, 2020, with City Staff, the Fire Department, Sherriff's office and Council Member Pallares with regards to the use of illegal fireworks.

Engineer Andrew from the Kern County Fire Department, he recommended for the community to file any complaints regarding illegal fireworks via the Kern County Fire website at kerncounty.org.

Resident Vincent Martinez asked if fines or citations can be enforced for violators?

Engineer Andrew from the Kern County Fire Department responded that there is currently a procedure in place for citations. However, to enforce, it must be seen physically.

Council Members thanked the Kern County Fire Department and City Staff for all the hard work.

Mayor Cortez adjourned for recess at 8:07 pm
Mayor Cortez adjourned from recess at 8:14 pm

g. Update on Emergency Water Shortage.

Staff comments by City Manager Ortiz, Hernandez, updated on the expedited repair on Well #14 and is back online. Well, #10 is currently under verification before starting of the repair.

Council Member Reyna inquired if the stability of the water pressure was affected throughout the repair?

City Manager Ortiz, Hernandez, confirmed that the water pressure had been stabled.

h. Update and Direction regarding the opening stages of the City Operations due to Covid-19.

Staff comments by City Manager Ortiz, Hernandez

- Provided a presentation with regards to how other nearby cities are operating the Dial Ride Services during COVID-19
- Updated on COVID-19 and Dial Ride operations.
- Available testing for COVID-19 at the local Kern County Library
- Dial Ride Services still not operating

City Council Members decided for the Dial Ride Services to remain close for the safety of the City Staff and residence until further notice.

13) REPORTS FROM SHERIFF

Sgt. Martinez informed that the Sherriff office had re-opened its doors to the public as of 6/8/2020 with restrictions. He also reported on criminal activity and service. He advised all residents who own home cameras to register them by subscribing through the Sherriffs office application.

Mayor Cortez thanked Sgt. Martinez, for his assistance and efforts, put into the community.

14) REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER

City Manager Ortiz, Hernandez, reminded about the opening of COVID-19 testing site at the local Kern County Library, he informed that an appointment must be scheduled online to be able to get tested.

He also stated that a recording from the City Council Members congratulating Wasco High School Graduates is now available for viewing on the City website.

He gave an update on the status of the Ordinance that is currently being worked in regards to vaping devices

15) REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Reyna thanked all City Staff for all the hard work.

Council Member Garcia thanked all City Staff for providing sufficient information and for the hard work.

Council Member Pallares inquired to Sgt. Martinez on the status of the bike patrol, and also thanked the Sherriff Department, the Kern County Fire Department, and City Staff for all of their efforts.

Sgt. Martinez stated that the Sherriff's office is currently working on the request, and as soon as the office gets direction, the bike patrolling will start its operations.

Pro Tem Espitia thanked staff for providing information for 2020-2021 Fiscal Year and is looking forward to 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.

Mayor Cortez Adjourned to closed session at 8:52 pm

Mayor Cortez Adjourned from closed session at 9:38 pm

16) CLOSED SESSION:

- a. Approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2020
- b. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 Conference with Real Property Negotiators
Property: Poso Drive and Martin Court APN 490-010-04
Agency Negotiator: City Manager and Public Works Director
Negotiating parties: Bea and Chaim Gonshor
Under Negotiation: Price and identification of properties to purchase
- c. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 Conference with Real Property Negotiators

Property: 7th Street and Redwood APN 488-161-01 & 02
Agency Negotiator: City Manager and Public Works Director
Negotiating parties: John and Mary Gebhardt
Under Negotiation: Price and identification of properties to purchase

- d. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 Conference with Real Property Negotiators
Property: 12th Street and Adams Street APN 029-402-01
Agency Negotiator: City Manager and Public Works Director
Negotiating parties: Iglesia Evangelica Fuente De Jacob
Under Negotiation: Price and identification of properties to purchase
- e. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 Conference with Real Property Negotiators
Property: 9th Street and J Street APN 030-030-01
Agency Negotiator: City Manager and Public Works Director
Negotiating parties: Kern County Housing Authority
Under Negotiation: Price and identification of properties to purchase
- f. Conference with Legal -Existing Litigation
(paragraph 1 of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Name of Cases:
 - 1. City of Wasco v. Bowman
 - 2. Karina Hernandez Galvan Debtor

17) CLOSED SESSION ACTION

City Attorney Schroeter reported Closed session items

- a. Approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2020

Motion was made by Council Member Reyna, **seconded** by Council Member Garcia to approve the Closed Session minutes by following roll call vote:

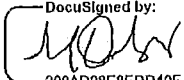
AYES:	CORTEZ, ESPITIA, GARCIA, PALLARES, REYNA
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

City Attorney Schroeter also mentioned that On items 16 b through f No Reportable Action.

18) ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Cortez adjourned the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

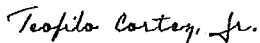
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Maria O. Martinez, City Clerk

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Teofilo Cortez Jr., Mayor