

MINUTES

**CITY OF MCFARLAND
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 25, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Manuel Cantu called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in the McFarland Council Chambers, 103 W. Sherwood Ave, McFarland, CA 93250

ROLL CALL

Council Member Present: Cantu, McFarland, Gonzalez, Melendez, Perez
Council Member Absent: None

OFFICIALS PRESENT

City Manager Wooner, City Attorney Schroeter, City Clerk Ceja, Administrative Services Director Mosqueda, Public Works Director Gonzalez, and Community Development Director Lara,

INVOCATION

Council Member McFarland

FLAG SALUTE

Council Member Gonzalez

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Belinda Barbarena, 401 W. Kern Ave, McFarland, invited the public to the Cinco de Mayo festivities that are scheduled from Thursday, April 25 to Sunday, April 27. The parade is scheduled for Sunday, April 27 at 2:00 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Motion by Council Member McFarland, seconded by Perez, and unanimously carried to approve the warrant register in the amount of \$376,516.50 from April 03, 2019 through April 16, 2019.
Vote: 5-0
Ayes: McFarland, Perez, Melendez, Gonzalez, Cantu
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstentions: None
2. Motion by Council Member McFarland, seconded by Perez, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of regular City Council meeting of April 11, 2019.
Vote: 5-0
Ayes: McFarland, Perez, Melendez, Gonzalez, Cantu
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstentions: None
3. Motion by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by McFarland, and unanimously carried to approve the rejection of all bids for Villa del Caribe Park project.
Vote: 5-0
Ayes: Gonzalez, McFarland, Melendez, Perez, Cantu
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstentions: None

Note: Audience member Russell Coker asked to pull item #3 from the agenda for discussion. He asked why the city rejected bids and what the city expects in regards to bids.

City Manager Wooner let Mr. Coker know that the bids exceeded the budget so the bids will be revised to stay within budget.

4. Motion by Council Member McFarland, seconded by Perez, and unanimously carried to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2019-0010, Authorization for the Execution of the Certifications and Assurances and Authorized Agent Forms for FY 2018-19 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) for the following Project: City of McFarland Transit Facility - \$28,158.00.
Vote: 5-0
Ayes: McFarland, Perez, Melendez, Gonzalez, Cantu
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstentions: None

PUBLIC HEARING

5. Mayor opened up the public hearing on proposed increases to the sewer service charges at 6:10 pm and closed at 7:47 pm. The following comments were made:

Ms. Kim Boehler did a short presentation to explain the sewer rate study.

Council Member Melendez asked what the reserve for sewer was. Ms. Boehler responded by letting him know that the city is negative \$1 million dollars. Melendez asked why a negative reserve. Ms. Mosqueda responded to Mr. Melendez that the city had the bonds from a few years ago and rates were lowered instead of increasing. Wooner answered by letting Melendez know that the city's plan all along was to get a state revolving loan which the city is doing but the city found out that the debt ratio was out of compliance. Now the city has to go through the Prop 218 process to be in compliance and apply for the loan. Wooner stated that it was the city's intention to spend the money and then go after a loan to pay the fund back. The city was successful in going after a \$6 million loan as well as a \$6 million grant and the city, in Wooner's opinion, has done an excellent job in maintaining its finances as best as it could.

Mr. Wooner explained to Melendez that when it comes to the next increase, Mr. Wooner would evaluate the numbers one more time to make sure the numbers are good and at that time, the council can make a recommendation. Melendez was satisfied with Mr. Wooner's explanation and likes the idea of re-evaluating rates every year.

Mr. Coker stood up and asked what the increase will be for the 5 years and what the difference is between commercial and residential. Ms. Boehler responded by letting him know it would be about \$14 for the 5 years and in regards to the difference in commercial and residential is the measurement of water use.

Ms. Meredith Valenzuela stood up and asked why Bakersfield is not on the list and why Bakersfield is a lot lower than McFarland. Ms. Boehler answered by letting her know that the cities on the list are on the list because they are comparable to McFarland and Bakersfield is much larger than McFarland. Melendez requested that the city get back to Ms. Valenzuela with an answer.

Mr. Jose Hernandez asked if the sewer rate would be much less if, it would be paid through property taxes. Wooner answered by letting know that it was being done before but it was changed because of cash flow issues and the city would like to be transparent and putting it on the tax roll the residents wouldn't really know what the rates are.

Audience Member (did not state her name) asked if there was a possibility to not increase too much because there is residents who are disabled or are seniors who do not have the money to pay. Cantu answered by letting her know that there will be a senior discount and there is a program through CAPK that will help with utility bills. City Clerk Ceja handed the contact information for CAPK to the audience member.

Ms. Ruby Montes mentioned that she went in to city hall to ask for the sewer rate increase information but the clerk up front refused to give her information. She did state that there was a gentleman up front who gave her the newsletter, which had the information regarding sewer rates. Ms. Mosqueda apologized to her for what happened and assured her that she will speak to her staff. Ms. Mosqueda will follow up with her regarding the incident.

Ms. Ruby Montes and Mr. Russell Coker turned in protest letters at 7:42 pm.

Final count of letters received for sewer protest 34

Motion by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Melendez, and unanimously carried to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2019-0011, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of McFarland Increasing Sewer Service Charges Effective on May 1, 2019, January 1, 2020, January 1, 2021, January 1, 2022, and January 1, 2023.

Vote: 5-0

Ayes: Gonzalez, Melendez, Perez, McFarland, Cantu

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

6. Mayor opened up the public hearing on proposed increases to the water service charges at 7:52 pm and closed at 8:55 pm. The following comments were made:

Ms. Kim Boehler did a short presentation to explain the water rate study.

Mayor Cantu mentioned that even with the increase, McFarland would still be below Shafter and Delano.

Mr. Ramiro Sigala mentioned that the city was better years ago and the police department is not doing their job. Mayor Cantu expressed to Sigala that the public hearing is about water rates and other items cannot be discussed. Mr. Sigala then asked each council member why the increase is happening. Mayor Cantu answered by letting him know that just like any other business expenses are rising so rates should increase also to offset the expenses. Council member Perez mentioned that she understands that Mr. Sigala is worried about the increase but at the same time, she understands that rates need to be increased because there has not been an increase and she would not like the city to go bankrupt. Council member Melendez responded to Mr. Sigala by letting him know that the city has made some poor decisions like putting in the waterline on Browning Rd. Moving forward the council will pay more attention to what is going on and will address any issues that come up.

Mrs. Kitty Woods commented that she has been a long time resident and does not understand why residents only come to a meeting to complain instead of going to City Hall and addressing the issues there. She loves the community and feels that staff and council has done a great job.

Mr. Coker feels that his tenants will be punished with this increase. Mr. Wooner responded to him by letting him know that he has a much bigger size meter than he needs and he is welcomed to come to City Hall to request a meter change out without any cost to him and this will eliminate him being charged more.

Final Count of letters received for water protest 30

Motion by Council Member McFarland, seconded by Melendez, and unanimously carried to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2019-0012, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of McFarland Increasing Water Service Charges Effective on May 1, 2019, January 1, 2020, January 1, 2021, January 1, 2022, and January 1, 2023.

Vote: 5-0

Ayes: McFarland, Melendez, Perez, Gonzalez, Cantu

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

7. a. Administration – City Manager informed council that this Friday City Hall will be closed, the Cinco de Mayo festivities will take place this weekend April 28, the KCAC dinner will be held April 29th, and the presentation at the Kern County Board of Supervisors Board Meeting will be May 7.

Note: Council Member Melendez would like to attend the meeting.

- b. Public Safety Department – No items to report.

- c. Community Development Department – Ms. Lara informed council that the department has been various workshops for the Prop 68 grant, the grants department will have a booth at the Cinco de Mayo festivities on April 28th, and the Prop 68 grant application will be submitted August 5th.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

8. Motion by Council Member Perez, seconded by Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to approve the First Amendment to Improvement and Build-Out agreement for Tentative Tract Map No. 7292, Phase 1 upon City Attorney approval of bonds and adopt Resolution No. 2019-0013, A Resolution of the City of McFarland Approving Extension Request for Tentative Tract 7292 as Reflected in Exhibit A and Conditioned in Exhibit B.

Vote: 5-0

Ayes: Perez, Gonzalez, Melendez, McFarland, Cantu

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

ORAL REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL ON COMMITTEES

- a. Delano Mosquito Abatement District (DMAD) – Mr. Melendez informed council and the audience that if anyone has mosquito issues feel free to contact Delano Mosquito Abatement for help.
- b. Kern Council of Governments (KCOG) – None to report.
- c. McFarland Tri-Agency Partners (MTAP) – None to report.
- d. Kern Economic Development Corporation (KEDC) – None to report
- e. Kern County Association of Cities (KCAC) – None to report

COUNCIL STATEMENTS

Perez – Excited to see everyone at the meeting and appreciates all comments. She mentioned that City Manager and staff are doing a good job.

Melendez – Enjoyed everyone being at the meeting and mentioned that he wants the city to be transparent and the city has to do what is best for the community.

Gonzalez – Thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and mentioned she values everyone's opinion.

McFarland – Mentioned that the city is blessed to have all the staff it has now and feels that god has his hands in this community.

Cantu – Thanked everyone for being at the meeting and reminded everyone about the Prayer Breakfast that will be held May 2 at the Mouser Center.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Motion by Council Member Melendez, seconded by Gonzalez, all in favor to approve the minutes of closed session held on April 11, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.


Claudia Ceja, City Clerk

