

## **MINUTES**

### **CITY OF DELANO CITY COUNCIL – SPECIAL MEETING June 23, 2020**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Morris called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 1015 – 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

#### **FLAG SALUTE**

City Manager Reyna led the flag salute.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Council members present: Liz Morris, Joe Alindajao (Teleconference), Bryan Osorio (Teleconference), Grace Vallejo (Teleconference)

Council members absent: Joe Aguirre

#### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

City Manager Reyna, City Clerk Chavez, City Attorney Richman (Teleconference), Finance Director Lara Rios, City Engineer Dowling,

#### **SPECIAL AGENDA**

- 1) Approval of Agreement No. SWRCB0000000000D1902048 for Project 1510005-008C by and between the City of Delano and the California State Water Resources Control Board for the grant funding amount of \$5,000,000.00 for the purpose of constructing the Trichloropropane Removal Plant for Wells 26, 30, and 33 located at Well 24, and approval of plans and specifications for the same and authorization for the City Engineer to advertise for bids.

Staff report provided by City Engineer Dowling.

City Manager Reyna added that this is a \$5 million grant with the assistance of Senator Dean Florez. She also stated that this was not a formal process, but in actuality it was due to Senator Florez bringing it to the City's attention as to knowing that the Water Board having funding. She also shared that Senator Florez tracked, pushed it along to its completion which will go a long way to helping the water fund.

Mayor Morris shared that she is appreciats Senator Florez's efforts.

City Manager Reyna also added that it was funding not known by other cities.

Council Member Osorio shared that he is glad this is finally being brought to Council as he has been waiting for a while and shared his appreciation for Senator Flores, Mr. Dowling and Ms. Reyna and the rest of the staff.

Council Member Vallejo stated the money in the fund, the City was not aware and Senator Florez has kept an eye for the needs of Delano as to mitigating the wells. She said that it was Senator Florez and his influence and connections to the Water Board were able to get this done sooner rather than 2-3 years, so because of his lobbying efforts this was done faster as she asked City Manager Reyna for verification on Senator Florez value.

City Manager Reyna responded in affirmation.

Council Member Vallejo stated she's ready to move forward on this.

Mayor Pro Tem Alindajao thanked city staff and Senator Florez as he sees the residents of Delano being the beneficiaries of the \$5 million.

**Moved by:** Vallejo

**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Osorio

**Vote:** 4-0

**Ayes:** Morris/Alindajao/Osorio/Vallejo

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Aguirre

**Abstentions:** None

- 2) A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Delano authorizing the city manager or her designee to submit to GSA an offer to purchase approximately 804.72 acres of mostly unimproved land located south of W. Garces Highway and west of Melcher Road, for \$5,000,000.00.

Staff report provided by City Engineer Dowling.

Mayor Morris opened the public comment.

Council Member Osorio asked what's the next step after the approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Alindajao asked if this had been open to the public comment.

City Attorney Richman reminded the Mayor to remind the public to press "\*6" to unmute.

Mayor Morris provided said instructions.

Mayor Morris closed public comment.

City Engineer Dowling responded to Council Member Osorio's initial question stating that it will be going to U.S. Congress for approval and then escrow as this needs to be approved before October 1, 2020 which would be within their fiscal year.

Council Member Osorio asked if there would be a hardship to delay this item by placing it on the consent calendar of the regular agenda.

Council Member Vallejo shared that the City received a letter indicating an urgency and replying in timely manner on this item.

City Engineer Dowling affirmed.

Mayor Pro Tem Alindajao shared that this will be one of the most significant decisions he'll make during his short career on the City Council. He added with the history of the City of Delano dealing with being landlocked, this would benefit the City.

Council Member Vallejo concurred with Mayor Pro Tem Alindajao and stated they will never have this kind of opportunity with the availability of land beyond the city limits. She addressed the concern about the three years limit before gaining a profit, it would take three years to plan this land and the City will be making three to four times over as they have had conversations in the acquisitions of this land. Lastly, she stated that one cannot get a deal like this anywhere.

Mayor Morris concurred with what was said and that it is great for the City and asked as to Council Member Osorio's concern on how would the public know about the purchase of the VOA.

City Manager Reyna provided numerous sources of outlets for communication.

Mayor Morris stated that anyone on the Council could respond how beneficial this is for the community.

Council Member Vallejo clarified as to Council Member Osorio's concern is making public comment before they vote. She also added that the Council Meetings are for them to conduct city business. She also stated that under the circumstances it doesn't allow for the City to do much outreach to the public.

Mayor Pro Tem Alindajao agrees with the sentiment of Council Member Osorio, but explained that this has been out there for quite some time and he's sure the Council has spoken or received letters from the public. He also added how this was not the first time the Council as brought this up for discussion.

Council Member Osorio stated he appreciates his fellow Council Members agreeing with his sentiments. He does agree with this item and understands that the City is landlocked and there is a long-term investment, but he was mentioning it for concerns of transparency.

**Moved by:** Alindajao

**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Vallejo

**Vote:** 4-0

**Ayes:** Morris/Alindajao/Osorio/Vallejo

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Aguirre

**Abstentions:** None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Alindajao, seconded by Vallejo, and unanimously carried 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 12:26 p.m.

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Ricardo G. Chavez, City Clerk