

**ACTION MINUTES OF TULARE
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF TULARE**

February 24, 2021

A study session of the City Council, City of Tulare was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., in the Tulare Public Library & Council Chambers, 491 North “M” Street.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Dennis A. Mederos, Terry A. Sayre^(6:38 p.m.), Jose Sigala, Stephen C. Harrel, Patrick Isherwood

STAFF PRESENT: Rob Hunt, Megan Dodd, Josh McDonnell, Wes Hensley, Luis Nevarez, Michael Miller, Craig Miller, Darlene Thompson, Trisha Whitfield, Wes Hensley, Traci Myers^(via Zoom), Janice Avila, Ken Wales, Jason Bowling, Mario Anaya, Jon Hamlin, Roxanne Yoder

I. CALL TO ORDER STUDY SESSION

Mayor Mederos called the study session to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Mayor Mederos led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was held in memory of the 500,000 COVID-19 related deaths.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Comments from the public are limited to items listed on the agenda (GC 54954.3a). Speakers will be allowed three minutes. Please begin your comments by stating and spelling your name and providing your city of residence.

No public comments were provided.

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

Comments related to General Business Items are limited to three minutes per speaker, for a maximum of 30 minutes per item, unless otherwise extended by the Council.

(1) Community & Economic Development:

- a. Review, discussion and direction to staff on Homeless Shelter Siting Criteria. [Submitted by: T. Myers]** Deputy City Manager Josh McDonnell provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Emergency Shelter Siting Criteria in the City of Tulare.

Mayor Mederos opened up discussions to public comment. Machael Smith of Tulare Kings Homeless Alliance requested that the Council be conscious of

the low-barrier navigation centers and that they, too, are deemed an emergency shelter.

Janet LeBaron addressed the Council regarding the use of the Fairgrounds for a shelter.

Kurt Lange addressed the Council on whether the City is moving to a model of many smaller shelters as opposed to one or two larger shelters.

Mari Perez-Ruiz, Executive Director Board Chair of Central Valley Empowerment Alliance addressed the Council with concerns over moving the vulnerable encampments during the pandemic and the length of time one has to wait for available beds within the County.

John Harman addressed the Council with concerns over the number of beds increasing, if a shelter is built, encouraging more to come to Tulare.

Deputy City Manager Josh McDonnell responded thereto. Comments and questions posed by Council were addressed by staff.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to address any concerns or potential changes in the criteria through the Housing Element Update.

- b. Further discussion regarding State Route 99 encampments. [Requested by: City Council at the 2/16/2021 meeting]** City Manager Rob Hunt provided an update for the Council's review and consideration on the current CalTrans process in addressing the dangerous condition of State Route 99 homeless encampments. He further advised of a meeting that he and Police Chief Wes Hensley will attend with California Highway Patrol officials concerning same. Chief Hensley also commented on the matter.

V. ADJOURN STUDY SESSION

Mayor Mederos adjourned the study session at 7:46 p.m.

President of the Council and Ex-Officio
Mayor of the City of Tulare

ATTEST:

Chief Deputy City Clerk and Clerk of the
Council of the City of Tulare