

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

June 22, 2021

A closed session of the City Council, City of Tulare was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., in the Tulare Public Library & Council Chambers, 491 North "M" Street.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Dennis A. Mederos, Terry A. Sayre, Jose Sigala, Stephen C. Harrell, Patrick Isherwood

STAFF PRESENT: Rob Hunt, Mario Zamora, Janice Avila, Bill Avery^(via telephone), Jose Rivas, Jason Bowling, Roxanne Yoder

5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Mederos called the closed session to order at 5:33 p.m.

II. 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.

There were no public comments.

III. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION(S):

Mayor Mederos adjourned to closed session at 5:34 p.m.

- (a) 54957 Public Employment
Title: City Manager

IV. RECONVENE CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Mederos reconvened closed session at 5:58 p.m.

V. CLOSED SESSION REPORT (if any)

Mayor Mederos advised there was no reportable action.

VI. ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Mederos adjourned closed session at 5:58 p.m.

A special session of the City Council, City of Tulare was held on Tuesday, June 22, 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, Jose Sigala, Stephen C. Harrel, Patrick Isherwood

STAFF PRESENT: Rob Hunt, Mario Zamora, Josh McDonnell, Michael Miller, Darlene Thompson, Trisha Whitfield, Jason Glick, Wes Hensley, Rodnie Roberts, Traci Myers, Janice Avila, Alexis Costales, Jose Rivas, Jason Bowling, Roxanne Yoder

VII. CALL TO ORDER SPECIAL SESSION

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

VIII. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Council Member Isherwood led the Pledge of Allegiance and Janice Hill led the invocation.

IX. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Mederos requested those who wish to speak on matters not on the agenda within the jurisdiction of the Council, or to address or request a matter be pulled from the consent calendar to do so at this time. He further stated comments related to general business matters would be heard at the time that matter is addressed on the agenda.

Patrick Moore addressed the Council as to whether there are any resources for the homeless. Mr. Moore requested his phone number for staff to reach out to him following this meeting to provide a response thereto.

X. 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 and discussion on the effects of the *Martin v. Boise* ruling on jurisdictions within the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals district.

[Submitted by: M. Zamora] City Manager Rob Hunt provided an introduction of tonight's meeting and introduced City Attorney Mario Zamora who provided a review of *Martin v. Boise* for the Council's review and consideration. Mayor Mederos responded to Mr. Zamora's report. Comments by Council. Informational discussion item only.

- b. Review and discussion regarding the current City partnerships to respond to issues related to homelessness, including involved organizations, services provided and levels of funding offered.**
[Submitted by: J. McDonnell] Community & Economic Development Director Traci Myers provided a PowerPoint presentation for the Council's review and consideration. Questions and comments posed by Council were addressed by staff. Informational discussion item only.
- c. City Council review and discussion regarding the Strategic Action Committee on Homelessness; direction to staff as appropriate.**
[Submitted by: T. Myers] Community & Economic Development Director Traci Myers provided a PowerPoint presentation for the Council's review and consideration. Comments by Vice Mayor Sayre regarding the Pathway Home Plan, the County Taskforce and structure of the City's Strategic Action Committee. Comments by Council Member Sigala. Mayor Mederos responded thereto.

Chuck Miguel, Chair of the Strategic Ad Hoc Committee addressed the Council.

Janice Hill questioned the Council on how much the homeless costs the city.

Caity Meader and Susie Ward addressed the Council.

Following a lengthy discussion it was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to bring back an item for consideration on the reformation of the Strategic Action Ad Hoc Committee, review of its membership, under the general guidance of the Pathway Home Plan, with specific priorities to Tulare, as well as staff resources and potential funding.

- d. Review and discussion on the Memorandum authored by Council member Sigala addressed to the Tulare City Council dated May 10, 2021 regarding non-housing homeless initiatives; direction to staff as appropriate:**
- **Discussion to include the designation of a "safe space" within the City of Tulare for persons experiencing homelessness. [Submitted by: T. Myers]**
- 1. Establishment of an Overnight Parking Zone for individuals sleeping in their vehicles.** It was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to review and provide a report at a future meeting.
 - 2. Establish a Pilot Program with the Tulare Police Department to dismiss low-level citations and infractions to homeless individuals if the individual seeks support to address their homeless situation, such as seeks support for alcohol or drug dependency, seeks medical, housing, mental health support.** There was no consensus for further direction.

3. **Assistance to those who are willing to house a homeless individual in their home by providing a form of a grant to help cover expenses, such as food, rent, etc.** There was no consensus for further direction.
4. **Increase funding to the Landlord Mitigation Fund by \$50,000 thousand dollars to encourage more participation; and,**
5. **Create an Education/Outreach campaign to encourage more participants to participate in providing housing to homeless individuals through the Landlord Mitigation Fund.**

Council Member Sigala combined items 4 and 5. The Council, by consensus, directed staff to take a look at adding additional dollars in line with the recommendation from Mr. Sigala as far as the Landlord Mitigation Fund.

6. **Recommend the Tulare City Council enact an eviction moratorium that helps prevent a mass homelessness problem.**

There was no consensus for further direction.

7. **One-time financial resources, such as,**

- a. **security deposits,**
- b. **legal assistance,**
- c. **financial management; and,**
- d. **preventing evictions.**

There was no consensus for further direction as there other funding resources to address these needs.

8. **Strengthen Public Engagement and Community Partnerships on the issue of homelessness.** The Council concurred with this request.
9. **Recommend the City of Tulare have a seat on the Continuum of Care Board.** Representatives of the Continuum of Care indicated there are membership opportunities. There was no consensus for further direction.
10. **Additional Training for the Tulare Police Department on handling homelessness.** Per Police Chief Hensley indicated this training will be forthcoming.
11. **Double the city's annual support of the Kings/Tulare Homeless Alliance Point in Time count.** There was no consensus for further direction.
12. **Recommend to the City Council to direct staff to research the process to purchase of a hotel/motel to temporarily house homeless individuals.** It was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to review and bring back for the Council's consideration.

- 13. Discussion on the establishment of a Warming Center/Cooling Center policy for the upcoming summer and winter season.** It was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to review and bring back for the Council's consideration.
- 14. Work with the county to establish an anti-poverty campaign to tackle poverty. (Major cause of homelessness).** Council Member Sigala commented on this request indicating his desire for Supervisor VanderPoel to look into establishing an anti-poverty campaign.
- e. Review and discussion on the status of the City's Housing Asset Funds in the sum of \$500,000 set aside by Council to be utilized for homelessness projects and/or programs; direction to staff as appropriate. [Submitted by: T. Myers]** Community and Economic Development Director provided a PowerPoint presentation for Council's review and consideration. Questions and comments posed by Council. It was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to bring the Lighthouse Rescue Mission's proposal to them for review and consideration.
- f. Receive community input of possible solutions to help mitigate homelessness issues in the City of Tulare. [Submitted by: R. Hunt]** Caity Meader (Family Services of Tulare County), John Harman (Tulare Downtown Association), Noah Whittaker (Tulare County Homeless Coordinator), Janet LeBaron (Tulare resident), Fred Brown (Lighthouse Rescue Mission Board), and Carolyn Wong (Tulare resident), addressed the Council with comments, suggestions and clarifications for consideration.

Patrick Isherwood provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Eden House project in Visalia as an example of a collaborative homeless shelter project.

Mayor Mederos requested and received consensus to work with staff and the City Attorney to analyze Martin v. Boise as it relates to fully complying with same, not criminalizing the need for people to sleep in public places, because we do not have a space for the, but still providing for certain areas that are off limits and certain restrictions on the parks for basic maintenance.

XI. ADJOURN SPECIAL SESSION

Mayor Mederos adjourned the special session at 9:40 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