

MEETING MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF WESTMORLAND FOR May 6, 2020

The City Council of the City of Westmorland met in regular meeting in City Hall on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 6:00 PM. Mayor Ana Beltran via phone called the meeting in order at 6:07 PM and Councilmen Henry Graham led the invocation.

Present at time of roll call: Council members Larry Ritchie, Justina Cruz, Henry Graham, Xavier Mendez and via phone Mayor Ana Beltran. Due to the stay home notice council meeting is not open to the public but available via zoom in telephone, also present were City Attorney Mitch Driskill, City Clerk Judith Rivera, Chief of Police Perry Monita, Westmorland Fire Department Michael Ginnis

Oral Communication:

1) Councilmen Xavier Mendez announced that the Little League International President gave the green light to open little league it is now up to the local City Government to open up parks. City Mayor Ana Beltran stated parks will not open until the City moves on to phase III. City Attorney Mitch Driskill stated that the City of El Centro has released their plan which the County disagreed too; they are currently having meetings to come up with a County wide plan. Councilmen Henry Graham stated they have been having meetings on regular basis and have asked someone from the City of Westmorland to attend and represent the City. Mr. Driskill stated the County has been emailing the City, meetings are at 4:00 pm every day. City Mayor Ana Beltran is just concerned of meetings going on that they might not be aware of. 2) Westmorland Fire Department Michael Ginnis stated he spoke to Mr. Cordero Westmorland School District Superintendent who was not able to call in for the meeting but asked Mr. Ginnis to give an update. Mr. Ginnis informed Council that starting next week the school will continue to provide meals but only on Mondays, Wednesday's, and Thursday's. As of today, the School District is planning to reopen August 17th normal schedule not sure if it will be distance learning. Mr. Ginnis provided Council with a COVID 19 update on positive cases, and informed that there is EOC briefings Monday thru Friday 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm anyone interested can call in or join zoom meeting. There is also COVID 19 testing available at the Imperial Fairgrounds Plaza de la Cultura anyone interested is able to call in or login to register and request a simple 10 second test.

New Business:

Discussion/Adoption of Ordinance No. 20-01 of the City of Westmorland approving a development agreement with Love's Country Stores of California, Inc. Regarding the Project Commonly known as the Westmorland Gateway – Joel Hamby: Mr. Joel Hamby was not present at the meeting or via phone his currently out of town, City attorney Mitch Driskill presented his item stated this was discussed and approved at the last meeting needing to have the 1st reading by title. M – Henry Graham adoption of Ordinance No. 20-01 as stated above. S – Larry Ritchie M/C.

Old Business:

Public Hearing: Love's DA Amendment Hearing – Joel Hamby: Mitch stated item has been discussed at the last meeting.

Discussion/Action Initiate preparation of plans and specifications for Street Improvement Plan, Phase III; direction to BJ Engineering – Mitch Driskill: City attorney Mitch Driskill stated City staff and Council was supposed to meet and update the five-year plan list. Mayor Ana Beltran stated will bring item back on the next meeting.

Council, Staff & Consultants – Discussion and Action:

Discussion/Update CDBG – Teri Nava: Mrs. Teri Nava informed Council the park project was supposed to start about a month ago but due to the current Pandemic project has not started yet. Contractor stated new equipment has just arrived and plan to start project on Friday of this week, it will take about three weeks to complete after that park will remain closed until the City gives the okay to reopen. Mrs. Nava also informed Council about the Sundance properties. She has gone thru all the files and there is about eight reconveyances that have not be completed and need to get prepared, signed by the Mayor and submitted to the County to record. City attorney Mitch Driskill stated his office can take care of that and asked Mrs. Nava to provide him with copies of the Deed of Trust, promissory notes, general agreements, and his office will prepare the paperwork.

Discussion/Update Housing Element – Teri Nava: Mrs. Nava stated Mr. Hamby received an email from the State regarding the Housing Element, they are asking the City to update their annual performance report, Mrs. Nava asked the City Council if they would like for her or for Mr. Hamby to prepare and submit reports, she is willing to help in any way she can, either of the two would be able to complete report and submit. Mrs. Nava also informed the Council that she is coming into City hall on Friday afternoons and is available in case anyone needs anything. M – Henry Graham authorization and direction for Mrs. Nava to prepare and submit annual reports. S – Xavier Mendez M/C.

Discussion/Adoption of Resolution 20-08 Accepting fund from 2018-2019 COPS grant (AB 1584) Reimbursement of (2) Police Officers dates 01/24/2020 – 05/01/2020 in the amount of \$24,320.00 and Axon Enterprises for taser supplies in the amount of \$2,435.70 – Perry Monita: Police Chief Perry Monita presented Council with a copy of Resolution 20-08 where he would like to use some of the COP funds available for the items listed above. M – Henry Graham adoption of Resolution 20-08 as stated above. S – Larry Ritchie M/C.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes for September 20, 2017, March 12 (special) and 21st 2018, April 15, 2020 and City Warrants: M – Henry Graham approval of April 15, 2020 meeting minutes and City Warrants S – Larry Ritchie M/C.

Closed Session:

Discussion of Public Employee's Resignation, hiring process and evaluation (Gov't Code §54957(b)(1.)) – Council:

Council adjourned into Closed Session at 6:41 PM readjourned back into regular meeting at 7:50 PM. With nothing to report.

M – Larry Ritchie to adjourn this meeting at 7:50 pm S – Xavier Mendez Next regular scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

/s/ Judith C. Rivera

Judith C. Rivera, City Clerk

/s/ Ana Beltran

Ana Beltran, Mayor