

MEETING MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF WESTMORLAND FOR January 8, 2020

The City Council of the City of Westmorland met in regular meeting in City Hall on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 6:00 PM. Mayor Pro Tem Larry Ritchie called the meeting in order at 6:00 PM and Mr. Joel Hamby led the invocation.

Present at time of roll call: Council members Mayor Pro tem Larry Ritchie, Henry Graham, Xavier Mendez, and Justina Cruz. Also present were City Attorney Mitch Driskill, City Clerk Judith Rivera, Chief of Police Perry Monita, City Treasurer Anne Graham, Public Works Director Ramiro Barajas, absent were Mayor Ana Beltran

Oral Communication:

1) Mr. Tom Dubose and Mr. Sean Wilcock from the Imperial Valley Economic Development were present to inform Council and the public of the upcoming inland port project, an extension of the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports. This 6,000-acre project will be on the north end of the Imperial Valley and create about 20, to 30 thousand jobs within the next ten to twenty years. Mr. Wilcock stated he will leave a datastick with copy of the support letter and a link for council to see what the project is all about and hopes to get Council's support with a letter on behalf of the City of Westmorland once the time comes. 2) Ms. Virginia Dickerson a City resident wanted to ask the City if they could do something about the house on the corner of North C and East 5th Councilmen Larry Ritchie stated he stopped by and property owner stated they would start cleaning it up.

Old Business:

Discussion/Action of Commercial water and Sewer rates – Joel Hamby: Mr. Hamby presented Council with one more commercial account that wanted their usage reviewed, a calculation table for the America's Best Value Inn Motel was presented. Mr. Hamby recommends Council to approve the request rate adjustment based on the calculation table presented. Councilmen Henry Graham asked Mr. Hamby if new rate covers expense both labor, materials, chemicals and so on and the City does not lose money on this change. Mr. Hamby stated No the City does not lose money on it and that Council can reevaluate accounts in April. Councilmen Henry Graham stated he just wants to make sure the rates across the board does not subsidize the individual or corporation as oppose to the City, Mr. Joel Hamby stated No it does not. M – Henry Graham approval of rate adjustment for Americas Best Value Inn as recommend by Mr. Hamby S – Xavier Mendez M/C.

Council, Staff & Consultants – Discussion and Action:

Little Citizens Park – Teri Nava: Mrs. Teri Nava, CDBG Consultant informed wanted to inform the City Council that the Little Citizens Project did go out to bid but received only one bid for the project. The State doesn't usually agree on only one bid received for its projects. The State CDBG has asked the City to fill out application to the State and get approval, they have also

requested an analysis submitted of what the cost will be, prevailing wages will need to be paid. Once CDBG has approved the project Mrs. Nava will return to Council to request to award bid to the Contractor.

Housing Element – Teri Nava: Mrs. Nava stated that about four, five months ago council approved her to work on the housing element, the main issue the City is having with the state is that the City of Westmorland does not have enough low-income housing or properties to annex in to bring in more low-income housing. Mrs. Nava informed Council of a new law Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) proposed by CDBG, which are also know as granny flats, backyard secondary units. This project is intended to provide more low housing units. Mrs. Nava will bring back item with more details in the next council meeting. Mrs. Nava also stated that is important for the City to comply with the state housing requirements, because doing so allows the City to apply for more funds for future projects like for a new Fire Departments, etc.

RLA and CDBG Housing Loans – Teri Nava: Mrs. Teri Nava stated that she was recently contacted by City staff because there was information requested by the auditors who had a report that indicated the City had an amount of 1.3 million dollars in deferred loans. Mrs. Nava stated that according to a basic overview its not close to \$700,000.00 she is requesting Council approval/permission to allow her to go over documents and files and come up with a correct report of the deferred loan amounts. M – Henry Graham approval up to 40 hours for Mrs. Teri Nava review RLA and CDBG loans S – Xavier Mendez M/C.

Introduction of Volunteer Range Master Ruben Diaz – Police Chief Perry Monita: Police Chief Perry Monita introduced Mr. Ruben Diaz Volunteer Range Master who currently works at College of the Desert. Mr. Diaz will assist the Police department with training. Chief Monita gave Mr. Ruben Diaz the oath of affirmation of allegiance. Chief Monita also thanked Sgt. Reyes for all his assistance with this matter, conducting background check and lining up Mr. Diaz. On behalf of the City Mayor Pro tem Larry Ritchie thanked Mr. Ruben Diaz for volunteering and his assistance with the Police department.

Approval of payment to the San Bernardino Sheriffs Department in the amount of \$390.00 for Defensive Instructor Driving training for Sgt. Reyes – Police Chief Perry Monita: Police Chief Monita expressed the importance of this training, as a Defensive Instructor Sgt. Reyes will be able to train other local officers. Chief Monita expressed how this would be an important contribution to all the departments. M – Henry Graham approval to make payment in the amount of \$390.00 and to be reimbursed at a later time by determined funds. S – Xavier Mendez M/C.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes for September 20, 2017, March 12 (special) and 21st 2018, December 18, 2019 and City Warrants: M – Henry Graham approval of December 18, 2019 minutes and City Warrants S – Xavier Mendez M/C.

Closed Session:

Council adjourned into Closed Session at 6:51 PM Discussion of Public Employee, or Evaluation (Gov't Code §54957(b)(1),) Council readjoined back to regular meeting at 7:20 pm with

nothing to report. M – Henry Graham to adjourn this meeting at 7:21pm S – Xavier Mendez M/C. Next regular scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

/s/ Judith C. Rivera

Judith C. Rivera, City Clerk

/s/ Ana Beltran

Ana Beltran, Mayor