

MEETING MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING  
COMMISSION BOARDS OF THE CITY OF WESTMORLAND FOR JUNE 3, 2020

The City Council of the City of Westmorland met in regular meeting in City Hall on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 6:00 PM. Mayor Pro Tem Larry Ritchie called the meeting in order at 6:00 PM and Councilmen Henry Graham led the invocation.

*Present at time of roll call:* Council members Larry Ritchie, Justina Cruz, Henry Graham, 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 absent was Mayor Ana Beltran and Councilmember Xavier Mendez.

Oral Communication:

1) Mr. Richard Cordero Westmorland School District Superintendent just wanted to let Council know they will be having their drive thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion and parade Thursday at 6:00pm; Westmorland Fire and Police will help out with it, Mr. Cordero has provided them with a map of the streets they will be passing by once again Thanked the Council for the help from the Fire and Police departments. Mr. Cordero also stated that school will resume on August 17<sup>th</sup> will have more information mid-June or July. Councilmember Larry Ritchie stated that Caltrans came out three weeks ago and did a survey on the Hwy 86 and C Street crossing. Caltrans will be working on the crosswalk and add new signs, work will start in August hopefully before the students are due to return to school. 2) Perry Monita was contacted by Elizabeth who is assisting with the CENSUS, she will be riding around town on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm to 6:00pm reaching out to the community to participate and register for the CENSUS. Also, Chief Monita stated Ms. Gloria Lima reached out to him wanting someone to reach out to the daughter again about cleaning up her property on 201 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The travel RV on 1<sup>st</sup> Street has been moved. 3) City Attorney Mitch Driskill presented Council with a draft copy of the 2019/2020 budget would like Council to review and bring back on the next meeting. 4) Westmorland Fire Department Michael Ginnis gave an oral update on the COVID 19 situation The City of Westmorland has gone up three (3) additional cases and 21 overall. Mr. Ginnis stated that County of Imperial will be submitting something in writing to the Governor of California asking for an exception on some of the requirements. The number of cases continue to raise in the Imperial Valley making it difficult to move onto stage III due to all the traffic coming in from across the border, which is affecting the numbers.

Adjournment to Planning Commission Board: Council adjourned into the Planning Commission meeting at 6:16 PM Discussion/Action Approval to build a car port on the front yard property setback at 328 W. Jauregui – Joel Hamby: M – Henry Graham based on Mr. Joel Hamby's recommendation he made a motion to approve to build car port on the front yard of their property S – Justina Cruz M/C.

Adjournment back to regular City Council meeting: Council adjourned back to the regular Council meeting at 6:17 PM.

New Business:

Discussion/Action Implement Water and Wastewater Capital Improvement Fund to be collected from Water and Waste Water Enterprise Funds – Joel Hamby: Mr. Hamby was not available City attorney Mitch Driskill stated they have been discussing this for a while, stated that one of the justifications to increase water and sewer rates was to cover the cost of operation and maintenance, but also to collect sufficient funds for future capital improvements. Funds are to go into a separate capital improvement fund, item will be brought back on the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Discussion/Action Extend agreement with CR&R for waste disposal services: review rates and charges – Mitch Driskill: City attorney Mitch Driskill stated he has been in communication with CR&R the agreement with the City is up, CR&R are suggesting to extend the current agreement on the same/current terms. Current agreement states that CR&R can ask for a cost of living annual increase no greater than a 3% CR&R are not proposing any other changes. M – Henry Graham to extend the current agreement with CR&R S – Justina Cruz M/C.

Old Business:

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/Action LEAP Application – Teri Nava: Mrs. Teri Nava CDBG consultant was available via phone stated that she and Mr. Hamby have been discussing the grant available which is \$65,000.00 which can be utilized to update the Housing Element. Mrs. Nava stated these funds would help bring in a consultant to assist, she is asking Council for authorization to send out a proposal to variance consultants to get cost of what it would cost to update the Housing Element and complete the application and submit. M – Henry Graham approval to move forward on what is needed to apply for the grant funds. S – Justina Cruz M/C.

Discussion/Update on the Little Citizen's Park Project – Teri Nava: Mrs. Teri Nava stated they have extended the sand box area another ten feet east for the safety of the kids, the new swing set ended up a bit bigger. Mrs. Nava is also doing the labor compliance for this project, there was some issues with the shade, which is still under warranty but the company has sold and is not honoring the warranty, there is funds available under program income to replace, Mrs. Nava is getting pricing. All lighting is up and working, hope to complete project in a few more weeks.

Discussion/Action Update on Closed /Delinquent service accounts – Judi Rivera: Clerk stated that most accounts are old, and most do show a deposit which has not been applied. Will present a list of accounts to set up and have available to make the adjustments needed to write off.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes for September 20, 2017, March 12 (special) and 21<sup>st</sup> 2018, May 20, 2020 and City Warrants: M – Henry Graham approval of May 20, 2020 meeting minutes and City Warrants S – Justina Cruz M/C.

No Close Session:

Discussion of Public Employee’s Resignation, hiring process and evaluation (Gov’t Code §54957(b)(1).) – Council: item will be brought back on the next Council Meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup> Mayor Ana Beltran would like to be part of the discussion.

Councilmen Henry Graham informed the City Council that he will attend the next meeting and will be giving his letter of resignation, it’s great, enjoyed every year, there is still a lot to be done, and stated the real job of a Councilmember is to watch the money, protect the City then the employees. The City comes first to avoid going back to the situation back in 1999. Mr. Graham stated they he said he would reach out and try to find an individual who would fit and had the knowledge of the City, someone who has recently been elected and secured the majority of the votes for the position held (the City Clerk). City Clerk Judith Rivera would be happy to serve in the City Council and move forward with the process of finding a new City Clerk. Councilmen Henry Graham recommends appointing Ms. Rivera.

M – Henry Graham to adjourn this meeting at 6:41 S – Justina Cruz Next regular scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

/s/ Judith C. Rivera

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Judith C. Rivera, City Clerk

/s/ Larry Ritchie

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Larry Ritchie, Mayor Pro-tem