



# MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL AND THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF WESTMORLAND

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024 6:00 PM

## MINUTES

**Call to Order** – Mayor Judith Rivera

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Mayor Rivera

### Roll Call:

Mayor, Judith Rivera

Mayor Pro-tem, Xavier Mendez

Council Member, Justina Cruz

Council Member, Ray Gutierrez

Council Member, Ana Beltran

### *Mayor's Message*

This is a public meeting. You may be heard on an agenda item before the Council takes action on the item upon being recognized by the mayor. During the oral communications portion of the agenda, you may address the Council on items that do not appear on the agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Council. Personal attacks on individuals, slanderous comments, or comments, which may invade an individual's privacy, are prohibited. The mayor reserves the right to limit the speaker's time. Individuals wishing accessibility accommodations at this meeting, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), may request such accommodations to aid hearing, visual, or mobility impairment by contacting City Hall at (760) 344-3411. Please note that 48 hours advance notice will be necessary to honor your request.

### ***Brown Act AB 361:***

**Location:** Westmorland City Hall Council Chambers 355 S Center Street

Judith Rivera- Mayor

Xavier Mendez- Mayor Pro-Tem

Ana Beltran- Council Member

Justina Cruz- Council Member

Ray Gutierrez- Council Member

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### **Regular City Council Meeting:**

**Oral Communication-Public Comment:** Now is the time for any member of the public to speak to the Council. Please step to the podium and state your name and address for the record.

- Jose Salazar, IVC Rep.: Mr. Salazar presented to the city council of a potential Movie night in the city. He mentioned he just previously just had a collaboration with the City of Brawley he was interested in doing the same with the City of Westmorland within the next week or so. City council directed him to contact Mrs. Pisch with further details of the event.
- Informational Presentation on Future Westmorland Bypass- David Aguirre, Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC). Mr. Aguirre mentioned to council of the long-term and short-term Forrester Road improvements such as the Westmorland Bypass and upcoming road improvements on the Forrester Road.

### **Staff Reports Non-Action Items:**

- **Fire Department** - Sergio Cruz. Mr. Cruz reported to council he did receive the FEMA Trailers from the County he's currently waiting on time for Public Works to take them over to his yard. The Fire Engen that David & Sons been working on has finally find the issue and is currently working on fishing it up to bring back to the city. On the following Sunday his six (6) Fire Fighters had training.

- Public Works Director - Ramiro Barajas. Mr. Barajas informed the council on his most recent State Water Board Visit. The Board had informed him they will be giving him their recommendation. He mentioned he will bring back the additional information to the City Council.
- City Manager- Laura Fischer -Part-time Manager. Mrs. Fischer mentioned the following from her written Staff report:
  - The county safety seal tax pitch
  - Having a meeting with the Padilla Office
  - Will be bringing back the accounting software sometime in May
  - Housing and Leap grants first payments
  - The CDBG housing monitoring will be this coming Friday
  - Potential meeting with Teri Nava

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 3, 2024

2. Approval of City Warrant List.

AYES: (1) Beltran, (2) Cruz, Mendez, Rivera  
 NOS: 0  
 ABSENT: Gutierrez

**Regular Business:**

1. Discussion/Action Approve new CR&R Contract- Laura Fischer, Manager. Mrs. Fischer brought to council that her recommendation is to update the CR&R contract to make the city complaint with what the state is requesting from Mrs. Castro she's unable to provide. Mrs. Rivera stated the only way they will even consider is to keep the same year of 2025. They are wanting less years with the contract, year to year contracting.

2. Discussion/Action Purchase of procured mulch for compliance of Cal Recycle- Tami Castro, City Hall Supervisor. Mrs. Castro brought to council that due to the SBA requirements that the city had to purchase mulch from a local holler. With CR&R it will be an amount of \$4,480.00, if and when the contract is updated the price per ton will be slightly less then what the city will be paying now.

AYES: (1) Cruz, (2) Beltran, Mendez, Rivera  
 NOS: 0  
 ABSENT: Gutierrez

3. Discussion/Action Approval to close Bank Account and Transfer Funds to Local Agency Investment Fund- Laura Fischer, Manager. Mrs. Fischer requested to Table till the following meeting in May.

4. Discussion/Action Approval of AC Repair on Engine 6121 not to exceed &2,000.00- Sergio Cruz, Fire Chief. Mr. Cruz mentioned to council the AC has been out since the winter and found no need have the AC replaced till this spring with the heat already coming and the Fire fighters needing it in the engine. His quote provided is a worst-case scenario of the estimated fix. Council motioned not to exceed \$2,100.00 from the general fund.

AYES: (1) Beltran, (2) Mendez, Cruz, Rivera  
 NOS: 0  
 ABSENT: Gutierrez

5. Information/ Discussion: Regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Review- Laura Fischer, Manager. Mrs. Fischer mentioned to council her recommendation is to have a budget workshop for all

council and supervisors to attend. Council agreed to holding a special meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> a 5pm before the regular scheduled meeting.

6. Information/ Discussion: State Water Board Compliance Order- Laura Fischer, Manager. Mrs. Fischer mentioned to council that Mr. Barajas had responded back to the State Water Board in a timely matter they are currently doing all testing required from the state.

**Closed Session:**

- Public Service Employees Job descriptions and salary scales, as well as Appointment, Employment, or evaluation and possible management position (Gov't. Code §54957(b)(1).) Legal Counsel Pending Litigation Claim – 100 S H Street (Gov't. Code §54956.9(d)(1).)

Adjournment into closed session: 6:46 PM

End of closed session: 7:01 PM

To reportable action was taken.

**Adjournment:** Next regular scheduled meeting May 1, 2024.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50PM

AYES: (1) Beltran, (2) Mendez, Cruz, Rivera

NONES: 0

ABSENT: Gutierrez

*Submitted for Approval: April 29, 2024.*

Audio Transcription: Christine Pisch, City Clerk

Transcript Record: Christine Pisch, City Clerk