



**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF WESTMORLAND**

**WEDNESDAY, February 5, 2024  
6:00 PM  
City Council Chambers  
355 South Center Street  
Westmorland, CA 92281**

*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  
Justina Cruz - Mayor Pro- Tem  
Ana Beltran- Council Member  
Xavier Mendez - Council Member  
Ray Gutierrez- Council Member

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**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6pm by Mayor Rivera

**Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation:**

Was led by Mayor Rivera

**Roll Call:**

Present at the Council Meeting:  
Mayor, Judith Rivera  
Mayor Pro-Tem, Justina Cruz  
Member, Xavier Mendez

**Absent:**

Member, Ray Gutierrez  
Member, Ana Beltran

**Staff Present:**

City Clerk, Christine Pisch  
Fire Chief, Sergio Cruz  
PW Director, Ramiro Barajas  
Police Chief, Lyn Mara  
Manager, Laura Fischer

**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. Three (3) minute maximum time.

Alex Cardenas -IID Board Member: Mr. Cardenas reported to council that he provided a presentation to the seniors at the Senior Center in Westmorland he is going to be planning a two-on-two meeting with Mrs. Rivera and Mr. Barajas so he's able to provide more information to the city and its council.

**Staff Reports Non-Action Items:**

**Fire Department** – Chief Sergio Cruz ABSENT.

**Police Department** – Chief Lynn Mara, nothing to report.

**City Manager**- Laura Fischer, provided a written report to the council.

**Public Works Director** - Ramiro Barajas, reported the filter project is moving forward they had just received and installed the customized filter that had come all the way from Canada on Monday morning as well as the sink hole at the wastewater plant was invoice at about \$28,000.00 and they are going to start the process to fix the hole.

**Consent Agenda:** Approve the Consent Agenda Items 1-2.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2024
2. Approval of City Warrant List.  
AYES: (1) Cruz, (2) Mendez, Rivera  
NOES: 0  
ABSENT: Beltran, Gutierrez

**Regular Business: 6:10pm**

- 1) Discussion and Action to Authorize Staff to Include Improvements to the Drain at Martin and South 8<sup>th</sup> Street for Repair in an Amount Not to Exceed \$60,000 from Measure D Funds. Ramiro Barajas, Public Works Director. Mr. Barajas presented to the council that he's been working with IID on this project for some time and due to the long overtime due and the number of citizens concerned about the 8<sup>th</sup> street conditions that IID is more than happy to help and include 8th Street to the as a street improvement. IID Representative Mr. Pacheco IID will be providing Technion Assistance and advice as well they will simplify the encroachment permit process as well as any additional assistance the city may need, they will be at our dispense.  
AYES: (1) Mendez, (2) Cruz, Rivera  
NOES: 0  
ABSENT: Beltran, Gutierrez
- 2) Discussion and Action to Authorize a prepare and submit a request for proposals for manhole repair project with funding from Wastewater Fund. Ramiro Barajas Public Works Director. Mr. Barajas stated that there are other sink holes in the area that he wants to start looking to funding and quotes to repair them he stated that he's a possible funding from RCAC that can help with the costs.  
AYES: (1) Mendez, (2) Cruz, Rivera  
NOES: 0  
ABSENT: Beltran, Gutierrez
- 3) Discussion and Action to Authorize the use of Various City Funds to Pay an Invoice in the Amount of \$712,835.35 to Cora Construction Pending Reimbursement from State Water Board. Laura Fischer Manager. Ms. Fischer stated that to pay the invoice it can be split between the water and sewer funds.  
AYES: (1) Mendez, (2) Cruz, Rivera  
NOES: 0  
ABSENT: Beltran, Gutierrez
- 4) Information Only Regarding: New Accounting Software System. Laura Fischer Manager. Ms. Fischer gave a brief statement on the new live utility billing systems with Frey and Invoice Cloud as well mentioning to council they may receive concerns from residents and may see on their own when they pay online the service fees have increased since the old fee was incorrect and the city was paying the other

fees paying thousands of dollars over the years this new system calculated for the city and does it off a percentage of the customers bill. If they are not past due the fee should be roughly \$4.94 service fee. She also provided the council with a copy of a bill and the new information we are now implementing on the back of the billing to the residents.

**Closed Session: 6:36pm**

- Public Service Employees Job descriptions and salary scales, as well as Appointment, Employment, or evaluation (Gov't. Code §54957(b)(1).)
- Conference with legal Counsel Pending Litigation (Gov't. Code §54956.9 (d) (1))

After reconvening the open session Mayor Rivera stated that nothing was to be reported.

**Adjournment: 6:37pm**

Next regular scheduled meeting February 19, 2024.

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

NOES: 0

ABSENT: Beltran, Gutierrez

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If you need further assistance, please email the City Clerk  
[cityclerk@cityofwestmorland.net](mailto:cityclerk@cityofwestmorland.net)

