

**July 13, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

Tracy City Hall, 333 Civic Center Plaza, Tracy

Web Site: [www.ci.tracy.ca.us](http://www.ci.tracy.ca.us)

Due to the COVID-19 emergency, the special meeting was conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. Residents participated remotely via WebEx during the meeting.

1. Mayor Young called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.
2. Roll call found Council Members Arriola, Bedolla, Davis and Mayor Young present. Mayor Pro Tem Vargas absent.

Roll call found Tracy Rural Fire Protection District Board Members Kopinski, Vieira, Vice Chair Ramsey, and Chair Reece present.

3. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE - None

4. JOINT MEETING OF THE TRACY CITY COUNCIL AND THE TRACY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO DISCUSS THE OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT AND THE PLAN TO TRANSITION FIRE PERSONNEL TO THE AUTHORITY

Mayor Young provided opening comments.

Randall Bradley, Fire Chief provided the staff report.

Alice English stated she was pleased to see the Rural Board at the meeting. As an advocate she tries to do what is best for Tracy, stands by public safety, was passionate and proud about EMS, and is supportive of the partnership.

Mary Mitracos asked the following questions: Explain what happened with the detachment and non-detachment and three cent override. How much money has the board lost on an annual basis. Where is that money going, to City or County. What is going to happen 10, 25 or 50 years from now. How is the City of Tracy's growth going to impact the Rural Fire District. As time goes on you will be paying less and less, why should Council agree to have equal representation. Questions for Council: How is the City going to allow this, what do you think about a governance model. Lafco decision - is the City sure they are doing the right thing the right way, and spoke about the four member membership.

Jeff Ramsey, Vice Chair Tracy Rural Fire Protection District responded to Ms. Mitracos's questions.

Tracy Rural Fire Protection District Board Member provided a brief history about the board and the JPA.

City Council questions and comments followed.

Mayor Young called a 20 minute recess for staff to gather responses to City Council and Tracy Rural Fire District questions. Time: 7:24 p.m.

Mayor Young reconvened the meeting at 7:48 p.m., and repeated the four initial questions from the audience.

Mark Bowman, Attorney for Tracy Rural Fire Protection District responded to the questions.

Randall Bradley, Fire Chief provided responses to City Council and Tracy Rural Fire Protection District questions.

Mike Oliver, MRG responded to Council questions regarding budgeting process.

Deborah, HR Consultant for the Authority responded to questions regarding transition of employees.

Tad Neave, Division Chief responded to questions regarding CalPERS liabilities.

Tracy Rural Fire Protection District Members shared their concerns regarding bargaining for personnel, budgeting issues, having no control, and is looking forward to coming together in partnership, and appreciated the opportunity to participate in the joint meeting.

City Council thanked Tracy Rural Fire Protection District for participating in the joint meeting and shared their support of the JPA model, working collaboratively and following the MRG recommendations to make sure the "how" is carried out.

Mayor Young suggested City Council reconvene to talk about what has been taken from the meeting before getting to that next step on transition discussions with the JPA.

Tracy Rural Chair Reece requested Council put the item on the agenda as soon as possible so they can know where they stand, and added they have been waiting for 20 years for this decision.

Mayor Young responded there are some things going on this month with the City Manager transitioning and an interim City Manager coming in very shortly. Council is very sensitive to time limits and plan on getting back to this as soon as possible.

Ms. Haruyama clarified at a prior meeting it was her understanding to come back in August and was looking for further direction of whether that is still Council's target date.

Mayor Young confirmed Council did say to come back in August, but we only have one meeting in August and wanted to see what that looked like.

Ms. Haruyama recommended given the substance of the conversation which would carry over into a conversation about the transition that this could be a special meeting in August.

Mayor Young responded to poll Council and see what can be done in August, but was not looking much further past that.

Ms. Haruyama responded she will do whatever is Council's direction.

Mayor Young asked Council if we are unable to make it fit in August, would it be ok to bring back in September.

Council Members Bedolla and Davis supported coming back in August. Council Member Arriola supported either August or September.

Ms. Haruyama confirmed Council's direction was to come back in August as a Council to hear the consideration of the transition.

Ms. Haruyama summarized when this item comes back Council has the latitude to move forward with the transition, can adopt a resolution that incorporates many of the issues that were talked about this evening and that would give the latitude to the Authority to move forward with the transition and also those "hows" and bring back to you as a status update. In addition, consideration will be given to amending the JPA agreement to reflect those Brown Act amendments that would allow other respective agencies to discuss JPA closed session items in their respective closed session. Ms. Haruyama stated she has talked to the Fire Chief and he is happy to bring that language forward.

Mayor Young responded regarding next steps that gives the "how" that gives the connectivity, want to clarify that the individual agencies, do we have to prepare something that connects to that.

Ms. Haruyama stated it would be a policy brought forward through the JPA document through the JPA. Individual agencies do not need to do anything.

5. Council Items – Council Member Bedolla requested support for a memo about the County's appetite to negotiate the City's Property Tax Sharing Agreement. Mayor Young supported the request.
6. ADJOURNMENT – Time: 9:16 p.m.

**ACTION:** Motion was made by Council Member Arriola and seconded by Council Member Davis to adjourn. Roll call vote found Council Members Arriola, Bedolla, Davis and Mayor Young in favor; passed and so ordered. Mayor Pro Tem Vargas absent.

The above agenda was posted at the Tracy City Hall on July 9, 2021. The above are action minutes. A recording is available at the office of the City Clerk.

ATTEST:

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Mayor

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City Clerk