

April 21, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

City Hall, 333 Civic Center Plaza, Tracy

Web Site: www.ci.tracy.ca.us

Due to the COVID-19 emergency, the regular 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 email, phone and WebEx during the meeting.

Mayor Rickman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor Rickman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Scott McFarland, Journey Christian Church offered the invocation.

Roll call found Council Members Arriola, Ransom, Vargas, Mayor Pro Tem Young and Mayor Rickman present.

1. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE – Melinda Ramirez, Tracy Community Connection Center spoke about resuming mobile showers for the homeless, and planned to ask the City to provide a location to operate a mobile shower trailer and supplies.
2. REGULAR AGENDA
 - 2.A REVIEW AND DISCUSS DRAFT CANNABIS BUSINESS PERMIT APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF

Bill Dean, Assistant Development Services Director provided the staff report and presentation.

Karin Schnaider, Finance Director continued the staff report and presentation regarding cannabis tax considerations.

Alex Monceaux shared his concerns regarding a community benefit fee for low income locals.

Robert Tanner asked when the cannabis tax would be on the ballot, when it would be incurred, reminded Council that cannabis is still illegal at the Federal level, and asked if the City is able to handle the cash transactions.

Pamela Epstein, General Counsel for Eaton Enterprises spoke about not only being a cash business, and options with community benefit plans being tandem with a tax.

Arabella McCreary asked for clarification regarding the process when a badge is obtained by an employee or obtained by the employer. Ms. McCreary also asked about delivery permits and whether it will be pick up from a dispensary to deliver

to residents or not allowed to buy wholesale and have their own facility, and then deliver.

Christopher Heckler, H.E. Community Collective stated one year establishing residency is short, no caps on permits will bring more business to the City, and the need to be tax free due to this economic climate.

Michaela Toscas, CEO of H.E. Community Collective stated a majority of storefronts currently allow a combined license and asked if that will be the case for Tracy.

Christopher Hester shared his concerns regarding the timeline from licensing, CUP, search for property, and building permits. Mr. Hester asked Council to think about minimizing the timeline.

City Council questions, comments and discussion followed.

Jenny Haruyama, City Manager summarized City Council's consensus:

- Two year residency requirement.
- Merit-based, point scale rating tied to strategic goals with an emphasis on impacts related to gang, family, youth, and safety.
- Limit number of non-retail permits.
- Cannabis tax on the November ballot.
- One time community benefit program for non-retail business (staff will need to develop suggested approaches).
- 4 permits per business type (anything that is non-retail permits).
- Property owner consent/acknowledgement (already in guidelines).
- Identify milestones in application and CUP process with goal to approve in less than a year (staff to develop and include as part of next staff report).
- Clarify allowed activities for delivery process.

2.B DISCUSS CITY'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (VERBAL REPORT)

Jenny Haruyama, City Manager provided the staff report and presentation.

Leticia Ramirez, City Attorney provided an update on the San Joaquin County actions.

Adrienne Richardson, City Clerk read an email from Alexis Costa. Ms. Costa expressed her concerns about residents not adhering to the Shelter in Place and requested Council take action to enforce the Shelter in Place order.

Alan Monceaux requested that the City receive utility payments via electronic checks.

Peter Claffey asked how many COVID19 cases are in the City of Tracy.

City Council questions and comments followed.

City Council accepted the update.

3. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE – No one from the public wished to speak.

4. STAFF ITEMS

4.A AUTHORIZED ACTIONS TAKEN BY CITY MANAGER DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY (VERBAL REPORT)

Jenny Haruyama, City Manager provided an update on the following actions taken by the City Manager during the COVID emergency:

- Acceptance of Construction of Public Works Yard Renovation Phase 2 completed by Haggerty Construction of Stockton – CIP 71091
- Award of Construction Contract to Glosage Engineering, Inc. for Sewer Lateral Replacement Project – CIP 74161

5. COUNCIL ITEMS – Council Member Vargas announced on April 16, 2020, San Joaquin Council of Governments adopted an amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan to add the Valley Link project, which will allow pursuit of state funding. Council Member Vargas acknowledged those who were instrumental in moving the project forward and those who have supported the project.

Council Member Arriola announced the East Bay Community Energy will be having a swearing in tomorrow and will vote on whether to include the use of nuclear energy as one of the types of energy used by the energy provider. Council Member Arriola suggested contacting him with any comments.

Council Member Ransom congratulated the City of Tracy for being awarded a Continuum of Care (COC) grant and Tracy Community Connection Center and McHenry House who were also awarded grants to deal with the homeless population. Council Member Ransom acknowledged members of the community for taking social distancing seriously, and Andrea Smith for making masks, Cindy Gustafson for coordinating things for seniors, and Council Members who have helped make deliveries to the hospital. Council Member Ransom stated Tracy Unified School District put out a potential graduation for the first week of August.

Mayor Rickman acknowledged seniors who are graduating this year and encouraged supporting shopping local and restaurants during the COVID-19 emergency. Mayor Rickman thanked Manjeet from Dhaba Indian Restaurant who delivered food to the senior population. Mayor Rickman encouraged practicing social distancing, and washing hands. Mayor Rickman wished his wife a happy 20th wedding anniversary.

6. ADJOURNMENT – Time: 10:11 p.m.

ACTION: Motion was made by Council Member Ransom and seconded by Council Member Arriola to adjourn. Roll call vote found all in favor; passed and so ordered.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk