

August 4, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Tracy 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.

1. Mayor Rickman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll call found Council Members Arriola, Ransom, Vargas, Mayor Pro Tem Young, and Mayor Rickman present.
3. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE – Dan Evans requested transparency and that no portion of the Ralph M. Brown Act be suspended.
4. RECEIVE AND DISCUSS PRESENTATION ABOUT RACE, EQUITY, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND THE CITY OF TRACY POLICE USE OF FORCE POLICIES AND POLICE REFORM APPROACHES, AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF

Jenny Haruyama, City Manager introduced presenter, Darlene Flynn, Director of the City of Oakland Department of Race and Equity and Chief Sekou Millington who provided the staff report. Chief Millington responded to questions from Council and the public.

Kritika Singh requested that Council support the Equity and Empowerment Initiative.

Marc Mariano requested that Council support the Equity and Empowerment Initiative.

Stephen Zendejas requested that Council support the Equity and Empowerment Initiative.

The City Clerk announced an email comment from Nathan Tran that exceeded the word count limit would be included in the record and provided to Council.

Lea Austin thanked Council Members Arriola and Ransom and asked about ensuring compliance of department policies, hiring standards and clarification of restorative justice and how that will be enacted to ensure departmental accountability.

William Muetzenberg supported the Equity and Empowerment Initiative and thanked Council Members Arriola and Ransom along with the activists in the community.

Bob Tanner stated that Tracy Police Department is the one of the best Police forces in the county, needs all the support it can get from Council and hoped that there are no budget cuts. Mr. Tanner congratulated the Police Department and Chief on a job well done.

Jaime Medina suggested funding be increased to maximize training opportunities for the Police Department. Mr. Medina asked Darlene Flynn about her experience in Tracy and if she resided in Tracy. Mr. Medina asked Council Members Arriola and Ransom about systematic racism and Police and if highlighting these problems were related to political gain.

Council Members Arriola and Ransom provided brief responses to Mr. Medina's comments and questions.

Alice English stated she was in agreement with Mr. Tanner and suggested that this special meeting should have been held at a later date and time to allow more public participation, and commended Chief Millington

John Dubitsky thanked the Police Department on a job well done.

City Council comments followed.

Council Member Vargas requested Council join the Sensitivity Training. Council Member Ransom seconded the request.

It was Council's consensus to support the following Racial & Social Equity Council Policies:

1. Adopt a resolution affirming the City's vision toward achieving racial and social equity.
2. Engage a racial and equity consultant to assist with the development of a racial and social equity plan and assessment tool to guide service, program, and policy decisions.
3. Explore establishing a Government Accountability Commission to provide recommendations for local reform with a special emphasis on racial equity and social justice.
4. Council Member Ransom also requested Council be included in implicit bias training.

The consensus of the Council was to support the following Police Reform policy changes:

1. Explore additional police policies and practices to prevent violence.
2. Direct the City Manager to implement additional police training opportunities.
3. Provide additional suggestions regarding community awareness of police policies and access to key safety statistics.
4. Revisit budget priorities to enhance funding for preventative support services as part of the FY 2021/22 budget development process.

The consensus of the Council was to move forward with the creation of an Accountability Commission, and the creation of scope and bylaws for Council consideration within 90 days.

ACTION: Motion was made Council Member Arriola and seconded by Council Member Ransom to adopt the Tracy Equity and Empowerment Initiative. Roll call found all in favor; passed and so ordered.

5. **COUNCIL ITEMS AND COMMENTS:** Mayor Pro Tem Young wished her sister a happy birthday. Mayor Pro Tem Young requested an agenda item to evaluate the role, make up, validity and necessity of each of the City's Boards and Commissions. Council Member Ransom supported the request.

Council Member Ransom spoke about complaints received from employees that their employers are not doing COVID screening, and asked about a campaign where the City can send a friendly letter to businesses. Leticia Ramirez, City Attorney responded to Council Member Ransom's request.

Council Member Ransom spoke about the possibility of the 2020 Census ending early and encouraged everyone to fill out the 2020 Census. Council Member Ransom acknowledged the virtual graduation for Tracy Unified School District and congratulated the class of 2020.

Mayor Rickman spoke about the training accident that claimed the lives of Marine Corps and Navy Corpsman Christopher Nimes. Mayor Rickman stated our thoughts and prayers go out to the families.

Jenny Haruyama, City Manager, clarified staff will bring back the initiative for a resolution adoption possibly on August 18 to make sure the City Attorney is comfortable with legality of action taken.

6. Adjournment – Time: 8:42 p.m.

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

The above agenda was posted at the Tracy City Hall on August 3, 2020. The above are action minutes. A recording is available at the office of the City Clerk.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk