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Fresno City Council

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Agency: City of Fresno Meetings

Date: Jan. 19, 2023

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Here's what you need to know

- The Fresno City Council meeting took place on January 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was open to the public in Fresno at 2600 Fresno Street. The meeting was also accessible online via [CMAC](#) and Zoom for eComments. The [Agenda](#) was made accessible online. All council members were present. A recess was called at 12:00 p.m and resumed at 1:33 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.
- City Council members presented 4 proclamations to Frances Echeverria, Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Dope BarberShop, and Michael Lopez.
- Many participants of the warming centers shared that the program has been useful and they are urging the city to extend the program throughout February, one of the coldest months.
- The Fresno City Council approved a total of 9 items in the agenda, which includes:
 1. Approval of the first amendment to the Bank of America contract for banking services to allow for amendments to the Services that are not included in the scope of services but are necessary for City business operations. (Vote of 6-0)
 2. Approval of a lease agreement between the City of Fresno and Bericon Partners, LLC, a California limited liability company, to lease office space in amount of \$69,561.60 annually in rent payments for three years, totaling \$208,684.80 in rent plus the cost of utilities. (Vote of 6-0)
 3. Actions pertaining to receiving non-storable flood flows from Millerton Lake. (Vote of 7-0).
 4. Actions pertaining to the 2022 Project Safe Neighborhoods grant program. (Vote of 7-0)
 5. Actions pertaining to the 2023 Law Enforcement Specialized Unit Program. (Vote of 7-0)
 6. Confirmation of emergency conditions to directly impact the ability of legislative bodies to meet safely in person and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of City legislative bodies for 20 days, pursuant to Brown Act provisions (Subject to Mayor's Veto). (Vote of 5-2)
 7. Adoption of resolution and ordinance to annex territory and levy a special tax regarding City of Fresno Community Facilities District No. 11, Annexation No. 135 (Final Tract Map No. 5388)(located along West San Jose Avenue

- north of North Salinas Avenue). (Vote of 7-0)
8. Planning Amendment and Rezone Application No. P19-05950 and related Environmental Assessment No. P19-05950, for approximately 1.73 acres of property located on the south side of West Nees Avenue, between North Blackstone and North Ingram Avenues. (Vote of 5-2)
 9. Joint meeting with the Fresno Joint Powers Financing Authority (JPFA). Members of JPFA Board: Mayor Dyer, Chair Bredefeld, Councilmember Karbassi. (Vote of 7-0)

Attendance

- ☒ Garry Bredefeld, **Councilmember**
- ☒ Luis Chavez, **Councilmember**
- ☒ Miguel Angel Arias, **Councilmember**
- ☒ Mike Karbassi, **Councilmember**
- ☒ Nelson Esparaza, **Councilmember**
- ☒ Tyler Maxwell, **Council President**
- ☒ Annalisa Perea, **Vice President**

Notes/Changes to Agenda:

- **Items moved to meeting on February 9:**
 - **1-D 23-93, 10:00 AM #2 Item 5388, 1-U.**
- **10:10 ITEM C & D: During discussion, phrase *RESOLUTION* should be included.**
- **5-H: removed from Calendar with no specific date planned.**
- **Item 1E, 1-G, 1-O: ID 23-04 moved to consent calendar, 1-D, 1-Q. 1-V.**
- **Bredefeld & Esparaza: Removed from 5-I.**
Council Changes: 1-E, 1-G, 1-O, 1-P, 1-Q, 1V.

Reports from Councilmembers

- **Tyler Maxwell:** Maxwell shares his appreciation for the city staff, FAX, and Poverello house for their services during the storm season. Maxwell shares that he was present to award Brian Dominguez and Haley Wagner of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce. He also shares and encourages the community to attend the Hall of Fame tour at SaveMart Center.
- **Annalisa Perea:** Perea shares with the community that a neighborhood cleanup will occur on Shields & West. She shares that the code enforcement team is working hard on reporting inactive cars on streets and junkyard properties.
- **Mike Karbassi:** Karbassi recognizes Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy. Karbassi also

shares the retirement celebration of Fire Chief Donnis. Karbassi recognizes two individuals who had passed away and sends his condolences to the families. Karbassi also shares that there is a need for discussion on long-term repairs and regular road maintenance.

- Miguel A. Arias: Arias gives thanks to the staff working at the warming centers. Arias shares that he saw positivity and good feedback based on his observations at the centers. Arias says that staff should be attentive to any violence in the future due to the diversity of participants. He adds that it should be a responsibility to reinvest in existing roads. Arias shares that violation is occurring at the 7/11 store across the street and it continues to be an issue.
- Luis Chavez: Chavez gives his thanks to the parks department at Mosqueda. He shares that he was happy to see the occupancy of the warming centers.
- Garry Bredefeld: Bredefeld gives his thanks to public works for taking care of the flooding and road repairings.
- Nelson Esparaza: Esparaza shares that he attended a celebration hosted by the Fresno Police Department and says he was pleased to see many people getting promoted. Esparaza thanks the school area team for making the neighborhood look presentable. He shares that there needs to be a lot more work done for road and structural maintenance.

Follow-up questions

- Will warming centers remain open throughout hazardous weather in February?
- What is the city doing to help prevent violent situations at warming centers if issues shall arise?

Ceremonial Presentations:

- Proclamation for “Frances ‘Skip’ Echeverria Day”
 - Presented by Councilmember Karbassi
 - Wendy Hernandez: Hernandez, a Central Unified School District teacher and Frances’s fourth grade teacher, spoke in support of Frances.
 - Frances, Fresno born and raised, was recognized for advocating for unheard voices in her community.
- Proclamation for “Dope Barbershop Day” in the City of Fresno
 - Presented by Councilmember Chavez
 - Councilmember Chavez brings the team of Dope Barbershop and shares that 700 haircut services were given to students at Sunnyside High School.

- Vince, owner of the small-business, mentors and recruits members in his community for success in entrepreneurship. Vince says his goal is to help adolescents stay on the correct path for success.
- Proclamation for “Human Trafficking Awareness Month”
 - Presented by Councilmember Esparaza
 - Partners from EOC are present to accept the proclamation.
 - The EOC raises awareness and provides assistance for victims of the many different forms of human trafficking.
 - A representative shares that the human trafficking hotline has serviced up to 17,000 victims who were minors.
- Proclamation for “Michael Lopez Day”
 - Presented by Council President Maxwell, Vice President Perea and Councilmember Chavez.
 - Michael ‘Mike’ Lopez is recognized for his impact in Fresno communities through his services as part of the plans and projects team.

Consent Calendar (Actions/Discussions):

- 1.-A: ID 23-89: Approval of Minutes for Jan. 5, 2023, Regular Meeting:
 - Approved in a vote of 6-0.
- 1. -E: ID 23-116: Approve the first amendment to the Bank of America contract for banking services to allow for amendments to the Services that are not included in the scope of services but are necessary for City business operations.
 - Motion by Councilmember Arias. Approved in a vote of 6-0.
- 1.-G: ID 23-114: Approve a lease agreement between the City of Fresno and Bericon Partners, LLC, a California limited liability company, to lease office space in amount of \$69,561.60 annually in rent payments for three years, totaling \$208,684.80 in rent plus the cost of utilities.
 - Councilmember Arias shares it will take 49 years to work on the lease.
 - Motion by Councilmember Arias. Approved in a vote of 7-0.
- 1.-O: ID 23-104: Actions pertaining to receiving non-storable flood flows from Millerton Lake.
 - Councilmember Arias questions the cost of water. The representative of the Department of Public Utilities answers that it depends on the water availability and its budget division. The Bureau of Reclamation sets the cost rate.
 - Motion by Councilmember Arias. Approved in a vote of 7-0.
- 1.-P: ID 23-96: Actions pertaining to the 2022 Project Safe Neighborhoods grant program.

- Chief PD says the grant will be used equipping vests for a separate team.
 - Motion by Councilmember Arias. Approved in a vote of 7-0.
- 1.-Q: ID 23-94: Actions pertaining to the 2023 Law Enforcement Specialized Unit Program:
 - Chief PD shares that in California, Fresno receives the most calls for Domestic Violence cases. He shares that it is approximately 700 cases per officer.
 - Motion by Councilmember Arias, seconded by Councilmember Bredefeld. Approved in a vote of 7-0.
- 1.-V: ID 23-90: RESOLUTION - Confirming emergency conditions continue to directly impact the ability of legislative bodies to meet safely in person and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of City legislative bodies for 20 days, pursuant to Brown Act provisions (Subject to Mayor's Veto).
 - Councilmember Arias shares that in-person meetings should be practiced.
 - President Maxwell shares his disagreement with Arias. Maxwell shares that without this item, the council will be in a tough position with a lack of a quorum, as well as putting the public's health at risk.
 - Councilmember Chavez shares that the item should be in place during the duration of the year for everyone's safety.
 - Councilmember Esparaza shares that this item was created by himself and another colleague to provide a comfortable working environment for his colleagues. "We are not at that stage, yet, to be comfortable sitting next to someone with COVID." Esparaza shares that attendance has never been an issue for the council.
 - Councilmember Bredefeld shares that everyone should attend work for as long as their health allows them to. Bredefeld says that we are learning how we mishandled the pandemic. Bredefeld continues to oppose this item.
 - Councilmember Arias shares that consistency in communicating needs to be maintained in the council, in order to make progress. Arias shares that sick days are offered if members are not able to attend in-person meetings.
 - Vice President Perrea shares that as a person who works while being sick, she wants to continue representing her community.
 - Motion by President Maxwell, seconded by Councilmember Karbassi. Motion passes in a vote of 5-2.

City Council

- 4.-A: ID 23-132: Workshop - Constituent Service Software - Fireside.
 - Scott Crosby: Crosby presents a workshop on FiscalNote.
 - FiscalNote Overview:
 - Over 5,000+ clients.

- Headquarters is located in Washington D.C.
- Acquisitions: Fireside, Curate, CQ Roll Call, FiscalNote
- Modernizing City Constituent Services: Improvement in processing and communication to represent the district and providing city services through advanced technology.
- Fireside State CRM Product: CRM, Outreach, Web, Live, Data.
- Councilmember Arias: Arias questions how long it'll take to utilize the software.

Contested Consent Calendar (Actions/Discussions):

- **10:00 A.M. #1:** Hearing to adopt resolutions and ordinance to annex territory and levy a special tax regarding City of Fresno Community Facilities District No. 11, Annexation No. 135 (Final Tract Map No. 5388)(located along West San Jose Avenue north of North Salinas Avenue) (Council District 2).
 - Motion by Karbassi, seconded by Vice President Perrea. Passes in a vote of 7-0.
- **10:05 A.M. ID 23-16:** Plan Amendment and Rezone Application No. P19-05950 and related Environmental Assessment No. P19-05950, for approximately 1.73 acres of property located on the south side of West Nees Avenue, between North Blackstone and North Ingram Avenues (Council District 2).
 - Motion by Karbassi, seconded by Councilmember Bredefeld. Passes in a vote of 5-2.
- **10:10 A.M. ID 23-107:** Joining Meeting with the Fresno Joint Powers Financing Authority (JPFA). Members of JPFA Board: Mayor Dyer, Chair Bredefeld, Councilmember Karbassi.
 - Motion by Karbassi, seconded by Councilmember Bredefeld. Passes in a vote of 7-0.

General Administration

- **4.-A: ID 23-121:** Progress of Code Enforcement, including ASET Quarterly report by City Attorney's Office.
 - Seven Council District Teams
 - Blighted Vacant Building Team
 - Blackstone Corridor
 - Emergency Response
 - Special Teams Include:
 - School Area Team (SAT): Provides proactive code

enforcement around schools. SAT has completed inspections and outreach in four school areas: Columbia, Heaton, Vang Pao/Sequoia, and Wishon/McLane.

- Demolition Team
- Abatement Team
- Tire Team: Collected 2,584 waste tires. Next event on February 25th.
- Illegal Dumping Teams: Issued 36 citations since last Code Report (100 citations in 2022). Assisted FPD with capturing two homicide suspects through code cameras
- Rental Housing
 - ASET and Reactive: has 12 open cases with properties containing 166 rental units.
 - Mobilehome Parks: Conducted 791 initial inspections and issued 237 notices of violations.
 - Legal Team: Eviction Protection Program screened a total of 1,428 tenants, and 824 have been referred to outside counsel.

Public Comments:

- Steve Diddy: Diddy share that it is his first time hearing about sinkholes. Diddy suggests the city to include power outlets in FAX buses, which he finds would be beneficial for bus takers.
- Barbara: Barbara, a 55-year old Fresnan, shares that she is homeless and has been using the warming centers. Barbara says that she has lost friends due to the weather and is asking for an extension of the programs.
- Amazing Jones: Jones is asking for an extension of the warming centers because the weather continues to be an issue.
- Daniel Dominguez: Dominguez is also asking the city council to extend the warming centers.
- Sean Lee: Lee shares that he and his sister have been placed in homeless shelters. He says that the conditions of the shelters need to be further improved, especially for those who suffer from health conditions.
- Gloria Lee: Gloria shares that she has been housed because of Dez Martinez. Lee shares that rent has increased dramatically in Fresno and it is the reason why she and her brother have to seek help from the system. Lee says that assistance should continue to be given to those in shelters.
- Natasha: Natasha shares that she has been in the Hacienda program. She is concerned about her future and her children who are enrolled in school programs.
- Patricia: Patricia shares that her brother was sent to a homeless shelter in August.

In December, she called to check on his progression and was informed that no progress was being made by him. Patricia shares that her brother was hospitalized and later passed away. She says that homeless centers need to be followed-up by the city council.

- Dez: Dez shares an audio recording of Sunny, and holds up a portrait of the speaker. She shares that Sunny had passed away and invites President Maxwell to attend the vigil.
- Nafasha: Nafasha is the director of the African American Museum in Fresno. She celebrates Maxwell's promotion as council president. She invites the community to the museum's trailblazer event to celebrate leaders in the community.
- Robert McClosekey: McClosekey urges the city to extend the warming centers for the elderly and homeless who need it most.
- Lisa Flores: Flores thanks public works for the potholes. Flores believes that the road still needs lots of maintenance. Flores urges the city to keep the warming centers open, due to February being the coldest month in the Valley.
- Letal Garcia: Garcia urges the city to keep the warming centers open. Garcia shares that it breaks her heart to hear about people losing their friends out in the street.

Conversation highlight

- "We are not at that stage, yet, to be comfortable sitting next to someone with COVID" said Nelson Esparaza, Councilmember, City of Fresno.
- "The voices of 80,000 residents are unheard of, if there is a no-show," said Nelson Esparaza, Councilmember, City of Fresno.

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