

**Kingsburg City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2020**

VIA TELECONFERENCE PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM. THE COUNCIL CHAMBER WAS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. PUBLIC HAD THE OPTION TO CALL 1 (559) 207-3003 PASSCODE 5821 TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS. WRITTEN COMMENTS COULD BE SUBMITTED BY MAIL OR EMAIL TO APALSGAARD@CITYOFKINGSBURG-CA.GOV. THE CUT OFF FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS WAS 9/15/2020 at 4:30pm. THEY WERE NOT BE READ OUT LOUD.

Invocation was given by Pastor Scott Ardavanis of Grace Church of the Valley.

6 P.M. REGULAR SESSION MEETING:

Call to Order and Roll Call – Mayor Michelle Roman called the Regular Meeting of the Kingsburg City Council to order at 6:00 P. M.

Council Members Present - Virtual: Jewel Hurtado, Vince Palomar, Sherman Dix, Laura North, and Mayor Michelle Roman.

Staff Present - Virtual: City Engineer Dave Peters, and City Attorney Michael Noland.

Staff Present - In Person: City Manager Alexander Henderson, City Clerk Abigail Palsgaard, Finance Director Alma Colado, and Police Chief Neil Dadian.

Public Comments: John Johnston, resident, spoke about a house on Plumas Street which is a junk yard. He said that there are cars everywhere. He has contacted the Police Department and Code Enforcement and is asking for help.

Approve Agenda: A motion was made by Council Member Hurtado, seconded by Council Member North, to approve the Agenda, as published. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Consent Calendar: A motion was made by Council Member Dix, seconded by Council Member Palomar, to approve the items appearing on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- 4.1 Approval of City Council Minutes:** Approve the minutes from the August 27, 2020 Joint Workshop Meeting and the September 2, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting as prepared by City Clerk Abigail Palsgaard.
- 4.2 Check Register:** Ratify/approve payment of bills listed on the check register for the period August 27, 2020 through September 9, 2020 as prepared by Accounts Payable Clerk Grace Reyna.

Regular Calendar

**PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER VACATION OF KAMM AVENUE BETWEEN BETHEL AVENUE AND GOLDEN STATE BOULEVARD BY THE KINGSBURG CITY COUNCIL
(Continued from August 19, 2020)**

Open Public Hearing – At 6:14 P. M. Mayor Roman opened the public hearing continued from August 19, 2020.

Presentation City Engineer Dave Peters – Mr. Peters stated that the property no longer serves a need to the traveling public. Both parties met, with the Corgiats agreeing to transfer 375 sq. ft. to the Hixons. The verbal agreement has been put into writing and the Corgiats have signed the agreement. Now the Hixons do not agree because they will have to pay for the lot line adjustments. Improvements to the Hixon property, from 2016, did not go through Site Plan Review or permits. If it does, they will probably be asked to improve the access.

City Council Discussion – 6:17 P. M. – Council Member Dix asked if the vacation would give them the 375 ft.? Mr. Peters said no. The vacation is straight down the existing property line. The 375 feet would be a lot line adjustment. Council Member Palomar asked if there is a fee for the lot line adjustment? Mr. Peters said that the Corgiats will donate the 375 sq. ft. but did not want to participate in the cost of the lot line adjustment. The cost is estimated at \$5,500. The City has a fee, also surveyor fees, preparation of deeds, and recording fees. We have gone round and round to give them an equitable option.

Open for Public Comment – 6:23 P. M.

Laurie Hixon stated that during the joint meeting and discussion, the goal was to get vehicle access between the two trees so there was not a large cost. The cost would be the same. She said that she would rather use that money to improve her property than pay for the lot line adjustment.

Close Public Comment – 6:26 P. M.

Continued City Council Discussion – Council Member North thanked City Engineer Dave Peters for going above and beyond to come to a reasonable agreement. That took a lot of time. Council Member Dix also thanked Mr. Peters. He said that he is disappointed that we could not get a reasonable solution. This has cost a lot of money. He asked Mr. Peters what property they would get. Mr. Peters showed the land the Corgiats were going to donate. Council Member Dix asked how they came up with it. Mr. Peters said that we all met in person and everyone agreed to this donation at no cost to the Corgiats. He said that Staff is recommending moving forward with the vacation.

Close Public Hearing – 6:30 P. M.

A motion was made by Council Member Palomar to Adopt Resolution 2020-043 Vacating portions of Kamm Avenue and Simpson Street (Golden State Boulevard) as shown in Exhibit “A” and Exhibit “B”. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hurtado and carried, four in favor, Council Member Dix voting no.

Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District Presentation

Presentation by Katherine Ramirez, Science Education Coordinator. Ms. Ramirez went over five steps to reduce impact of mosquitoes in your house, yard, schools, and work. She reviewed helpful tips and gave out contact information for Kingsburg residents who are having issues.

Council thanked Ms. Ramirez for the presentation. Council Member North asked, if households have a difficult situation, can they call you and you could come out and check to see if there is West Nile/St. Louis disease. Ms. Ramirez said that you can give us a call and they would come out and do a site inspection and give tips. Council Member Palomar asked if chlorine kills mosquitoes. Ms. Ramirez said that if a pool is maintained, you do not have to worry about

mosquitoes. She shared what they have been doing in Kingsburg.

Public Comment- None.

Informational- No Action Necessary

Stone Plaza Incentives

City Manager Alexander Henderson presented that staff has a desire to have a mixed-use component. A planning team identified it as a catalyst site. Owner Yanez has committed to developing 8,700 sq. ft. in apartments with open courtyard and parking on the adjacent lot to the south. He went over the terms of the agreements, including the deadline. He stated that this will be a focal point for many years to come.

Mr. Yanez said he will start with utilities and has permits for that and apologized for the delay. Council Member Dix stated that there is no need to apologize. COVID-19 has caused tough economic times. He said that he is glad he is committed to the project. The elevations look amazing. Mayor Roman stated that she is thrilled we are moving forward. It will be a great entryway to the City. She thanked Mr. Yanez for hanging in there and finishing as soon as possible. Mr. Yanez said that you will not be disappointed.

Public Comment – None.

A motion was made by Council Member North, seconded by Council Member Dix, to approve the proposed Amended Development Agreement to construct a mixed-use residential project, as prepared by the City Attorney. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)/CARES ACT Small Business Grant Program

City Manager Alexander Henderson presented that as of September 15th, there are 411 total cases - 383 cleared, 28 active, deaths 25, 17 from an aggregate setting. He stated that he was hoping for updated information from the County for how we compare. Testing positive is at about 15%. Fresno County is 6.2%. If we move into the red tier, additional businesses and schools can open.

Council Member Hurtado asked what business can open under red. Mr. Henderson said nail and fitness centers and maybe indoor dining. Council Member Dix asked about communication with the School District as far as pursuing waivers with the Health Department. Council Member North said that there will be discussions next week. Waivers are not even available right now throughout Fresno County. She said that she can address it better at the next Council meeting once she gets more information. Council Member Palomar asked if other states are on this tiered system. Mr. Henderson said that he does not know specifically. He knows some states are using benchmarks. Council Member Palomar said that he has heard that other states like Montana and Idaho are open. Council Member North asked about what other cities in our counties are doing regarding gatherings. Are they still maintaining social distance?

City Manager Alexander Henderson reviewed his report concerning minimum eligibility requirements for CARES Act Small Business Grants for businesses in Kingsburg.

Council Member Hurtado asked, with \$3000 per grant, how many could we do? Mr. Henderson said that right now it is 20. He said that we did discuss that if we have funds that are not expended, we can use more. Council Member Dix thanked the City Manager for putting it together. He asked to change the wording to say, “no violations” in the qualifications. Mayor Roman stated that the CARES Act money for small businesses will be beneficial. Council Member Hurtado asked, if approved tonight, how fast can we get the applications and Grants to the businesses? Mr. Henderson stated that we can get the application out quickly.

There would be a 3-4 weeks period to turn in the application; 2-3 weeks to review; getting funds out in the early part of November.

Public Comment- None.

Action as Deemed Necessary - Council gave staff direction to move forward.

Crime Statistics Report for the Month of August 2020 and General Police Department Update- Crime Statistics Report prepared by Kingsburg Police Department Records Supervisor Corina Padilla.

Presentation by Police Chief Neil Dadian- Chief Dadian said that crime is down. The Governor will be releasing prisoners from state prisons. Most are monitored from parole agents. At some point they will be released onto general monitoring. Some police departments have issues with newly released prisoners, but we have not yet. Chief Dadian discussed training. Almost all staff is trained for the “Use of Force” requirement that changed in January. They are working on de-escalation training and other online training. Chief Dadian said their training is over and above what is require by POST. The police department is doing a recruitment for a non-sworn position. They sent officers to the Creek Fire to assist who had to evacuate livestock, bees, giraffe, zebra, and chinchilla.

Council Member North stated that she is impressed with recent hire, Officer Miguel Guzman. She asked about Project Hope; the release of COVID positive prisoners into hotels where they are on their honor to self-quarantine. She asked if Chief Dadian knows if this is planned for Kingsburg. Chief Dadian said that they would inform us if it is. To his knowledge, they are not in our local hotel. Council Member North asked, if the parole agent did let you know that the parolee is in the local hotel, would you make contact? Chief Dadian said that we make sure we make contact to everyone that is on parole or probation at least quarterly. We have been doing that for a couple years.

Council Reports and Staff Communications

Community Services Commission- Council Member Hurtado reported that it met last Wednesday. Director of Administrative Services Castaneda caught up the Commission which had not met since March. He spoke about the parks and senior center and how things have changed since COVID. He updated the Commission about the Prop 68 Grant and trying to prioritize what to include in the application. He spoke about the potential sports park and BMX park. A survey will be going out. Next meeting - October 28.

Public Safety Committee – Council Member Palomar reported that it is scheduled to meet the middle of October.

Chamber of Commerce – Council Member Hurtado reported that it met last Tuesday. Crawfish Night Out was discussed. Local businesses will be presenting a crawfish dish that people can vote on. Also discussed was how to celebrate Veterans’ Day due to COVID, and the possibility of a Merchants Night Out.

Economic Development Committee- Council Member Dix reported that it has not met since the last Council meeting.

Finance Committee- Council Member Dix reported that it has not met since the last Council meeting.

Planning Commission- Council Member North reported that the meeting was cancelled.

South Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority (SKGSA) – Council Member
Dix reported that it has not met since the last Council meeting.

City Manager’s Report- City Manager Alexander Henderson reported that the Public Hearing for the BID will held on October 7th. The alley behind City Hall has been approved. He thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their assistance with the fires.

Other Business that may come properly before the City Council

Council Member North asked about Zoom and whether we want to turn on the video. At the beginning of the pandemic we did not know how long we would be doing this. She said she would like to have a discussion. Council Member North stated that she would like to meet in person. Council discussed that staff would have to prepare the Council Chamber. Council Member Hurtado said she would be fine if others would want to. She asked if it would cost as much time to put together the meeting online compared to putting up partitions? Council Member Dix said that he has been to meetings where it is live. We would have to space out and wear masks. Maybe Council in person, but still share on Facebook. He said that he does not see value in the video feed if we are still meeting virtually. Council Member Palomar said that he would like to meet in person before we share video too. If we allow public, we will have chairs 6 feet apart. He would like to meet in person if staff can accommodate it. Council Member Hurtado asked what it would look like? We would have to figure out how to broadcast the audio and we would have a limited amount of people in the Chamber. You would have to figure public participation. Mayor Roman said that, logistic wise, we would go back on video as the first step and move forward as things get better. Council Member Hurtado said that we would want to make sure it is just Council and staff on video, so we do not have Zoom bombers. Council Member North said, next meeting we can have zoom video and staff can report back on what we would have to do to go back in person. Council Member Hurtado said that before the pandemic she was for live streaming video. This is one positive that has come out of the pandemic.

Future Agenda Items

These items will be added to a future agenda with direction from Council.

Council Member Dix said that he would like to make sure we follow up on the public comment regarding the abandoned vehicles.

Council Member Palomar spoke about the Madsen bike trail. He said that the property owner is getting an appraisal to move his irrigation stuff around. Once they get it, it will come back on the agenda.

Adjourn Kingsburg City Council Regular Meeting -Mayor Michelle Roman adjourned the meeting at 8:06 P.M.

Submitted by:

Abigail Palsgaard, City Clerk