

City of Gilroy
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 23, 2023 | 6:00 PM

1. OPENING

1.1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Blankley at 6:00 PM.

1.2. Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Tovar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. Invocation

Pastor Malcolm MacPhail from New Hope Community Church led the Invocation.

1.4. City Clerk's Report on Posting the Agenda

City Clerk Pham reported on the Posting of the Agenda.

1.5. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Rebeca Armendariz	Council Member	Present
Dion Bracco	Mayor Pro Tempore	Present
Tom Cline	Council Member	Present
Zach Hilton	Council Member	Present
Carol Marques	Council Member	Present
Fred Tovar	Council Member	Present
Marie Blankley	Mayor	Present

1.6. Orders of the Day

There were none.

1.7. Employee Introductions

Finance Director Sangha introduced Carina Baksa, Finance Manager.

Community Development Director Goei introduced Arana Fabian, Planning Technician.

2. CEREMONIAL ITEMS - Proclamations and Awards

There were none.

3. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

3.1. Annual Presentation from City Historian

City Historian Toby Echelberry presented the Annual City Historian Presentation to Council.

3.2. **PUBLIC COMMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA BUT WITHIN THE SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor Blankley opened Public Comment. The following members spoke on items that were not on the agenda.

The following members requested a Youth Center to be discussed as a future agenda item:

- Hazel Quintero
- Mateo Rodriguez
- Julian Martinez
- Xavier Garcia
- Michaela Character
- Makiah Character
- Leahna Rivera
- Marty Estrada
- Gabriela Mendoza
- Raymundo Armendariz
- Jaydah Castro
- Davina Luna
- Sally Armendariz

Victoria Valencia introduced herself as the President and CEO of the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce and provided an update on the Chamber's upcoming workplan.

Peter Mandel, President of Congregation Emeth, invited the Council Members and the public to attend the *Shanghai: Holocaust Port of Refuge* event scheduled for February 5, 2023 at the Congregation Emeth in Morgan Hill.

Tim Cassady discussed mental health and its relationship to the weather.

There being no further speakers, Mayor Blankley closed Public Comment.

4. **REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Council Member Bracco had nothing to report.

Council Member Armendariz wished everyone a Happy Lunar New Year and sent her condolences to the victims of the Monterey Park shooting.

Council Member Marques reported on Santa Clara County Habitat Agency Implementation Board.

Council Member Hilton reported on VTA Policy Advisory Committee.

Council Member Cline had nothing to report.

Council Member Tovar reported on the following meetings:

- California Welcome Center
- General manager from Hampton Inn and the Poppy Jasper Film Festival Director
- Dave Liao, new downtown business owner

He reminded the public about the RotaCare event scheduled for January 25th at 6:00 PM at 9300 Wren Avenue. He also acknowledged the folks involved in the Don Christopher Memorial at Don Christopher High School.

Mayor Blankley said she would attend the RotaCare Open House event, as mentioned previously by Council Member Tovar. She also reported on the South County Youth Task Force and VTA Board of Directors.

5. **COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE**

6. **FUTURE COUNCIL INITIATED AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Armendariz requested Council to begin the discussion of having Oaxaca, Mexico become a Sister City with Gilroy. City Administrator Forbis stated that he would contact the Gilroy Sister Cities Association to begin discussions.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mayor Blankley opened Public Comment. There being no speakers, Mayor Blankley closed Public Comment.

Motion: Adopt the Consent Calendar.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Fred Tovar, Council Member

SECONDER: Dion Bracco, Council Member

AYES: Council Member Armendariz, Bracco, Cline, Hilton, Marques, Tovar, and Mayor Blankley

7.1. **Action Minutes of the January 9, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting.**

A motion was made to approve the minutes.

7.2. **Accept and File Quarterly Cash and Investment Report as of September 30, 2022**

A motion was made to accept and file the Quarterly cash and Investment Report as of September 30, 2022.

7.3. **Amendment to the Lease Agreement with Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park**

A motion was made to approve the amendment to the lease agreement with Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park.

8. **BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

There were none.

9. **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were none.

10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

10.1. **Appointments to City Boards, Commission, and Committees with Seats Vacant as of January 9, 2023**

City Clerk Pham provided a brief report on the item.

Mayor Blankley opened Public Comment. There being no speakers, Mayor Blankley closed Public Comment.

Council appointed members to the following Boards and Commissions:

- **Zhuoyuan Zhang** was appointed to the ***Building Board of Appeals*** with a term expiring **12/31/2026**.
- **Sandra Ramirez** was appointed to the ***Arts and Culture Commission*** with a term expiring **12/31/2025**.

11. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS**

11.1. **Interview and Appointment for the Position of City Historian**

Council Members interviewed applicant Toby Echelberry.

Mayor Blankley opened Public Comment.

David Cassady spoke in favor of Toby Echelberry's appointment to the City Historian position.

There being no further speakers, Mayor Blankley closed Public Comment.

RESULT: APPOINT TOBY ECHELERRY AS CITY HISTORIAN FOR A FULL TERM OF FOUR YEARS

AYES: Council Member Armendariz, Bracco, Cline, Hilton, Marques, Tovar, and Mayor Blankley

11.2. **Receive Fiscal Year 2022-23 (FY23) Mid-Year Budget Update Report and Adopt a Resolution Updating the Position Control List**

Finance Director Sangha gave staff presentation and responded to Council Member questions.

Mayor Blankley opened Public Comment. There being no further speakers, Mayor Blankley closed Public Comment.

Motion:

Receive the FY23 Mid-Year Budget Update Report; and

Approve the addition of a Permit Technician position in the Community Development Department; and

Adopt a resolution updating the City's FY23 Position Control List.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Rebeca Armendariz, Council Member

SECONDER: Fred Tovar, Council Member

AYES: Mayor Blankley, Council Member Armendariz, Council Member Hilton, Council Member Marques, Council Member Tovar, Council Member Cline

NAYS: Council Member Bracco

Enactment No.: Resolution No. 2023-02

11.3. Resolution Declaring the Cherry Blossom Apartments as Surplus Pursuant

Assistant to City Administrator Bryce Atkins provided staff presentation and responded to Council Member questions.

Mayor Blankley opened Public Comment.

There being no further speakers, Mayor Blankley closed Public Comment.

Motion: Adopt a resolution of the City Council of the City of Gilroy declaring the Cherry Blossom Apartments Property to be surplus, and direct staff to proceed in conformance with the State Surplus Lands Act regarding the potential disposition of said property.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Fred Tovar, Council Member

SECONDER: Rebeca Armendariz, Council Member

AYES: Council Members Armendariz, Bracco, Cline, Hilton, Marques, Tovar, and Mayor Blankley

Enactment No.: Resolution No. 2023-03

11.4. Jumpstart Downtown – Approve both the Downtown Building and Planning Fee Reduction Policy and the Downtown Façade Improvement and Blight Removal Program, and Amend the Fiscal Year 2023 Operation Budget by \$100,000 in the General Fund

Assistant to City Administrator Bryce Atkins provided staff presentation and responded to Council Member questions.

Mayor Blankley opened Public Comment.

Ron Kirkish expressed support for the item.

Terence Fugazzi stated that standards are needed when allocating funds.

Marty Estrada stated he supports removing blight from downtown but feels that \$100,000 is not much for the program. He also stated that Downtown has too many bars, which deters families from visiting.

Tim Cassady stated that Council should focus on daytime activities in downtown.

There being no further speakers, Mayor Blankley closed Public Comment.

Motion: Adopt a resolution approving the downtown building and Planning Free Reduction Policy and approve the Downtown Facade and Blight Removal Program subject to staff to incorporate language to include that no one may apply for subsequent or consecutive grants until nine (9) days have

passed. Applicants are only allowed to apply two (2) times and up to \$15,000.00, including the three programs that were discussed.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Fred Tovar, Council Member

SECONDER: Carol Marques, Council Member

AYES: Council Members Armendariz, Bracco, Cline, Hilton, Marques, Tovar, and Mayor Blankley

Enactment No.: Resolution No. 2023-04

Motion: Adopt a resolution amending the FY 2023 operation budget by \$100,000 in the General Fund.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Carol Marques, Council Member

SECONDER: Zach Hilton, Council Member

AYES: Council Members Armendariz, Bracco, Cline, Hilton, Marques, Tovar, and Mayor Blankley

Enactment No.: Resolution No. 2023-05

Motion: Direct Staff to bring back to Council the discussion about the formation of the Downtown Standing Committee at the February 6, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Fred Tovar, Council Member

SECONDER: Rebeca Armendariz, Council Member

AYES: Council Members Armendariz, Cline, Marques, and Tovar

NAYS: Council Members Bracco and Hilton and Mayor Blankley

11.5. Proposed Modifications to Chapter 19B, Smoking Pollution Control, Relating to Banning Smoking from Multi-Family Developments and Public Events

Assistant to City Administrator Bryce Atkins provided staff presentation and responded to Council Member questions.

Mayor Blankley opened Public Comment. There being no speakers, Mayor Blankley closed Public Comment.

Council directed staff on the following:

1. Place 25 ft as the preferred distance around smoking-prohibited areas (unanimous support).
2. Designated smoking areas to be included in the ordinance for multi-family housing properties (majority support).
3. The ordinance includes a clause in multi-family housing leases identifying all other tenants as third-party beneficiaries for enforcement (majority support).
4. To not include designated smoking section in public event permits with similar requirements as designated smoking area provisions in multi-family housing development (majority support).

11.6. Report on Quality of Life Officer Activity

Police Chief Espinoza and Captain Luke Powell provided staff presentation and responded to Council Member questions.

Mayor Blankley opened Public Comment.

Ron Kirkish notified Council about a business within the City having difficulty in dealing with individuals experiencing homelessness.

Marty Estrada suggested to Council to go after state and federal grants to increase the number of Quality of Life Officers.

Tim Cassady expressed his experience inside the Armory.

There being no further speakers, Mayor Blankley closed Public Comment.

12. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

12.1. South County Youth Task Force Strategic Plan Presentation

South County Youth Task Force Program Manager Bernice Aguilera and Gilroy Youth Task Force Sandra Cruz provided staff presentation and responded to Council Member questions.

Mayor Blankley opened Public Comment.

Marty Estrada spoke on the need for a youth center within the City.

There being no further comment, Mayor Blankley closed Public Comment.

12.2. ICMA-Gilroy Tourism Video

A video was presented to Council.

13. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

There were none.

14. CLOSED SESSION

There were none.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Blankley adjourned the meeting at 9:48 PM.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Gilroy.

/s/Thai Nam Pham, CMC, CPMC
City Clerk