

**CITY OF BRAWLEY**  
**January 3, 2018**

The City Council of the City of Brawley, California met in an adjourned meeting at 6:00 PM, City Council Chambers, 383 Main, Brawley, California, the date, time and place duly established for the holding of said meeting. The City Clerk attests to the posting of the agenda pursuant to G.C. §54954.2.

The meeting was called to order by **Mayor Nava** @6:01 PM

**PRESENT:** Couchman, Hamby, Kastner-Jauregui, Nava, Wharton  
**ABSENT:** None

Invocation was offered by **CM Hamby**.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by **FC Peraza**.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was **approved** as submitted. m/s/c Kastner-Jauregui/Couchman 5-0

**2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES/COMMENTS**

- a. Introduction of Pretreatment and Distribution Operator Omar Balderas by Guillermo Sillas, Public Works Director

**3. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

- a. Proclamation Declaring the Month of January 2018 as Gang Awareness and Prevention Month in the City of Brawley

**Mayor Nava** read and proclaimed the month of January 2018 as Gang Awareness and Prevention Month in the City of Brawley. He will be formally presenting the proclamation on Friday, January 5, 2018 at the MAG Coalition Annual Benefit Dinner.

- 4. CONSENT AGENDA** Items are approved by one motion. Council Members or members of the public may request consent items be considered separately at a time determined by the Mayor.

The consent agenda was **approved** as submitted. m/s/c Wharton/Kastner-Jauregui 5-0

**AYES:** Couchman, Hamby, Kastner-Jauregui, Nava, Wharton  
**NAYES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

- a. **Approved** Accounts Payable: December 12, 2017  
December 21, 2017
- b. **Approved** City Council Minutes: November 21, 2017  
December 5, 2017

**5. REGULAR BUSINESS**

a. Mayoral Appointments of City Council Members to Boards, Commissions and Committees

<u>Boards/Commissions/Committees</u>	<u>Delegate</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Brawley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors	Couchman	Kastner-Jauregui
Imperial County Air Pollution District Board of Directors	Couchman	Kastner-Jauregui
Imperial County Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP)	Kastner-Jauregui	Wharton
Imperial County Film Commission	Hamby	Nava
Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC)	Nava	Wharton
Imperial County Local Transportation Authority (LTA)	Nava	Wharton
Imperial County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE)	Nava	Wharton
League of California Cities	Wharton	Kastner-Jauregui
North County Coalition of the Arts (NOCCA)	Couchman	Kastner-Jauregui
Imperial County Community & Economic Development	Couchman	Nava
Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Joint Powers Authority (AVAJPA)	Gaste	Escalante
California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA)	Nava	Wharton
Southern California Assn. of Governments (SCAG) General Assembly Delegate	Nava	Wharton
Association of California Cities Allied with Prisons (ACCAP)	Nava	Kastner-Jauregui
Airport Advisory Commission	Wharton	Couchman
Imperial Valley Housing Authority	Kastner-Jauregui	Wharton
Library Board of Trustees	Hamby	Couchman
Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission/Youth Commission	Hamby	Kastner-Jauregui
Planning Commission	Hamby	Kastner-Jauregui

b. Discussion and Potential Action re: Formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to Update City Council Norms & Procedures

**Mayor Nava** nominated Mayor Pro-Tempore Wharton Council Member Kastner-Jauregui to lead the Ad Hoc Committee. m/s/c Nava/Couchman 5-0

c. Discussion and Staff Direction re: Research Request for Data on Assessed Valuations, Housing and Non-Housing Tax Exempt Properties in City Limits

**CM Bayon Moore** noted that staff is available to conduct research on the project if it is the consensus of the City Council. With the existing workload, turnaround time may be elongated.

**CM Hamby** wants to understand the City's property tax base for an understanding of how the City should proceed in the future. The City Council is responsible for the direction of the City. Council Member Hamby's concern is that if the City does have a large of properties owned by nonprofits that that could be the cause for the City's budget shortfalls and thereby necessitate the need for Measure W. He hopes that by exploring this particular subject, the City might see where we're at as far as balance goes in the City and what we can do to facilitate or be helpful toward different types of development that will bring in property taxes and different types of revenue.

**Mayor Nava** suggested that maybe a phone conversation with the Assessor's Office would be helpful. If staff is looking at every tax valuation within the city, it would require a lot of time. Some tax exempt properties are churches, the housing authority's properties or nonprofit owned or managed developments. With 5,000 households in the city, he suggested a conversation with the Assessor and then the research topic could be revisited.

**CM Bayon Moore** said that Assessor’s Office would be the responsible entity because they're determining whether or not they're going to assess and actually receive a bill. The other piece of information that the City Council might consider is that while it is great information to have, in the end the City doesn't control who is a property owner. What the City can control is the zoning. Council has the ability to change from one existing zoning designation to a new zoning designation. But the City doesn’t regulate who is an owner.

**6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

- a. Monthly Staff Report for January, 2018 - Shirley Bonillas, Personnel & Risk Management Administrator
- b. Update on City of Brawley Park Restroom Facilities by Ruby Walla on Behalf of Parks & Recreation Department

**Ruby Walla**, Interim Parks and Recreation Director, reported on concerns brought forward re: the cleanliness of park restrooms and vandalism that occurs when they are open to the public. It was suggested that the opening of restrooms be changed and/or modified to when the park is in most used to avoid unnecessary vandalism and littering. Currently restrooms are open from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm. After 2:00 pm restrooms are open upon request by the various user groups. The only exception, Alyce Gereaux Park is open from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, as this restroom facility is set by an automatic timer to unlock and lock. Changes to restroom hours are proposed via High-Low usage.

*The following table represents proposed changes to restroom park hours:*

Facility	Recommended Restroom Schedules	Facility	Recommended Restroom Schedules
Cattle Call Rotary Park	Weekdays 7am/Spm	Hinojosa Park	Weekdays 2pm/10pm Weekends & Holidays 4pm/10pm
Gonzalez Park	Weekdays 2pm/10pm Weekends & Holidays 4pm/ 10pm	Alyce Gereaux Park	Weekdays 3pm/10pm Weekends & Holidays 3pm/10pm  Splash Pad Season 9am/10pm
Meserve Park	Weekdays 2pm/5pm Weekends & Holidays Upon Request	Pat William S Park	Weekdays 7am/5pm Weekends & Holidays 7am/5pm

**CM Hamby** inquired if active users, such as coaches, have keys to the restrooms or does staff have to open restrooms.

**PML Perez** mentioned that people with active facility user agreements, such as coaches, used to have keys. However, that system has since been removed as everyone ended up having keys to the restrooms and restrooms were not locked.

Changes to the restroom hours per staff recommendation were **approved**. m/s/c Kastner-Jauregui/Wharton 5-0

**7. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

- Hamby:** Attended dinner/potluck/ugly sweater contest at the Hidalgo Society. Joined festivities at the Del Rio Branch Library and met with children. Saw the New Year's Eve firework display in the City. Would also like to see the following items addressed: 1) There will be about 350 trees donated from a group in San Diego. Stated he hopes to see 2/3 of the trees used in Parks and 1/3 used in residential parkways 2) Paving of 8<sup>th</sup> Street / Old Highway 111, 3) Pigeon abatement on vacant buildings and pigeon birth control, 4) illegal firework within the City and 5) soils tests for Hinojosa and Jeff Thornton Parks.
- Kastner-Jauregui:** Attended the Hidalgo Society Party, spent time with family, met with a gentleman who is interested in a building in Brawley and referred him to the Planning Department. Brawley Theater is beginning work. Thanked staff for all their hard work.
- Couchman:** Attended Ex Council Member Joe Shields' funeral. Also attended Career Fair at Barbara Worth Junior High School. Stated City needs to take another look at the fireworks topic. Commented on One World Beef's maintenance activities onsite and odor complaints that arose over the holidays.
- Wharton:** Would like to incorporate conversations with downtown business owners into the City's Strategic Planning process. Also, the Small Business Development Center's Executive Director recently shared statistics as to what has been funded, what loans have been sought and who is pursuing expansion efforts. Wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- Nava:** Met with Ryan Brant. Attended Career Day at Barbara Worth Junior High School. Reported on odor complaints received about One World Beef. Thanked City Staff.

#### **8. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a. Informed Council about follow-up letters that went out to the two (2) School Districts regarding the second half of the school year and the staffing of the School Resource Officer positions.
- b. A number of community members have been re-energized to take on a beautification effort at the Post Office. Mrs. Emanuelli and Mrs. Mamer have advised the City of a project they aim to undertake with the help of Elm's Equipment and the City. The plan is to remove the shrubs and hedges in front of the Post Office.
- c. There were a total of seven (7) calls that specifically pertained to fireworks on New Year's Eve. In connection with the complaints, two specific addresses were referenced. No citations were issued.
- d. It is anticipated that parking availability downtown, specifically between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Street may become a growing concern in the near future as the Day Out Center relocates and repurposes the two parcels south of the alley.

#### **9. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

- a. A letter was sent out for a property on East "G" Street which is in disarray. The owners are deceased according to public records. A title report has been ordered.

#### **10. CITY TREASURER'S REPORT**

- a. An additional investment opportunity with Sun Community Federal Credit Union (SCFCU) is now available. The City has been offered the option to deposit an additional \$1.5M at an interest rate of 1.6%. LAIF's interest rate is currently at 1.06% so the City will be moving forward for a total deposit of \$2.5M with the local banking institution.

**11. CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

- a. An Ethics Training Workshop will be offered in the near future.

**12. CLOSED SESSION**

**POTENTIAL LITIGATION**

- a. Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) for Insurance Claims Discussions

The Legislative Body, as a Member of a Joint Powers Authority, formed for purposes of insurance pooling pursuant to G.C. Section 6500 et seq., will meet in closed session to discuss claims for the payment of tort liability losses, public liability losses, or workers' compensation liability incurred by the Joint Powers Agency or a Local Agency Member of the Authority. There are 39 Potential Claims (G.C. 54956.9)

- b. Conference with Legal Counsel - Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of G.C. 54956.9: One (1) case.

**EXISTING LITIGATION**

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel - One (1) Case (Government Code §54956.9)  
Name of Case: Garcia v. City of Brawley

**ADJOURNMENT** @ 7:27pm

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***Alma Benavides***, City Clerk