

CITY OF BRAWLEY
August 4, 2020

The City Council of the City of Brawley, California met in regular session 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.

Mayor Kastner-Jauregui called meeting to order @ 6:01 PM

PRESENT: Couchman, Hamby, Kastner-Jauregui, Nava
ABSENT: Wharton

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was **approved** as submitted. m/s/c Nava/Couchman 4-0 Wharton absent

CM Wharton entered meeting @ 6:08 pm

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES/COMMENTS (Not to exceed 4 minutes) this is the time for the public to address the Council on any item not appearing on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council.

To maintain social distancing, in person attendance is strongly discouraged. Should a member of the public wish to provide public comments, please submit written comments via email to abenavides@brawley-ca.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office at 760/351.3080. The deadline to submit written comments or schedule telephonic participation is 2PM on August 4, 2020.

State of California Governor Gavin Newsom waived specific portions of the Brown Act by Executive Order for the period that social distancing measures are recommended and required by state and local public health officials. The waiver of Brown Act provisions requires:

- a. Members of the public are allowed to observe and address public meetings telephonically or through other electronic means.
- b. Procedures "swiftly" accommodate any reasonable request to accommodate access by disabled individuals to meetings that are accessible telephonically or through other electronic means in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA").
- c. Notice of the procedure is provided for making requests for such reasonable accommodation with the notice for any public meeting.

Ryan Rebollar President of the Brawley Youth Football submitted a letter regarding the youth not participating in sports since March, and no Parks and Recreation activities, Little League Baseball, Club Sports and more. Requested that the City Council allow the Brawley Youth Football to use the Ed Soto Field.

3. 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/c/s Nava/Couchman 5-0

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

ABSTAIN: None

- a. **Approved** Accounts Payable: July 23, 2020 and July 31, 2020
- b. **Approved** City Council Minutes: June 16, 2020
- c. **Rejected** Claims as Recommended by Carl Warren & Company, Claims Management Adjusters for Claimant Regina Kim and Jane Doe.

4. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING FOR STATE ADMINISTERED CDBG/CDBG-CV APPLICATION

- a. Approve Resolution No. 2020- : Resolution of the City Council of the City of Brawley, California for a State Administered CDBG/CDBG-CV Application for Funding and the Execution of a Grant Agreement and Any Amendments Thereto From the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program-Coronavirus Response Round 1 (CDBG-CV1) NOFA dated June 5, 2020.

Staff Report - Rosanna Bayon Moore, City Manager and Gordon Gaste, Community Development Services Director

- Content is available upon request at the Office of the City Clerk

Staff received direction at the last City Council meeting. These funds are proposed to be used for up to three months of utility payments for Brawley seniors who meet the National Objective of Limited Clientele (LMC), as defined by income limits or presumed benefit. Eligible public services include retroactive and/or prospective utility payments for water, sewer, trash, power, telephone and natural gas. Payment may not span beyond a three-month period. Application and required documentation must be submitted to HCD by August 31, 2020.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED @ 6:14 PM

There were no comments.

Council recommendations to concentrate on the basic services.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED @ 6:27 PM

The City Council **approved** Resolution No. 2020-55: Resolution of the City Council of the City of Brawley, California for a State Administered CDBG/CDBG-CV Application for Funding and the Execution of a Grant Agreement and Any Amendments Thereto From the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program-Coronavirus Response Round 1 (CDBG-CV1) NOFA dated June 5, 2020. m/s/c Hamby/Nava 5-0

5. REGULAR BUSINESS

- a. Update on City of Brawley Declaration of Local Emergency as a Result of COVID-19 Pandemic
 - i. Update by Larry Lewis, CEO for Pioneer’s Memorial Healthcare District

Larry Lewis, CEO for Pioneer’s Memorial Healthcare District updated Council on precautions taking during the COVID-19 Pandemic

 - 1) Made the national news and hospitals were tasked with developing a flex plan to manage the surge.
 - 2) Able to flex an additional 50% of capacity in existing space.
 - 3) Moved ICU beds from eight up to 13. Can go up to 32 beds

- 4) Moved from 29 beds to 67 beds capable of negative air, and ultimately with capability of up to 170 plus beds.
- 5) The GI Lab is equipped with negative air. Current patient that need surgery went into a negative air surgical suite.
- 6) Planning architectural design to create another surgical suite with many rules and regulations to navigate.
- 7) Shelter in place dropped revenues dramatically to about 40%, emergency rooms to 60%; clinics went to no patients, surgeries experienced a 50 to 60% drop, as well as other outpatient services.
- 8) As far as the surge goes, PMH is preparing for a 50% increase. In March, only eight patients were admitted into the hospital. In April, there were 21 and after May, number increased due to holidays and family gatherings. In June, there were 69 new admissions. PMH then jumped to 85 new cases, and it grew to a dramatic situation. Two patients a day were send for critical care out of the valley.
- 9) July saw some kind of leveling. Only two COVID patients for the entire month of July were sent out, down from 76 in June.
- 10) About 20 critical nurses were contracted on a temporary basis, as well as 10 medical surgical nurses and 4 respiratory therapists. The State provided two additional intensivists to help.
- 11) The peak was in the high 40s just for COVID patients and now it is below 20 and staying down in that range. Numbers have been dropping for 2 weeks. From a financial perspective, a 40% decline in revenues has been experienced.
- 12) There continues to be a shortage and insecurities with PPE and most critical equipment is being preserved for those directly caring for patients.
- 13) At the beginning, there was zero testing availability. At the peak, the National Guard brought in rapid testing equipment that doubled capacity in-house. The County stopped supplying same-day services also as they began to focus on institutional testing.
- 14) Complimented the County EOC for assistance with ventilators. PMH also received funds from CARE Act and is managing and monitoring expenses in areas such as supplies and labor.
- 15) Treaded through the surge and received additional medication treatments provided by the State.

Thanked the community, 40-50 different organizations and individuals that have donated PPE or contributed food. It has been much appreciated.

ii. Overall Outlook Presented by Fire Chief Mike York

FC Mike York provided an outlook of the current emergency. The Imperial County Public Health Department has tested 48,793 patients. Of that number, 38,911 are negative cases. There are 9,513 positive cases. The most affected age group for positive cases is 20 to 29 year olds. Currently, 873 remain active cases, 47 are currently hospitalized and the majority are being treated at home. Surge capacity is zero. The IVC alternative care site currently has nine patients and has treated 203 patients. Two hundred thirty two deaths have resulted from COVID countywide. In the 92227 zip code, there are 1,613 positive cases and 28 deaths.

Yuma, AZ has tested 54,000 and has about 11,000 positive cases and 270 deaths. Mexicali reported a total of 7,246 positives cases and 1,252 deaths.

As of today, the 7-day average is 12.5% with downward trending. Since March, the Fire Department has responded to 120 COVID related calls, 52 were COVID positive confirmed. Local mortuary services have stabilized and City efforts have been focused on providing services that

are within guidelines while protecting City employees and working on plans and contingencies with the changing guidelines and changing numbers.

iii. Discussion and Potential Action to Extend the Local Emergency by Sixty Days

The City Council **approved** to extend the Local Emergency by Sixty Days. m/s/c Nava/Couchman 5-0

- b. Discussion and Potential Action to Approve Resolution No. 2020- : Resolution of the City Council of the City of Brawley, CA Amending the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 City of Brawley Budget for the Fire Department in the Amount of \$78,630.69 to Address the Repair of the Ladder Truck.

The City Council **approved** Resolution No. 2020-57: Resolution of the City Council of the City of Brawley, CA Amending the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 City of Brawley Budget for the Fire Department for \$78,630.69 to address the Repair of the Ladder Truck. m/s/c Nava/Couchman 5-0

- c. Discussion and Potential Action to Authorize Phase two Payment for \$494,736 to Imperial Irrigation District for the Undergrounding of the Best Canal from S. First Street to South Imperial Avenue / Dogwood Road.

The City Council **authorized** Phase 2 Payment for \$494,736 to imperial Irrigation District for the Undergrounding of the Best Canal from S. First Street to South Imperial Avenue/Dogwood Road. m/s/c Couchman/Nava 5-0

- d. Discussion and Potential Action to Authorize Contract Change Order No. 1 to Contract #2019-03 with Gierlich Mitchell, Inc. for the Brawley Water Treatment Plant Sedimentation Basin Improvement Project for \$38,214.07.

The City Council **authorized** the Contract Change Order No. 1 to Contract #2019-03 with Gierlich Mitchell, Inc. for the Brawley Water Treatment Plant Sedimentation Basin Improvement Project for \$38,214.07. m/s/c Hamby/Nava 5-0

- e. Discussion and Potential Action to Approve Development Agreement and Bonds for Ocotillo Springs Apartments and Resolution No. 2020- : Resolution of the City of Brawley, California to Accept the Development Agreement and Bonds for the Construction of the Ocotillo Springs Apartments Project.

The City Council **approved** Resolution No. 2020-58: Resolution of the City of Brawley, California to Accept the Development Agreement and Bonds for the Construction of the Ocotillo Springs Apartments Project. m/s/c Kastner-Jauregui/Nava 5-0

- f. Discussion and Potential Action to Approve Resolution No. 2020- : Resolution of the City Council of the City of Brawley, CA Authorizing Engagement of Tyler Technologies, Inc. in the Amount of \$209,366 for First Year Implementation Fees of an Enterprise Resource Planning Software Solution.

The City Council **approved** Resolution No. 2020-59: Resolution of the City Council of the City of Brawley, CA Authorizing Engagement of Tyler Technologies, Inc. for \$209,366 for First Year Implementation Fees of an Enterprise Resource Planning Software Solution. m/s/c Hamby/Nava 5-0

- g. Discussion and Potential Staff Direction re: Graffiti Abatement Needs.

CM Nava stated that he has noticed tremendous amount of graffiti throughout the City. It needs be addressed.

CM Couchman said he is in favor of doing something at least temporarily.

Mayor Kastner-Jauregui mentioned that the aesthetics of the City are very important. If it remains, it just gets worse.

CM Hamby stated a rapid response from the Graffiti Abatement Officer takes care of the problem quickly and reduces some of the spread.

City Council **directed** staff to bring back a budget adjustment for action and move forward with staffing as soon as possible.

6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- a. Update on Emergency Construction Project at the Brawley Water Treatment Plant to Replace Components of Two Sedimentation Basins, Presented by Public Works Director Guillermo Sillas, PE.

Basin #1 troughs were installed last Friday July 31, 2020 and are working. They are now in a testing period.

For Basin #2, all items have been completed. The troughs stopped leaking and are working properly.

- b. Monthly Staffing Report for August 2020, Prepared by Personnel & Risk Management Administrator Shirley Bonillas

7. CITY TREASURER REPORT

- a. Quarterly Investment Summaries for March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020

Power Point Presentation – Tyler Salcido, Finance Director

- Content is available upon request at the Office of the City Clerk

8. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Wharton: Has been enjoying family time in Anchorage, Alaska, is grateful for all the work being done in, and around the City, appreciates being able to zoom in from quite a distance.

Couchman: Some local businesses are doing okay and some are not. Work is proceeding on Allen Street. Good to see COVID numbers improving. Reminds everybody to keep social distancing, wear a mask.

Nava: Thanked City staff for their work, the public and those that participated in the recent march for being peaceful and respectful. He has participated in zoom meetings to help businesses. He would like to restart the effort and focus on some of the businesses that are still open and re-emphasize to the public that those businesses are open and available. To all council it has been a challenge for all of us over the past several months.

Hamby: It is tough to see so many businesses around the county hurting or never able to open back up while other industries are booming and do not have enough workers to keep up with demand.

Attended the Chamber of Commerce Board meeting via zoom. Cattle Call activities were discussed. The hope is that numbers improve rapidly and it is possible to hold some of these events.

Participate in a patriotic parade of vehicles carrying the American flags, drove through Brawley, El Centro and back. With reference to earlier public comments from the Valley Football League, football has more contact than most other sports. Looking forward to numbers improving and activities resuming.

Thanked City staff for their work and really appreciates the effort of the Finance Department Team to bring in new software to move the City forward to better serve customers.

Kastner-Jauregui: Continue to participate and call-in to conference calls that are held statewide regarding COVID testing and positivity rates. The Governor’s presentation referred to using the Imperial Plan to assist Central Valley. I hope that businesses reopen soon, along with parks and sports for kids.

The Rodeo Committee was in contact regarding the 2020 Rodeo. They are tentatively planning to move forward and the City offered to help in any way possible. Thanked City Manager and the Police Department and everyone that assisted in the peaceful march and vigil for Marilyn Cazares. She extends the City’s sympathy and thoughts to family and friends.

9. CITY MANAGER REPORT

- a) The Imperial Valley Business Recovery Taskforce has launched a survey to gather information from open businesses, which has been posted on TheHub@BrawleyEOC on Facebook.
- b) The City received a request from the Yuma based Marine Aviation Training group regarding use of Brawley Municipal Airport for a ground base operation at the end of September for a few days from 12pm to 11pm. The City declined the prior use as community sensitivity was at an all-time high with the declaration of a local emergency.

10. CITY ATTORNEY

He is enjoying the weather in Washington and continues to work with the Personnel Director and Interim Police Chief.

11. CITY CLERK Nothing to report.

12. CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (California Government Code Section §54956.8)

- a. Property: Brawley Municipal Airport, 948 Ken Bemis Drive
Agency Negotiator: City Manager
Negotiating Parties: Michael Sass
Under Negotiation: Rate and Terms

POTENTIAL LITIGATION (California Government Code Section §54956.9)

Conference with Legal Counsel – Three (3) Cases

PERSONNEL MATTERS (California Government Code §54957)

- a. Public Employee Appointment to the Position of Police Chief

- b. Public Employee Appointment to the Position of City Manager

13. RECONVENIED IN OPEN SESSION AND REPORTED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

- a. A Sublease Agreement between the City of Brawley, Brawley Hangar Co., LLC and REACH Air Medical Services, LLC at the Brawley Municipal Airport Located at 948 Ken Bemis Drive was **approved**. m/s/c Kastner-Jauregui/Hamby 4-0 Wharton absent
- b. An Agreement between the City of Brawley, and Latigo Ranch Subdivision Unit 1 was **approved**. m/s/c Nava/Kastner-Jauregui 4-0 Wharton absent

14. ADJOURNMENT @ 8:05 PM

Alma Benavides, City Clerk