

CITY OF VENTURA  
**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Matt LaVere**  
Mayor

**Lorrie Brown**  
Councilmember District 6

**Erik Nasarenko**  
Councilmember District 4

**Jim Friedman**  
Councilmember District 5

**Sofia Rubalcava**, Deputy Mayor  
Councilmember District 1

**Cheryl Heitmann**  
Councilmember At-Large

**Christy Weir**  
Councilmember At-Large

Alex D. McIntyre, City Manager  
Gregory G. Diaz, City Attorney  
Antoinette M. Mann, City Clerk

**REGULAR MEETING/WORKSHOP**

**MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020**

**CS1. CALL TO ORDER – CLOSED SESSION**

The San Buenaventura (Ventura) City Council met in Closed Session in the City Hall Council Chambers, 501 Poli Street, Ventura at 5:10 p.m.

**CS2. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Councilmembers Brown, Friedman, Heitmann, Weir, Deputy Mayor Rubalcava and Mayor LaVere

ABSENT: Councilmember Nasarenko

Mayor LaVere presided.

**CS3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None**

5:15 p.m. Councilmember Nasarenko arrived.

**CS4. CLOSED SESSION – City Council Conference Room****1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS**

City Negotiators: Alex D. McIntyre, City Manager and Elizabeth Foushee, Human Resources Director

Employee Organizations:

- a. Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 721  
CTW, CLC, representing “G” (General), “S” (Supervisory),  
and “Q” (Professional) Units
- b. Ventura Maintenance Employees Association (VMEA)
- c. Ventura Fire Management Association (VFMA)
- d. Ventura City Firefighters’ Association (VCFA)
- e. Ventura Police Management Association (VPMA)
- f. Ventura Police Officers’ Association (VPOA)
- g. Unrepresented employees

Authority: Government Code Section 54957.6

**2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

Case Name: Stephen Bennett v. City of San Buenaventura et al. Ventura  
County Superior Court Case No. 56-2019-00531733-CU-WM-VTA

Authority: Government Code Section 54965.9(d)(1)

**CS5. ADJOURNMENT**

Closed session adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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**1. CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR SESSION/WORKSHOP**

The San Buenaventura (Ventura) City Council met in Regular Session/Workshop  
in the City Hall Council Chambers, 501 Poli Street, Ventura at 6:14 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Councilmembers Nasarenko, Brown, Friedman, Weir,  
Heitmann, Deputy Mayor Rubalcava and Mayor LaVere

ABSENT: None

Mayor LaVere presided.

### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor LaVere led the pledge of allegiance.

### **AGENDA ORDER MODIFICATION**

Mayor LaVere requested an agenda modification, moving Workshop Item 13C (Consideration of Emergency Ordinance Prohibiting Release of Balloons) to be heard first for the Workshop agenda items followed by 13A (Proposed 2020-2026 Capital Improvement Program Study Session) then 13B (Matrix Report Implementation Plan). City Council approved the agenda order modification.

### **5. CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

City Attorney Gregory G. Diaz reported that City Council met in Closed Session and there was no reportable action.

### **6. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilmember Heitmann requested tonight's meeting be adjourned in memory of Ben Bunji Namba. Announced Ventura County's Women's Day Festival on Sunday, March 8 at the Museum of Ventura County to celebrate International Women's Day and a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Channel Islands National Parks Anniversary event on Saturday, March 7.

Deputy Mayor Rubalcava reported attending the inaugural celebration for the Tortilla Flats Murals, Ventura Avenue and Main Street, honoring the Tortilla Flats community that was displaced for the freeway installation in 1920-1940's.

### **7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **SPEAKERS**

John Sanders Jones; Nicki Paulson; Spencer Noren, Ventura Forward; Ron DiSanto; and George Amandola

#### **DOCUMENTS**

Handouts

John Sanders Jones, Nicki Paulson and Ron DiSanto

**13. WORKSHOP****\*13C. Consideration of Emergency Ordinance Prohibiting Release of Balloons**SPEAKERS

Presenters                      City Attorney Gregory D. Diaz and Assistant City Attorney Megan Lorenzen

Public                              Deborah Grabman, Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary; and Rae Hoyt

DOCUMENT

PowerPoint

6:37 p.m. Councilmember Brown absent; 6:40 p.m. present.

Councilmember Friedman moved to approve:

- a. Introduce and adopt as an Emergency Ordinance after making the findings required by the Charter the Emergency Ordinance, title as follows:

“AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA, CALIFORNIA, ADDING CHAPTER 8.260, “BALLOON RELEASES,” TO THE SAN BUENAVENTURA MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROHIBIT BALLOON RELEASES WITHIN THE CITY AND DECLARING THE NEED THEREOF”

- b. Direct staff to bring back a regularly noticed ordinance to the City Council Meeting of March 16, 2020.

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA, CALIFORNIA, ADDING CHAPTER 8.260, “BALLOON RELEASES,” TO THE SAN BUENAVENTURA MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROHIBIT BALLOON RELEASES WITHIN THE CITY AND DECLARING THE NEED THEREOF  
ORDINANCE 2020-007

**13. WORKSHOP (continued)**

Councilmember Brown seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Nasarenko, Brown, Friedman, Weir,  
Heitmann, Deputy Mayor Rubalcava and Mayor LaVere  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

City Clerk Antoinette M. Mann declared the motion carried, 7-0.

**\*13A. Proposed 2020-2026 Capital Improvement Program Study Session****SPEAKERS**

Presenters Public Works Director Phillip L. Nelson,  
Principal Civil Engineer Brad Starr, Parks,  
Recreation and Community Partnerships  
Director Nancy O'Connor, and Ventura Water  
General Manager Susan Rungren

Public Burt Handy and George Amandola

**DOCUMENT**

PowerPoint

7:23 p.m. Councilmember Nasarenko absent; 7:29 p.m. present. 7:25 p.m.  
Councilmember Heitman absent; 7:29 p.m. present. 7:48 p.m. Councilmember  
Friedman absent; 7:54 p.m. present. 7:52 p.m. Mayor LaVere absent; 7:54 p.m.  
present. 8:10 p.m. Councilmember Weir absent; 7:12 p.m. present.

A study session was conducted regarding the proposed Capital  
Improvement Program for 2020-2026. City Council provided input to Staff  
on the proposed Capital Improvement Program for 2020-2026.

**13B. Matrix Report Implementation Plan****SPEAKERS**

Presenters Assistant City Manager Akbar Alikhan,  
Community Development Director Peter Gilli,  
Economic Development Manager Estelle  
Bussa, Assistant City Attorney Andy Heglund,  
City Manager Alex McIntyre, and City Attorney  
Greg G. Diaz

**13. WORKSHOP (continued)**SPEAKERS

Public Paul Muller; Suz Montgomery; Will Thompson; Stephen Schafer, San Buenaventura Conservancy; Marilyn Kellar; Cynthia Thompson, San Buenaventura Conservancy; Amy Cherrie; Mark Abbe; Stephanie Caldwell, Ventura Chamber of Commerce; Dan Long; John Cook; Brian Brodersen, Design Review Committee Member; Tarah Brown Gilson, Westside Community Council; Rachel Perzel, Historic Preservation Committee Member; Sandy Smith; Mark Sirota; Laura Kay Dunbar; Ann Houston, Historic Preservation Committee Member; Kathy Bremer; Cherie Egbert; Lori Steinhauer; David Armstrong; Laura O'Neil, Historic Preservation Committee Chair; and Jim DeArkland, OFI Property

DOCUMENTS

Comment Cards Steve Doll; Shannon Hillygus; Karla Aguilar; Carol Lindberg; Debra Bailey; and John Sanders-Jones

Correspondence Patti Channer; Catherine Schoenherr; Cherie Egbert; Carol Spector; Daniel Clarke, Williams Fire & Hazard Control; Jodeen Frank; Elga Lynn Prehn; Dan Long; Carl Morehouse; Jim DeArkland; Barbara Evans; Laura O'Neill, GPA Consulting-US; Tom Wesel, Arch Day Design; Wendy Sauter; Donald Nielsen; David Ferrin, Arketype Architects Inc.; Margaret O'Brien-Sparks; Andy Rowley; Stephen Schafer, San Buenaventura Conservancy Board of Directors; and Mark Sirota

Handout Stephen Schafer, San Buenaventura Conservancy Board of Directors

Supplemental Packet

**13. WORKSHOP (continued)**

8:33 p.m. Councilmember Nasarenko absent; 8:35 p.m. present. 8:41 p.m. Councilmember Brown absent; 9:15 p.m. present. 9:37 p.m. Councilmember Heitman absent; 9:40 p.m. present. 9:45 p.m. Councilmember Friedman absent; 9:47 p.m. present. 9:57 p.m. Councilmember Nasarenko absent; 10:03 p.m. present.

Staff presentation was to request feedback on the Matrix Report, highlighting three broad themes:

- a. On the conceptual consolidated permit counter (“One Stop Shop”) and proposed technological improvements.
- b. General Plan Advisory Committee Member Criteria and application process.
- c. Provided feedback on proposal regarding the design review process.

**RECESS**

10:22 p.m. City Council went into recess.

10:32 p.m. City Council reconvened.

Motion by Councilmember Friedman to continue meeting past 11:00 p.m., per City Council protocols. Seconded by Councilmember Brown. All City Council voted, with Mayor asking all in favor, to continue the meeting past 11:00 p.m.

**13B. Matrix Report Implementation Plan (continued)**

City Council provided input on the following initiatives from the Matrix Report Implementation Plan:

- a. On the conceptual consolidated permit counter (“One Stop Shop”) and proposed technological improvements.
- b. General Plan Advisory Committee Member Criteria and application process.
- c. Provided feedback on proposal regarding the design review process.

11:34 p.m. Deputy Mayor Rubalcava absent; 11:35 p.m. present.

**13. WORKSHOP (continued)**

Discussion held on how City Council could reevaluate prior approved motion on April 15, 2019 to dissolve the Historic Preservation Committee and evaluating the Design Review Committee. City Attorney Diaz stated to suspend Council rule would be an option and would require a 2/3 vote, super majority, to reconsider the previously approved motion.

Motion by Councilmember Weir to suspend City Council rules to reevaluate the Historic Preservation Committee dissolution. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rubalcava. Vote requires a 2/3 approval to pass (super majority or 5 yes votes).

The vote was as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Nasarenko, Weir, Heitmann, and Deputy Mayor Rubalcava  
NOES: Councilmember Brown, Friedman and Mayor LaVere  
ABSENT: None

City Clerk Antoinette M. Mann declared the motion failed 4-3 with Councilmembers Brown, Friedman and Mayor LaVere voting against motion.

Additional discussion related to design guidelines. Discussion about supporting City Council's prior approved votes (April 15, 2019); clear what we were discussing and what we approved.

No additional motions on topic.

**7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None****15. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS – REGIONAL BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES – None****16. CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS – None****17. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:11 a.m. on March 3, 2020 in memory of Ben Bunji Namba.



Antoinette M. Mann, MPPA, MMC, CRM  
City Clerk

\*Items heard out of order