

CITY OF VENTURA
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Sofia Rubalcava
Mayor

Doug Halter
Councilmember District 2

Jim Friedman
Councilmember District 5

Mike Johnson
Councilmember District 3

Lorrie Brown
Councilmember District 6

Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios
Councilmember District 4

Joe Schroeder, Deputy Mayor
Councilmember District 7

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



SPECIAL MEETING

JUNE 7, 2021

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE STAY AT HOME ORDER AND THE COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH OFFICER DECLARED LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY AND BE WELL AT HOME ORDER RESULTING FROM THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19), CITY HALL IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

City Council conducted this meeting in accordance with California Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 pertaining to the Brown Act and COVID-19 pandemic protocols.

1. CALL TO ORDER – SPECIAL MEETING

The San Buenaventura (Ventura) City Council met in a Special Meeting utilizing WebEx Events Meeting software from various Ventura locations at 6:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Sanchez-Palacios, Brown, Johnson, Halter, Friedman, Deputy Mayor Schroeder, and Mayor Rubalcava (via teleconference/video conference)

ABSENT: None

Mayor Rubalcava presiding.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rubalcava led the pledge of allegiance.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – NONE**5. CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

City Attorney Gregory Diaz reported that there was no closed session thus no reportable actions.

6. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS - NONE**7. CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Alex McIntyre announced the County has met the Yellow Tier requirements which loosens regulations of some activities within the community. The State announced the sectors listed in the Blueprint for Safer Economy may return to normal operations on June 15, 2021. The City will continue following Cal/OSHA guidance for safely reopening, and business regulations such as social distancing and masking will remain in effect until July 31, 2021. The City will be half-staffed and ready to meet the public on July 12, 2021. The City is looking into letting those who benefited from working at home continue working from home part time or permanently. The first In-Person City Council meeting will take place on July 12, 2021. Keeping a safe environment is of the up most importance and taking caution using social distance, washing hands often, and wearing masks should be continued when in public spaces. On June 14, 2021, the City Council will be asked to adopt the proposed Budget and approve the Urban Water Management Plan.

13. FORMAL ITEMS

13A. Review Information Technology Strategic Plan

SPEAKERS

Presenters	Finance and Technology Director Michael Coon
	Consultant - Roy Hernandez, Third Wave

DOCUMENTS

Comments-via Email	Bill McReynolds, Trevor Gotsman
PowerPoint	
Supplemental Packet	All Public Communications are listed and posted online.

Discussion included: cyber security, Staff will investigate the possibility of a free audit and will also update the Council on future security plans and platforms, a more thorough explanation of Intergov and if it will need to be integrated into current systems, the daily duties/purpose of the Business Innovation Team.

IT department budget will be coming back before City Council after the initial needs have been resolved and additional staffing information has been included from Human Resources.

City Clerk Antoinette M. Mann stated all electronic communication received are posted online and there is one public speaker.

SPEAKER	Trevor Gotsman
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Deputy Mayor Schroeder moved to approve the recommendation to:

Approve the Information Technology Strategic Plan and Roadmap completed by ThirdWave Corporation in collaboration with the City of Ventura.

City Councilmember Brown seconded.

Councilmember Johnson commented, after the motion, that while in support of the motions, he has reservations about the staffing issues and looks forward to more details when it is brought back before City Council.

13. FORMAL ITEMS (continued)

The vote was as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Sanchez-Palacios, Brown, Johnson, Halter,
Friedman, Deputy Mayor Schroeder, and Mayor Rubalcava
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

For Agenda Item 13A, City Clerk Antoinette M. Mann declared the motion carried 7-Yes; 0-No.

RECESS

City Council went into Recess at 7:26 p.m.

City Council reconvened at 7:32 p.m.; all Councilmembers in attendance.

13B. Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget Workshop #2**Continuation of Agenda Item from May 17, 2021****SPEAKERS**

Presenters City Manager Alex McIntyre; Finance and Technology Director Michael Coon; Director of Parks and Recreation Nancy O'Connor; Director of Public Works Phil Nelson; Assistant General Manager at Ventura Water Betsy Cooper; Chief of Police Darin Schindler; and Fire Chief David Endaya

DOCUMENTS

Comments-via Email Kim and Lynda Allen, Anonymous, Ventura County Taxpayers Association, Judith Washburn, Anonymous, Mike Bryson, David Jaffe and Christopher Logan

PowerPoint

Supplemental Packet All Public Communications are listed and posted online.

13. FORMAL ITEMS (continued)

Department Budget presentation were provided to City Council.

Parks & Recreation – Director Nancy O’Connor

Discussion included the differential variances between hiring the two positions and contracting them out, the Portland Loo project, the landscaping inspector position was in addition to the current position, if the Tree Master Plan for Urban Forestry, spending the \$1.3 million Measure O budget.

Parks and Recreation Director Nancy O’Connor addressed all questions stating: Green Spaces built are contracted out to developers; the Portland Loo project was not completed last year. Currently 12,000 empty tree wells and there are only 3 Urban Forestry employees. The department is looking to utilize volunteers to help water new trees for the required 2 years after trees are planted.

Public Works - Director Phil Nelson

Discussion included Capital Improvement Program software; traffic signal system upgrades and Main Street Bridge replacement project are part of the \$3.5 million grant, and if the Eastside sidewalk project is a new project, bicycle counters and would traffic calming tactics be part of the Active Transportation Plan.

Public Works Director Phil Nelson addressed all questions stating: traffic system upgrades were partially funded by the grant money, city money and a small portion of Measure O, The Main Street Bridge Replacement received grant money that must be matched. Active Transportation Plan in strictly non-motorized transportation so traffic calming will not fall under the plan.

San Buenaventura Water – Assistant General Manager Betsy Cooper

Discussion included the \$5.1 million increase in wastewater includes chemicals, electric and monitoring.

Finance & Technology Director Coon stated that the Estuary Protection fund will be closing, and the rate revenue will now be going towards the wastewater fund and capital projects. There has been significant increase in spending with the Ventura Water Pure project.

Police Department – Chief Darin Schindler

Discussion included: Enhanced Patrol; status of the Police Chief Advisory Board in the Strategic Plan; the fiscal impact if the RedFlex program is eliminated, finding out what will replace RedFlex, Police Department security cameras, how many Criminal Investigative Technicians are on staff.

13. FORMAL ITEMS (continued)

Police Chief Darin Schindler informed City Council that due to COVID, he has not yet solicited members for the Advisory Board. The Enhanced Patrol is currently 6 officers. Cadets are being paid to monitor the cameras. RedFlex funds currently pay for one traffic officer and one staff member who proves violations in court. Roughly \$1 million goes into the General Fund per year. cameras in the budget proposal are for the station only; currently there are 3 Technicians on staff.

City Manager Alex McIntyre added the frozen positions are not reflected in the current proposed budget.

Fire Department – Chief David Endaya

Discussion included maintaining Fleet Capacity, Innovative Practice, equipment maintenance, costs, and services and the alternative options, a 5-year Strategic Plan, Fire Department response time, making changes to services, and not all calls require a fire fighter; frozen positions, percentage of calls are arriving within 5 minutes, the possible addition of a new truck.

Mayor Rubalcava inquired what it would take to do a Strategic Plan for the Fire Department, develop creative ideas for enhancing Fire Department Services outside of budget funding, possibly via fund-raising and community involvement.

Discussion that the City has not fully recovered from the 2008 recession, the Thomas fire, and now the Pandemic. Need to reevaluate how services are being delivered so we can see different results from those we have seen in the last 20 to 30 years. Requested more information on one-time money and how the city can benefit from it.

Council would like to receive a full report on obtaining a Fire Department Strategic Plan. City Manager Alex McIntyre said they would need funding for consultants, time to complete studies, and community outreach.

Fire Chief David Endaya responded that a Strategic Plan needs to be based on the needs of the community and include the community's involvement with feedback, and that completion should not be rushed. Currently 41 – 53% of calls are arriving within 5 minutes.

After receiving all Departmental Presentations, Mayor Rubalcava asked about Public Speakers.

13. FORMAL ITEMS (continued)

City Clerk Antoinette M. Mann stated all electronic communication received are posted online and there are two Public Speakers.

SPEAKER Barbara Brown, Karen Flock

City Council received the Departmental budget presentations and provided input to Staff. No vote taken on this item.

8. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – NONE**16. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS – REGIONAL
BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES – NONE****17. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m. in memory of Lieutenant Bradford Lee Talbot for his life's service with the Ventura Police Department.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.



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