



Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Winters City Council
Held on March 24, 2020 (Meeting was held remotely via Zoom)

Mayor Biasi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present Online: Council Members Harold Anderson, Jesse Loren, Pierre Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Wade Cowan, Mayor
Absent: None
Staff Online: City Manager John W. Donlevy Jr., City Attorney Ethan Walsh, City Clerk Tracy Jensen, Director of Financial Management Shelly Gunby, Police Chief John Miller, Housing/Economic Development Manager Dan Maguire, Public Works Superintendent Eric Lucero, Environmental Services Manager Carol Scianna, Building Official Gene Ashdown

Mayor Biasi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: City Manager Donlevy said there were no changes to the agenda and read aloud ways for people to participate in the meeting. Directions to log into www.Zoom.com were sent out via email and were also included on the City's website. Once the app has been downloaded onto a device, the user can use the "raise your hand" function to participate, with the meeting host clicking on your name when it is your turn to speak. As Council addresses various agenda items and the Mayor calls for public comments, please raise your hand. Viewers can also go onto YouTube Live to make a comment or send a comment via email to City Clerk Tracy Jensen at tracy.jensen@cityofwinters.org.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Cowan, second by Council Member Neu to approve the agenda. Motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Council Member Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Cowan, Mayor Biasi
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS: Verbal updates were provided by Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Carla Wroten, Downtown Business Owner, requested that a hand washing station be placed in the downtown area. City Manager Donlevy replied one can be installed on one of the corners in the downtown area and Mayor Biasi said these units may currently be in high demand.

Sarah McCullough, Winters resident, submitted the following suggestions to Council via email: create signage and barriers “closing” the play structures at the playgrounds in town; create signage for sporting spaces in parks discouraging play that does not adhere to social distancing standards; partner with Hotel Winters to offer rooms to local people who are unhoused, which is being done in other communities. We are only as healthy and safe as a community as our most vulnerable member; provide relief FIRST for Winters most vulnerable residents, including those who are undocumented or have family members who may be undocumented, those working in the “gig” economy, those who have been laid off, those who are not getting paid while taking time off for child care, sickness or to limit exposure, those who are homeless, and others whose economic survival is threatened by this pandemic; provide relief for small businesses, particularly those who have chosen or were forced to totally shut down; officially pause evictions for renters as allowed under California Executive Order N-28-20; partner with Empower Yolo to ensure that residents who are sheltering in place in unsafe environments have access to help they need; as further testing becomes available, seek testing for any residents with symptoms, the community’s essential workers, caregivers, and others whose potential exposure may be endangering others. City Manager Donlevy responded to Ms. McCullough’s suggestions via email.

CONSENT CALENDAR: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. COVID-19 Relief - Business and Resident Relief

City Manager Donlevy reviewed possible options for relief for local residents and businesses to help resolve impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, including deferred payments or payment options for Transient Occupancy Tax for Abbey House Inn and Hotel Winters, waiving late fees for water and sewer payments for

residents and businesses, and giving them the option of partial or deferred payments with an established agreement. In the case of utility payments, any unpaid utility bills as of August 1st would be placed on the property tax bills as a lien.

There are several resources available for businesses, which includes SBA (Small Business Administration) disaster loans, State Unemployment/Work Sharing programs (partial wage reductions), State unemployment insurance benefits, payroll tax extensions, and the Solano EDC Rapid Response, who can help businesses with potential layoffs or closures. Contact information for Erica Johnson, Yolo County HSSA Program Coordinator is also available on the City's website.

Childcare will be determined by decisions made by WJUSD. The approval of classrooms and the expansion of programs, ie: After School Program, Munchkin Summer Camp, and others, will also be determined by WJUSD.

Council Member Loren said Winters Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sue Moualim sent out a questionnaire to many local businesses to inquire what's going on with their businesses, but did not include those businesses that are not Chamber members. Council Member Loren asked if the City could reach out to all businesses as per the business licenses on record to inquire about lay-offs, plans to re-open, and to prepare to provide a robust response to businesses. Council Member Loren also asked if there was a threshold for receiving an SB8 loan and if our businesses qualify. Mayor Biasi suggested contacting Guysell Geter at Hotel Winters, who has a lot of information regarding these loans.

City Manager Donlevy said staff member Diana Tafolla, who speaks Spanish, is pushing out information via two sources: the Chamber list and the Downtown Manager's group list. The City will continue to push out information through social media, but if businesses are not on either of these lists, the City will need help to reach them. There are many factors needed to qualify and criteria to be met that are required during the application process. This information and more can be found at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs>.

Council Member Cowan asked if the City has someone on staff that is looking out for the City's best interests financially regarding aid from the State as well as Federal Government assistance, and asked if there is a point-person to see how this can trickle down to our small town. City Manager Donlevy said Director of Financial Management Shelly Gunby receives information due to her membership in various organizations, ie: Department of Financial Management and the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSFMO), as well as receiving information directly from the State. The League of California Cities (LCC) also vets a lot of information. Staff also looks to Senator Dodd, Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry and their staffs to funnel information down as well. Police Chief Miller and Fire Chief Lopez both earn a solid "A" for individually

tracking funding opportunities and attracting money, including assistance from FEMA.

Council and staff discussed how COVID-19 is affecting the Afterschool Program and the Munchkin Summer Camp. As a grant-funded program through the State, the Afterschool Program and Grant Manager Nicole Jordan-Halley has been in contact with the grant administrator to track where the funds are going.

Mayor Biasi asked for an update on the status of City parks. City Manager Donlevy said staff has been monitoring the parks and have put up signage to follow CDC guidelines to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Community education is needed. If the County Health officer increases playground limitations, new signs will then be posted.

The League of California Cities (LCC) has asked cities to write a letter to support HR6021, a stimulus bill for cities to help keep them whole financially. The Assembly is also looking at ways to prevent a homeless crisis by people losing their homes. Mayor Biasi said a \$100 million dollars is being given out by the State and Yolo County is receiving over \$100K. He asked staff to touch bases with Supervisor Saylor to see if Winters can get a chunk of it. City Manager Donlevy said these funds are going towards housing and homelessness for major urban areas, where there is a higher at-risk population due to COVID-19 and get them into hotels.

Carla Wroten spoke about the importance of centralizing the updated information being collected from downtown businesses. She also said she is receiving information from the Yolo County Health Dept. to share with the City about signage and employee training. They held their first meeting and training and said having a discussion with employees was important. City Manager Donlevy said the City would be happy to help facilitate some type of distance learning via the Zoom app. Carla said it was important to communicate with your employees who ask how they can still do their jobs and feel safe.

Council Member Loren said the Yolo Food Bank, along with Mayor Pro Tem Cowan and his wife Kathy have distributed food the last two Fridays on Morgan Street for low income and at-risk residents, limiting everyone to two boxes.

Winters Express Reporter Rodney Orosco asked if we had any indication how the slow down will impact the City's budget. City Manager Donlevy said the City is losing money every day. The loss of TOT and the decreased food and fuel sales tax will hit us hard. The biggest thing was that PERS lost \$69 billion dollars in their portfolio last week. Their discount rates are determined by their overall return, which will be a huge impact on Cities. Where pension costs go will be very significant. Council Member Loren asked if there can be something put in place to help people avoid evictions and keep their homes.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: Staff will prepare a resolution in support of eviction legislation, utility bill and TOT deferral, will continue tracking state and federal resources, and perform outreach to all local businesses, including Spanish businesses. Staff will issue letters of support for HR6201 and AB1828A.

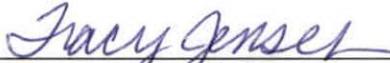
INFORMATION ONLY: None

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Biasi adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.



Bill Biasi, MAYOR

ATTEST:



Tracy Jensen, City Clerk