MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MADERA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA

March 1, 2017
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting for 3/01/17 was called to order by Mayor Medellin at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Andrew J. Medellin
Mayor Pro Tem Cece Foley Gallegos, District 1
Council Member Jose Rodriguez, District 2
Council Member Derek O. Robinson Sr., District 4
Council Member William Oliver, District 3
Council Member Charles F. Rigby, District 5

Absent: Council Member Donald E. Holley, District 6

Others present were City Administrator David Tooley, City Attorney Brent Richardson, City Clerk Sonia Alvarez, Director of Community Development David Merchen, Director of Financial Services Tim Przybyla, City Engineer Keith Helmuth, Public Works Operations Director David Randall, Chief of Police Steve Frazier, Director of Human Resources Wendy Silva, Director of Parks and Community Services Mary Anne Seay, Grant Administrator Ivette Iraheta, Chief Building Official Steve Woodworth, Planning Manager Chris Boyle, Fire Chief Nancy Koerperich, Division Fire Chief David Allen, Battalion Chief Jim Forga and Commander Dino Lawson.

INVOCATION:

Pastor Randy Brannon, Grace Community Church

Pastor Fred Thurman of New Life Assembly gave the invocation. Pastor Brannon was unable to attend the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Medellin led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The first fifteen minutes of the meeting are reserved for members of the public to address the Council on items which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Council. Speakers shall be limited to three minutes. Speakers will be asked to identify themselves and state the subject of their comment. If the subject is an item on the Agenda, the Mayor has the option of asking the speaker to hold the comment until that item is called. Comments on items listed as a Public Hearing on the Agenda should be held until the hearing is opened. The Council is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters discussed that are not on the Agenda, and no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Council does not respond to public comment at this time.

No comments were offered.

PRESENTATIONS

Recyclers of the Year Award (Presentation by Mid Valley Disposal)
Annette Kwock introduced Ivette Rodriguez. They are with Mid Valley Disposal.

Ivette Rodriguez stated she would give a brief report about the work that they have been doing for the past six months of last year. She mentioned that it is an important report to show what they are doing in order to reduce waste here in the City of Madera, encourage recycling and also help commercial customers with challenges that they may face with their recycling or trash collection services. She noted that Annette Kwock does a great job helping the customers with these types of things that they are working on. She advised that she would share a brief summary of what they have done.

Ms. Rodriguez referred to commercial site visits. She commented that Ms. Kwock is out in the field visiting businesses. If a customer has questions about increasing services or maybe they need a lock because they have illegal dumping being placed in their bins, she is there to assist. They are able to help the customer either add a bin or remove bins. She noted that the main thing is to increase recycling. She stated that it is important. The state is always looking at what the City of Madera is doing to implement more recycling within each business. She commented that these are all components of the work that needs to get done every year. She noted that they work in coordination with the City as well to make sure these efforts are being done and completed with each business here in the City of Madera.

Ms. Rodriguez stated they always like to give great thanks to the businesses that do a great job and one that Ms. Kwock definitely wants to showcase is Nutrición Fundamental which is the Quickeroo store here in Madera. They showed great recycling efforts this past quarter.

Ms. Rodriguez reported that a total of 126 businesses were visited during the third and fourth quarter. She advised that they want to honor some additional businesses that did a great job. A few are the Vineyard, IHop and Radio Shack.

Ms. Rodriguez noted that also included in recycling efforts, and its mandatory for recycling, are the multi-family apartments here in Madera. She stated that it is important that they visit those sites as well and check in with the managers to make sure they are aware of the law and that they must provide recycling services for their tenants.

Ms. Rodriguez referred to the pictures to show them what is actually being placed in some of the recycling bins. She advised that the blue recycling bins can be used for cardboard, plastic, tin cans. They get a lot of customers that are very surprised to learn that they can place tin cans, that they can place plastic containers. They do see a lot of cardboard. When Ms. Kwock is out, she is making sure that they are aware of the many different recyclables that can be placed inside for diversion. They want to keep these materials out of the landfill. Ms. Rodriguez stated that they see large white roll off bins and a lot of the industrial businesses will use those for recycling cardboard such as Planet Fitness and San Miguel Market to name a few.

Ms. Rodriguez stated she wants to share a new program which is very important to the City of Madera noting again that waste diversion and recycling is very important in their efforts. She commented that they work with Madera Unified School District to implement a pilot program for food waste recycling. She advised that the district selected three schools: Parkwood, Chavez and Alpha. The program started late last year. She noted that there were some challenges and with anything new it is training the students, the staff. She commented that there are a total of 2,380 students that were participating in this pilot program. They call it a pilot program because they are not ready to implement districtwide just yet. They are learning. They are taking note and they are trying to find the next step to implement the other schools within the district. She noted that the most important thing is that it is the law to recycle food waste now from commercial waste streams and they all know that the schools produce a lot of food waste. She added that unfortunately a lot of it is thrown away. They are implementing these programs to make sure it stays out of the landfill, gets recycled and made into compost. They are seeing lots of great changes, the students are getting it and the staff is also participating. They get the idea and understand that it is an important program as well.
Ms. Rodriguez referred to the pictures to show them what it means to have a cafeteria food waste program. She advised that the students have multiple containers when they toss their leftover food waste and they know which bin to put it in. Not only are they separating their food waste now but they are making sure to place any leftover milk in a container that is going to be moved over but also recycling the milk cartons. She noted that there is lots of recycling going on at the schools this year. She commended them for a great job. She added that it is a great message for the students to make their environment clean and green.

Ms. Rodriguez referred to efforts in the community. She noted that this is something that Ms. Kwock puts a lot of passion into. She engages the residents by speaking to them about very important things that they need to know daily such as how to get rid of hazardous waste whether it be maybe a bucket of paint or a sharps so there is a lot information that is learned when Ms. Kwock is out in the community and reaching out. She added that it is not just about recycling, noting that it is very important and it is their time to share with the residents whether young or old, it does not matter, it is important to understand why they need to recycle. This is their time to do that when they are out in the community. She reported that Ms. Kwock was out at Fiesta in the Park, the Madera Coalition Fair and even the Harvest Christian Preschool. She noted that those students also had a great time during Ms. Kwock’s presentation in their classroom. Ms. Rodriguez restated whether it is a classroom or an event like Pomegranate Festival it is important to reach lots of residents and they are giving great information out. She showed a few more photos noting that they can’t forget about the Christmas parade. She noted that Madera has a great Christmas parade and they are really proud to be a part of it every year.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that residents are very excited about and look forward to the clean up event every year. She advised that it is coming up this year. She added that the residents will be getting information very soon that is going to be posted out letting everyone know that it is going to start March 20th. She stated that it is a 27 day event and as they can see, lots of residents take advantage of placing their materials out by the curbside. In partnership with the City, Mid Valley goes daily. She advised that there are different days that are appropriate for residents to set out their garbage on the curbside and there are items that don’t belong so it is important that the residents know and understand their day and what is accepted and not accepted. They are looking forward to that event and they are sure residents are already prepared.

Ms. Rodriguez displayed some facts and information about what they collected last year. There were a total of 4,920 mattresses. She advised that this is in pounds so metal was 139 pounds of metal and total pounds of trash so it is definitely a lot of material that they are picking up within those 27 days. She stated that it is a very large operation. There are a total of 21 employees both Mid Valley and the City to coordinate this event to make sure it is a success.

Ms. Rodriguez referred to a report showing all the efforts that they are doing whether it is residential or commercial. Starting with the third quarter diversion, she noted that is where they want to increase to make sure the work that they are doing is that they are increasing the recycling. She stated that that did go up in the fourth quarter which is exciting meaning that the residents recycled more compared to the third quarter so they are making progress with the education and the outreach.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that on the commercial sector, same thing. The efforts that were made to talk to the business owners, employees and train them and the education material that they provided helped to increase recycling diversion. She expressed a great job to the businesses and great job to the residents. She thanked the City for doing their part to recycle as well.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that some upcoming events to look forward to, to visit Ms. Kwock in her booth, include Relay for Life Kick-Off. She advised that she doesn’t have a date but that will be coming up. They will also be at the Mayor’s Breakfast and the Business Extravaganza & Expo in June.

Ms. Rodriguez thanked the Council and handed the presentation to Ms. Kwock for the last portion of their presentation.
Mayor Medellin thanked them noting that this is a great report but he thinks, as everybody knows, Ms. Kwock is everywhere in Madera. She is out there knocking on doors, educating and really helping the recycling effort. He commended her for a fantastic job.

Ms. Kwock thanked Mayor Medellin. She stated that this is the fun part. This is a part of her job that she just absolutely loves besides being in a classroom this morning reading to about 45 third graders.

Ms. Kwock stated that they chose two recyclers of the year. She stated that they are going to laugh at her, but she went on a ride-along with one of the commercial forklift drivers, the frontloaded, and talked to him about who would be their great choice for recycler of the year. She noted that when she is in a group with all these guys, they don’t talk, they don’t say anything but, you get them in a truck they won’t stop talking.

Ms. Kwock advised that it is called Nutrición Fundamental but they all know it as Quickeroo. She read a portion of what she wrote. She stated that not only do they recycle 1,750 cubic yards of paper, cardboard and plastic, which they keep it out of the landfill and that is a good thing but, they break down their boxes and make room. It is never overflowed and the most important thing of this whole process is no contamination. There is no food. There is nothing bad in their trash. You can actually go in there and touch it with your hands because she has. Currently they have two six-yard bins being serviced three times a week and it is with great pleasure to announce Nutrición Fundamental Quickeroo as her Small Recycler of the Year with great appreciation for much success. She added that they are going to get a trophy tonight but along with that trophy, $2,500 will go to Madera Unified School District in their name to help support the kids of Madera. Ms. Kwock introduced Ross Rojas and Marlene Roman from Quickeroo.

Ms. Kwock and Mayor Medellin congratulated them.

Ms. Kwock stated she needed some help choosing their large recycler because they wouldn’t let her get inside the big large bin to go check them out. She did once and they said never again. She got in contact with her drivers, her route managers to see who would be the best choice for their large recycler of the year. She announced that the candidate was Marshalls. They all know Marshalls. Last year they recycled 26.64 tons of cardboard, paper and plastic. Along with their trophy for doing such an awesome job $2,500 will also go to Madera Unified in their name to help support the kids of Madera. Ms. Kwock introduced Wendy Alexander and Evelyn Ascencio from Marshalls.

Ms. Kwock and Mayor Medellin congratulated them. Ms. Kwock offered to answer any questions. No questions were asked and Ms. Kwock thanked the Council for having them.

Mayor Medellin commented that these are materials that would otherwise be in landfills or who knows where. He thanked them for their efforts.

Mayor Medellin acknowledged the presence of past Madera County Supervisor Ronn Dominici. He thanked him for joining them. Also present is past Mayor and current Madera Assessor Mr. Gary Svanda.

A. WORKSHOP

A-1 Use of Measure K Funds (Report by Police Department and Fire Department)

Chief of Police Steve Frazier stated this is an update on Measure K to let them know kind of where they are. Currently they have 60 sworn FTE’s (full time employees). They are down three positions presently due to a couple of retirements. They also have four long term absences that again are not available to them. He advised that does not factor in on whether they can replace those but this is just to kind of let them know that they are down seven positions meaning that they don’t have seven people out on the street.

Chief Frazier commented that, as they know, in November they passed Measure K which, by the Council’s decision, is earmarked for public safety. He noted that it has been estimated that they will have $3.4 to
Chief Frazier noted that equates to about $1.75+/-. They really have no idea what that is going to look like. They hope it is this figure. What they have before the Council is what they presented back in, he wants to say, November of 2015. They gave the Council kind of a plan that they would carry forward in working towards getting the passage of Measure K. It includes two sergeants, 10 officers, a dispatcher, a records clerk, and a network administrator. He advised that this has been a roadmap that they have used. This is what they were telling folks when they went talking about Measure K that here is where the money is going to be spent.

Chief Frazier stated that what they see in these positions is a total cost. Factored into this $1.6 million are six vehicles and all the equipment associated with hiring 10 officers. He advised that it will cost them about $30,000 to send those 10 officers to the academy and that is also factored into the cost. The total cost includes everything associated with the cost to the City to get them hired, the guns, the vest, all those kind of things. They anticipate that that $1.6 million will exhaust the departments half of their half cent sales tax in FY 2017/18. They don’t anticipate that there will be any residual funds left in their first year. He stated that this $1.6 million does have $400,000, almost $500,000 in one-time costs. He advised that they will get to kind of what they have the need for with those funds a little bit later.

Chief Frazier referred to their Sergeants/Corporals. He noted that promotions have already been made. They knew that they had to have supervision in place before they start bringing in those ten officers in moving forward. He knows the question that was in their mind because it was in his too...well we don’t have any Measure K money yet so how are we doing this. Chief Frazier stated that they saw the importance of getting their supervisors trained, of getting them through the mentoring process and doing that within existing funds. They have had vacancies in Animal Control, which they will hear about later. They have had a vacancy in Animal Control. They have had a couple of dispatcher positions. They've had an office supervisor for a portion of the year so really they anticipate that they have about $235,000 in salary savings that they have covered these costs. So right now there are no additional costs to the City. Within their savings, they've made their promotions, their people are in place, and the mentoring is done. They are ready for the onslaught.

Chief Frazier stated that they have 10 officers that they look to bring onboard. Initially their thought was that this would be kind of a multi-year process because hiring was difficult. Everybody is looking for those positions. Everybody is competing for the same people. What they did is that they recreated a success that they had last year in testing and asking people in their community to step up, step in and the City would put them through the academy.

Chief Frazier advised that they did that two weekends ago. They had 295 people that participated in a physical agility. He will say, and he means no disrespect to the people that participated last year, but this year they saw some fantastic looking people. They had cop written all over their face. They had 195 that they sent to the Pellet B. He explained that Pellet B is a basic English proficiency test. He noted that is a requirement to take before you go to the academy. They had 70 people that passed the Pellet B. He commented that it is a little harder than he remembers apparently. They had 70 people that passed and then they had about 30 people that had previously passed the Pellet B so they have 100 plus that will be going through interviews. The first 27 went today and there will be 27 tomorrow, 27 Friday, and then 27 on Monday to get 100 people through their oral panel.

Chief Frazier explained why they are doing this now. He realizes that they have no funds yet for Measure K. He stated that actually the collection of those funds hasn’t started and they won’t start until April 1. They will see in the last quarter of 16/17 that will be the first collection period for Measure K. They hope that the state is prompt with their check and they will see that July 1. He doesn’t expect that at all but sometime in July, maybe even in August they will get a check from the state for the last quarter of sales tax revenue for Measure K.
Chief Frazier stated that they’ve got 10 officers. If they put this off and looked to go to the academy that will start in December, they really put themselves behind the curve. They know that they have enough salary savings that they can carry these individuals for a month. He noted that the academy starts June 12th. They pay them to go the academy. They can cover in their salary savings to have them onboard and moving forward. They are moving forward early but they are doing that at no additional cost to the City based on their savings that they have with vacancies. That way they are not as far behind. They put them in the academy June 12th. They graduate December 15th-ish. Then the work really starts because they have five FTO’s (field training officers). He will have 10 bodies. They will plug them in throughout the department. They will keep them busy but getting them through the FTO program will be a challenge for them. He noted that it is a good challenge to have. He restated that they are moving forward with that and that caveat is just that they have to carry them for a month potentially on salary savings until they see the revenue coming in for Measure K.

Chief Frazier referred to the dispatcher positions. He advised that they have two simultaneous recruitments completed. They have viable candidates on those lists. They have one that is a budgeted position that they hope to hire as soon as possible then they have one that is a Measure K hire that they will wait until they have Measure K funds. He stated he’s got 10 bodies. He is not going to realize that increase until December. He will half of those bodies probably midway through 2018 so there isn’t a significant rush on the dispatcher for them. They will probably move on that probably September-ish. It also depends on the candidates they have now. If they have some good candidates they want to sow them up kind of early. They can certainly do that once the Measure K funds come in.

Chief Frazier referred to the Records Clerk and noted that is the same thing. He stated that the need will be there down the road. There isn’t any real rush for them to have that position in place right now. In 2018, when they have these bodies out, additional bodies out working the street, clearly the need will be at that point and time and Measure K will be two or three quarters in at that point.

Chief Frazier referred to the network administrator position. He noted that they have identified this probably second only to the additional officers. This is a big need for them. He advised that they exist within the City infrastructure but kind of their own network that is separate from the City and all the things that they have going, they need someone who can actively be forward thinking for them, that can keep them up and running with the programs that they have; and having a Network Administrator that reports to the Director, working within the PD will be just a significant help for them. They are moving forward. He thinks they got their request in to HR (Human Resources) today to start that recruitment as soon as they are able. He added that hopefully they can have people identified and on board maybe as early as May. He stated that might be a little ambitious but they will try. He advised that is a testing process, a competitive process. Obviously they have to float the job description, float the recruitment and then get them onboard so they are going to move on that as soon as they can. They are at the mercy of HR. They will take them to lunch a couple of times; do whatever they have to do. They are excited about that. That really is a critical need for them. They are facing body cams. They are looking at a lot of technology changes that…we are cops, let’s just admit it. They really are only one step above Fire when it comes to technology and those kinds of things. He stated that this position will be really important for them.

Chief Frazier noted that he mentioned earlier that they’ve got $1.6 million in costs in the first year of Measure K. About $500,000 of those are one-time costs – vehicles, guns, vests, all those kind of things. They do have some fairly significant issues coming forward. They have space needs. Even without those 10, they have space needs. If they’ve been in the PD lately, they’ve got equipment stacked in the hallways. It is a significant need now. Their radio infrastructure is at end of life 2018. As they can see that is a very significant hit to the City but it is something they have to have. Obviously that is a lifeline for their officers. In that initial presentation to the Council, they talked about the need for training. Their drive time to the ranges that are available now range anywhere from 20 to 45 minutes. He added that is lost employee time that they just won’t get back and they still have no permanent place that they go. From Kerman to the Fresno range to occasionally the prison, that is not just isolated to the PD. It includes Fire, the Sheriff’s Department and Chowchilla PD. There is just no home for them to provide the training that they need to do. He noted that really needs to be looked at and that cost is listed in the slide.
Chief Frazier referred to equipment needs. He stated they have been at end of life for their tasers. They are at end for their portable radios. They have other equipment needs in the form of their body cams and everything else. There are a lot of things that are pressing that they have put off because they know the financial situation that the City is in and they just couldn’t in good conscience come in and say… hey we need these things…when everybody else is looking for bodies and things like that.

Chief Frazier stated that they also need to put money away. He noted that Measure K will buy six vehicles for the department. They need to put money away because those vehicles don’t last forever so they want to put away a set amount each year so that when they do reach their end of life they don’t have to wait for a tax increment to come in; they’ve prepared for that.

Chief Frazier stated this is where they are at with Measure K. He offered to answer any questions.

Council Member Oliver stated he had the opportunity to join Mayor Medellin for the physical agility field testing a couple of weeks ago. He noted that certainly it was most impressive to see some of the talent and enthusiasm out there. He knows when asking the participants what motivated them to come out or where they were from many did respond and said that they were from Madera. He asked if there was any further evaluation as to how many folks were from the Madera area that applied.

Chief Frazier replied that he would say they are probably well over 70%-75% from Madera. They had some as far away, he knows because they talked about it, from Michigan. He stated that it was unfortunate that he came that far and the first obstacle, he failed. He couldn’t get over the wood wall but he did talk to some other agencies in the area and maybe someone threw him a lifeline to help him out. But, overall, they were very, very pleased with the effort, with the comradery that was demonstrated. He noted that it was incredible. Most of them were total strangers that were demonstrating for us their ability to work as a team. He thinks that shows great promise for this community that they those kind of people, those choices and they are excited about that.

Council Member Oliver agreed and stated there were several instances to when one might fall off of one of the barriers or fail at a certain test and the Chief’s team was there to step up and offer some guidance, some support and encouragement even if they weren’t able to meet that test and move forward so he was really proud to see that. He thinks they really embodied that.

Council Member Rodriguez stated he is also pleased to hear that they have such a great pool of people especially from Madera. He noted that when it comes to that capital expenditure, he noticed that there was a training facility and the Chief mentioned other law enforcement organizations. He asked if having a joint partnership has been brought up to reduce the costs to the City itself. He asked that he expand on that.

Chief Frazier replied that it is a little early in the game but absolutely correct that cost will be shared to some extent. They want to share, they want to be good neighbors but they don’t want to give up control of the range. What they have found in Fresno in particular where they have a multi-agency range which is their Officer Association range down there that it can get very, very cumbersome if you allow, there are too many people and then there just is not enough time for you to get the training in. They will have to find some way to pool that money but still retain control of that. He restated that it gets just a little cumbersome if they have a joint powers agreement that maintains that. He stated they will absolutely explore that. In fact, he was just asking fire, he was already crunching the numbers. He knows what their stroke is going to be on their building. He knows how much their cost is on personnel so he said…oh you’ve got money left for a range…and they said…ya absolutely. Chief Frazier noted that there is a lot of potential out there. He would ask that if the Council in their capacity knows someone that has land. They are looking someplace west of the City out of the sphere of growth that would be interested in selling or donate or provide some opportunity for them to build some sort of facility that would be much appreciated.

Chief Frazier commented that is kind of the first step is identifying where they go. They formed a committee with PD and SO (Sheriff’s Office) that is just in its baby steps right now but the Council Member’s point is
absolutely well taken. He agreed that this is a need that is greater than Madera PD and there should be some shared costs.

Council Member Rodriguez stated he couldn’t help but notice when the Chief said cumbersome between other agencies and asked if where they currently train, is that also the case. Do they meet with other agencies and clash it? He asked if that is where they meet in Fresno.

Chief Frazier replies yes and added that they do. He stated that in Fresno, the Peace Officers Range that he previously mentioned wants to charge them $6,000 for use of that which probably in the big picture isn’t such a bad number but that number only gets them four visits in a year. If they go in the evening, they have to pay for someone to stand by because they are outside of business hours. He added that that just seemed a little unreasonable that he has to pay for their employee to watch them participate in range and do those kinds of things.

Chief Frazier noted that the prison has transition from revolvers to semi-autos so they said their range was not available because they will be training basically for the next couple of years to master these guns. They periodically get the range. The last time was the Citizen’s Academy. That is kind of their focus to at least be able to get it for that but pretty much they have been excluded from using that as well as the Sheriff’s Department in Chowchilla.

Chief Frazier referred to the Kerman range. He noted that it is about a half-hour drive and it is at the sewer treatment plant. He added that it is not maintained terribly well so if they don’t go down before hand and ask them to mow it, they are in a foot / foot and one-half high grass and that makes training a little difficult.

Chief Frazier stated that it is just being able to identify a location that is maintained that allows them to ensure that they get the training that they need and in doing that, and again being a good partner, they can ensure that the SO and the Fire, and everybody else has that same opportunity.

Council Member Rodriguez asked if the training facilities are open to the public or are they just strictly for law enforcement.

Chief Frazier replied that they could be either. He would be reluctant to probably start down the path of having that open to the public just for the things that he had just mentioned. If they find that there is more than enough training time for all those agencies, then they can look at potentially opening that to the public. He stated that nothing is off the table at this point. He noted that for staff it is at the point that they are discussing. He knows that when they move that forward that they are going to go through Council on those decisions anyway. He would think initially that it would be a law enforcement only then they would see the time and whether they could open that up or not.

Council Member Rodriguez stated his appreciation to Chief Frazier.

Mayor Medellin asked if they still really have revolvers.

Chief Frazier replied that they just switched to semi-autos and that is why it takes them two years. They make fire look good.

Council Member Robinson asked how many recruits were military veterans.

Chief Frazier stated he doesn’t know off hand but he wants to brag just a little bit. He noted that if any of them have a military background, they just hired a Master Sergeant from the Marines. He noted that he is just squared away; really sharp. He is in the academy right now. They will be tendering a conditional job offer as soon as Mr. Tooley (City Administrator) and Mrs. Silva (Human Resources Director) look at it. He added that this guy was a find. He thinks he will be really, really good for them and obviously they hope that there are more folks in there that have that experience as well. They will see what happens.
Mayor Medellin thanked Chief Frazier for that presentation. He usually is not in a comfortable frame of mind when he spends money that they don't have. But, in this particular case where they have been doing more with less, they've needed officers for a long time and since they are talking about Measure K and with the 80% passage, it is obviously that the taxpayer and the citizens of Madera understand the great need and that is something that the Chief said a lot tonight is the need that they have. Mayor Medellin stated that one, he appreciates what the Chief has been doing so far with the officers. The last four that they hired have been doing excellent from what he understands and they came from that same academy. They plucked them right out of Madera. He is in total support of where they are going from here. He just wanted to say thank you and he knows they had talked about possibly phasing in some officers but the need for those 10 officers is great. Sooner rather than later.

Chief Frazier noted that the dynamics have changed such that last year when they held that recruitment and they chose the four officers, this next academy class that they are putting their 10 in, there are no unaffiliated. It is a Fresno PD, it is a Madera PD. They said there are some from Modesto. The dynamics have changed in how they go about acquiring an officer. It used to be that there were enough people that put themselves through the academy that everybody could kind of pick and choose. He added that there is a class that is graduating he thinks this month that started last September. There are only four unaffiliated and the rest are all affiliated. So what they are seeing is everybody is now out recruiting and hiring and putting them through the academy. If they wait and they look to do it the way they have done it in the past, it may be many, many years before they have 10 bodies. They were impressed as the Council was with this recruitment effort that they think they can fill all 10 positions here. He thinks if they don't then they are really going to be pushing things out. He added that the dynamics have changed considerably.

Mayor Medellin asked if there are any other questions for Chief Frazier. No other questions were asked and Mayor Medellin thanked the Chief for the report.

Chief Dave Allen stated he is the Division Chief for Madera County Fire and Madera City Fire on the Cal Fire side. He noted that the difference between him and the Police Chief is that he went first. Chief Allen noted that not only is he Fire but he is also law enforcement so he can do his and Chief Frazier’s job. Chief Allen added that he is also a Range Master and a Fire Arms Instructor so if they need help with that he can help them there too.

Chief Allen stated they are talking about Measure K, where they are going with it and sticking within the $1.7 million which is their half of the public safety tax. He noted that he would go over briefly since the Chief already mentioned it. In November, the citizens passed by 80% Measure K noting that they want to see a difference as well. Chief Allen stated this is to show their side, what Fire is going to do with their money.

Chief Allen stated that currently they have a combined total of 17 positions between the two stations. He noted that two engines are staffed with three personnel consisting of a Fire Captain, Fire Apparatus Engineer and a Firefighter at each of the two stations; six on duty any given day of the week.

Chief Allen showed pictures of Station 6 which is off of Lake and Station 7 which is off of Schnoor. He noted that Station 7 has the engine, a reserve engine, and rescue in it. Chief Allen reviewed the recommendations they would like to see in the north side of the City where they are lacking severely in fire protection. He stated that reduced response times for all types of emergencies are some of the goals they have identified. Their current response times are in excess of six minutes in the northern parts of the City. Chief Allen referred to the map of Station 7 and Station 6 and their response times. He pointed to the big empty white spot on the north end. They have worked with Chris (Planning Manager), looking at different City properties that are out there already existing around the airport, the golf course and what may or may not work for them.

Chief Allen stated that for construction of a new facility, they are looking at $4.5 - $6.9 million. He commented that they know the station is going to cost them about $371 a square foot for a 9900 square
foot station. The additional funds fall into permitting, land, everything that goes into building a fire station. He advised that that figure is going to change on how much the City is going to do. He stated that this is based on all permits, everything being contracted out.

Chief Allen displayed a photo of the type of station they are looking at for the type of station. Since they are going outside of the airport area to stay in what is out there. He also showed a floor plan of the station. They are looking at a six bedroom, three bay...he went back a slide noting that if you zoom in it says Police Substation. They have talked to Police. They know they need stuff out there to. They are looking at around a 15 acre piece of property so that they can expand down the road with a training facility, indoor shooting range, their props. He has been talking with SO (Sheriff's Office), PD (Police Department) and of course he is the City and County Fire Chief so he knows the City and County Fire side are both in on it. He noted that was an easy one. It was a typical conversation but he won.

Chief Allen stated that right now they've got the Madera Government building across the street, four stories. Again some of the challenges they have talked about and what equipment is going into that station include the Courthouse, Springhill Suites, Hampton, Madera Inn; none of which they can get to the top of externally if there is an incident in any of these buildings within the City. He displayed photos of the buildings. He advised that the solution is a Rosenbauer Raptor. It is a 106 foot aerial platform. He noted that it is the little brother to the T-Rex that they just ordered for the County. He advised that one of the reasons they are looking at that is it is the exact same operating platform. As everybody knows, the City contracts with Cal Fire. The County contracts with Cal Fire. They are all his people but their fire stations so they use all of their Cal Fire people to cover so if they keep all the platforms, they only have to train one way for all of them. They are looking at a cost $1.2 to $1.3 million including equipment for that Raptor. He displayed a photo of it for them. He added that now that they have water in the creek, they can get down to it.

Chief Allen stated they are looking at a 5.0 staffing. Three on a truck and two on an engine at a station was the first thing they looked at because that is what they would ultimately like to have down the road. With the funding that they have, they are going to start off with 3.0 staffing which is going to be another Captain, Fire Apparatus Engineer and Firefighter. He displayed the annual cost for each of the fiscal years including the current increases in contracts and everything that goes on with contracting with the state.

Chief Allen advised that the following slides discuss the funding plan prepared in conjunction with Mr. Przybyla (Director of Financial Services) to make sure that this would actually work as they move forward.

Director of Financial Services Tim Przybyla stated that with the help of Jim Forga (Battalion Fire Chief) he put together a proposed budget. They will see that the Fire Department is not proposing any costs in 17/18 so the idea would be to take that $1.7 million, their half of the Measure K funds, hold it for future use. They can see that in 18/19 that $1.7 million is at the bottom, Capital Outlay, New Fire Station to reduce the amount that they would need to borrow to build a new fire station. He advised that these are all preliminary figures based on some figures that are in the next slide. He asked if there are any questions before he moves on. They can see that 17/18 there is no proposed expenditures just the proposed revenues from Measure K sales tax for the Fire half. They are including a 2% increase from year to year assuming a slight inflation, or higher amount of sales tax revenues. They feel that is fairly conservative. He then noted all the figures that are dropped in there from the gas and electric to the conference, training and education. Those were all provided by the Fire Department based on their current operational expenditures.

Mr. Przybyla stated that they will see at the bottom, at the end of the first year, there is a $1.7 million balance. After that, they spend that $1.7, the capital outlay, towards the new facility. They are projecting a slight deficit in that year. He noted that $31,000 actually is a small amount of that total budget but this is actually assuming a full year of operation and with the time it will take to construct it, there will probably be more than enough savings by starting later in the year to offset the small deficits that are projected there.

Mr. Przybyla referred to the assumptions that the new fire engine will be purchased by the casino whenever the casino comes in. The new ladder truck would be purchased with development impact fees. He advised that they have a little over $1.3 million in the development impact fee balance at this time so it would cover
that cost. He added that the maintenance cost for the ladder truck is included in the budget projections as a line item for $30,000. He noted that the new fire station will not be completed and operable, as mentioned, until 18/19. They are actually projecting a full year of operations there so there will be some savings. He advised that the $382,000 lease payment is a round figure. It is based on $6.9 million cost of construction and a 20 year lease term at 4%. He referred to the $1.7 million from 17/18 that would be used to decrease the lease amount from $6.9 million down to $5.2 million to help them arrive at the $382,000 lease payment for 20 years. He noted the 2% annual increase in Measure K sales tax is included in their revenue projections. He commented that this is kind of quick and dirty but they are showing that Fire can work with their 50%. They were hoping for more like 80% / 20%. Mr. Przybyla stated that is all he has for them and offered to answer any questions.

Council Member Rodriguez referred to the ladder truck being purchased by the casino and asked if that is the big T-Rex or is that the lower.

Chief Allen replied that the ladder truck or that articulating platform is purchased by us. The one with the casino is your standard Type I engine that would go in the same house as that truck. He noted that it is just a regular fire engine.

Council Member Rodriguez asked if they are anticipating that when the casino is built.

Chief Allen replied yes.

Council Member Rodriguez asked if meanwhile that will put them in a situation where they are off a truck because they don’t know the anticipated date that the casino is coming.

Chief Allen replied that they are running a 3-0 engine house just like the other two houses in the City right now. When the casino comes in, part of their development is staffing, equipment, a station for the County so part of that comes into the City and that is where they are talking about them purchasing the second piece of equipment out of that station and the staffing would come with that from them. That is what he is looking for.

Mayor Medellin asked if there are any other questions.

Chief Allen stated they are looking to move forward with this. He stated that RRM is the developer that did the floor plan for them in the pictures of the station. They are working with them on the County side with Gateway Riverstone and Gunner. He went and bullied them into giving him a floor plan of what they are looking at and so on. If they are going to have this done and moving down the road by 18/19, they are going to have to move forward with putting out an RFQ, moving forward with purchasing an apparatus so they will be seeing that come down the line to.

Council Member Robinson asked if the existing trucks are in good shape.

Chief Allen replied that the City does not have a truck. They are putting a new engine in service. It is getting finished up as they speak. They are looking at another month, month and one-half and then that new engine that is being built at High Tech will be back. He stated that engines are old. There is no replacement plan to speak of. He noted that the truck that the City used to have isn’t anymore. It hasn’t been certified and they haven’t had a truck for 10 years so they can’t even get to the top of these buildings if there was to be some sort of structure fire or earthquake or trying to evacuate it.

Council Member Robinson asked if there are old engines that are ….(unable to understand).

Chief Allen replied they have one reserve engine so yes they have one and two front line engines. They are getting a third front line engine so they will rotate one out.

Council Member Robinson asked if there is a plan to donate it to another country.

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Chief Allen replied that they don’t have a plan with what they are doing with them yet but they will have a plan. They have to get new equipment in place before they can figure out what they are going to do with old equipment. Chief Allen offered to answer any other questions.

City Administrator David Tooley stated that one of the things Chief Allen didn’t raise in the presentation but he knows they talked about was that they would look for a head nodding concurrence from the City Council to proceed with the order on a ladder truck. If he gets that head nodding concurrence, they would come back at the mid-year budget, they would do a place holder for that. They don’t pay the first dollar on the ladder truck until it is delivered. He added that the Chief has an opportunity to get some economies of scale on his order. From his point of view, a) it saves them money and, b) it demonstrates to the Council it is keeping the promise it made to the citizens to move forward in a very focused way on public safety. He would look for that from the Council this evening.

Mayor Medellin stated if there is no money out of their pocket right now and it takes roughly a year anyway to have this truck...

Chief Allen replied 365 to 410 days.

Mayor Medellin stated he is certainly in concurrence. Council concurred.

Mr. Tooley advised they would bring that back as an amendment.

Chief Allen stated that tagging that on to what they are already purchasing on the County side, they get multi-unit discounts.

Council Member Rigby asked the City Administrator how they are going to keep the finances sort of transparent from maybe just throwing it into one big City budget. He is curious if there was some way they might be able to form some type of separate accounting column for this. That way, if and when they have the opportunity to maybe quarterly, or however many times, they can bring it back so that way their taxpayers do see that they are keeping their word and they want to remain fiscally responsible to their first responders as well as to the taxpayers.

Mr. Tooley replied yes. He thinks the most transparent way to do this would be set up a separate fund for Measure K funds. He advised that that separate fund is actually a component of the General Fund group of funds in their annual financial statement but it is set apart separately. It is transparent and easy to follow. He would recommend and he believes that the Finance Director concurs that that would be their presentation to the Council.

Council Member Rigby stated, if the Mayor doesn’t mind, he would maybe like to direct staff to maybe continue moving forward with that and he would like to see what that might look like in the near future, the next couple of meetings or so. That way it is easy for their constituents to see, taxpayers to see and that way Chief can keep tabs on Fire.

Mayor Medellin stated he thinks as they enter into their budget time which is coming up over the next few months, it would be a perfect time to fit that in.

Council Member Rigby stated his appreciation.

Mayor Medellin asked if there is anything else. No other questions were asked.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

B-1 Minutes – 3/2/16, 3/16/16, 3/31/16
Mayor Medellin announced that there is a request to pull item B-9 from the consent calendar. He asked if there are any other items that a Council Member would like to pull for any further discussion or clarification.

Council Member Foley Gallegos requested item B-6 pulled.

ON MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIGBY, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GALLEGOS, THE CONSENT CALENDAR, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEMS B-6 AND B-9 WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0. ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLEY.

RES. NO. 17-35
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, OF THE CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT REVIEW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RES. NO. 17-37
RES. NO. 17-38

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA APPROVING A CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MADERA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR PARTIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT’S FOSTER YOUTH AND HOMELESS/FAMILIES IN TRANSITION PROGRAMS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY

Mayor Medellin called item B-6 for discussion.

B-6 Consideration of a Resolution Approving Amendment No. 2 to Agreement with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for Professional Engineering Services for the Installation of a New Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Compressor Project, Federal Project No. CML 5157 (085) (Report by Keith Helmuth)

Council Member Foley Gallegos thanked staff for working so well with Madera Unified School District on the CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) pumps that they put in as a City. They are now going to purchase a compressor system that needs to be replaced in the amount of $2,500. Her concern as a Council Member is that she would like to see their CNG vehicles using this station more often. She looked at their bills and it looks like they, in two weeks, used 1,700 gallons of CNG fuel. She noted that is natural gas. It is the best gas they can put in any vehicle. At the Madera Unified School District pumping station it is between $0.82 to $1.00 to fuel a vehicle and at the fueling station that they are at now, it is $1.57. She is seeing a big savings there if they can maybe get their vehicles over to Madera Unified because their pumping station is running and they are purchasing a compressor to be replaced. She did read in the report expansion of the City use at this facility. She stated that was just a concern she had. She added that it is up and running. It is doing well. They have 70 CNG vehicles at the City and she can see a savings there if they can switch over and kind of work on that.

Mayor Medellin noted that is a good point.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that would be a great thing for the City. He noticed on the report that, he is not sure this is their agreement, but that it ends December 31st and they have engaged for a possible extension of that. He noticed that there was not a response. Going off of what Council Member Foley Gallegos said, he wondered if that is something they should be concerned about since they have not heard a response yet from Madera Unified.

City Administrator David Tooley replied that there is a Tri-Agency meeting that is being set up. He advised that might be an appropriate item for discussion. He noted that given the length of time that the facility was not in operation, he thinks an extension of the agreement is by no means unreasonable.

Mayor Medellin asked if there are any other questions or comments on item B-6. No other questions were asked and Mayor Medellin announced that he would entertain a motion.

ON MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIGBY, ITEM B-6, RES. NO. 17-36 WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0. ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLEY.

RES. NO. 17-36

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA APPROVING AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO AGREEMENT WITH AECOM TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW COMpressed NATURAL GAS (CNG) COMPRESSOR PROJECT, FEDERAL PROJECT NO. CML 5157 (085)

C. HEARINGS, PETITIONS, BIDS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, AND AGREEMENTS
C-1 Consideration of a Resolution Approving a Second Amendment to the Agreement with Mid Valley Disposal to Provide Additional Services Related to New Organic Waste Hauling and Bin Service Rates and Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Agreement; and

Consideration of a Resolution Amending the City’s Fee Schedule Relating to Solid Waste Services; and

Consider of the Introduction of an Ordinance Amending the City Municipal Code Relating to Organic Waste Recycling

Public Works Operations Director Dave Randall stated they will be speaking about organic waste recycle. He advised that there are three actions. The first is an amendment to the agreement with Mid Valley Disposal to provide the additional services. They don’t have that in place at this point. Second, they would need to adopt the solid waste disposal fees to implement that. They actually have to charge their customers and they don’t have those fees in place. Third is the implementing ordinance itself. He advised that this is all caused by AB 1826. He noted that the state gave them this requirement which requires organic waste recycling to occur in businesses. He stated that organic waste is not everything but the things that they generally think of food waste, green waste, landscaping, pruning, non-hazardous food waste and food soiled paper waste that is mixed with their food waste so the taco wrapper along with the chips goes in there.

Mr. Randall stated this would apply to anybody that generates more than four cubic yards of food waste. They won’t know until they actually get in and see how much each merchant has but they think it is under 100 people initially. He added that the level goes down with time. In 2019, the level goes down to anybody that generates four cubic yards of any waste. He noted that that doesn’t mean a business office that generates all paper is going to have to have a bin to not put anything in. He advised that there is an exemption that they can provide everybody that doesn’t need it which is probably going to be the majority of those users. He noted that is the process they will go through as part of the City.

Mr. Randall stated that is in this proposal, Mid Valley, their current franchise solid waste hauler will provide the hauling and recycling services. He added that Mid Valley has a recycling facility that is almost brand new. It is quite well thought of. He noted that this is something statewide that is a bit of a concern. They have all the different cities and counties throughout the state being asked to do this yet there are very few places that take in material. They are fortunate in that they have a good partnership and they will be able to have a place to dispose of this. Mr. Randall added that they have also applied for a state grant, which the City sent a letter of support, to expand their facilities and they hope they can provide even more for the valley to do that.

Mr. Randall stated that City staff will provide the public education and signing up businesses. He noted that it just takes time to go out and talk to people, make them understand it. He commented that it probably isn’t their first priority for their business but they will try and make it as painless as possible and facilitate that for them.

Mayor Medellin stated that obviously there is going to be a hit to some of these restaurants or businesses that use more than the four. He asked if their plan on outreach is to basically grassroots, knock on doors and meet them.

Mr. Randall replied yes. It is a one on one. He advised that the numbers are small enough that a mass media doesn’t really apply to most people. They have approximately 13,000 customers. Trying to hit 100 out of that, probably they are not going to read their utility bill. They will go door to door, spend the time with them, try to facilitate that and education them.

Mr. Randall stated that part of what they heard earlier is the ongoing effort that Mid Valley Disposal does to keep in touch with all their businesses because it is a constant effort to keep people sort of on track.
Hopefully that will become the norm that will become the culture. He restated that their first effort is sort of to be the bearer of the great news about what opportunities they have.

Mr. Randall stated that the first thing is the amendment to the agreement that they currently have with Mid Valley Disposal. They have a provision in the agreement that says when there is new legislation, they can negotiate those terms so that they can provide the services. They’ve done that. They are asking that the Council approve the agreement and approve for the Mayor to sign the agreement.

Mr. Randall added that there are two types of rates in that agreement. One is obviously for providing the organic recycling service itself. He added that there is a little clean up they are doing while they are in there. He noted that Mid Valley, as they know, obtained this contract from another provider and they sort of based it on a chart that was based on the previous provider. He noted that in the rate of charts, they have a disconnect between what they offered the City and what the agreement says. There are a few places where they need to true that up. He advised that they have a thing that says you can have a 3 yard bin twice a week and four times a week but not three times a week. He noted that doesn’t make any sense so it just fixes some of those little errors.

Mr. Randall stated that the new fee they are being asked to adopt is basically the cost that Mid Valley’s new amendment will cost the City plus there is a $0.46 per cubic yard calculated into it that overs the City’s cost for doing the education, annual compliance and other things.

Mr. Randall advised that various customers may see their rate go down and they may see their rate go up. He commented that it really just depends on how they balance their refuse. If people don’t want to downside their regular waste and just want to add a service then obviously the rate goes up. But hopefully, if you have 4 yards and you can now make that 2 yards of this and 2 yards of the other, then they are going to see a savings. He stated that it sort of depends on what they select. He noted that the costs really aren’t that significant. He thinks for most people this is probably one of their least issues on whether or not they make a profit but a lot of businesses do sort of subscribe to and have often corporate guidelines that say they do want to do these things. They expect that they will probably see good participation and cooperation in these things.

Mr. Randall stated that the ordinance itself simply requires that organic waste recycling is not an option; it is something you have to do. Those thresholds are based on state statute. They didn’t enhance them or make them any more aggressive than what the state is asking them to do and it also provides a provision to do enforcement if necessary. They have also provided the Council with a Public Works departmental policy as to how they really intend to enforce this. He advised that consistent with everything else they do in the City, public education is the key. He advised that enforcement is the last thing they want to do. The point is that if they have to go there they will go there but the real point is education, facilitate and educate. He stated that other jurisdictions that have done this so far find again that it is not something that they really have to use enforcement that hard. People will usually go along if given the opportunity and tools to make it happen.

Mr. Randall reported that there is no financial impact overall. He noted that the revenues from the fees that are proposed will equal the expenses that the City is incurring, and it is consistent with their Vision Plan particularly - Action 437, Recycling Programs: Promote recycling through multiple programs. He noted that is sort of self-evident. He restated that these are the three actions that they are asking the Council to consider this evening and offered to answer any questions the Council may have.

Mayor Medellin stated he thinks Mr. Randall is absolutely right that it is part of the education. This is something that’s kind of been in the works for years. He noted that the state has been pushing for this kind of recycling and these are state mandates. As Mr. Randall has previously mentioned about the level going down on how much you use, again that is going to be coming right from the state.
Mayor Medellin asked if there are any questions for Mr. Randall. No questions were asked and Mayor Medellin announced that there are three items before them, two resolutions, and an introduction of an ordinance.

Mayor Medellin called for action on the amendment to the Mid Valley Disposal agreement.

ON MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIGBY, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLIVER, RES. NO. 17-39 WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0. ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLEY.

RES. NO. 17-39 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA APPROVING SECOND AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH MID VALLEY DISPOSAL TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SERVICES RELATED TO NEW ORGANIC WASTE HAULING AND BIN SERVICE RATES AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT

Mayor Medellin called for action on the second resolution amending the City’s fee schedule.

ON MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLIVER, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON, RES. NO. 17-40 WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0. ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLEY.

RES. NO. 17-40 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY’S FEE SCHEDULE RELATING TO SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

Mayor Medellin called for title on the third item.

The introduction of an ordinance was read by title by the City Clerk.

ON MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLIVER, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON, FURTHER READING WAS WAIVED, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0. ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLEY.

INTRO. ORD. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA AMENDING CHAPTER 3 OF TITLE V OF THE MADERA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO COLLECTION OF REFUSE & RECYCLING

D. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Medellin announced, if it is ok with his colleagues, that he would like to switch item D-1 and D-2 and move the Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter next. There were no objections.

D-2 Presentation by the Friends of Madera Animal Shelter (Velvet Rhoads or Kay Rhoads)

Velvet Rhoads stated that she is currently the President of the Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter (FMAS). She stated that one of her favorite shows is Shark Tank so she is here tonight in front of them, the Council being the sharks, and she means that all in a good way, in the best of ways. She is here to convince them and have them buy into their wonderful organization which is the Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter.

Ms. Rhoads stated, before they jump at the chance and fight over her, she wants to give a quick presentation of what they do here for the City and County of Madera. Ms. Rhoads presented a PowerPoint. She displayed a list of their Board of Directors and Mission Statement. She noted that the Mission Statement basically says that they do their very best to save lives.
Ms. Rhoads stated they all know the problem. If they live in the City and especially in their positions, they know that this is their problem. They are flooded with discarded animals. They have no spay or neuter ordinance on the books; budget cuts of course; low income demographics; little to no education; and they have over 7,000 animals that come in yearly. She noted that when it is kitten and puppy season, it is horrendous. She added that sometimes the shelter will get in about 100 animals, 100 dogs a day. They also have an unequipped facility and of course the volume. She thinks that shelter out there is from the 1950’s and just like the County, just like everything there are positions that are not filled or out sick or out ill. She wanted to have them meet Boo. She advised that right before Christmas their on track driver brought him in because he called City Animal Control and there was not one officer on duty. She added that is where they come in. Peck’s Printery gets a lot of animals because there is no animal control sometimes since they only have one officer. They are still waiting for the officer to come get Boo. She commented that she totally doesn’t like him or anything so she doesn’t know if she will keep him and added she is just kidding.

Ms. Rhoads stated they have a low cost shot clinic that they sponsor. It is the first Saturday of every month. She stated that it is wonderful for people who can’t afford to go to a vet and pay $100 office visit, this enables them to get all of their shots and rabies and deworming; everything an animal would need for $30. She stated there are some of their wonderful volunteers that keep it going. She added that no one has paid other than the few hours that they have to pay a vet for issuing the rabies vaccine. She also showed some of the cute puppies that they take care of and rain or shine, they are there.

Ms. Rhoads spoke regarding their Bay area PetSmart adoptions. They have a whole bunch of crew of red shirts out there. She stated this is an exciting event that they do noting that it is once a month also. They try to get their adoptable animals out of the valley. Rather than just sitting at the shelter and not going anywhere, they like to get them out of the valley. PetSmart loves them and they are in three and four different PetSmart’s every month. They also have cats in about seven PetSmart’s. They start their morning at 6:00 a.m. There are three crews of vans and trailers. They get home around 9:30 p.m. but it is such a great feeling to get those animals forever homes. She showed some of the forever homes and the families that still continue to bring their pets back to PetSmart and show them how much they love their dogs.

Ms. Rhoads stated they had a wonderful volunteer start working out with the Friends and she has organized rescue out of the city, mainly in the Bay area, and out of state. They go to Oregon and Washington. She commented that is no easy feat. They have a brand new van that is strictly for rescue. It is a tall van so that they can stack three crates high and it has just saved a tremendous amount of lives that otherwise would have been euthanized, absolutely would have been euthanized.

Ms. Rhoads stated that it all starts with an early morning at 4:30 a.m. and sometimes it is 6:00. These transports happen as much as three times a week. She stated it is a great feeling because they know these dogs would normally be going out the back door, if they know what she means. They go out the front door and they are going to a place that takes care of them, who make sure that they have vets look at them. They get a clean bill of health and they get adopted out, most of them within a week because Oregon has spay and neuter ordinance on the books. She added that there are other transports that come to them to pick up their dogs.

Ms. Rhoads stated that the most important is their spay and neuter for low income families. She commented that their demographics are thirst for this type of low income program that they provide. They will get their cats, their dogs neutered and it is just a fraction of the cost. They will even transport them to the vet for them.

Ms. Rhoads commented on the community cat program. She stated kitten season is overwhelming. She noted that they can have a few cats and in a matter of no time they will have 100 cats. They’ve seen them in neighborhoods before. She stated for the community cat program, they will take in any cat. They will fix it. They will put it back out where they found it. That costs them $70 per cat but it is a known fact that the population of these cats will go down. She explained that when you take a cat out, take it to the shelter,
have it euthanized, another cat will come in to that surrounding and multiply. She noted that they have a limit. She is not a cat person. She is a dog person. She stated that school of fish, they don’t get any bigger. They stay a certain size.

Ms. Rhoads stated that the Friends also sponsor special adoption events at the Madera County Animal Shelter for Christmas. Their sweetheart special just ended and this year they have a Pit Bull. She advised that it is the year of the Pit Bull if they didn’t know that. They also have an account set up. They are always on the watch for animal abuse whether that is cockfighting, dogfighting and just plain old animal abuse. They count on everyone, every citizen to keep a watched eye out for that. They are the silent victims. They can’t speak for themselves.

Ms. Rhoads stated the last thing she wants to tell them is the results. She referred to the graph noting that they are so proud of this. They have worked, she knows at least for the last six years especially in the last few with rescue. She asked that they look at these numbers that have gone down. She explained that they are lives that have been saved. Everybody asks them if they are a no kill shelter. She stated that first of all, they are not a shelter. They are the Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter. They do as much as they can to help that underfunded shelter. They can see by this graph that their numbers have gone down and a big part of that is their community cat program and their low cost spay and neuter program.

Ms. Rhoads stated before they fight over her, she wants them to hear her mom, Kay Rhoads. Her mom has been the treasurer of the Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter organization from its inception and also a cofounder.

Kay Rhoads thanked the Council for having them. She stated that it means a lot to them that they put them on the agenda. She has been here a couple of times before and she has gotten a lot of support and the Council always tells them how good they do but they have never received a cent from the City of Madera.

Kay Rhoads stated that they save animals. They save the City’s animals. They save animals from Chowchilla, from the mountains, from every place. She wants them to know that the Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter, for every dollar someone gives them, ninety-six cents goes back to the animals in one way or another. That means their admin fee is four cents per dollar. She stated there is not another non-profit that she has ever heard of that can do that and that is because they have a working board. They are not paying anyone to run the Friends. She explained that there are about 11 people on the working board and every one of them has done every one of these things that Velvet Rhoads has shown them. She advised that there is no pay. They don’t pay any rent. They don’t own a building. The money goes back. She explained that they can do this because they have a lot of support in the community. They have accountants that do their taxes and donate it. They have GT Auto that services all of their vehicles and they have four vans that are on the road every day. They just bought that $40,000 rescue van and paid cash for it. She advised that it not only had to have a van, it had to have a $7,000 heater because they are hauling live animals. It has to be an air conditioned and heating unit. She advised that is paid for. They have citizens that help. People give them memorials. She added that some people are leaving them in their wills.

Kay Rhoads stated that the way they make money are the PetSmart adoptions. What they do is they adopt the animal from the shelter. The County gets the $110. They turn around and adopt that animal for $200 or $250 and that money that they earn that way supplies them to go up there but it also supplies all the medicines at the shelter and supplied all the vaccines up until July when the County started paying for it. She stated that the medicine is about $40,000. The vaccines were about $60,000. She stated that is their animals too. She stated that the thing about the little Boo that they had, that was an animal that was found right down here by St. Joachim’s. The driver said this dog was going on the freeway so it was about half a block from here. The driver picked him up, brought him in because he couldn’t take him to the shelter. He had a truck full of packages, it’s Christmas, and he is frustrated…you are the only people I know that take in animals. Kay Rhoads stated that they don’t take in animals, they rescue animals and that is not their job.

Kay Rhoads stated they want the Council to know that the shot clinic supports the City of Madera. That allows them to have an officer there that can, once they have a rabies and if they can get a spay and neuter
Kay Rhoads stated that they know they got a $1.5 million donation from Red and Nancy. She commented that everybody that gets the paper knows that. They came to them and said...we would like to give you...could you guys use a million dollars to take care of your animals. She asked what would you do...they said they would spay and neuter. So they said...write up an MOU, give us your books, we want to see what you're all about. They came back to them and said...you know, redo that, we want to give you $1.5 million. So they did and in that $1.5 million they spayed and neutered 18,000 animals in Madera County. She asked if they can imagine that was in two years and four months from September '13 to the beginning of January of '16. She stated that a third of those are their City animals. She commented that if they just extrapolate the County population which she called to see what it is and the City of Madera's population around 64,000, they are about 32%. So if they take that $1.5 million, they gave the City $625,000 in spay and neuter. They have contracted with all the local vets. They all paid the same fee, a reduced fee so they are giving of it. Some of them will give a rabies shot. They pay for that and again they can get their animal licensed so they should push licensing. It is a big income and they have all sorts of support.

Kay Rhoads stated she hasn’t asked for the money yet but she is going to. She has in her hand a contract that she just received noting this is for Dave (City Administrator) from the County of Madera signed 2/21, $100,000 for spay and neuter and that is what they are asking $100,000 for the City to pony up and help them. They've done it for the City for 14 years and they cannot do it any longer. They had a shortfall last year. They spent over $350,000. $200,000 was spay and neuter. They took in that much and they spent a half a million dollars. If the City wants them to keep doing what they are doing, they need the City's support. They have the County's support. They would like the City's support and they would like this to be a budget item that they do every year. $100,000 helps their community, keeps animal off the streets.

Kay Rhoads commented that she noticed in the safety measure that there wasn’t one thing about an animal control officer. She noted that they have a City of 64,000 people. She stated that the SPCA recommends an animal control officer for every 15,000. They should have four officers. They can say...we don't need it...but every one of them, when they drive to work, she could pick up a dog. They could pick up two dogs on the way here. She noted that Channel 30 news was following them and there were two little puppies. She stated that she could pick up a dog every day. She has the City and the County Animal Control on her speed dial because she pulls over and she calls...there is an animal out. She stated it is not just their job, it is the City's job as Council Members. They are in charge of this community. They would like to see more animal control officers. She bets that every person here has called animal control and they have said...there is no one on duty, we don't have an officer. When it is an emergency, they send out a police officer which makes a lot more money than an animal control officer she is sure. She stated that is criminal. She remembers when Mr. Svanda called her. Somebody called him at home when he was a Councilman because no officer would come and pick up dogs in a neighborhood. Her relative called her and she said...call Gary, he's on the Council.

Kay Rhoads stated that there must be something in that Measure K budget for an animal control officer or two or three. They should have them and it isn’t as expensive as having a police officer. That is what they say...well if there’s not one on duty, we will send out a police officer. She asked why they should send a police officer out when they could have someone who is paid less to do it and is trained in capturing animals and stuff.

Kay Rhoads stated she is sorry she is so passionate about this. She stated that Velvet was talking about the community cat program. They will have flyers for the City for that. They can hand those out. They could put that in one of their mailers because they are not taking cats at the shelter. She noted that cats die there. They are euthanized. She doesn't even like that word. It is killed. That's what it is. It isn't
euthanized. She would like the City to consider, they are asking for $100,000 and they are asking for commitment to go forward with this to help them do what they do better than the City could do it or any else could do it. They are doing that. She thanked them for listening to them. They would like to come back and get a decision. She knows it is not something that all of them can do now but they would like a decision in a month. They would like to come back and hear about it. She offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Medellin asked if there are any questions. No questions were asked. Mayor Medellin commented that they are absolutely right, and not to be sorry for her passion.

Kay Rhoads stated they have had it for 15 years. She asked if anybody has a question.

Council Member Rodriguez referred to the comment earlier about cat season and asked that they educate him about cat season.

Diane Frazier, residing in Madera County, stated that puppies, the dog has to get into another yard or they mate out on the street. Cats are roaming free. They are free roaming animals. There is no leash law. Those cats are constantly breeding. All the cat fights that they hear at night, that is breeding and all those breeding’s produce kittens and they start dumping them at the shelter and they are coming through the doors. She was serious when they come through at 100 a day. In the spring time and fall, they come through mass amounts. They don’t have the cage space at all to hold those cats. She is one of the big fosters. She has a two car garage converted into a mini shelter and she has had up to 68 fosters at one time. They can ask her husband. He can verify that. She is a crazy cat lady and she does that to save their lives. They have eight PetSmart stores in the Bay area. Every week she takes anywhere from 38 to 60 cats a week out of the shelter and also any other rescue that she can pick up through Facebook that is around this area. She takes those cats. She gets them spayed and neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, ear mite treated, and then she drives them all the way to the Bay area. She delivers to eight stores in the same day.

Kay Rhoads stated don’t they wish they had an employee like that. That is one of their employees.

Ms. Frazier stated they really appreciate the City considering this. They really do need help to combat this. They would like to see some ordinance in the spay and neuter laws for the County and for the City because that reduces the life. Also, for the money that is put out for the shelter that is paid to keep those animals and to pay those employees that take care of those animals. She stated that the long overtime hours they put in especially when animals are coming in, they need Sub Q (subcutaneous) fluids so they need medical attention, running them to the vet, everything they can do to save these animals is time consuming. Her husband doesn’t see her that much because she is pouring her life into these animals. She restated they would appreciate the City’s support and thanked them.

Mayor Medellin thanked Ms. Frazier.

Kay Rhoads asked the people in the audience how many foster animals for the City and County of Madera. She stated all of them. She thanked the Council for listening and asked that they please take this seriously because they cannot keep up the spays without the City’s help. They need the City’s help and she knows there is money there to do it or they can find the money to do it and they appreciate it.

Mayor Medellin thanked Kay Rhoads.

Ronn Dominici stated he is a lifetime City of Madera resident, former Madera County Board of Supervisor for 12 years and retired now. He commented that they saw Kay Rhoads in a very emotional moment here. He will tell them this that for 12 years when he was on the Board of Supervisors he saw her almost every week. If they think she was emotional today, they should have seen her then.

Mr. Dominici stated he is here for a big reason and that is that these people, all the red shirts that they call them...he went up twice after he got off the Board of Supervisors and he went up to the Bay area to adopt
out animals with them. One day they took up 59 dogs to the Bay area. Of those 59 animals, they adopted out 57 to the tune of about $200 per dog and the people up there love them. They love the dogs but the thing about it is that they take that money, as Kay related to them, and told them what they do with that money. It has been a good ride for the Friends of Madera County Animal Shelter. They have been helping out the County of Madera, he can tell them this, and the City of Madera but he knows before he says anything about the City, the County was helped tremendously by the Friends of Madera County Animal Shelter at the Animal Adoption Center at the animal control location. Even when the buildings were bad, the Friends of the Madera County Animal Shelter chipped in with money and physical labor. It is something that Madera County and the City of Madera should really do and that is to back the Friends of the Madera County Animal Shelter.

Mr. Dominici stated he knows that last year, the Madera County Grand Jury did an extensive investigation of the animal shelter, the way it was treating animals, the way they were treating the public and they put a good recommendation in their report last year. At the very end they said, Friends of Madera County Animal Shelter must be commended for all the work they have done to help Madera County. And he knows they have helped Madera City. He thinks he heard her say that there is 32%. If he remembers right, at one point when he was on the Board of Supervisors, 37% of the animals going into that shelter came from Madera City. They go out and they take in stray dogs. Three of them he has. They just call you up and say…we got a dog, you want to adopt him, ya. If they know his wife, they don’t adopt it, they bought it. They have a cat now too. He commented that the cat was in the street, and he is not a cat person but, now it is a dog because they adopted that too.

Mr. Dominici stated the one thing he would like to mention to them is that he has three letters here that he came in contact with. He is not going to read the whole thing because it is a long night and he knows what it is like to sit up there and listen. But, he does have a real good one from Tom Mitchell the CEO of Madera District Fairgrounds. In it he says they have been partnering with the Friends of the Madera County Animal Shelter since 2010. He is just taking some excerpts out of this. He read that they had a shot clinic that draws hundreds of people each month and provides a valuable service to their community by giving pet owners an affordable option when it comes time to vaccinate their pets. He commented that this is the first Saturday of every month. He is sure they have all seen it. And, he has seen the hundreds of people out there that are very happy because they get it at an affordable price and they can neuter/take care of their animals.

Mr. Dominici stated he has another letter that comes from someone they are all familiar with former City Councilman Brett Frazier and he is going to read what he says here at the end. He read that he has watched the non-profit organization work tirelessly to meet and exceed their mission. It is an ongoing battle due to the issue such as the high cost of spay and neutering, the increase in the local unwanted animal population and deficiency of current dog license funding. They come before you today asking for your support in an effort to continue and improve their outreach in the City of Madera. He encouraged them to support their efforts. Mr. Dominici stated he knows Supervisor Frazier is across the street now at the County but he didn’t leave them, he just wants to work better with them too.

Mr. Dominici stated the other one is from former Sheriff John Anderson who is very emphatic and says the success results in the elimination of many deaths and much suffering to pets they all love plus the happiness brought by the adoption program is immeasurable.

Mr. Dominici stated the final one is from the City’s former Police Chief who at the very end says he is happy to provide this reference of support and proud to be a recent volunteer with the great organization Friends of Madera County Animal Shelter.

Mr. Dominici stated those are just three people plus himself that know what they have done. He stated to the Council that he knows how hard it is when they have to look at their budget, see which places to go. He noted that Mr. Tooley informed him of that many years ago. But, he will tell them this, if they can do what they ask, they will not be sad in the future. It will only make Madera City better.
Mayor Medellin thanked Mr. Dominici.

Council Member Robinson stated he can say that it has affected him also. When he was living out in the country, one day he came out and there were two little fuzzy balls right on his doorstep. He kept one and gave one to a friend. That was back in 2002 and he still has it. He commented that recently while living in the City, he has this particular gray cat that comes every year, the past two years. He stated that the first litter was in his garage so he had to feed it and take care of it. The second year it had a second litter in his backyard. They were able to capture them and have them adopted. They spayed one of them and recently it looks like she is pregnant again. They are trying to capture that one. He and his neighbor have a cage so that they can get it neutered.

Gary Svanda, residing in Madera, California, stated he comes tonight not as the former Mayor or the Assessor for Madera County but just a simple animal lover in support of these wonderful people who do so much for their City and for their community. He has sat up here before. He has made the tough decisions. He knows how tough it is listening to public safety and Public Works. The need for the money that they have to spend out of the General Fund far exceeds what they possibly can have. He asked that they look at the effort and the good that these folks are creating. He asked that they look at how hard and how passionately they address this problem. He asks them as a pet lover himself to please look into the corners and the cracks and the little places that their budget may foster those extra dollars that will go so far in the hands of these wonderful people. He asked again that they look through their budget process. He knows Dave Tooley is a dog owner and lover just like he is. He asked that they ask Mr. Tooley to help them look for every dollar they can to match the efforts of these wonderful people and thanked them.

Mayor Medellin thanked Mr. Svanda and stated it is always good to see him here.

DJ Becker stated she is a 15 year volunteer with this group. She lives in the City of Madera. She stated they push to educate because dollar and prevention saves $20 in after costs. It reduces dog bites, strays, improves quality of walkability, neighborhoods. She added that the population has increased in Madera and they can’t keep up with the demand. They would like to partner with the City going forward and be able to continue this good work for City residents for City animals. Without the City’s contribution they really won’t be able to keep up. She thanked them again. She stated she has a copy of the P&L (profit and loss). She wasn’t able to get to them and handed the document to the City Clerk.

Mayor Medellin thanked Ms. Becker. He asked if there is anybody else wishing to come up and speak. No one else came up.

Mayor Medellin thanked them for their comments and for coming down here to City Hall.

Mayor Pro Tem Foley Gallegos thanked them all for their time and effort in volunteering for this great cause. She asked the City Administrator Mr. Tooley if it is possible to put it in the City’s newsletter to their residents about the vaccinations that are going to occur at the fairgrounds.

Mr. Tooley replied that they do a monthly newsletter out of the Finance Department. There is no reason why they could add that to the newsletter.

Mayor Pro Tem Foley Gallegos stated that they have also created a new website for the City of Madera. She is not sure if their residents have been on it yet. She noted that it is beautifully done by one of their employees. She asked if there is somewhere on the website where they could put that information also.

Mr. Tooley replied that is something they would have to evaluate simply because they are not yet a funding partner of the Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter. They want to be careful about who they include on their site because it creates a public forum issue but it is certainly something they could evaluate.

Mayor Medellin commented that obviously there was a lot that was brought up here this evening and he wants to recap. He commented that they are looking for a spay and neuter ordinance and he understands
that. Increased dog licensing fees. He noted this is in their request and not that they haven’t heard it before from them, and obviously help with advertising. He noted that the Chief did touch on it a little bit with the number of officers they are short and animal control was in there. He stated that there is obviously a great need for that, and then their ask of matching the $100,000. Mayor Medellin commented that entering into their budget time which is going to be in the spring so that they can approve in the summer, he thinks is a great time for them to sit down with City staff and with Mr. Tooley to see how they can best approach these items. He commented that these are items that obviously they have to look at very carefully. He doesn’t want to make any decision based on emotion but on how they can best help the Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter. He commented that with that, if there are no other further questions…he asked Ms. Becker if she has something to add.

DJ Becker stated she overlooked the Home Depot representative that was here representing their grants department. They have reached out to literally every agency they can think of. They recently awarded them an $8,000 grant.

Mayor Medellin welcomed them.

Anna Rodriguez, residing in Madera County, stated she is with an organization they call Team Depot. She is the Co-Captain. She has somebody else she works with. They have funding that they grant to non-profit organizations. They have to have a 501(C) non-profit tax ID. The way it works is that you submit a letter to their store here in Madera. She works at the one in Madera. She explained that you submit a letter with your tax ID information, mission statement, what you need the money for, what you need help funding with. They submit that to their Team Depot organization and from there that organization makes a decision on whether or not your grant is approved. Like Ms. Becker said, they helped them. She always says that they apply for the dream and see what you can get. They got funded for about 50% of what they applied for which is still pretty good. It was still a little over $8,000 and it helped them buy a lot of things that they needed. She took a tour of the shelter and they could see the need there.

Ms. Rodriguez advised that it is open to anybody that is a non-profit organization. They focus a lot on veterans. They recently did a project across from a school, Retraining the Village. They also awarded them a grant. They went in and they actually have physical volunteers. They donate their own time. They donate money from the organization then Home Depot posts something and their associates donate their time. She restated that it is open to anybody like she said non-profits, needing help, volunteers, anything like that. They focus on veterans but they will help anybody. They have done schools, children, homeless. They’ve done women’s shelters in Fresno. She stated that it is just out there. She wanted to reach out to the City of Madera. The City hears a lot of requests from people and asked that they keep them in mind and direct them their way. All they need is a letter and their information and they will see where they can go from there.

Mayor Medellin thanked Ms. Rodriguez for being here.

Mayor Medellin commented, as the Mayor Pro Tem said, they do thank them for their efforts. They do understand that there are countless hours put into their efforts, and to help the City and County of Madera. From losing their garage to living rooms and kitchens they do understand completely and it is because they have a passion for what they do. He thanked them again for their efforts and added that it does not go unnoticed.

Mayor Medellin asked Kay Rhoads if there is anything else. She had no other comments.

Mayor Medellin asked if there are any other questions from his colleagues. There were no other questions and Mayor Medellin thanked them again for their presentation and for being here.

Mayor Medellin called a five minute recess at 7:55 p.m.
Mayor Medellin called the meeting back to order at 8:00 p.m. with all members present. He thanked everyone for their patience.

**D-1 Madera Association of Realtors Request for Funds toward Strategic Planning Session**

Beth Maree, residing in Madera, California, stated she is here presenting for the Madera Association of Realtors the Strategic Planning Moving Forward with Vision 2025. She introduced their facilitator Janet Tharpe. She advised that Ms. Tharpe has 30 years of public and private sector planning experience. She added that Ms. Tharpe believes in planning based on the local values and seeks to understand the diverse community principles and viewpoints and she has a master’s in Urban and Regional Planning.

Ms. Maree stated that their Task One would be review the plans and documents, research existing conditions, review maps and conduct initial interviews. She advised that those initial interviews would be with Bobby Kahn of the Economic Development Department, Jim Taubert of Neighborhood Revitalization, Rob Poythress with the County Board of Supervisors, Chris Boyle of Planning, David Merchen of Community Development, and Carles Beckett of MUSD (Madera Unified School District).

Ms. Maree stated that Task Two would be a kick-off meeting and tour with the Association members and a meeting with Planning and Economic Development, and Neighborhood staff, and then workshop preparation. Ms. Maree stated that the priorities they discussed in a preliminary meeting with Jim Taubert, Mayor Medellin and Dave Tooley is jobs, creating a range of housing opportunities, quality schools, and safety.

Ms. Maree stated that Task Three would be to facilitate the workshop by prioritizing goals and actions in Vision 2025 and the Madera General Plan. They will invite stakeholders and decision makers who bring a wide range of perspective to a three hour workshop including Association members, Mayor and City Council, City Manager, City staff and appointed officials, County Board of Supervisors and County staff, School Board Trustees and staff, and Economic Development professionals.

Ms. Maree stated that Task Four is follow up interviews to conduct with four stakeholders that were unable to attend the workshops.

Ms. Maree stated that Task Five is to prepare a draft priority action strategy plan for the Association to review. She advised that this Strategic Action Plan would include priority strategies identified during the workshop and recommend ways to implement the action and identify the potential partners.

Ms. Maree stated that step six is revising materials based on input from Association members.

Ms. Maree stated that step seven is a GoTo meeting to review the recommendations with the Association members and four other stakeholders and the City representatives.

Ms. Maree stated that step eight is a one hour presentation to the workshop participants.

Ms. Maree stated that the budget layout for this is review of the plans and research. She advised that the Census data would be 12 hours and $1,800. The kick off meeting, tour and workshop prep is eight hours and $1,200. The facilitated workshop is eight hours and $1,200 and the follow up interviews are four hours and $600. She added that the prepared draft of the Priority Action Strategy is 28 hours for $3,000 and the revised materials for three hours is $450. That gives them a subtotal of $8,250. Then they have the GoTo meeting review with stakeholders two hours at $300, the one hour presentation to the workshop attendees is eight hours at $1,200, and the meeting with the Association Executive Committee is two hours for $300 for a total of $10,050.

Ms. Maree stated they also have the additional costs for travel, printing which is $500, venue is $420, catering is $480, and marketing which is $300. She noted that the total costs then come to $10,050 for the
strategic planning and $4,700 for additional costs coming to $14,750. She advised that the Association’s contribution is $13,000 and their request from the City is $1,750.

Ms. Maree stated that all of this is to move forward as a community to bring about the goals and actions recommended through this strategic process. She restated that is their request to the City. Ms. Maree offered to answer and questions.

Mayor Medellin asked if there are any questions.

Council Member Oliver stated his appreciation for the presentation this evening. He asked if the goal is to really dig deep into the action plan and evaluate the four pillars that the City designated and look at previous action items and gauge where they are at or is it to provide a description as to new action items based on community needs.

Ms. Maree replied that the goal is to take the strategic plan the City already has, the Vision 2025 and see if there are any bog downs that can be reignited, reinitiated and maybe there is something there that as partners in the community can get going again.

Council Member Oliver asked if it would be specific at all to areas of interest in particular for real estate, realtor’s community or all in general, all encompassing of the 300 plus action items.

Ms. Maree stated they of course are concerned about housing because they are the realtors but the fact of the matter is that it is a symbiotic relationship. If you don’t have jobs, if you don’t have people who can afford to buy the housing...they first have to have jobs. In order to have jobs they have to have an educated community so they have to have quality schools so it all goes into somewhat of a circle.

Council Member Oliver asked if there is any anticipation as far as this core group expanding out into some of the Vision Implementation Committee members that were originally on that.

Ms. Maree replied that anybody suggested they would be happy to broaden them. They expect to have about 50 people attending the three hour workshop so any recommendations that the City Council has or that the City staff have would be more than welcome.

Council Member Oliver stated that he has personally touted Vision 2025 Project as being really, in his opinion, the big reason why he is here today. It is probably one of the first things he got real involved with and one of the things that he was very prideful of during that time was attending the Vision Action Workshop with his grandmother and his mother representing three generations and having the platform opportunity to share ideas and share input as to how their City should go and look like by 2025. He thinks it is important and it is exciting to revisit the conversation without recreating the wheel. But also, he thinks, making sure that they have organic participation. A question he also has, with the formation of Vision 2025, it really wasn’t just the City of Madera as the driver. They obviously held the purse strings so to speak on the consulting effort but it was made up of many different community volunteers as well as businesses. He asked if there has been any solicitation as far as the business community especially past partners for Vision 2025 that is going to be kicked in and offset that $1700 difference.

Ms. Maree replied no and added that she wasn’t familiar with that group that she could hit up on.

Council Member Oliver stated he personally thinks it would be a missed opportunity if they didn’t maybe take the initiative and engage some of those businesses that may be interested in perhaps committing some proceeds to support this effort. He would encourage, maybe wherever they can, especially on any costs potentially in the marketing costs to see if there are some in kind services the City could afford for this project. He thinks the third is to make sure that when they put together the structure that it is encompassing of many different members of the community to kind of provide that organic input. He thinks they are really proud of Vision 2025 and its success. He said several times, he thinks the last vestige of that effort is that it is exemplified with neighborhood watch teams so he thinks they have a lot to work with.
and if they want to bring structure and the foundation in place but he might advise, before moving forward on a $1,700 expenditure, maybe trickle back to the business community and see if they can identify any early partners and if not, it is a different discussion.

Mayor Medellin added that it will give some of those partners a chance to have a financial skin in there.

Council Member Rigby stated his appreciation to Ms. Maree for coming in and presenting before them. He wants to echo the sentiments of his colleague Council Member Oliver. He stated that Vision 2025, he feels, like it is something that definitely has to be more than just the realty agencies coming through. He thinks one of the things that he would agree with Council Member Oliver, that he appreciates of Vision 2025 is that it was so much less of the big government or, they will call them, big players of the community and more so just people, voters and constituents. He referred to their game plan and asked if there is any plan to sort of utilize in any of these tasks the opportunity to provide the publics input on some of this.

Ms. Maree replied that they have a national association that helps them with things like this and they could talk to them about doing some kind of polling. That was something they were going to do after they came up with some bullet points of what they were thinking were priorities to take those out into the public and use a polling service to take to them and see what they felt were priorities as well.

Council Member Rigby stated that Council Member Oliver also brings out a valid point along with constituents and members of the public being a part of Vision 2025, their Chamber and Bobby Kahn representing the Economic Development Commission (EDC), such major players in what was established several years ago and have worked diligently to see that that vision remains intact and moving forward. He thinks it would be imperative that they would reach an olive branch out to either one of these members either the EDC or the Chamber of Commerce and see if they wouldn’t want to even participate in something like this. He thinks they would find that there would be an open arm and a great opportunity in the business community to maybe even help offset some of these expenditures. He would agree with Council Member Oliver that he would like to maybe look at what in kind services their City or staff may recommend at this point that they could use. He knows there is a beautiful rec center located near downtown Madera that maybe their Parks Department wouldn’t mind showing off for a few days. These are just some ideas that he thinks that he would be willing to look at before they award $1,700.

Council Member Rodriguez stated he just wants to comment on this strategic planning. He told Ms. Maree that he thinks this is a great effort always to keep their City in check meaning people in the outside organizations. It is just trying to get it transparent. He sees the amount of money that they are putting up is a large considerable amount of money so it is definitely skin in the game. He thinks they have definitely put quite a bit of money in there. As his colleague said, it definitely would be a great avenue to take to also ask businesses but he doesn’t see why the City would not want to put up some money also for something like this that would be just transparency for the community. He thinks that the amount that he is putting forward just shows that they really want to put something in play. Just about 20 minutes ago they had a different request and that is quite a considerable amount of money in comparison to this but again there is also an issue at hand there but also here in this request, he thinks that it would be prudent for them to also consider...he is not sure if the Council would consider the full amount but he definitely would consider putting something in this particular venture that they are trying to accomplish.

Mayor Medellin stated he would agree. As far as having skin in the game, they have brought close to 95% of the money to the table. He wished there were more people when they asked to at least show the effort to say...this is what we are willing to bring to the table and we want to be a partner in the City of Madera...whether it be job creation or education which is something that they all understand is something that is very, very important. He stated there is certainly an interest there possibly even an interest with what Councilman Oliver said that could be less burdensome on the realtors financially if they were able to come up with some more money and/or some in kind venues. The one thing that he would consider as well is they are about half way through their Vision 2025. They are in like year 11 of Vision 2025. He mentioned that when he and Ms. Maree had spoken about separately, what he can certainly appreciate is her saying...we are going to bring some money to it...we are going to bring some expertise to it...and if
there are any boulders that she had said in the way what can we do to partner to help with that effort. He restated that is certainly appreciated and asked what they can do to work together. He acknowledged that it is going to take an entire community to get this going. He thinks they need to partner that way with their existing Vision 2025 and maybe get that game plan. He thinks they are all in agreement that they would like to help one way or the other. He is not sure if that value is set forth tonight but certainly they want to assist with them and continue their efforts with Vision 2025.

Council Member Rodriguez stated that earlier in the presentation there was a gentleman that donated about $1.5 million to cats. He is sure there is somebody out there that would want a in kind contribution that would be great. As his colleague said earlier, he thinks that getting those businesses involved would really help and also not put much of a dent in their pocket but also have these people, as the Mayor said earlier, have skin in the game and help the cause on their side of the fence there.

Mayor Medellin stated that point is well taken.

Council Member Oliver commented that he really can’t say how appreciative he is of the Realtor’s Association stepping forward and showing leadership on this. He thinks step number one should be let’s look at the partner organizations to assign to several different tasks. He thinks they will find that there are several organizations that don’t even exist. He thinks there will be a lot of opportunities where the association could definitely step in fill the void in many different areas. Beyond Vision 2025 he just appreciates their efforts in general as far as moving their community forward whether it be discussions on street lights or discussions on way to enhance neighborhood watch or Vision 2025. He would say that if they had the Jerry Noblett Vision 2025 Award still, which might be something that they bring back, he thinks this Association would be a good candidate for that. That might be something they look at bringing back as well and recognizing people and organizations for their commitments not only that embody the best of Vision 2025 but enhance their community. He thinks that they should continue to work together in tandem regarding Vision 2025. He added that he really can’t say thank you enough for stepping forward and being here tonight to show that partnership.

Mayor Medellin asked if there are any other comments or questions. There were no other comments and Mayor Medellin thanked Ms. Maree for the presentation.

D-2 Presentation by the Friends of Madera Animal Shelter (Velvet Rhoads or Kay Rhoads)

Item D-2 was heard in advance of item D-1. See discussion above.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

E-1 Consideration of a Minute Order Approving the Madera County Economic Development Commission 2017/2018 Annual Basic Service Level Budget

Bobby Kahn, Executive Director of the Madera County Economic Development Commission, stated it is always a pleasure to be part of a civic meeting like this. He doesn’t get much exposure to those types of meetings. He wanted to thank the City Clerk again for always putting him last on the agenda. He noted that is just a little inside joke between them.

Mr. Kahn stated tonight they are just coming back to their annual basic service level agreement budget. He knows they have a couple of new faces on the Council. He won’t go long but he just wanted to let them know that their agency is formed through a joint powers agreement between the County and the two cities. In that joint powers agreement, and this was well before he came into the seat 15 years ago, but it was placed in the joint powers agreement that their budget be approved by all three jurisdictions by March 31st so he is always out in front of everybody’s budget. He noted this is just kind of an FYI. He sent them the staff report. It is self-explanatory about the division of the funding. He advised that funding levels are pretty close to last year. They have a few slight adjustments in operational costs that they are anticipating going
up. He only has about 25 more pages of presentation but other than that he is happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Medellin asked if there are any questions. No questions were asked and Mayor Medellin announced that he would accept a motion for action.

**ON MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIGBY, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON, THE MINUTE ORDER APPROVING THE MADERA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 2017/2018 ANNUAL BASIC SERVICE LEVEL BUDGET WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0. ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLEY.**

**F. COUNCIL REPORTS**

Council Member Robinson reported that he attended the Water Education for Latino Leaders. It is about Human Rights to Water Roundtable Agenda. He commented that every human being has a right for clean water. They will also have a Water Education for Latino Leaders in San Diego on March 23rd and 24th. They can make a reservation if they are interested. They can get their knowledge on water rights in California.

Council Member Robinson reported that he attended the Children Now County Scorecard presentation held at First 5. They had a survey on the percentage of how their kids are doing especially from 0-5. They have to have that foundation built early so that they can be successful in life. He offered the information if anyone needs it.

Mayor Pro Tem Foley Gallegos reported that she met with Dave Loquaci about the water situation in the City of Madera. She got a lot of knowledge from him that they are doing ok. They are at a level where they are concerned because NASA has taken some pictures of their aquifer that is kind of sunk in and Mr. Loquaci said that here in the City they have done very well with their water. She wished their residents were all here so they could realize that because they are getting so much water right now it doesn’t mean that they are in the clear and that they still need to conserve. She wished that they could have all been here to hear that because most of them are from the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Foley Gallegos announced that tomorrow is Read Across America. That is when a lot of business people and community members go out to the schools and they read to children. If anyone is available she asked that they email her. She teaches at John Adams. She would welcome them in her doors to come read to her students tomorrow anytime between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. If not, she encouraged that they read to their children, grandchildren or any child. She noted that tomorrow is the day and reading is the knowledge to the pathway of life. If they have no little ones they can read to their wife or husband. She stated it is important.

Council Member Rigby stated he has two kids. He noted that around 7 o’clock, if anyone would like to come and read. He noted there is a two hour minimum and he and his wife may or may not be present as they finish reading the book but they should help themselves to the fridge.

Council Member Rigby encouraged anyone who loves Prep basketball to join him Saturday. He just received news that the Madera South Boys Basketball team will be competing for its first ever valley championship at 12:00 p.m. at the Selland Arena. Immediately following their game, the Madera High Girls Basketball team will be competing for a valley championship at 2:00 p.m. If they want to make a fun day of basketball, take the kids out to Selland Arena and he will see them there.

Mayor Medellin stated they can hope both teams will be here in these chambers soon celebrating a valley championship.
Council Member Rodriguez asked Council Member Foley Gallegos what’s a good book to read to 8th graders because he has also been asked to read at Sherman Thomas. He can read 1st, 2nd, 3rd, maybe 4th but when it comes to 8th graders he doesn’t know.

Council Member Foley Gallegos suggested All the Places You Will Go by Dr. Seuss.

Council Member Rodriguez stated he understands this is Dr. Seuss and they have to read her material.

Council Member Foley Gallegos replied that you can read anything. It is just that they celebrate him on this day.

Council Member Rodriguez commented that he doesn’t know too much about Dr. Seuss and recognized that Dr. Seuss is a him.

Council Member Rodriguez reported that he attended the ribbon cutting for the Madera County Workforce Assistance Program with Council Member Foley Gallegos and Council Member Robinson. He saw a lot of familiar and unfamiliar faces. What really amazed him is how many partnerships that program really had. It is just the amount of people that come together to bring something like this together not only for their kids but also for their community. He thought that was very amazing and it spoke volumes just to see that many people. He saw a lot of them there. It was a good program and he hopes that they can continue to be partners in programs such as what they accomplished there.

Council Member Oliver reported that he had an opportunity to read Cat in the Hat this morning at Pershing. He told Council Member Rigby that he would be happy to babysit. They will be in good hands. Council Member Oliver stated he is looking forward to doing a couple more of those during this week. He thinks Dr. Seuss’ birthday was the 3rd of March.

Council Member Oliver invited everyone to the Madera Young Professionals Networking Mixer next Thursday, March 9th. It is for people of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences. It is going to be at Maya Grill and Café downtown. They are going to partner with the Madera Art’s Council as well as the project consultants that are looking at a potential cultural arts center. They will have their displays out so that folks can not only network but also interact and provide feedback and input as to those future projects. He encouraged them all to come out if they can. Last time Mr. Przybyla (Director of Financial Services) came out to Tijuana’s, he bought everyone tacos. He was a rage at that mixer.

Council Member Robinson reported that he spent seven days in Guadalajara. It was jam packed. He went with two other council members from Hanford and Livingston. The City of Livingston presented a sister city to Guadalajara. They met the president of the city and they visited the tequila factories. They also attended a soccer game with over 100,000 people.

Mayor Medellin commented that between the Well and going to Guadalajara, he has been representing the Latino community very well.

Council Member Robinson added that they have some fine churches that are 500 years old.

G. CLOSED SESSION

G-1 Closed Session Announcement – City Attorney

City Attorney Brent Richardson announced that the Council will adjourn to closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1) to discuss conference with legal counsel in pending litigation as described under item G-2.

The Council adjourned to closed session at 8:31 p.m.
G-2  Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1): 2 cases:

Marvin Fortner WCAB No. ADJ 8269630 & ADJ 8269726

G-3  Closed Session Report – City Attorney

The Council returned from closed session at 8:40 p.m. with all members present.

City Attorney Brent Richardson announced that the Council met in closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1) to discuss conference with legal counsel in pending litigation as described under item G-2 and reported that no reportable action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Medellin at 8:41 p.m.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE VISION MADERA 2025 PLAN

Approval of the minutes is not addressed in the vision or action plans; the requested action is also not in conflict with any of the actions or goals contained in that plan.

Sonia Alvarez, City Clerk

Andrew J. Medellin, Mayor

City of Madera
205 West Fourth Street
Madera, CA 93637

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