

**Joint City Council / *Redevelopment Agency Regular Meeting
May 17, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor/Chairman Richard Ortiz called the Joint City Council/Redevelopment Agency Regular Meeting of the City of Soledad to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Police Chief Richard Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PEACEBUILDERS' PLEDGE

Mayor/Chairman Ortiz led the Peacebuilders' Pledge.

ROLL CALL

Present when the meeting was called to order were: Councilmember/Agencymember Christopher Bourke, Councilmember/Agencymember Stefanie De La Rosa, Councilmember/Agencymember Patricia Stephens, Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair Juan Saavedra and Mayor/Chairman Richard Ortiz.

MAYOR'S/CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mayor/Chairman Ortiz stated that on the front page of the Californian the previous week there was an article related to a business that the City is currently negotiating with to come to Soledad. He did not want to give the specifics of the company.

COUNCILMEMBER'S/AGENCYMEMBER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember/Agencymember De La Rosa stated that she attended the joint City Council/Planning Commission meeting regarding the zoning ordinance and that she had also attended an RNC meeting the previous evening.

Councilmember/Agencymember Stephens stated she attended an AMBAG meeting and a topic of great discussion was the telecommunications issue which is working its way through Federal and State Government. She said that the League of California Cities agrees that the rules need to change and they are working to make certain that whatever is passed protects the cities. She asked that the item be agendaized for the next Council meeting for support of the League of California Cities stance on the issue.

Councilmember/Agencymember Bourke stated he attended a variety of meetings, including the emergency plan committee meeting, the Target meeting and the joint Council/Planning Commission meeting. He also stated that they will be meeting with the Little League and that May 31st is Senior Awards Night at the High School and Fiesta Days is June 1 – 4.

Mayor/Chairman Ortiz stated that there would be a demonstration the following evening related to the immigration legislation. He said that the demonstration would begin at Vosti Park and encouraged everyone to be courteous and safe.

COUNCILMEMBER'S/AGENCYMEMBER'S PRAISES

Councilmember/Agencymember De La Rosa praised Scott Brennan from the South County Newspapers for his presentation held at the Braga Barn to the Chamber on the recent China Trip.

Councilmember/Agencymember Stephens stated that keeping in mind the Police Department's business is public safety for the community, she thanked them for their hard work and said she was happy they had the opportunity to participate.

Councilmember/Agencymember Bourke said that it was National Police Week and thanked the Police Department for participating in additional training and providing presentations to the community.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Commendation:** Sgts. Moya, Berring and Llanes; Investigator Marchese; and Officers Aguayo, Rodriguez, Torres and Alvarado were congratulated for service, investigation their performance and dedication to duty that lead to the apprehension and seizure of felony suspects and contraband.

Chief Cox presented Letters of Commendation to the officers for their outstanding work. He stated that the only officer unable to attend was Officer Torres, who was attending the Academy graduation ceremony.

- **Certificate of Commendation:** Anne Trebino, Soledad Pharmacy, was presented with a certificate of commendation for her actions which were instrumental in leading the Soledad Police Department to the apprehension and seizure of felony suspects and contraband.

Chief Cox stated that Anne Trebino was unable to attend as she was a roping finalist at the Monterey County fair.

- **Employees of the First Quarter for the Quarter Ending March 31, 2006**

Finance Officer Smith stated that each respective department head would present their employee with a certificate. He said that in recognition of the three employees the City would have a luncheon in their honor at which time they would receive a gift in the amount of twenty-five dollars.

- Lorenzo Sanchez, City Administration/Community Development

City Manager Chapa presented the City Administration/Community Development Departments Employee of the Quarter on behalf of Community Development Director Fleming who was attending a conference. She stated that Lorenzo had been an employee for six months as the Code Enforcement Officer, he takes great pride in his position, has a positive attitude, and is very energetic and outgoing. She stated that he enjoys helping his co-workers and community members and his enthusiasm has contributed strongly to the positive attitude of the City Staff.

Lorenzo thanked his coworkers for the award and stated that he was grateful that his coworkers selected him, and that he would continue to promote safety and education within the community so that all the residents have a safe place to live.

➤ Gamaliel Romero, Public Works/Utilities

Public Works Director Price presented the certificate to Gamaliel Romero. He stated that Gama has worked for the City of Soledad for twenty years and is a very dependable, hardworking and a dedicated employee who rarely misses a day of work. He said that Gama is very knowledgeable about the City's water and wastewater systems and is a great resource who can provide information and assistance to his coworkers. He stated that Gama is an asset to the City of Soledad.

Gama thanked his coworkers for their effort.

➤ Jennifer Parton, Police/Fire

Chief Cox presented the certificate to Officer Jennifer Parton. He read a memo that Officer Parton had prepared and also stated that she is a very dedicated employee who is assigned to the local schools as School Resource Officer. He stated that Officer Parton does not hesitate to adjust her schedule when needed for patrol or other functions, other than her normal assigned duties and she is a valuable asset to the Police Department.

Officer Parton thanked Chief Cox and the department for believing in her and selecting her for the award.

Councilmember/Agencymember De La Rosa stated that she was extremely impressed with the Police Department and thanked Anne for being brave enough to step forward. She congratulated the three employees of the quarter and said that she has only heard positive things about Lorenzo. She also said that she knows how hard Gama works and she offered Officer Parton to sing the National Anthem at the Fiesta Days.

Mayor Pro Tem / Vice Chair Saavedra stated that he has not seen the Police Department function as effectively as it is right now, and he hears nothing but good things about the professionalism, integrity, and respect that the community and officers have for the Chief. He said most department's level of integrity comes from their leader and the department has a great leader who is tuned in to the needs of the department. He congratulated the employees of the quarter as well.

Councilmember/Agencymember Stephens thanked everyone and said that she was proud to listen to the achievements of all of them. She thanked Lorenzo for being patient with her and said that Gama was always smiling. She congratulated Officer Parton.

Councilmember/Agencymember Bourke thanked the Police Department for going above and beyond their duties and recognized them for their professionalism. He stated that when Lorenzo started there was a huge backlog and he has worked aggressively to go through it and it is very noticeable. He thanked Gama for all of his extra work. He thanked Officer Parton for being a role model and doing presentations at the local schools and for various organizations.

Mayor/Chairman Ortiz stated that the Police Department had gone above and beyond and he thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the City. He thanked Lorenzo and stated he had done a tremendous job in a short amount of time; he thanked Gama for his years of hard work; and he thanked Officer Parton for her dedication and impression she has left at the High School.

Mayor Ortiz called for a recess at 7:10 p.m.

Mayor Ortiz called the meeting back to order at 7:20 p.m.

- **Action Council on Youth Obesity**

Jane Parker from the ACTION Council of Monterey County addressed the Council. She introduced two Soledad High School students that were with her and participants of Girls, Inc. The students indicated that they did a survey of high school students and found that they would be more willing to participate in PE (Physical Education) if the school provided private showers. They said they had presented their findings to the school board, but no action had been taken yet.

Ms. Parker provided the Council with a presentation on the ACTION Council's Obesity Study.

- **Introduction of the MST General Manager/CEO, Carl Sedoryk**

City Manager Chapa introduced Carl Sedoryk, the new General Manager/CEO of Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST). Mr. Sedoryk addressed the Council and provided a PowerPoint presentation overview of MST and the services it provides.

Mayor Ortiz stated that TAMC was proposing a rail stop in Soledad and MST was playing an important role of the stop. He recognized Gary Gerbrandt for representing the City with TAMC.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES UPDATE

City Manager Chapa presented the Goals and Objectives Update which was provided in the Agenda packet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Item #1: Approval of Minutes

Joint City Council/*Redevelopment Agency Regular Meeting Minutes March 15, 2006

Joint City Council/*Redevelopment Agency Regular Meeting Minutes April 19, 2006

Item #2: Approval of Warrants

#38636 - #38742

Item #3: Resolution No. 3785, "Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Task Order No. 42 with Mark Thomas & Company Inc. to Provide Plans, Specifications, Estimates, Construction Management and Inspection Services for the City of Soledad 2006 Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter and Ramp Project in an Amount Not To Exceed \$79,937."

Item #4: Resolution No. 3786, “Accepting the Engineering Design Plan Provided by Manito Construction for the WWTP Upgrades as Substantially Complete.”

MOTION: The Consent Calendar (Items # 1, 2, 3 and 4) was approved by a unanimous vote on a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chairman Saavedra and a second by Councilmember/Agencymember De La Rosa.

PUBLIC HEARING

Item #5: Public Hearing to Report to the Public the City of Soledad’s Progress on all Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Activities and to Discuss the City’s Fiscal Year 2006-2007 CDBG Programs and Solicit Citizen Input.

Staff Presentation

Economic Development Director Izzy Rodriguez presented the staff report and stated that the City is currently engaged in five (5) CDBG projects with a grant allocation total of \$1,905,000 with the projects being in different phases of development ranging from first draft, marketing, preliminary plans, to near completion of the project. He said that several businesses are looking for a program that will help them to fix up their business. Mayor Ortiz asked if there was any program that would help small local businesses. Economic Development Director Rodriguez said that the City of Soledad was required by the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to conduct a public hearing to inform the public of the City’s proposed and actual use of CDBG funds, obtain citizens views, and respond to proposals and questions. He said that the City has to spend 50% of the general allocations of the funds. He stated that at the South County Housing Consortium they are looking at moving forward with a joint powers agreement for organization. He also stated that the general allocation would be used to replace sidewalks throughout town and also for the housing rehabilitation program.

Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra asked about the replacement of sewer lines. He recommended that Staff speak to the Redevelopment Neighborhood Committee as a sounding board. Councilmember Bourke asked if the City would make the \$1/2 Million spending requirement in the required six month period. Economic Development Director Rodriguez stated that most it would be spent on the replacement of sewer lines.

Open and close of public hearing

Mayor Ortiz opened the hearing to the public and hearing no comments, closed the hearing.

MOTION: The report was accepted by a unanimous vote on a motion made by Councilmember De La Rosa and a second by Councilmember Stephens.

Item #6: Resolution No. 3789, “Calling and Providing for a General Municipal Election to be Held in the City of Soledad on November 7, 2006, Making Determinations Required by Section 13307 of the Elections Code With Respect to Candidate’s Statements, and Consolidating Elections Activities.”

Staff Presentation

City Manager Chapa presented the staff report. She stated that the election is slated for November 7th and this resolution would consolidate the City's election with the County of Monterey. She stated during the last election several questions were asked by the Council, and those were included in the staff report distributed to the Council. She stated that the City Clerk and Treasurer are elected positions and since the 1980's the City has not had anyone run for Clerk, and has not had anyone run for Treasurer since the 1990's. She mentioned that should there be a desire to change these positions from elected to appointed it would need to go to the voters as a ballot measure.

Councilmember Stephens suggested that the Council have a discussion at some point to put the item back on the ballot.

Councilmember Bourke requested that the rules about signs be clarified to the candidates and that it had been agreed upon that the ordinance would be revised. City Manager Chapa stated that the sign ordinance is included in the zoning ordinance review that is currently under discussion with both the Council and Planning Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra stated there are already signs out and more are to be expected.

Open and Close of Public Hearing

Mayor Ortiz opened the hearing to the public, and seeing there were no comments, closed the hearing.

MOTION: Resolution No. 3789 was adopted by a unanimous vote on a motion made by Councilmember Stephens and second by Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra.

BUSINESS

Item #7: Receive a Report on the City of Soledad's Semi-Annual Recycling and Yard Waste Diversion Efforts and Tri-Cities Contract Compliance

Steve Johnson, Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority, addressed the Council. He stated that the Authority acts as both the contract negotiator and contract administrator with Tri-Cities, and he was happy to report that they now have a staff person strictly dedicated to contracts and grant administration. He introduced Linda English, who was promoted to the new Contracts and Grant Administrator position.

He provided the Council with an extensive PowerPoint presentation, which was an analysis of services from July 2005 through December 2005. He reviewed the amount of tons generated within the City. He also stated that the number of accounts had increased and the number of complaints had decreased. He stated that SVSWA staff had been working with City Staff to draft a C&D Ordinance, which they hope to bring before the Council soon. He informed the Council that since the action taken to amend the rates includes the third cart, they will begin to arrive in the City the second week of June, with everything up and installed by the first of July.

Item #8: Consider a Request from Monthaven Winery to Appoint a Representative of the Winery to the State Route 146 Council Subcommittee

City Manager Chapa presented the staff report. She stated that there was a State Route 146 Council Subcommittee and Staff recently received a request from the Monthaven Winery to participate on the committee. She said that at the present moment the subcommittee consisted of the Mayor, Councilmember Stephens and several other public participants.

Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra stated that he felt it was appropriate to allow their participation since they would be impacted by improvements made to the road.

The consensus of the Council was to approve the request.

Item #9: Appointment of One Commissioner to the Soledad Planning Commission

City Manager Chapa stated that Staff had advertised for the open Planning Commissioner position and received one application from Michael Laroco.

MOTION: Michael Laroco was appointed to serve on the Soledad Planning Commission by a unanimous vote on a motion made by Mayor Ortiz and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra.

Item #10: **Resolution No. 3787**, “Approving the Second Cycle of Grant Funding For Non-Profit Agencies for Fiscal Year 2005-06 Pursuant to City Policy No. 480.”

Finance Officer Smith presented the staff report stating that the City had received a number of applications, and the Committee selected four organizations to receive the funding, which he reviewed with the Council (Alliance on Aging \$1,000; Food Bank of Monterey County \$4,350; Soledad Historical Society \$2,500; Central Coast Center for Independent Living \$1,500).

Councilmember Bourke stated that it was his impression that they were going to go back and look at the individuals from the first cycle that did not get what was requested. He said the Soledad Healthcare District was the only organization that was not given the full funding they requested both times.

Councilmember De La Rosa said that the Committee was under the impression that the Soledad Healthcare District was the only applicant that receives funding through taxes and they considered them different than any of the other applicants. Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra asked if a taxing agency could be a 501 (c)(3). Councilmember Stephens said that the Soledad Healthcare District was a 501(c)(4). Assistant City Manager De La Rosa stated that the Committee had eliminated the 501(c)(3) requirement and adjusted it to only require a 501.

Councilmember Bourke suggested that the Council amend the second funding cycle that the \$1,000 for the Alliance on Aging and the \$4,350 to the Monterey County Food Bank instead go to the Soledad Healthcare District.

Mayor Ortiz said that the Monterey County Food Bank had applied previously for funding as well. Councilmember Stephens asked how much from the Food Bank was actually distributed to the Soledad community. Mayor Ortiz stated that all would be. Councilmember Stephens asked him where they distribute the food. Mayor Ortiz said that they distribute the food in the parking lot of the church on Encinal Street and they serve a great deal of people in the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra stated that he did not agree with Councilmember Bourke and both the agencies that Councilmember Bourke was trying to eliminate were important to the Soledad community. Councilmember Bourke said that he felt it was strange to offer money to people and once they apply the City turns them down. He said that he felt bad for the Soledad Healthcare District that they had asked for money both times and the Committee gave the money to other groups instead. Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra responded that it was no different than CDBG funding cycles where everyone applies under a certain criteria and they are all competing for the same thing.

Councilmember De La Rosa said that for the second funding cycle they were specific about the rules and those that had not been funded the first cycle. She said the Committee did not receive what they were hoping to receive, and instead received applications from the same organizations which she stated she didn't think was the original intention of the funding cycles.

Mayor Ortiz stated that the only reason he did not select the Soledad Healthcare District was because they have tax revenue and none of the other organizations did. He asked Councilmember Stephens how the District receives the remainder of their money. Councilmember Stephens said that all the money is grant driven and fundraised. She said all the money goes to update the clinic and for education for the community. Councilmember De La Rosa asked if the District had a staff person since there was a line item for a staff member listed on their first application. Councilmember Stephens said that the Foundation has no paid staff. She also stated that the City can't grant the money to the District, it has to go to the Foundation, whose only goal is to raise money.

Councilmember De La Rosa stated that she felt it was time to come up with some ground rules and the need to re-evaluate the funding process. Mayor Ortiz said that one new group was denied because they did not have any 501 paperwork.

MOTION: Resolution No. 3787 was amended to remove the funding for the Alliance on Aging and forward the funding to the Soledad Healthcare Foundation and adopted by a unanimous vote on a motion made by Councilmember Bourke and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra.

City Manager Chapa stated that Staff would agendize the subject for further review.

Item #11: Six (6) Month Review of Operations at the Ven-A-Mexico Bar after Change to Soledad Municipal Code Section 5.36.031- Cardroom Operations

Police Chief Richard Cox presented the staff report. He stated that on November 16, 2005 the Soledad City Council added "Texas Hold-em" and "21st Century Blackjack" to Soledad Municipal Code Section 5.36.031(b), which describes the card games authorized at designated establishments within the City and at that time, the City Council directed police staff to monitor

the impact that the change in the ordinance might have in the activity at the Ven-a-Mexico Bar and to report on any changes in the calls for service at six (6) months.

Chief Cox provided a review of the six (6) months since the addition of the card games. He said that in the past six (6) months, the Soledad Police Department did not respond to any calls for service or activities at the Ven-a-Mexico Bar. He stated that after a follow-up conversation with the owner, it was revealed that neither Texas Hold-em nor 21st Century Blackjack had been initiated at the Bar. Chief Cox said that as soon as Staff was made aware that the games had been introduced at the Ven-a-Mexico Bar, a six (6) month report to Council would follow.

Item #12: **Resolution No. 3788**, “Approving and Authorizing Execution of an Agreement for the Option to Enter Into a Contract for the Exchange of Interests in Real Property Between the City of Soledad and HMBY, LP.” (*Continued from May 3, 2006 meeting*)

City Manager Chapa asked the Council to continue the item to the following Council meeting.

MOTION: Resolution No. 3788 was continued to the meeting of June 7th by a unanimous vote on a motion made by Councilmember Stephens and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra.

Item #13: Award a Scholarship in the Amount of \$1,500 to Emerald Katz and Joemar Clemente, by Minute Motion

Assistant City Manager De La Rosa presented the staff report. He stated that over the past several years, the City Council had funded and awarded a scholarship to two graduating high school students (male and female) from the Soledad High School. He said that the scholarship was based on a written essay of a topic selected by the Council as well as other requirements such as grades, SAT scores and financial need. He stated that for 2006 the Council selected the topic "Throughout our lives, we encounter people and/or events that have had a profound effect on us. In an essay, explain how a person(s) and /or event(s) from the community of Soledad has positively influenced your life. Tell us what happened and how that person or event impacted your life?"

He stated that based on the review and recommendation of the Scholarship Committee, two of the five applicants were selected as the recipients and each high school student would be awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$1,500.

Councilmember Bourke informed the Council that the Senior Awards Night would be held on May 31st.

MOTION: A Scholarship in the Amount of \$1,500 was awarded to Emerald Katz and Joemar Clemente by a unanimous vote on a motion made by Councilmember Stephens and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra.

Item #14: Receive the Report, Discuss and Provide Staff with Direction on City and County Practice on Use of City Property for Press Conferences

Associate Planner Susan Hilinski addressed the Council on behalf of Community Development Director Fleming. She said that at the City Council meeting of February 22, 2006 the question was raised regarding the use of the City Hall Parking lot for a press conference for Assemblyman

Simon Salinas and that following a brief discussion, the Mayor requested that this item be agendaized for Council consideration.

Associate Planner Hilinski said that at the March 1, 2006 City Council meeting, the City Council discussed approving use of the parking lot at City Hall for press conferences and after much discussion, Staff was directed to contact the County of Monterey and various other cities to find out if they had a policy and/or how they handled this type of request.

She stated that Staff had contacted and spoke to the Clerks office of each of the following agencies: the County of Monterey, the cities of Salinas, Santa Cruz, Watsonville, San Jose, Daly City, and San Francisco and the information received was the same for each agency. The representatives of the cities stated the use of a parking lot or other public area is allowed as the use is probably protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. She stated that the City Attorney has stated that once a public facility is used as a public forum, the City may have to deal with establishing a proper means to address a multitude of requests for the use of public facilities.

Staff suggested that the City Council consider adding "Public Assembly at City Facilities" as a use subject to the provisions of the temporary use portion of Section 17.42.015 of the Soledad Municipal Code and that by requiring a temporary use permit, Staff would be able to plan for traffic control, barricades or signs to assure a safe experience for all participants. Adding this provision will require an ordinance amendment. Staff suggested that the Council direct Staff to place the item on the next Council agenda to review a draft ordinance amendment.

Councilmember Bourke expressed concern if the City opened the door to allow access, then the City cannot control the topic of who is speaking. City Attorney Rodriguez said that the City could have reasonable restrictions on the time and manner of use of public property, but it could not be based on the content of the speech. Councilmember Bourke said that he did not want individuals to think that the group represented the City.

Mayor Ortiz stated that individuals use the Courthouse or Salinas City Hall, and it doesn't mean that those two supported the topic just that they were allowing the freedom of speech. Councilmember Stephens said that if the group is looking for a backdrop they could stand on the sidewalk and get the same thing as standing in the parking lot. Councilmember De La Rosa stated she felt it should not be allowed on City premises. Mayor Ortiz said that he would prefer the City issue a permit then allow a traffic hazard. Councilmember De La Rosa said that she did not want to open the door at all and since the City couldn't restrict the subject matter, it was guaranteed to receive requests from interesting groups. Councilmember Stephens asked if the restriction would include parks or just in front of City Hall. City Attorney Rodriguez said that the parks already require a permit, so the restriction would only be for the use of City Hall.

Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra asked City Attorney Rodriguez for his recommendation. City Attorney Rodriguez said that in his opinion it would open the door to public forum and the City needed to be cautious. He said it was hard to predict – if the door was opened the City would not be able to control the content of those who want to use the property. Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra asked about ACLU. City Attorney Rodriguez suggested that Staff could contact Salinas to find out about their process. Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra mentioned that the Staff Report states that other cities were contacted but it does not indicate what policies they have. Councilmember Bourke stated that he wants to make sure the parks and community center do not become part of the policy.

City Attorney Rodriguez stated that it would only be for use of the parking lot and it would be included in the motion. He also said that the Staff Report was not completely clear on who was contacted and that it might be worth it for Staff to contact other cities to see what problems they may have had with such a policy.

MOTION: Use of City Property for Press Conferences was continued to the meeting of June 7th by a unanimous vote on a motion made by Councilmember Bourke and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra. Staff was directed to request additional information from other cities regarding the subject.

Item #15: Resolution No. 3790, “Authorizing the City Manager to 1) Execute Contract Change Orders for the City Hall/Police Department Completion Project in an Amount Not to Exceed \$46,000; and 2) Amend the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year Budget to Increase the Amount Budgeted for this Project by \$26,393.85.”

Public Works Director Price apologized for the last minute nature of the item. He stated that the urgency was to not delay the contractor and to be able to keep the project moving. He reviewed a list of items that needed to be done and also stated that he was recommending that the parking lot be resealed.

Councilmember Bourke asked if Staff was keeping track of all expenses and documenting it. Public Works Director Price said that Staff was documenting every penny and that currently the project was under budget.

Councilmember De La Rosa said that she had no problem with the addition of what needed to be done, but that there was some confusion since the cost for the attorney and project manager were not included. Public Works Director Price responded that it was more accurate to say that the construction portion of the budget was under budget, which didn't include the soft cost. Councilmember De La Rosa stated that it would be nice to have the total for everything so the Council could have a better idea of the whole picture.

Mayor Ortiz asked if a person was on duty every day to supervise the construction. Public Works Director Price said that there was not a person on duty every day, but the contractor had a project superintendent on site every day with the City's project manager present two to three days a week to monitor the performance.

MOTION: Resolution No. 3790 was adopted by a unanimous vote on a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra and a second by Councilmember De La Rosa.

COUNCILMEMBER'S/AGENCYMEMBER'S COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a) **Street Naming** - None
- b) **Miravale Section 16** – Mayor Ortiz stated there would be a meeting on Thursday, May 18th at 4 p.m.
- c) **Development Review** - None
- d) **Overall Landscape Review** - None
- e) **Revolving Loan Fund** - None
- f) **Oldtown Soledad Beautification Association** – None

- g) **Parks** – Councilmember Bourke stated there was a meeting scheduled for the 23rd but it would be rescheduled due to the special City Council meeting taking place on the same day.
- h) **Redevelopment Neighborhoods** – Councilmember De La Rosa stated they had a meeting the previous evening and discussed the lighting situation in town. She also said they were filled in on computer games being downloaded that are very derogatory towards our community.
- i) **CAC** - None
- j) **SR146 (Roads)** - None
- k) **Tree** - None
- l) **Wastewater Treatment Plant** - None
- m) **Soledad Historical Society** – Councilmember Stephens stated there would be a meeting on the 18th at 4 p.m.
- n) **Soledad Emergency Plan** – Councilmember Bourke stated they had a meeting and decided that it was taking more time and expertise than what the City has and it may require someone that knows Federal, State and County items. He said that it may require a consultant to complete the plan. City Manager Chapa stated that the Fire Chief was able to get a copy of Monterey’s plan that Soledad can base theirs on and that he also obtained a list of training sessions that are available for emergency preparedness classes.

CITY MANAGER’S/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- a) **Council Requests** – Status Table
None

COUNCILMEMBER’S/AGENCYMEMBER’S ITEMS

Councilmember Stephens stated that there was a dead tree on Main and Front Street and she would like to see it replaced.

Councilmember Bourke asked that a letter be sent to Charles McKeag to get an update on the Diamond Ridge Parks. Public Works Director Price said that all three parks have the final documentation and are being distributed back to the contractor to get proposals to start construction. He stated they will be getting proposals from the contractor beginning the week of the 22nd. City Manager Chapa stated that Staff would get the timeline from Award Homes and forward to the Council.

Councilmember De La Rosa inquired about CHISPA park not looking like it was being developed. Assistant City Manager De La Rosa responded that he had spoken to CHISPA staff that week, and they were under the impression after the dedication of the land the City was responsible for building the park. He said he would be reviewing the SIA and other documents to research it.

Councilmember Bourke said the trees on Kidder and Market Streets are leaning at a bad angle and look ragged. City Manager Chapa stated that the Council had approved at the previous meeting a contract with West Coast Arborist to prune the trees and they will be addressing that street.

Councilmember Bourke asked for the total planned costs for the City Hall / Police Department Remodel and Expansion. He asked for all costs related to the project.

Mayor Ortiz mentioned that he had received positive comments from residents regarding the recent installation of much needed stop signs. He said he felt one much needed stop sign still has not been installed at the intersection of Monterey and Main Streets. City Manager Chapa stated that Staff had a list of recommended locations for stop signs from the consultant and that the City has to do a study before placement of a stop sign in order to protect themselves. Mayor Ortiz stated he felt one needed to be installed as soon as possible regardless. City Attorney Rodriguez informed the Council that in order for the City to protect itself from liability, it has to wait until CalTrans warrants the installation of a stop sign, which is the normal process. He said that stop signs that don't meet the CalTrans warrants cause accidents instead of preventing accidents.

Councilmember Bourke asked if the signs could be installed immediately and then evaluated by CalTrans. City Attorney Rodriguez stated that Staff could agendize it for the next Council meeting. Public Works Director Price said that traffic counts could take several months, to even a year. City Attorney Rodriguez said that the temporary installation of a stop sign could take place until then. Councilmember De La Rosa asked for the total number of accidents that have occurred in that location by the next meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra stated that the streets by the high school need pedestrian walkways.

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:33 p.m. Mayor/Chairman Ortiz called for a recess to convene to Closed Session to discuss the following items:

1. The City Council will recess to closed session to meet with its designated representatives regarding labor relations matters pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6. The employee organization is the Soledad Police Sergeants' Association.
2. The City Council will recess to closed session to meet with its designated representatives regarding labor relations matters pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6. The employee organization is the Soledad Police Officers' Association.
3. The City Council will recess to closed session to confer with its attorney regarding litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (c- deciding to initiate litigation).
4. The City Council will recess to closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 to give instructions to the City's negotiator regarding negotiations concerning the purchase/exchange/lease of the property (APN's: 257-091-010 and 257-091-006).
5. The Agency Board will recess to closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 to give instructions to the Agency's negotiator regarding negotiation concerning the purchase of property located at 311 Higuera (APN 022-461-037). Instructions to the negotiator will include price.
6. The City Council will recess to closed session to consider personnel matters pursuant to Government Code Section 54957- Recruitment and Retention Considerations for Managerial Positions - Employment Contracts

MEETING RECONVENED

At 11:10 p.m. Mayor/Chairman Ortiz reconvened the meeting from Closed Session.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Mayor/Chairman Ortiz made the following announcements with regard to closed session matters:

1. Council conferred with and provided direction to representatives. No other reportable action taken.
2. Council conferred with and provided direction to representatives. No other reportable action taken.
3. Council conferred with its attorney and provided direction. No other reportable action taken.
4. Council conferred with its negotiators and provided direction. No other reportable action taken.
5. Agency Board conferred with its negotiator. No other reportable action taken.
6. No discussion and no action on item. Item was continued to Special Meeting of May 23, 2006.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Council/Agency, Mayor/ Chairman Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 11:15 p.m.

RICHARD V. ORTIZ, Mayor/Chairman

Approved: July 19, 2006

NOELIA F. CHAPA, City Clerk/Agency Clerk