

DRAFT MINUTES
SALINAS CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
Monday, January 6, 2020
1:00 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Joe Gunter, Councilmember Tony Barrera, and Councilmember Scott Davis.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ray Corpuz Jr., Finance Director Matt Pressey, Public Works Director David Jacobs, City Engineer Rodger Olds, Transportation Manager James Serrano, and Senior Accountant Abe Pedroza.

Mayor Gunter called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. PUBLIC ATTENDANCE / COMMENT

Members of the public Steve Ish and Gloria Moore were present.

Ms. Moore inquired with staff concerning pothole repair efforts City-wide.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the December 2, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved by motion of Committee Member Barrera, second by Committee Member Davis.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Salinas Plan – Parking Programs Update

The topic was introduced as part of the Salinas Plan, which includes 32 recommendations from the National Resource Network (NRN) intended to help the City address its structural budget deficit and housing crisis. Transportation Manager James Serrano then presented a mid-year update, reporting on the three components of the program - downtown parking, preferential parking, and parking enforcement.

Early projections on Council approved downtown parking rate increases are positive, however, Mr. Serrano cautioned the numbers are preliminary. After years of subsidizing downtown parking with General Fund dollars, the program could realize a net profit in FY 19/20. Mitigating factors include deferred capital improvement maintenance, increased operational costs, and the forthcoming main street construction while the next steps encompass a validation program, two complete streets projects, and a rate increase scheduled for 7/1/20.

Because City ordinance details the requirements for preferential parking as an outside entity creating challenges for residents, there is currently only one area employing the program, near Natividad Hospital. Although the City has received additional requests for new areas of implementation, they do not meet the conditions of the ordinance as they are caused by over-crowding of residents and vehicles within a single community. There are no changes recommended for 2020.

Parking enforcement has received over 3,700 requests for service via the Salinas Connect app, dwarfing the next closest request for service and demonstrating the importance of parking to residents. Although the City must share revenues with the outside contractors (Serco & Data Ticket), DMV, and Monterey County, a net profit is still projected for FY 19/20. Next steps include improved coordination with the Police department, expanded services, and issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to ensure a competitive contract going forward.

Councilmember Scott Davis inquired upon the specifics to Serco expenditures, the contractor overseeing parking enforcement, and also questioned the validity of the company requiring two employees working together during evening hours. Community member Steve Ish distributed a financial comparison pertaining to the Monterey Street Garage, requesting 2018 figures, explanation on quarterly expenditure increases in 2019, and numbers for quarter four (October – December).

B. Committee Member Reports

Councilmember Scott Davis asked for a costing analysis of implementing the \$15 per hour minimum wage increase before the state law goes into effect in 2022. Mr. Davis also inquired about the feasibility of introducing automated self-cleaning public restrooms at City parks, first as a pilot program.

4. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2020.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:



Abe Pedroza, Senior Accountant