



City of Salinas
Traffic and Transportation Commission
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners:

**Kendra Howell, Mayor's Appointee
(vacant), District 1 – Orlando Osornio, District 2
Greg Hamer, District 3 – Jose Guerra, District 4
Eric Petersen, District 5 – Paul Hernandez, District 6**

**Rene Mendez, City Manager
David Jacobs, Public Works Director
Public Works Office: (831) 758-7241**

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 6:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Commissioner Kendra Howell
Commissioner Orlando Osornio
Commissioner Greg Hamer
Commissioner Eric Petersen
Commissioner Paul Hernandez

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Jose Guerra

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: Peter Salaya approached the Commission to express his support of two traffic improvements within the City - designated no parking during street sweeping and no parking within 20 feet of crosswalks. Mr. Salaya reported we have a vehicle blight problem in our neighborhoods with illegally stored and parked vehicles. Removing these vehicles would make room for more legal parking. Mr. Salaya asked the Commission to support both items and encourage active enforcement.

Eloise Shem approached the Commission. Mrs. Shem has been informed there are very few police officers doing traffic enforcement. Mrs. Shem wanted to ask drivers to please go slower and also get off their cell phones while driving. Distracted driving is very dangerous.

Yolanda Hayes approached the Commission to welcome new Traffic and Transportation Commissioners. Mrs. Hayes commented there is a lot of work to be done within the City. Since we are a charter City, she would like to see the following traffic improvements: more neighborhoods should be made into 15mph zones; No Right Turn at red signal lights would make traffic safer, and DMV training for drivers (including high school students) would be beneficial.

CONSENT AGENDA

ID#25-031 Approval of Minutes: December 12, 2024

Recommendation: Approve Minutes of December 12, 2024 Commission Meeting

Upon Motion by Commissioner Hamer, seconded by Commissioner Osornio, a motion was made to approve Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2024

The motion carried by the following vote:

- Ayes: 4 - Commissioners Howell, Osornio, Petersen, and Hernandez
- Abstain: 1 - Commissioner Hamer
- Absent: 1 - Commissioners Guerra

CONSIDERATION AGENDA

ID#24-697 Election of Commission Vice-Chairperson

Recommendation: Receive nominations for Commissioner Vice-Chairperson; elect Vice-Chairperson to serve remainder of current term (until June 2025)

Commissioner Hamer made a motion to nominate himself to serve as Commission Vice-Chairperson, Commissioner Petersen seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to nominate Commissioner Guerra to serve as Commission Vice-Chairperson, no seconds were received.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Hamer, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, a motion was made to recommend Commissioner Hamer serve as Vice-Chairperson.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Commissioners Howell, Osornio, Hamer, Petersen, and Hernandez

Absent: 1 - Commissioners Guerra

ID#25-028 Las Casitas Drive Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan

Recommendation: Recommend City Council adopt a Resolution approving the Las Casitas Drive Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan, supported by residents, for implementation

Assistant Engineer Gerardo Rodriguez presented his report, on file in the Public Works Department.

Commissioners had general comments and questions.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Osornio, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, a motion was made to recommend approval of ID# 25-028, Las Casitas Drive Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Commissioners Howell, Osornio, Hamer, Petersen, and Hernandez

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Guerra

ID#25-029 Rochex Avenue Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan

Recommendation: Recommend City Council adopt a Resolution to close the Rochex Avenue Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan request

Assistant Engineer Gerardo Rodriguez presented his report, on file in the Public Works Department.

Commissioners had general comments and questions.

Public comments were received by Peter Salaya and Yolanda Hayes.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Hamer, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, a motion was made to recommend Council direct the City Manager to direct Staff to go back to the Rochex Avenue Neighborhood community to conduct a second vote to move forward with a traffic calming plan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Commissioners Howell, Osornio, Hamer, Petersen, and Hernandez

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Guerra

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS / REPORTS

Commissioner Hernandez reported at Alvarez High School there is a bridge painted red and cars are parking there, making it hard for drivers to see when turning.

Commissioner Petersen reported at a recent City Council meeting Jim Bricker, former Traffic Commissioner, approached Council to request traffic calming in the Swaner Drive neighborhood.

Commissioner Petersen commented there is a continuing issue in the City with illegally painted red zones.

Commissioner Hamer reported last Friday there was another pedestrian accident on Natividad Road. He wanted to know what the City is planning to do to enforce AB413 ("the Daylighting Law").

Commissioner Hamer asked about vertical delineators, Gerardo Rodriguez provided information.

Commissioner Hamer made comments regarding lack of police enforcement, 15 mph zones, and right turn on red lights.

Commissioner Howell encouraged Commissioners to keep an eye out for any time the City conducts public meetings regarding items such as the Active Transportation Plan, community traffic calming meetings, etc.

Commissioner Howell announced for the public the City is currently conducting a survey for budget input from residents.

Commissioner Howell asked for an update in the future of the bicycle and pedestrian safety grant awarded to the Police Department last year (nearly \$170,000).

Commissioner Howell commented regarding “The Three E’s” – Enforcement, Education, and Engineering.

ADJOURNMENT / ATTENDANCE AT NEXT MEETING: March 13, 2025

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

All Commissioners present plan to attend the March 13th meeting.

APPROVED:

Chairperson Kendra Howell

ATTEST:

Crissy White, Administrative Secretary

/CW

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