



The City of Oakdale recognizes and supports the Choose Civility program, an initiative of the Stanislaus County Office of Education.

CITY OF OAKDALE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

City Council Chambers
277 North Second Avenue
Oakdale, CA 95361

Monday, September 13, 2021

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Bairos called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Deputy City Clerk Christel conducted roll call with Council Member Haney, Council Member Smith, Council Member Chiara, Mayor Pro Tem Smith, and Mayor Bairos responding they were present. Council Member Smith joined the meeting remotely.

2. COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT/ABSENT:

Present: Mayor Cherilyn Bairos
Mayor Pro Tem Christopher Smith
Council Member Chiara
Council Member Smith
Council Member Haney

Staff Present: City Manager Whitemyer
Acting Police Chief Ramar
Division Chief Tietjen
Finance Director Avila
Public Services Director Gravel
Council Services Manager Christel

Absent: None

Mayor Bairos made a statement regarding the countywide mask mandate.

3. Public Comments

Mayor Bairos opened public comment at 6:04 p.m. City Manager Whitemyer reviewed the requirements for the public providing public comment.

Public comment was received from:

Pamela Kelly asked the City Council to consider directing some of the ARPA funds towards low cost spay/neuter services and for the homeless. She also provided a handout which was given to the City Council.

Melinda Screenton, founder of the U-Turn Project, asked the City Council to consider directing a portion of ARPA funds towards her program.

With no further public comment, Mayor Bairos closed public comment at 6:09 p.m.



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4. City Council Goal Setting and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Workshop

City Manager Whitemyer provided a staff report and PowerPoint Presentation on City Council goals for the City. He provided a review of the all the completed goals reviewed at the May 26, 2021 City Council Goal Setting workshop meeting discussed the goals remaining from the workshop. The remaining goals were as follows:

- Renegotiate Property Tax Sharing Agreement with Stanislaus County
- Develop educational and enforcement strategies that will lower the number of vehicles running red lights in Oakdale
- Develop plan for increased community outreach
- Develop a plan to construct a Community Youth Center
- Install more lighted crosswalks on F Street (Highway 108/120)
- Explore creation of a Business Improvement District (BID)
- Attract new retailers/businesses to Oakdale that will bring more retail sales tax revenue to the community
- Create shovel ready parcels for retail and business development in the East F Street Specific Plan, Crane Crossing Specific Plan, and future Sierra Pointe Specific Plan
- Reduce dependence on ground water by developing plans to utilize surface water from O.I.D.

City Manager Whitemyer also discussed the City of Oakdale Draft American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Expenditure Plan. He reviewed the draft ARPA Expenditure Plan which included:

- Investing in water and sewer infrastructure
- Providing premium pay for essential workers
- Replacing lost public sector revenue for the Senior Center and Community Center
- Addressing negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency to include repairs to the Senior Center and Community Center and replacement equipment such as chairs
- Business, nonprofit and community support which to include downtown improvements, initiating the RAD Card program, and the community sports fields.

City Manager Whitemyer asked the City Council for their thoughts on the information provided.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated he would like to work on attracting new retailers/businesses to the Oakdale area.

Mayor Bairos and Council Member Haney would like to bring back the RAD card program to all businesses in town. City Manager Whitemyer spoke about costs associated with implementing a new RAD Card program.

City Manager Whitemyer responded to questions from the City Council regarding ARPA Funds.

Mayor Bairos opened the item up to public comment.

Public comment was received by:



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Bianca Signorelli spoke about the use of the Kmart shopping center for use for local vendors to sell their wares.

Jeff Holder from Community United Methodist, spoke in favor of supporting any programs that assisted the homeless and mental health issues and programs.

John Fauria, from the Oakdale Lions Club, spoke in favor of assisting the Oakdale Cemetery by using ARPA Funds to pay for their water services and also for staff services.

Kathleen Westenberg expressed concern about water scarcity and availability in the city and how that plays into future infrastructure planning.

There was discussion regarding sewer and water infrastructure.

Amy Craig with Visit Oakdale spoke in favor of using some ARPA Funds for Visit Oakdale.

Name not provided, spoke about the City working towards creating agreements with existing O.I.D. customers. He also discussed the railroad crossing on the south entrance to the city and wondered if there was a way it could be addressed or included in any infrastructure plans in that area.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith asked if some funds could be set aside for various projects/requests from organizations that asked for ARPA funds assistance. City Manager Whitemyer stated that if City Council agreed, he will reach out to the organizations to find out more about their requests and then report back to the City Council.

Council Member Smith spoke about using funds for improvements at the range.

Council Member Chiara spoke about funds going towards a campaign to assist with targeting red-light and speeding violations. Chief Ramar spoke about the two grants the Police Department recently accepted and the enforcement education campaigns that are scheduled to occur in the upcoming months.

Name unintelligible, spoke about traffic issues and would like to see a larger presence in the streets from the Police Department.

After some discussion, the City Council agreed with making the following the goals a priority:

- Renegotiate Property Tax Sharing Agreement with Stanislaus County
- Create shovel ready parcels for retail and business development in the East F Street Specific Plan, Crane Crossing Specific Plan, and future Sierra Pointe Specific Plan
- Develop educational and enforcement strategies that will lower the number of vehicles running red lights in Oakdale
- Develop a plan to construct a Community Youth Center
- Reduce dependence on ground water by developing plans to utilize surface water from O.I.D.



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Regarding the goal of installing more lighted crosswalks on F Street (Highway 108/120), Council Member Chiara asked if staff could reach out to local business owners and the Business Improvement District Board to see if they would be interested in working on this item rather than have it be a City Council item.

Council Member Haney would like to make initiating a RAD Card program a priority.

There was discussion regarding the progress of the Community Youth Center Plan and the use of ground water. City Manager Whitemyer responded to questions from the City Council.


5. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Bairos adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

ATTEST:


Julie Christel, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED:


Christopher Smith, Mayor Pro Tem