

PRELIMINARY - SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

CLOVIS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 14, 2020

6:00 P.M.

Council Chamber

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bessinger
Flag Salute led by Councilmember Mouanoutoua

Roll Call: Present: Councilmembers Ashbeck, Flores, Mouanoutoua, Whalen
Mayor Bessinger
Absent: None

PRESENTATION – 6:05 P.M.

ITEM 1 - PRESENTATION RECOGNIZING AND THANKING DEPUTY CITY PLANNER ORLANDO RAMIREZ FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF CLOVIS.

City Council and staff made a presentation recognizing and thanking Deputy City Planner Orlando Ramirez for 30 years of service to the City of Clovis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - 6:37

Matthew Grundy, Chief Executive Officer of Habitat for Humanity, commented on him leaving Habitat for his new position as Deputy City Mayor of Fresno in January, and introduced his replacement Danny Armenta.

Lauren Butler, Patrick Kelly, and David Rowell spoke in opposition to comments Mayor Bessinger made at a President Trump rally held in Clovis on Saturday.

CONSENT CALENDAR – 6:59

Motion by Councilmember Ashbeck, seconded by Councilmember Flores, that the items on the Consent Calendar be approved. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Administration - Approved - Minutes from the December 7, 2020 Council Meeting.
3. Administration - Approved – Waive normal purchasing process and authorize City Manager to enter into the CALNET agreement with Verizon Wireless for Cellular Phone and Wireless Data services.
4. Administration - Approved – First Amendment to Land Tenure Agreement with Fresno Wildlife Rehabilitation Service.
5. Administration – Approved – Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Agreement to Reassign Construction Loan to Affordable Housing Loans at 1403 Fourth Street, 1421 Fourth Street, and 1481 Bullard Avenue with Habitat for Humanity of Fresno County
6. Planning and Development Services – Approved – Final Acceptance for CIP 20-01, Rubberized Cape Seal 2020.
7. Planning and Development Services - Approved – Final Acceptance for CIP 10-06, Sierra Gateway Regional Trail.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

7:00 – ITEM 8A - APPROVED – BID AWARD FOR CIP 15-03, LANDMARK SQUARE, AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; AND ITEM 8B - APPROVED – AWARD OF A CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT FOR CIP 15-03, AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; AND ITEM 8C - RECEIVED AND FILED – UPDATE OF FRESNO COUNTY LIBRARY PROJECT; AND ITEM 8D - RECEIVED AND FILED – UPDATE ON PROJECT FUND RAISING EFFORTS.

Councilmember Flores indicated that he had a conflict of interest with this project and left the dais at 7:00 p.m.

Engineering Supervisor Thad Avery, City Planner Dave Merchen, and General Services Director Shonna Halterman made a presentation on various items associated with Clovis Landmark Square, located on the north side of Third Street at Veterans Memorial Parkway. Staff is recommending that City Council authorize the City Manager to award and execute the construction contract to AMG & Associates who was the lowest responsible bidder from a bid opening that took place on November 13, 2020. Staff is also recommending that City Council authorize the City Manager to award and execute a construction management services contract to Kitchell CEM, Inc., who was selected through a competitive Request for Proposals process. This project includes the construction of a senior activity center building, transit station building, and all utilities and surface improvements onsite and offsite related to the Landmark Square project located at 735 & 785 Third Street in Clovis. The site work completed with this project will accommodate the future development of a new Clovis Branch of the Fresno County Library. Justin Bochmon, representing CIFAC, raised concerns about the bid process and recommended the project be rebid. Anthony Traverso, representing AMG, commented on and spoke in support of awarding the project to AMG. Discussion by the Council.

Motion by Councilmember Whalen, seconded by Councilmember Ashbeck, for the Council to authorize the City Manager to award and execute the construction contract to AMG & Associates. Motion carried 4-0-0-1 with Councilmember Flores abstaining.

Motion by Councilmember Whalen, seconded by Councilmember Ashbeck, for the Council to authorize the City Manager to award and execute a construction management services contract to Kitchell CEM, Inc. Motion carried 4-0-0-1 with Councilmember Flores abstaining.

Councilmember Flores returned to the dais at 7:56 p.m.

ITEM 11 - 7:57 - APPROVED – SUPPLEMENT TO THE LAND TENURE AGREEMENT WITH THE CLOVIS BOTANICAL GARDEN COMMITTEE TO ALLOW SPECIAL EVENTS ON THE PREMISES LOCATED AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF ALLUVIAL AND CLOVIS AVENUES INCLUSIVE OF LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, ALCOHOL SALES, AND FOOD TRUCKS SUBJECT TO AN APPROVED ADMINISTRATIVE USE PERMIT.

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Mayor Bessinger indicated that he would abstain from consideration on this item due to the location of property he owns and the park site and left the dais at 7:57.

Deputy City Planner Orlando Ramirez presented a report on a request to approve a supplement to the Land Tenure Agreement with the Clovis Botanical Garden (CBG) Committee to allow special events on the premises located at the northeast corner of Alluvial and Clovis Avenues inclusive of live entertainment, alcohol sales, and food trucks subject to an approved Administrative Use Permit. Staff is in receipt of a request from the CBG Committee for Council to approve a supplemental agreement in support of allowing special events within the CBG grounds for the 2021 season. The proposed use will fall within the current footprint of the approved lease area and there is no anticipated expansion. Should the Council approve CBG's supplemental agreement, the CBG Committee will begin the required Administrative Use Permit and associated permitting process.

The CBG Committee is requesting approval of a supplemental agreement to allow for additional outdoor events. The existing site is developed with an informational/gift shop, and an approximate 1,600 square foot pavilion with a walking garden area that CBG intends to utilize for additional fundraising opportunities. Part of the CBG request is the inclusion of food trucks which are subject to an Administrative Use Permit (AUP), live music, and the sale of beer during scheduled events. The CBG Committee is aware that alcohol sales are subject to Alcoholic Beverage Control and Clovis Police Department review and approval and that currently ABC has issued a moratorium on outdoor beer permits due to COVID. The following details were highlighted:

- Dates for the event: Thursday evenings- April 8 through May 27, 2021
- Time: 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm;
- Food Trucks: Six trucks maximum;
- Live Music: 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm;
- Security: Private Security and CBG staff and volunteers.

Pat Wynne, representing the CBG Committee, spoke in support of the request. Discussion by the Council. Motion by Councilmember Whalen, seconded by Councilmember Mouanoutoua, for the Council to approve a request for a supplement to the Land Tenure Agreement with the Clovis Botanical Garden (CBG) Committee to allow special events on the premises located at the northeast corner of Alluvial and Clovis Avenues inclusive of live entertainment, alcohol sales, and food trucks subject to an approved Administrative Use Permit. Motion carried 4-0-0-1 with Mayor Bessinger abstaining.

Mayor Bessinger returned to the dais at 8:20 p.m.

ITEM 9 – 8:21 - APPROVED INTRODUCTION - ORD. 20-18, OA2020-002, AMENDING THE CLOVIS DEVELOPMENT CODE AS A SEMI-ANNUAL CLEANUP TO ADDRESS CHANGES, DELETIONS, TYPOGRAPHICAL, GRAMMATICAL, AND CONTENT ERRORS AS A RESULT OF THE 2014 DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATE. CITY OF CLOVIS, APPLICANT.

City Planner Dave Merchen presented a report on a request to amend the Clovis Development Code as a semi-annual cleanup to address changes, deletions, typographical,

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grammatical, and content errors as a result of the 2014 Development Code Update. The City of Clovis is processing an ordinance amendment to address modifications, inadvertent omissions, typographical, grammatical, and content errors to the Development Code discovered after its adoption in October 2014. The proposed modifications include the addition of a new chapter to address timely public comments for Planning Commission and City Council hearings. There being no public comment, Mayor Bessinger closed the public portion. Discussion by the Council. Motion by Councilmember Ashbeck, seconded by Councilmember Whalen, for the Council to approve the introduction of Ordinance 20-18 amending the Clovis Development Code as a semi-annual cleanup to address changes, deletions, typographical, grammatical, and content errors as a result of the 2014 Development Code Update. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ITEM 10 – 8:32 – APPROVED – RES. 20-XX, ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2019-2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN. (TO BE CONTINUED)

Mayor Bessinger indicated that this item was being continued to a date uncertain. There being no public comment, Mayor Bessinger closed the public portion. Discussion by the Council. Motion by Councilmember Whalen, seconded by Councilmember Flores, for the Council to continue this item to a date uncertain.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ITEM 12 – 8:33 - APPROVED - **RES 20-177**, FINAL AMENDMENTS TO THE 2019-20 BUDGET IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE BUDGET ORDINANCE, AND RECEIVE AND FILE - YEAR-END REPORT FOR ALL FUNDS AS OF JUNE 30, 2020.

Assistant Finance Director Gina Daniels presented a report on the final amendments to the 2019-20 Budget in conformance with the Budget Ordinance, and a request to receive and file the year-end report for all funds as of June 30, 2020. Each fiscal year, after the year end closing entries are completed, an analysis is prepared comparing actual fund balances against those projected during the budget process and presented to Council for adoption during the June 2020 budget hearings. Gina Daniels provided a summary of the actual results compared to estimates for the 2019-20 fiscal year end. There being no public comment, Mayor Bessinger closed the public portion. Discussion by the Council. Motion by Councilmember Whalen, seconded by Councilmember Flores, for the Council to approve the final amendments to the 2019-20 Budget in conformance with the budget ordinance, and receive and file the year-end report for all funds as of June 30, 2020. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ITEM 13 – 8:50 - APPROVED - 2019-20 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Assistant Finance Director Gina Daniels presented a report on the 2019-20 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Financial reports are a primary objective source of information to most persons concerned about a government's financial condition. Taxpayers are interested in the amount of revenues and expenditures. Investors and bond-rating agencies are interested in the ability of a jurisdiction to meet its debt obligations. For the City Council, the financial reports provide an opportunity to determine compliance with budgetary

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appropriations as well as the status of the government's assets and liabilities and the financial condition of the City. The City of Clovis' financial report was audited and received an unqualified opinion from The Pun Group LLP, a firm of independent, licensed certified public accountants, which means the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 are free of material misstatement and are fairly presented in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. There being no public comment, Mayor Bessinger closed the public portion. Discussion by the Council. Motion by Councilmember Whalen, seconded by Councilmember Flores, for the Council to approve the 2019-20 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ITEM 14 – 8:57 - RECEIVED AND FILED – FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT FIRST QUARTER 2020-2021

Assistant Finance Director Gina Daniels presented a report on the financial status report for the first quarter 2020-2021. Gina Daniels provided an overview of the fiscal year's first quarter performance for revenues and expenditures. There being no public comment, Mayor Bessinger closed the public portion. Discussion by the Council. It was the consensus of City Council to receive and file the financial status report for the first quarter 2020-2021.

COUNCIL ITEMS

ITEM 15 – 9:17 - APPROVED - A REQUEST TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AS CITY ATTORNEY, AND APPOINTING SCOTT CROSS AS CITY ATTORNEY EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021.

City Manager Luke Serpa presented a report on a request to approve an amendment to the agreement for professional legal services as City Attorney, and appointing Scott Cross as City Attorney effective January 1, 2021. David Wolfe, Scott Cross and their firm, Lozano Smith, have provided legal services as City Attorney under contract with the City of Clovis since August 1992. Mr. Wolfe is requesting an amendment to the current agreement between the City of Clovis and Lozano Smith appointing Scott Cross as City Attorney effective January 1, 2021. The current three-year Agreement for Professional Services as City Attorney will expire on December 31, 2021. David Wolfe has provided notice that he will be retiring from his position as City Attorney effective December 31, 2020. Mr. Wolfe has further indicated that he will continue to work for Lozano Smith in a support role through June 2021. Scott Cross has acted as Assistant City Attorney since 2009. Scott Cross has exhibited a high degree of skill and legal expertise and is well qualified to be the City Attorney. Staff is recommending the City Council appoint Scott Cross as City Attorney effective January 1, 2021. There being no public comment, Mayor Bessinger closed the public portion. Discussion by the Council. Motion by Councilmember Whalen, seconded by Councilmember Ashbeck, for the Council to approve an amendment to the agreement for professional legal services as City Attorney, and appointing Scott Cross as City Attorney effective January 1, 2021. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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ITEM 16 – 9:32 - APPROVED – FOURTH AMENDMENT TO CITY MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

General Services Director Shonna Halterman presented a report on the fourth amendment to City Manager Employment Agreement. The City Council appointed Luke Serpa as the City Manager effective July 1, 2017, and approved an employment agreement which sets forth the terms and conditions of that appointment along with a three-year contract. The Council originally set the City Manager's annual salary at Step 1 of the City Manager's salary schedule that was in effect on July 1, 2017. In January 2019, the City Council approved a first amendment placing the City Manager at Step 2 of the salary schedule effective as of January 1, 2019. In December 2019, the City Council approved a second amendment placing the City Manager at Step 3 of the salary schedule effective as of January 1, 2020. In June 2020, the City Council approved a third amendment providing for a two-year extension of the City Manager agreement; effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. The City Council desires to place the City Manager at Step 4 of the salary schedule effective as of January 1, 2021. There being no public comment, Mayor Bessinger closed the public portion. Discussion by the Council. Motion by Councilmember Ashbeck, seconded by Councilmember Flores, for the Council to approve a fourth amendment to City Manager Employment Agreement. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ITEM 17 – 9:33 - CONSIDERED – POSSIBLE APPOINTMENTS TO THE NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Public Utilities Director Scott Redelfs presented a report on possible appointments to the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Scott Redelfs provided an overview of the process and current appointments to the agency. There being no public comment, Mayor Bessinger closed the public portion. Discussion by the Council. No specific direction was provided for Councilmember Flores for the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency meeting scheduled for December 17, 2020.

WORKSHOP

ITEM 18 – 9:45 - APPROVED – **RES. 20-178**, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLOVIS CONFIRMING AN ADDENDUM TO THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES' ORDER.

City Manager Luke Serpa presented a report on a request to approve a resolution confirming an addendum to the Director of Emergency Services' Order. Staff is bringing forth for Council to adopt by resolution Emergency Order 2020-4B, an addendum Emergency Order 2020-4, related to employee leave/pay during the emergency. The addendum provides paid administrative leave for employees who have exhausted their COVID-19 leave time and are required to quarantine due to a work-related COVID-19 exposure. There being no public comment, Mayor Bessinger closed the public portion. Discussion by the Council. Motion by Councilmember Ashbeck, seconded by Councilmember Flores, for the Council to approve by resolution Emergency Order 2020-4B, an addendum Emergency Order 2020-4, related to employee leave/pay during the emergency. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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City Manager Luke Serpa also presented an overview of the current COVID-19 data from the County of Fresno.

COUNCIL COMMENTS - 9:56

Councilmember Whalen share a photograph of the downtown trolley in service in Old Town Clovis.


Councilmember Ashbeck reported out of a recent Fresno County Transportation Authority meeting; commented on the smart city initiative; and requested feedback on a possible thank you letter to Senator Andreas Borgeas for recently proposed legislation.

Councilmember Mouanoutoua commented on the recent Habitat for Humanity ground breaking at the Flores homestead at Sunnyside and Fourth Street; thanked staff the COVID-19 testing offered by the city weekly; and proposed City Council consider donating a portion of their salary for a worthy cause such as the Salvation Army.

Mayor Bessinger commented on his involvement on providing support to a person who required transportation to a rehabilitation facility in Florida.

Mayor Bessinger adjourned the meeting of the Council to January 4, 2021.

Meeting adjourned: 10:09 p.m.



Mayor



City Clerk



John Holt

From: Public Comments <email@cityofclovis.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 3:27 PM
To: John Holt; Karey Cha
Subject: Public Comment for City Council

Council Meeting Date: 2020-12-14

Item Number (put "0" if your comment is not regarding an item on the agenda): 0

FullName: Jeni-Ann Kren

Email: jenikren@aol.com

Comment: I am dismayed that the Mayor of my city has made such an overtly partisan statement and apparently dismissed me and my fellow proud voters for Joe Biden as not trustworthy. We do need to unite our country in these very trying times of divided politics and deadly pandemic. This is not the time for further division, but to strengthen our communities and our country, and to look after all of the people of this proud country. I believe that Mayor Bessinger owes an apology to the other members of the City Council and to the residents of the City of Clovis. I also believe that the City Council should be looking for ways to increase compliance with Public Health guidelines and not work to undermine them. Finally, I want to remind Mr. Bessinger that as a candidate for reelection, saying that he wants to reject the extended hand of any voter is not going to garner more support for his candidacy.

Supporting Files (2 Max.):

Date: December 14, 2020

Time: 4:27 pm

Remote IP: 73.235.187.46

City of Clovis
Public Comment
December 14, 2020

John Holt

From: Public Comments <email@cityofclovis.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 3:07 PM
To: John Holt; Karey Cha
Subject: Public Comment for City Council

Council Meeting Date: 2020-12-14

Item Number (put "0" if your comment is not regarding an item on the agenda): 0

FullName: Judith Steele Taylor

Email: judisteele@sti.net

Comment: I continue to be disappointed by Mayor Bessinger's appearance at functions where his comments can be construed as the position of the City of Clovis and it's Council members. The one I'm referring to now is the Clovis Trump rally, held Saturday in Sierra Meadows Park and hosted by the Fresno GOP. The speakers as well as others in attendance were promoting the idea that our election system was a fraud and the presidency was stolen from trump. Court Case after Court Case found no findings to support this. Even the Supreme Court rejected hearing the case. This attempt to take away millions of legal votes cast in our Country was unconscionable. Even as early as the 11/2 Council meeting, Mayor Bessinger stated our election system was "rife" with problems but didn't elaborate. I feel as mayor he shouldn't be making such harmful and erroneous statements or going to a rally like Saturday to further propagate lies about the validity of our Democratic election system.

Supporting Files (2 Max.):

Date: December 14, 2020

Time: 4:07 pm

Remote IP: 73.220.10.172

John Holt

From: Cathy Adams <adams_ca1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 2:52 PM
To: John Holt
Subject: Upset resident of clovis

I was very disappointed that I heard our Clovis Mayor at a clovis trump rally just this past week saying things that dividing our neighborhoods instead of us bringing us together after this election. It is bad enough, I have to see these cars with Trump signs, honking and yelling during my peaceful walks after the election has already elected Biden. The election is over and our mayor is inciting our neighborhoods to cause violence and disruption. I am seriously thinking of starting a petition to recall him. There are a whole lot of of decent people who want this city to come back to peaceful clovis. As the motto says, "clovis a way of life". I hope you take discipline against this unlawful talking point the mayor has said.

Sent from my iPhone

John Holt

From: Public Comments <email@cityofclovis.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:24 PM
To: John Holt; Karey Cha
Subject: Public Comment for City Council

Council Meeting Date: 2020-12-14

Item Number (put "0" if your comment is not regarding an item on the agenda): 0

FullName: Dennis Touros

Email: dtouros@gmail.com

Comment: This question is addressed to councilman Drew Bessinger.

As an elected official representing the entire City of Clovis how can you justify appearing at a Trump rally? The 126 Congressmen who signed the petition to overturn the results of the election represent only 23% of the country. Why would you align yourself with just one quarter of the voters on a matter that is blatantly illegal?
Supporting Files (2 Max.):

Date: December 14, 2020
Time: 2:24 pm
Remote IP: 67.182.90.197

John Holt

From: Public Comments <email@cityofclovis.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:02 PM
To: John Holt; Karey Cha
Subject: Public Comment for City Council

Council Meeting Date: 2020-12-14

Item Number (put "0" if your comment is not regarding an item on the agenda): 0

FullName: Marty Clayman

Email: marty.clayman@gmail.com

Comment: Mayor Bessinger,

The election is over! The pandemic is not!! There are over 300,000 dead Americans! Masks are not a political statement, they are a way to mitigate this disease! We have a law that says everyone wears seatbelts. We have a catch phrase "click it or ticket". Stop talking about conspiracy theories and election nonsense, and do what you were elected to do which is govern.

Sincerely,

Marty S Clayman, MD
Supporting Files (2 Max.):

Date: December 14, 2020
Time: 2:01 pm
Remote IP: 108.191.192.121

John Holt

From: jeri.seita@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:49 PM
To: John Holt
Subject: Mayor's comments last Saturday

Dear Mr. Holt,

I'm sending this email in response to comments made by Mayor Drew Bessinger at a GOP rally over the weekend. I'm sure you're already aware of what was said but I'll repeat those words, in case you missed it. He said, "Remember that when these people smile and extend their hand in friendship and say 'will you join us?', remember that they were doing everything they could to tear down our nation for the last four years. Don't trust them!" I realize that we still have freedom of speech in USA but I was stunned to hear that our city's leader spoke words that are dangerously divisive. Our nation is already in a never-before-seen state of concern, anger, and disconnect while in the midst of a growing pandemic and political unrest. How dare Mr. Bessinger feed the outrage! Perhaps he should resign and then he could be free to stoke the flames of whatever he wants, but please not as our mayor. I hope that our city's leaders will handle this concern ASAP, and that Clovis can attempt to bridge the divide instead of tearing it apart any further. This request has nothing to do with party affiliation but everything to do with responsible leadership.

Jeri Seita
City of Clovis resident

Sent from my iPad

John Holt

From: Public Comments <email@cityofclovis.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:57 AM
To: John Holt; Karey Cha
Subject: Public Comment for City Council

Council Meeting Date: 2020-12-14

Item Number (put "0" if your comment is not regarding an item on the agenda): 0

FullName: Paul McGeary

Email: pmcgeary@gmail.com

Comment: I take note of Mayor Bessinger's recent remarks at a rally in Fresno as reported in The Fresno Bee, in which he seemed to side with those who portray the current pandemic as a hoax and those who support strong public health measures as antidemocratic.

I do not wish to abridge the Mayor's right to hold his own opinions or his right to free speech, but a public official has a responsibility not to foment radical conspiracy theories or act against the public health interests of his community. Those communities that have embraced such measures as wearing of masks in public and closures of public gathering spaces have managed to contain the outbreak if not eliminate it. Such measures are part of an overall campaign of public health and are in the public interest. Our public officials should embrace these measures, even though we all know they are significant burdens for local business. If we all act together, we can, hopefully, shorten the duration of the current pandemic and limit its effects.

Paul McGeary

Clovis

Supporting Files (2 Max.):

Date: December 14, 2020

Time: 12:57 pm

Remote IP: 67.187.178.166

John Holt

From: Public Comments <email@cityofclovis.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:14 AM
To: John Holt; Karey Cha
Subject: Public Comment for City Council

Council Meeting Date: 2020-12-14

Item Number (put "0" if your comment is not regarding an item on the agenda): 0

FullName: Susan Medina

Email: susie26@att.net

Comment: Such an unprofessional and shameful conduct by the Mayor appearing and commenting at the Saturday Rally for Trump, he needs to be publicly censored.

Supporting Files (2 Max.):

Date: December 14, 2020

Time: 11:13 am

Remote IP: 50.115.77.58

John Holt

From: Public Comments <email@cityofclovis.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:09 AM
To: John Holt; Karey Cha
Subject: Public Comment for City Council

Council Meeting Date: 2020-12-14

Item Number (put "0" if your comment is not regarding an item on the agenda): 0

FullName: Rachel Youdelman

Email: rachel27@berkeley.edu

Comment: Please read the following comment into the record--thank you.

On Saturday, Mayor Bessinger addressed a local Trump rally, urging followers to distrust neighbors who reach out in unity, post-election: "Remember that when these people [sic] smile and extend their hand in friendship and say, 'We need to unite our nation. Will you join us?' Don't trust them." No reasonable person advocates this dangerous nonsense, and no decent person rejects the idea of unity.

As mayor, Bessinger has no business making such appearances, not to speak of promoting open hostility among neighbors, in any context. That is not leadership—it is irresponsibility and recklessness. Bessinger has definitively shown us who he is. He is unfit to serve the public and should resign immediately.

A related issue concerns restaurant closures in Clovis: the economic loss is tragic, but it didn't have to be this way. Local advocates would do better to lobby our representatives to urge Senate Republicans to pass the now-pending federal legislation for relief funding (it passed in the House in mid-May) to help us get through this crisis, instead of asking residents to risk their lives by patronizing local businesses. With the ICU availability rate in Fresno County at 0%, those who urge "protest dining" are effectively advocating suicide.

I've observed the energy, effort, and excitement which Bessinger and other Council members throw into designing frippery such as a city flag and a cheap and utterly useless souvenir coin. What I have not observed is equal commitment to leadership in managing the greatest public-health crisis of our lifetime.

By petulantly refusing to enforce county and state public-health guidelines and continually directing hostility toward "Sacramento" and "the Governor"—a convenient but unwarranted target, instead of the federal level where it belongs—Bessinger and the Council have abdicated leadership and compromised the health of constituents.

I reiterate that Bessinger is unfit to serve the public and should resign immediately.
Supporting Files (2 Max.):

Date: December 14, 2020

Time: 11:09 am

Remote IP: 73.220.235.169

John Holt

From: Public Comments <email@cityofclovis.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:28 AM
To: John Holt; Karey Cha
Subject: Public Comment for City Council

Council Meeting Date: 2020-12-14

Item Number (put "0" if your comment is not regarding an item on the agenda): 0

FullName: David Rowell

Email: dlrowell48@gmail.com

Comment: I am shocked and outraged at the comments by Mr. Bessinger at the so-called "Patriot Parade" on Saturday. At a time when the pillars of democracy are under attack, when some on the right are calling for civil war to overturn the peaceful transition of power, his comments only add fuel to the fire. It is clear that he does not see himself as Mayor of ALL Clovis residents, rather only those who share his political point of view. He should be ashamed, and he brings shame to the City that he purports to lead. He should immediately resign his non-partisan office and join some other, partisan group where his views are shared. At the very least, the Council should reprimand him and strongly repudiate his divisive rhetoric.

Supporting Files (2 Max.):

Date: December 14, 2020

Time: 9:27 am

Remote IP: 73.235.187.46

John Holt

From: Public Comments <email@cityofclovis.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:27 PM
To: John Holt; Karey Cha
Subject: Public Comment for City Council

Council Meeting Date: 2020-12-14

Item Number (put "0" if your comment is not regarding an item on the agenda): 0

FullName: SUSAN K MEDINA

Email: susie26@att.net

Comment: To the Council and the Mayor Bessinger:

I think that Mayor Bessinger should be reprimanded, scolded, and publicly made to apologize for his appearance and comments at the Trump Rally in Clovis in Saturday December 12, 2020. The Mayor should be promoting unity and cohesiveness in moving on to get this Country and clovis over the pandemic and should not be appearing in these types of rallies. His appearance and comments at this rally were totally divisive. He should be reprimanded by his fellow City Council members and I want to make sure this is addressed at the meeting.

He should be recalled out of office or at least voted out in the next term. This is so irritating that it makes people like me want to run for Mayor.

Supporting Files (2 Max.):

Date: December 13, 2020

Time: 9:27 pm

Remote IP: 99.3.114.98

John Holt

From: Jennifer Lopez <jlo1957@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 4:07 PM
To: John Holt
Subject: Re: Mayor of Clovis

I am writing this email of great concern as a city of Clovis resident regarding the writeup in today's Fresno Bee. I am very disappointed to see that the Mayor has participated in such an unprecedented nature; Instead of uniting our city, he is continuing to divided us! He should nothave even been at the Trump rally much less the statement that he gave the Fresno Bee. He's got it all wrong; It is Trump who has done nothing but tear down our democracy for the past four years and this rhetoric needs to come to an end. If this does not stop he is going to see the City of Clovis in an uproar with all this hatred. It has already started by the vandalism that has occurred in Old Town Clovis. It is a total shame. Mayor Bessinger needs to be disciplined and recalled immediately and should also give a public apology to the people. Concerned Citizens:
Gary and Jennifer Erickson.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10