

**CITY OF CASTROVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING**

**1209 Fiorella  
City Council Chambers**

**June 9, 2020**

**Tuesday**

**5:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Mayor Phyllis Santleben.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present:

Mayor Phyllis Santleben

Councilmember Sheena Martinez

Councilmember Paul Carey

Councilmember Phil King

Councilmember Todd Tschirhart

Councilmember Darrin Schroeder

Debra Howe, City Secretary

Brian Jackson, Police Chief

John Gomez, Public Works Director

David Kirkpatrick, Airport Manager

Absent:

Leroy Vidales, Interim City Administrator/Finance Director

Devin Fredrickson, Parks and Recreation Director

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. INVOCATION**

Councilmember Paul Carey gave the invocation.

**V. Citizen Comments**

The City Council will hear comments from any citizen or visitor. Speakers must address their comments to the presiding officer rather than individual council members or staff; stand at the podium, speak clearly into the microphone and state your name and residential address before speaking. Speakers will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes for testimony. Speakers making personal, impertinent, profane or slanderous remarks will be given one warning before losing the privilege to speak or may be removed from the room. Unauthorized remarks from the audience, stamping of feet, whistles, yells and similar demonstrations/distractions will not be permitted. No placards, banners, or signs will be permitted in the Chambers or in any other room in which the council is meeting. In accordance with the State Open Meetings Act, the City Council is restricted from discussing or taking action on items not listed on the agenda. Action can only be taken at a future meeting.

Councilmember Martinez read an email from Joe Martinez, 113 River Trail, regarding the recent storms and the emergency sirens not being activated. Ms. Martinez said there had been a tornado alert sent out by text and shown on the television for Castroville. In the email, Mr. Martinez was concerned that the sirens might not be in good working order since they had not heard the testing in several months. Police Chief Jackson reported that he had been contact with the County Emergency Coordinator during the time of the storms and there had not been any rotation in Castroville. He said Keith Lutz had the

(Cont.)

authority to activate the city sirens if there had been an emergency. Chief Jackson said Mr. Lutz also conducted a silent test on a monthly basis on the city sirens. The activation procedure for the sirens would be brought back for council to review at a later date.

Arnie Dollase, 109 River Bluff, of the Castroville Area Economic Development Council, presented the city with a framed copy of the winning entry submitted by Lindy Wheeler from the annual Poppy Festive Contest. Mayor Santleben accepted the on behalf of the city. Mr. Dollase also spoke on the 2020 Census count and said Castroville had responded very well. Mayor Santleben said Castroville was at 60.5% at completing the on-line census count.

Kathryn Holloway, 905 Lafayette, spoke on her issues with a resident for the last several years related to noise. Ms. Holloway showed several pages of information related to the noise and asked the city council to look at a revision to the current ordinance so the police department could better enforce. Ms. Holloway said she need relief from the ongoing problems with her neighbor and the police department was unable to enforce. Ms. Holloway's mother also spoke on the noise issues and hoped the city council could help with changes to the ordinance to be able to enforce.

**VI. Consent Agenda**

**A. Minutes for May 12, 2020 Special Called Council Meeting**

Councilmember Martinez asked that on Page 7 of the minutes there would be a correction from Mr. Martinez to Ms. Martinez.

**A motion was made by Councilmember King and duly seconded by Councilmember Carey to approve the minutes with the correction. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.**

**VII. Nominate and appointment of a Mayor Pro Tem.**

Councilmember Paul Carey nominated District 5 Councilmember Darrin Schroeder for the position of Mayor Pro Tem.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Carey and duly seconded by Councilmember King to appoint Darrin Schroeder to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.**

**VIII. Discussion and appropriate action on an ordinance awarding a franchise contract within the City of Castroville to Waste Management of Texas, Inc. for the collection and disposal of solid waste. (Chris Cox, Area Manager Waste Management) (Tabled from May 12, 2020)**

Area Manager Chris Cox briefed the city council on meeting with Interim City Administrator Vidales, city staff and Councilmembers on concerns they had with the previous contract. Mr. Cox said he was able to increase the bulk size to 6 cubic yards at no extra cost to the city. Mayor Santleben said she would like to see the city look at purchasing a chipper to have for the excess brush the city picked up. Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder thanked Mr. Cox for speaking with him and thought there would be different sizes shown in the contract but liked the 6 yards. Mr. Cox said his company would be providing brochures to customers on the new containers, placement for pickup and bulk piles information. Councilmember Tschirhart asked what the protocol was on a pile of brush too large for pickup. Mr. Cox said the city was notified by either the route manager or himself on the reason for not being picked up and the city relayed to the customer. Councilmember Carey said he was concerned with the restrictions

on roll-offs. He felt the contractors should be able to choose who they wanted not just one source. Mr. Cox said the city was losing money when they used someone other than waste management. Councilmember Martinez said she was concerned with the language in the contract regarding brush/bulk piles couldn't be placed near parked vehicles. She said in the past they had put piles on property adjacent to homes to make it easier for pickup but drivers would not pickup as they considered it a vacant lot. Mr. Cox said if they contacted public works and let them know, it would be relayed and they would pick up. Councilmember King felt using one source for pickup protected the city and citizen from non-licensed providers. In closing, Mr. Cox said the citizens could put out piles measuring 3x6x9ft (6 cubic yards) plus a trash and recycling bins and the trucks and containers were good improvements.

**A motion was made by Councilmember King and duly seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder to approve an ordinance awarding a franchise contract within the City of Castroville to Waste Management of Texas, Inc. for the collection and disposal of solid waste. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.**

- IX. Discussion and appropriate action on a variance request for the proposed subdivision of Country Village Estates, Phase I to allow the minimum street frontage to be less than 80 ft., for lots on the presented plat that do not meet the requirement as required by Castroville Code of Ordinances Chapter 100 Subdivisions, Section 100 -54 , Lots.**  
*(Breana Soto, Community Development Coordinator)*

Community Development Coordinator Breana Soto briefed the city council on a variance request for the proposed subdivision of Country Village Estates, Phase I. Ms. Soto said the variance had been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission as platted. Ms. Soto said there were 5 lots that did not meet the city requirement of 80 ft., but they did meet the 12,000 sq. ft. lot size. Councilmember Tschirhart did not have a problem with the lot sizes but noted only one entrance. Ms. Soto said there was an emergency vehicle entrance through Lot 22 with a Knox box.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Carey and duly seconded by Councilmember Tschirhart to approve a variance request for the proposed subdivision of Country Village Estates, Phase I to allow the minimum street frontage to be less than 80 ft., for the five lots on the presented plat that do not meet the requirement as required by Castroville Code of Ordinances Chapter 100 Subdivisions, Section 100-54, Lots. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.**

- X. Presentation on roles of the Castroville Area Economic Development Council and GoMedina with the City of Castroville.** *(Arnie Dollase, Chairman of CAEDC and Phyllis Santleben, Mayor)*

Mayor Santleben said this had been placed on the agenda at her request but she want to table to have the Chamber of Commerce and legal counsel Clay Binford included in the presentation.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Carey and duly seconded by Councilmember Tschirhart to table at the request of the mayor. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.**

**XI. Discussion and appropriate action on re-opening of city facilities and parks to the public. (Leroy Vidales, Interim City Administrator)**

Interim City Administrator Leroy Vidales and Parks and Recreation Director Devin Fredrickson were not in attendance to present the phases of re-opening for the city facilities and the parks/pool. City Secretary Debra Howe spoke on the opening procedures for city hall, court, and the Steinbach Haus/Visitor Center. Ms. Howe said the recommendation was to open the following Monday with safety measures of masks, hand sanitizer, temperatures taken and keeping the 6 ft. distance in place. Library Director Angelia Alejandro briefed the city council on the different phases she was proposing to re-open the library, starting with curbside services. Public Works Director John Gomez briefly spoke on the phases proposed by Mr. Fredrickson on re-opening the pool. Mayor Santleben said fitness swim had been approved at the last meeting. Councilmember Martinez reviewed but questioned allowing swim lessons shown in phase three. Ms. Martinez said at a previous meeting this option had not been approved due to the COVID 19 guidelines could not be met. Mayor Santleben questions some of the proposed expenditures at the library such as touchless facets and light fixtures. Ms. Alejandro said it would be easier to clean and they would replace the aging facets. Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder said he was in favor and the re-openings followed the governor's order. Mr. Schroeder said if the costs exceeded the budget staff would come back to council. Councilmembers Tschirhart, King, Carey and Martinez were in favor, but Councilmember Martinez made note, swimming lessons were not allowed this season.

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder and duly seconded by Councilmember Carey to direct staff to open as per the governor's order and protect staff with safe hygiene materials staying within the budget. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.**

**XII. Presentation on draft ordinance on Council Policies and Procedures. (Debra Howe, City Secretary)**

City Secretary Debra Howe briefed the city council on the draft ordinance on the Council Policies and Procedures the council was to consider. Ms. Howe said the ordinance had revisions made by the city attorney to bring the ordinance up to date on legislative changes. Ms. Howe said the ordinance would be brought back at a future meeting for discussion and could include any additions or changes the council might make.

**XIII. Appointment of Board Liaisons. (Phyllis Santleben, Mayor)**

The city council members chose which board they wanted to serve as the liaison for the upcoming year.  
Councilmember Martinez – Parks and Recreation  
Councilmember Carey – Planning and Zoning and Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Councilmember King – Historic Landmark Commission  
Councilmember Tschirhart – Airport Advisory Board  
Councilmember Schroeder – Library Advisory Board

**XIV. Updates from City Staff on: (Verbal Report)**

- a. Tree Trimming**
- b. Departmental procedures for afterhours service/emergency calls.**

Public Works Director Gomez briefed the city council on the recent tree trimming by city staff. Mr. Gomez said they were doing maintenance cuttings to clear electric lines. Mr. Gomez said the citywide trimming was being advertised and would bring back for council approval. Mr. Gomez also addressed the procedures on receiving after hours calls for emergencies. Mr. Gomez said with the recent storms he recommended looking at an answering service to handle the calls. City Council directed staff to go back and look at engaging an answering service.

**XV. Discussion on future agenda items.**

Mayor Santleben requested the agenda item related to the rolls of CAEDC and GoMedina with the other associations for next agenda. Also a discussion on reviving the newsletter and look at delinquent utility customers caused by the COVID 19 shutdown.

**XVI. ADJOURN**

Mayor Santleben adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Darrin Schroeder  
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Debra Howe  
City Secretary