

# **City of Fresno**

*2600 Fresno Street*

*Fresno, CA 93721*

*www.fresno.gov*



## **Meeting Minutes - Draft**

**Thursday, April 23, 2020**

**9:00 AM**

**Notice of Special Open Session Meeting**

**Council Chambers**

### **City Council**

***President - Miguel Angel Arias***

***Vice President - Paul Caprioglio***

***Councilmembers:***

***Esmeralda Z. Soria, Mike Karbassi, Luis Chavez, Garry Bredefeld,***

***Nelson Esparza***

***City Manager - Wilma Quan***

***City Attorney - Douglas T. Sloan***

***City Clerk - Yvonne Spence, MMC***

City Council met in special open session in City Hall on the date and time written above.

## **APPROVE AGENDA**

*City Council approved the special open session meeting agenda during the regular meeting. The special open session meeting began at 3:30 P.M.*

**Present:** 7 - President Miguel Angel Arias  
Vice President Paul Caprioglio  
Councilmember Esmeralda Z. Soria  
Councilmember Mike Karbassi  
Councilmember Luis Chavez  
Councilmember Garry Bredefeld  
Councilmember Nelson Esparza

[ID](#)  
[20-00531](#)

\*\*\*RESOLUTION - Directing appropriations to the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to create a Consumer Grant Program to assist Fresno families impacted by job loss or reduction in working hours, and directing appropriations to the Save our Small Business Program (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

*The above item was introduced to Council by Councilmember Soria, District 1. Upon call, the following members of the public addressed Council: Dave S., Shayna Rose, Jaimee Olsen, Grecia Elenes, Estela Ortega, Dan and Kacey Austin Tibbetts.*

*Councilmember Soria motioned to approve the item as presented.*

*Councilmember Esparza is supportive of the concept of providing the grants; however, he does not agree leaving the funding source too flexible, particularly the housing dollars.*

*Councilmember Esparza offered a second to the motion as a placeholder and amended the motioned to protect the housing dollars, utilized the COVID relief in the CARES Act, and retroactively turn the previous loans into grants to be eligible to be recovered and reimbursed by the CARES Act. Councilmember Soria agreed to the amendment.*

*Councilmember Chavez supported Councilmember Esparza's amendments to retroactively turn the loans into a grant to make it reimbursable to prevent*

*small businesses from closing and helping residents stay in their home. He asked to also include in the motion resources for the Small Business program increasing the amount from \$1 million to \$1.5 million to the Small Business program and give the City Manager the flexibility for the other pot of money and to come back to Council with a final plan to be voted on. Councilmember Soria agreed to the amendment.*

*City Attorney Sloan stated only COVID related expenses can be reimbursed.*

*Councilmember Karbassi stated he would like more time to review the proposal. He suggested the Council Budget Subcommittee work with the Administration and come up with a plan before bringing it back to Council for approval. He agrees the Small Business program should be a grant rather than a loan and he would like Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC) to be involved.*

*City Manager Quan requested Assistant City Manager Sumpter be the point person to do the research regarding the utilization of the funds.*

*Council President Arias stated no money would be spent until the program is completed by the Administration.*

*Councilmember Karbassi does not support the item as presented and suggested the program go before the Council Budget Subcommittee first.*

*Councilmember Bredefeld asked if the Consumer Grant Program is available to those who are in the Country illegally. Councilmember Soria stated it is open to all Fresno residents. Councilmember Bredefeld stated residents want to get back to work and earn a living and does not support the item as presented.*

*Council Vice President Caprioglio agreed with Councilmember Karbassi and would have liked more time to review the information; he stated he does not support cashing checks when there is no money and addressed his concerns with the spending of the \$750,000 for the Small Business Act. Therefore, he does not support the item as presented.*

*Councilmember Chavez stated they are trying to be proactive, saving one small business at a time and trying to prevent potential families from becoming homeless. He suggested the proposal be sent to the Council Budget Subcommittee.*

*Councilmember Soria directed the Administration to work with the Council Budget Subcommittee on the allocation before coming to Council for final approval of the proposal.*

*Council President Arias spoke regarding the Small Business program and immediate relief to Fresno residents.*

*Councilmember Soria motioned to direct the Administration to prepare for Council consideration an appropriation of an additional \$1.5 million to the Save our Small Business program. Funds shall be issued as grants and reimbursed with Federal funding to the extent legally permissible. The City Manager shall also identify funds and the Council Budget Subcommittee shall review the proposal before returning to Council for consideration. Councilmember Esparza seconded the motion.*

**RESOLUTION 2020-091 ADOPTED**

**On motion of Councilmember Soria, seconded by Councilmember Esparza, that the above Action Item be adopted as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Arias, Soria, Chavez and Esparza

**No:** 3 - Caprioglio, Karbassi and Bredefeld

[ID](#) RESOLUTION - Directing the City Manager to return to Council with an agreement to bring additional energy savings to the City of Fresno.  
[20-00533](#)

*The above item was introduced to Council by Council President Arias, District 3 and Councilmember Soria, District 1. Upon call, there was no public comment.*

*Discussion was held between Councilmember Soria and Assistant City Manager Schaad regarding the future agreement to include local jobs, future workforce and if there will be immediate savings. They discussed the*

*Request for Qualification (RFQ) process and the pre-apprenticeship program. City Attorney Sloan added the Attorney's office will work with the Administration to come up with a competitive bid.*

*Councilmember Karbassi does not support the item as an emergency item and stated he would like more time to review and that he would like to go forward with the RFQ process.*

*Councilmember Bredefeld asked the Administration if the cost savings can be utilized in other ways like Public Works projects. Assistant City Manager Schaad responded the energy savings dollars will be used to pay off the infrastructure loans for seven to ten years and there will be no cost savings until then.*

*Councilmember Soria suggested she and Council President Arias meet with the Administration to discuss the RFQ requirements before coming back to Council. Assistant City Manager Schaad replied.*

*Upon consensus of the Council, the item was tabled to a later date.*

[ID](#)  
[20-00532](#)

RESOLUTION - Honoring and acknowledging frontline workers providing essential services and who risk their own lives to make sure the people in our community are supported and taken care of during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*The above item was introduced to Council by Council Vice President Caprioglio, District 4 and Councilmember Soria, District 1. Upon call, there was no public comment.*

*Councilmember Soria encouraged the community to participate in a standing ovation to honor and acknowledge the frontline workers providing essential services and those who risk their own lives during the COVID-19 pandemic on May 1, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.*

**RESOLUTION 2020-092 ADOPTED**

**On motion of Councilmember Soria, seconded by Vice President Caprioglio, that the above Action Item be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Arias, Caprioglio, Soria, Karbassi, Chavez, Bredefeld and Esparza

**eComments**

[ID](#) eComments received for the Special Open Session Meeting.  
[20-00572](#)

**ADJOURNMENT**

*City Council adjourned the special open session meeting at 4:45 P.M.*