

**KINGSBURG CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 1, 2021**

Council Chamber, 1401 Draper Street, Kingsburg, CA 93631 (559) 897-5821 www.cityofkingsburg-ca.gov

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 100% CAPACITY. PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM, THE PUBLIC HAD THE OPTION TO CALL 1 (425) 436-6335 PASSCODE 5290024 TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT. WRITTEN COMMENTS COULD STILL BE SUBMITTED BY MAIL OR EMAIL TO APALSGAARD@CITYOFKINGSBURG-CA.GOV. THE CUT OFF FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS WAS 9/14/2021 AT 4:00. THEY WILL NOT BE READ OUT LOUD.

Invocation was given by Pastor Tim Boynton of Kingsburg Covenant Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Laura North

6 P.M. REGULAR SESSION MEETING:

Call to Order and Roll Call – At 6:03 P. M. Mayor Laura North called the regular meeting of the Kingsburg City Council to order.

Council Members Present: Jewel Hurtado, Vince Palomar, Brandon Pursell, Jr., Michelle Roman, and Mayor Laura North.

Staff Present: City Manager Alexander Henderson, City Attorney Michael Noland, City Engineer Dave Peters, Police Chief Neil Dadian, Public Works Director Daniel Galvez and City Clerk Abigail Palsgaard.

Approve Agenda: A motion was made by Council Member Hurtado, seconded by Council Member Roman, to approve the agenda, as published. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Presentations- None.

Public Comments: None.

Consent Calendar: A motion was made by Council Member Pursell, Jr., seconded by Council Member Palomar, to approve the items appearing on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- 5.1 Approval of City Council Minutes:** Approve the minutes from the September 1, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting as prepared by City Clerk Abigail Palsgaard.
Sponsor: City Clerk's Office
- 5.2 Check Register:** Ratify/approve payment of bills listed on the check register for the period August 12, 2021 through September 8, 2021 as prepared by Accounts Payable Clerk Grace Reyna.
Sponsor: Finance Department
- 5.3 Adopt Resolutions 2021-049; 2021-050; 2021-051; 2021-052; 2021-053; 2021-054; 2021-055; 2021-056; 2021-057; 2021-058; 2021-059; 2021-060; 2021-061; 2021-062; 2021-063 Approving the Budget Amendments As Presented And Recommended By The Finance Committee-** Staff Report Prepared by Finance Director Alma Colado.
Sponsor: Finance Department

REGULAR CALENDAR

COVID-19 Update- Staff Report by City Manager Alexander Henderson.

Sponsor: City Manager's Office

Presentation by City Manager Alexander Henderson – Mr. Henderson summarized President Biden's imposed new stringent vaccine rules. It could apply to 100,000,000 Americans. It applies to businesses with more than 100 employees. We have less than 100 full time, but more including part time. He stated that we are awaiting further clarification and will provide updates to the Council.

Downtown Kingsburg Strategic Plan

Sponsor: City Engineer's Office

Presentation by City Engineer Dave Peters- Mr. Peters stated that the project is being funded through COG Grants and is focused on evaluating transportation opportunities in the downtown corridor. It evaluates parking demands and needs, potential for transit opportunities in downtown, and development of strategies to promote non-motorized travel and ridesharing in downtown. He spoke about existing public transportation. There are not a lot of bike lanes. We have continuous sidewalks, wide with curb ramps and curb extensions. There are a total of 1,282 parking spaces. There are two transit stops downtown.

Mr. Peters reviewed the Parking Analysis and Plan and recommendations: Curb extensions and pedestrian amenities; add bike lanes and bike storage racks; shared mobility services; expand transit & trolley services; rideshare hub; shared parking with private businesses for special events; new 80 space parking lot, EV charging stations; and promotional activities; Depot anchoring all of these, rideshare hub, and bikes.

Council Member Hurtado asked about the rideshare hub- does it cost the City? Mr. Peters explained it. Mayor North asked about bike lanes. She said that she is nervous with it being in the middle of the street, or behind parked cars. She said that she wants to make sure it is safe. Council Member Roman said that we have a great relationship with FCTRA (transit), and they will train volunteers. If there is a set route, FCTRA will have a designated driver for the route. She discussed solar chargers. She talked about the hub for EV charging stations. Council Member Hurtado said that she would like the parking by Deli Casa and the gym to look better. Council Member Pursell, Jr. asked if the grant is just for the Plan or the proposed actions. Mr. Peters said that it is just the Plan. Council Member Pursell, Jr. asked where the money would come from. Mr. Peters said that most of the proposed actions are smaller dollar projects. Council Member Pursell, Jr. asked what the cost is for one charging station? Mr. Peters said that he was not sure. If you like the Plan, I can bring it back with more information. City Manager Alexander Henderson said that the cost is for installing it and getting electricity to it. Council Member Roman brought up Federal funding potential. Council Member Pursell, Jr. asked that if we adopt it, it doesn't lock us in? Mr. Peters said no. A motion was made by Council Member Roman, seconded by Council Member Palomar, to adopt the Downtown Kingsburg Strategic Plan. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

SGMA/Water Discussion- Staff Report by City Manager Alexander Henderson

Sponsor: City Engineer's Office

Presentation by City Engineer Dave Peters – Mr. Peters reviewed the history. A Bill passed in 2014 requires governments to halt overdraft and bring ground water basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. It must be sustainable by 2040. A Plan was submitted to the State in January 2020. A water purchase agreement was negotiated with CID, amending cooperative agreements, and pursuing several recharge projects to meet sustainability. He showed ground water tables. Our wells are 400 feet deep. He talked about a \$2.6 million Prop 68 Grant to build a 15-acre recharge basin. 2.6 acres was purchased for a recharge basin in Fowler with 3000-acre feet of storage by JPA members. Kingsburg projects include a Historical Park basin (300af); tract 6242 basin (425af), Athwal/Bicentennial Park basin (225af).

Council Member Palomar said that we should have never left the Central GSA. What happens if these other cities fail? Mr. Peters said that we don't know, it hasn't happened. All cities involved have been very cooperative and doing their part. The goal is the basin being sustainable. Council Member Pursell, Jr. said that we are in good shape overall. He is worried about the west side GSAs, but it is up for the whole basin to work together. Council Member Hurtado said that it is nice to see the full map. Mr. Peters said that it is in the best interest for all the GSAs to work together. Council Member Palomar said he is concerned about us having to buy land and citizen's water rates may rise. Mr. Peters said that you will have to come back in 30 years and see this. Council Member Hurtado said that it is important that we have a seat at the table. Council made the decision before us, but we are in it and we must move forward. Mr. Peters said that our focus is to go after the grants, be innovative, and save the costs for the City's residents. Council Member Pursell, Jr. said that the grant is a big deal and opportunistic and Dave does a great job. If we can keep doing it, we will be in a great spot. Mayor North stated that she sat at the meetings and not having a seat at the table would have limited our ability to save us money. Mr. Peters said that there was a possibility the Central GSA could put on a pumping moratorium. City Manager Alexander Henderson said that in 2010 our water rates went up because of CID and recharging rates. Water is a commodity and farmers are having to follow their land. We formed our GSA to keep our local control. We tried to work with CID to have a seat at the table. It didn't happen that way. Council Member Roman said that maybe Federal and State funding can continue to assist us.

Action as Deemed Necessary - None

Cash for Grass Discussion – Turf Replacement Program Incentive

Sponsor: Public Works Department

Presentation by Public Works Director Daniel Galvez – Mr. Galvez stated that based on previous direction, staff has created a proposed water reduction rebate program, specifically a turf replacement program for eligible water customers. Staff is requesting an initial \$30,000 allocation for the program from the Water Enterprise Fund. Staff is requesting a \$3,000 max rebate per address. Mr. Galvez went over the proposed process stating that the City has participated in like programs in the past. He reviewed different projects.

Cost per sq. ft. of turf was discussed and what other cities are doing. Council Member Roman asked about City properties. Mr. Galvez said that we did this behind City Hall. Council discussed new builds and they are required to have drought resistant landscaping. Council Member Pursell, Jr. said that this is a great presentation. Council Member Palomar said that he is glad we are doing this.

A motion was made by Council Member Roman, seconded by Council Member Pursell, Jr., to approve the Turf Replacement Program Incentive. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

New Park Naming Discussion- Staff Report by City Manager Alexander Henderson
Sponsor: City Manager's Office

Presentation by City Manager Alexander Henderson- Mr. Henderson presented the policy and said that we have 3 options from the public: Patriot Park, Dala Horse Park, Veteran's Park. Council Member Pursell, Jr. suggested Patriot Park and Council agreed. However, Mayor North said that she thinks Veterans should come first. Council Member Hurtado agreed. Council Member Roman moved that Veterans Park be the name of the park. Council Member Hurtado seconded the motion which carried by unanimous voice vote.

Crime Statistics Report for the Month of August 2021 and General Police Department Update- Crime Statistics Report prepared by Kingsburg Police Department Records Supervisor Corina Padilla.
Sponsor: Police Department

Presentation by Police Chief Neil Dadian- Chief Dadian went over the crime stats. Fresno Sheriff's Office is still working the homicide. We have applied for a grant for body worn cameras. We have been dealing with mutual aid, covid related leave, family and bereavement leave. We have been short-staffed. We have 2 trainees. One is completing the Police Academy. Officers in South Lake Tahoe were assigned to shoo bears away from residents. Citizens there were very friendly. We will be bringing in new employees and promoted employees in the near future.

Informational- No Action Necessary

Council Reports and Staff Communications

Community Services Commission- Mayor North reported that they have not met.

Public Safety Committee – Council Member Palomar reported that they have not met.

Chamber of Commerce – Council Member Pursell, Jr. reported that the Crayfish Festival is this weekend. Food, beer, music, and stuff for kids.

Economic Development- Council Member Roman reported that they have not met.

Finance Committee – Council Member Pursell, Jr. reported that they have not met.

Planning Commission- Mayor North reported that they met last week and discussed the Downtown Strategic Plan.

South Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority (SKGSA) – Council Member Hurtado complimented City Engineer Dave Peters for the great report tonight. The SKGSA met last week and got an update for the grants.

Downtown Business Improvement District – Council Member Hurtado reported that they have not met.

Council of Governments – Council Member Roman reported that they are off for August.

Council Member Reports

Mayor North commented on the soft interrogation room at the Police Department being well underway. She said that Barbara Taylor has been instrumental. Kingsburg Media Foundation donated a TV and the installation.

Council Member Roman reported on the last COG meeting regarding the Valley Voice - Modesto to Bakersfield. She also met with reps from DC talking about infrastructure. She let them know about our needs.

City Manager's Report – Mr. Henderson reported that SB9 is on the Governor's desk. The Treasury has announced more ARPA guidance. No word on Prop 68 Grants.

Future Agenda Items: None.

At 7:42 P. M. - Adjourned Kingsburg City Council Out of Regular Calendar into Closed Session to discuss the following item (s):

- 9.1 Public Employment:** California Government Code Section 54957
Title: City Manager

At 8:23 P. M. Adjourned out of Closed Session into Regular Kingsburg City Council Meeting and Report Out.

Report Out of Closed Session - City Attorney Michael Noland said that there is nothing to report.

Adjourn Regular Kingsburg City Council Meeting. The Regular Kingsburg City Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 P. M.

Submitted by:

Abigail Palsgaard, City Clerk
City of Kingsburg