February 17, 2016 Council Chambers City of Madera, California
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting for 2/17/16 was called to order by Mayor Poythress at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:
Present: Mayor Robert L. Poythress
Mayor Pro Tem Charles F. Rigby
Council Member Andrew J. Medellin
Council Member Donald E. Holley
Council Member Derek O. Robinson Sr.
Council Member William Oliver

Others present were City Administrator David Tooley, City Attorney Brent Richardson, City Clerk Sonia Alvarez, Director of Community Development David Merchen, Director of Financial Services Tim Przybyla, City Engineer Keith Helmuth, Chief of Police Steve Frazier, Director of Parks and Community Services Mary Anne Seay, Director of Human Resources Wendy Silva, Chief Building Official Steve Woodworth, Information Services Manager Ted Uyesaka, Planning Manager Chris Boyle, Commander Dino Lawson, Fire Chief Nancy Koerperich and Fire Chief David Allen.

INVOCATION: Pastor Barry Benard, Westside Christian Fellowship

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Poythress led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The first fifteen minutes of the meeting are reserved for members of the public to address the Council on items which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Council. Speakers shall be limited to three minutes. Speakers will be asked to identify themselves and state the subject of their comment. If the subject is an item on the Agenda, the Mayor has the option of asking the speaker to hold the comment until that item is called. Comments on items listed as a Public Hearing on the Agenda should be held until the hearing is opened. The Council is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters discussed that are not on the Agenda, and no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Council does not respond to public comment at this time.

No comments were offered.

A. WORKSHOP

There are no items for this section.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

B-1 Minutes – 8/05/15
B-2  Information Only – Warrant Disbursement Report

B-3  A. Weekly Water Conservation Report – 1/25/16-1/31/16
     B. Weekly Water Conservation Report – 2/01/16-2/17/16 (Report by Dave Randall)

B-4  Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing Submittal of an Application to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery for Beverage Container Recycling City/County Payment Programs and Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute All Grant Documents (Report by Dave Randall)

B-5  Consideration of a Minute Order Rejecting a Claim filed by Feliberto Cisneros (Report by Wendy Silva)

B-6  Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing Submittal of an Application to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery for Local Government Waste Tire Cleanup Grant Program and Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute all Grant Documents (Report by Dave Randall)

B-7  Consideration of a Resolution Approving Award of Agreement for Revenue Measure Consulting Services to TBWB Strategies and Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Agreement on Behalf of the City (Report by David Tooley)

B-8  Consideration of a Resolution Amending the City of Madera Classification Plan (Report by Wendy Silva)

Mayor Poythress asked if there are any items on the consent calendar that a Councilperson would like to have pulled for further discussion. No requests were made and Mayor Poythress announced he would accept a motion for action.

ON MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM RIGBY, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON, THE CONSENT CALENDAR WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0.

RES. NO. 16-15  A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY FOR BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING CITY/COUNTY PAYMENT PROGRAMS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ALL GRANT DOCUMENTS

RES. NO. 16-16  A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT WASTE TIRE CLEANUP GRANT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ALL GRANT DOCUMENTS

RES. NO. 16-17  A RESOLUTION APPROVING AWARD OF AGREEMENT FOR REVENUE MEASURE CONSULTING SERVICES TO TBWB STRATEGIES AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY.

RES. NO. 16-18  A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION PLAN ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION No. 00-13
C. HEARINGS, PETITIONS, BIDS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, AND AGREEMENT

C-1 A Continued Public Hearing and Consideration of Introduction of an Ordinance Prezoning Approximately 600 Properties Encompassing Approximately 490 Acres of Land Located in and Near the Community of Parksdale (County Service Area #3) Immediately East of the City

And

Consideration of Adoption of a Resolution Amending the General Plan on 86 Acres of Parksdale Property in Order to Accurately Reflect Existing Land Uses

Planning Manager Chris Boyle stated this is a continued public hearing as it relates to the prezoning of Parksdale and a General Plan amendment in support of that prezoning action. Mr. Boyle provided a brief refresher of last week’s presentation. He noted that Parksdale is located in the southeast quadrant immediately abutting to the City and it is immediately north of the Southeast Madera or SMD annexation area. He advised that when they talk about the action that they are talking about tonight, they are not actually talking about an application for annexation. In fact, the reason for their applications for prezoning and for the General Plan amendment are a requirement on the part of LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) that requires that prior to completing that SMD annexation, the City of Madera shall file an application for annexation of Parksdale. He added that in fact, the accompanying map within that directive identifies this map area as the annexation and in support of that and prior to any application for annexation, the City must prezone that property in the event that annexation occurs.

Mr. Boyle advised that the prezoning area, they might note, isn’t exactly the same as the annexation area but that is done on purpose to provide LAFCO the opportunity to add parcels as they deem fit. He added that it is important to note that the prezoning does provide for, if annexation does occur, the smooth transition of a property from county zoning into city zoning. He noted that staff has spent much time in providing an analysis that would place the existing parcels in a situation most consistent between existing County zoning and proposed City zoning.

Mr. Boyle referred to the display and stated that most of the project area is in a rural residential light yellowish tone. He added that other areas acknowledge existing single family residential development in a bright yellow tone. He noted that there are a couple of commercial parcels in the City. The green indicates ponding basins or dedicated open space.

Mr. Boyle commented that the existing General Plan doesn’t have any acknowledgement of those existing single family residential zones. It calls out either a medium density or a very low density or a rural residential type of characteristics within the zone. As a component of the prezoning, staff proposes a General Plan amendment to align the existing General Plan with the proposed zone districts that would be applied to these parcels as part of the prezoning.

Mr. Boyle commented on where they are in the annexation process. He advised that tonight they are still at the prezoning public hearing which was continued from February 3rd noting that they are not in an annexation application at this point and juncture. He stated that the City Council, if they act positively tonight, would then move to a prezoning second reading on March 2, 2016 and then the Council would have to facilitate a property tax exchange agreement prior to a formal application for annexation. He added that the County would have to receive the complete application from the City including that tax agreement then LAFCO would conduct public hearings and make an initial decision as it relates to annexation. Mr. Boyle stated that again, the Council’s action tonight is not to act on an annexation of property. That particular process is done through the Local Agency Formation Commission. Mr. Boyle explained that then there is a process that is followed if the initial decision for annexation is yes. If it is no, no vote is required and the annexation would fail. He restated that ultimately, the community has the ability to stop annexation if desired. He stated that tonight is not an application for annexation; it instead is the prezoning in General Plan amendment.
Mr. Boyle stated that per the Council’s direction, staff, in the last two weeks, has prepared and sent out a second frequently asked questions document that answered the questions that were raised at their last public hearing. He advised that after the meeting, he had an opportunity to meet with several of the citizens of the area, pass out business cards and the like, encouraged them to reach out to him. They also provided as part of that frequently asked questions document, additional contact information from the members of LAFCO so that they could take their concerns directly to LAFCO as it is expressed per the annexation. Ultimately in the last two weeks, after this outreach, they have not had a telephone call or an extension for dialogue with them at all; not one.

Mr. Boyle stated to conclude, tonight’s hearing is not a vote on the application for annexation. They have not filed an application for annexation at this point and juncture but it is a General Plan amendment to provide for consistency between the General Plan and the proposed prezoning, and at the same time to acknowledge the land uses of the community as it is now in its present form. With that said, the Planning Commission and staff would continue to recommend that the Council, after considering public testimony, adopt a resolution approving the General Plan amendment and introduce the ordinance prezoning the subject properties. Mr. Boyle advised that concludes his presentation and stated he would be happy to answer any questions they might have.

Mayor Poythress asked if there are any questions of Mr. Boyle.

Mayor Pro Tem Rigby referred to the commercial lots shown in Exhibit A and asked if those are currently commercial lots.

Mr. Boyle replied that they are not; two of them are. He advised that the C2 Heavy Commercial is currently operated as Ochoa’s, an automotive repair, but the two lots across the street from Ochoa’s those are a former store and a former recycling center. He added that in light of the fact that their last established use was commercial, staff opted to leave those in a commercial setting.

Mayor Pro Tem Rigby stated he knew the empty lots across the street. He was curious.

Mayor Poythress asked if there are any other questions of Mr. Boyle and added that he thinks one of the concerns or direction that Council gave Mr. Boyle last time was to reach out and he thinks Mr. Boyle answered that question as far as those types of efforts. Mayor Poythress commended Mr. Boyle.

Mayor Poythress stated this is a continuation of the public hearing and he would like to open it up at this time. Mayor Poythress directed his comment to the City Clerk and stated he believes they have a couple of individuals who have signed in to speak.

City Clerk Sonia Alvarez replied that they have four signed. She advised that she would call them up a couple at a time and then they can invite the others up after that.

Ms. Alvarez called for Lester Moore and Richard Ray.

Mayor Poythress asked, when they come up, that they give their name and address.

Richard Ray, Parksdale resident in Madera, California, stated the letter that he did receive didn’t answer any of the questions that he heard people ask at least to his knowledge. One thing that he wanted to ask also is, if it was to get passed because he pays water and sewage and part of his water and sewage on his sewage, not only is he paying County taxes, he is also paying City taxes. He asked, if it was to turn over to City, is that going to deplete where he would just be paying City taxes.

Mayor Poythress asked if somebody from staff can answer that question now.

City Administrator David Tooley stated he would begin and answer, and the City attorney will help him if he misses anything that is important. Mr. Tooley replied that water and sewer rates are generally paid based on rates as opposed to taxes but that is just a very minor difference. At such time as an annexation were
to take place, reminding that an annexation is not taking place this evening, but at such time, he would then be paying just the City rates. Mr. Tooley asked the City Attorney if he wants to add anything to that. The City Attorney did not have anything to add.

Mr. Tooley asked Mr. Ray if that is clear.

Mr. Ray replied sure. He added, not trying to be rude, but he finds it very, he guesses he would say irritating to himself that the people that live in the County, they don’t even have the right to vote the City Council in. They only vote in the County people. They don’t have the opportunity of voting in the City people. He would like to know how the City feels that they have the right to come out into an area that is owned mostly by a lot of elderly people that are on disability or on social security that are just barely getting by right now and if was to get switched over, how much would their property taxes go up, how much are they going to have to pay for sidewalks and gutters and all that. They are talking about families that have been out there for many, many years. His family has been out there since 1943. He stated that it is devastating all of them out there. That is why a lot of them moved out there. They wanted to live in the country. They didn’t want the City. He doesn’t see hardly any crime rate out there compared to what the City is. He just has a real strong feeling, if the City was to go out there, are they going to start patrolling out there. He stated that it is hard enough on the Sheriff’s Department and then the City would be taking on a bigger bite. He asked if they are going to have better protection because he just has a funny feeling, if this goes on, it is going to make it even worse.

Mayor Poythress replied that they don’t have any parts of their City that they consider second class. If they are annexed into the City of Madera, they receive the whole level of services that any other part of the City of Madera receives. They don’t have little subsidiaries that say you get less services. The other thing, he would like to remind everybody here, is that they have the right to vote whether or not they are going to be annexed or not. So there are processes that this has happened. They have asked the question about what gives the City the right to annex. He replied that the City does not have the right to annex unless you let us annex and that is an entire process that the City works together with the County to move forward with. He advised that they (residents) have every right, and Council Member Holley mentioned that at their last meeting, that in this country, they have the opportunity to vote yes or no. He encouraged them to do what they are doing tonight, come together as a community and when it gets to that point for the annexation, let us know, yes vote it in or vote it down. They have that right.

Lester Moore, Parksdale resident in Madera, California, stated someone [unable to understand name stated] asked most of the questions but noted that the question is still unanswered about all the new improvements that will have to be made if it becomes City. He asked if the landowner is going to have to be responsible for all this or not and again as was talked about, is their Madera Police Department going to be able to service Parksdale. He commented that every time they hear someone on TV, we have all we can stand now. He means financially, he is sure they do. They don’t have enough people. They work overtime. He is in no way putting the Sheriff’s Department down or the Police Department but every time they hear something, we have all we can stand. He asked what is going to happen when they take on another 600 residents/family places.

Mayor Poythress stated that is a great question and if he noticed in the presentation, that is all part of the tax sharing agreement that would have to be agreed upon between the County and the City before it could even move forward for LAFCO annexation. He advised that when it goes to annexation, there has to something called revenue neutrality meaning that the County would have to come up with certain amount of money and whatever the agreement is to help the City to provide those types of services. He stated that would all be part of the agreement. He reemphasized, whatever happens, if Parksdale is annexed into the City, it would be patrolled by the City Police Department the same way any other part of the City. He noted that the residents are going to demand and he is going to demand good quality service because they are all residents of the City and they don’t want to see their police services compromised because of an annexation of Parksdale nor would they put up with Parksdale being considered a second class community.

Mr. Moore stated he understands that but also, they hear, every time they turn the news on or something that they have all they can stand now.
Mayor Poythress suggested they stay tuned because there might be an opportunity to help out their Police Department in that regard.

Mr. Moore stated he is sure the City Police Department is wonderful but they have had good service through the Sheriff’s Department. As far as he knows they have very little crime rate. He has been out there since ’71. He has had one thing missing.

Mayor Poythress stated they appreciate that and that is a great part of the community of Parksdale the fact that they do work together, that they do have good patrols out there and good folks. They don’t want to see crime increase.

Mayor Poythress stated that the other question Mr. Moore had was in regards to improvements. He asked staff to correct him if he makes an incorrect statement. He noted that the City does not have the money for capital improvements just to say they need to go out and do certain things. The City does not have the money nor would they require them (residents), if they were to come into the City to start making, ok, you need to put a sidewalk in, you need to put a streetlight up, you need to do that. He advised that is not something the City would require… He asked Mr. Tooley if he spoke out of turn.

Mr. Tooley replied he did not. He explained that at such time that an annexation actually takes place, the responsibility for the public improvements are transferred from the County to the City. He added that the City and County have already done a study to determine what the needs are out there and there are some significant deficiencies in their area. He noted that there are some very significant deferred maintenance items that if the City does an annexation, the City is going to have to take on over time.

Mr. Moore asked why they don’t have any County people here at these meetings.

Mayor Poythress explained that there will be a process to meet County folks as it is introduced to the County when it goes to the County. There will be that opportunity as far as the process but it is a City public hearing. He stated that there will again be an opportunity to meet with County folks.

Mr. Moore thanked the Council.

Mayor Poythress asked if there are any more folks.

Ms. Alvarez advised they have two more signed in and called Jose Solis and Enrique Renteria.

Jose Solis, Parksdale resident in Madera, California, stated what he wants to say is his English is short and what he is going to tell them he will try to do in a few words. He asked, in case this plan is going through votes, if legal residents can do that. He clarified the owner of the property but is not a citizen. He asked if they can vote.

Jim Glynn, Parksdale resident in Madera, California, stated he thinks the gentleman is basically asking as a landowner could he vote. Mr. Glynn commented that according to the paperwork here, it indicates that 50% or more of registered voters. He noted that might have an effect on some people.

Mr. Solis stated ok and added that probably between 30% or 40% of the people that live in Parksdale are legal residents. He asked how come you have to be a citizen to vote if the owners of Parksdale are 30% or 40%. It is close to 50% and then…

City Attorney Brent Richardson commented that it is actually State law is set up that way. He believes it does use the term registered voters.

Mayor Poythress asked Mr. Richardson to restate that.

Mr. Richardson restated that State law actually requires it to be the majority of registered voters.
Mayor Poythress noted not necessarily property owners.

Mr. Richardson agreed.

Mayor Poythress stated to Mr. Solis that is the State law.

Mr. Solis stated he has lived in Parksdale almost 20 years. He moved from the City there because it better. No gas, no nothing and they can take care of the neighbors. If somebody goes out of town that neighbor watches the house or something; not in the City. He protests. He doesn’t want to be in the City. He is a retired man and it will be more money to pay taxes or water service, whatever. He stated his appreciation.

Enrique Renteria, Parksdale resident in Madera California, stated he came here to urge the Council to vote no on the prezoning. This is his community. They want to preserve the way they live; be in the County. As he mentioned last time, he lived in Parksdale for three years now. He used to be a Madera County resident for the other 12 years. He loves that lifestyle. He is raising his kids. He wants to preserve that and just, this is America, they have choices and he chose to live in the County. He loves the amenities that they have but he also loves the freedom. They have large lots. He asked who the City Council Member is that is neighboring the proposed prezoning area.

Mayor Poythress stated it is Council Member Holley perhaps.

Council Member Holley agreed.

Mr. Renteria stated he was just curious. He directed his comment to Council Member Holley and stated that he knows what it is like since he is neighboring their boundaries and he urged Council Member Holley to urge no on the prezoning. He understands it is a process but they would like to have this process finished soon with a no. He thanked the Council.

Mayor Poythress asked if there are any other folks on the…

Ms. Alvarez stated that because someone put down the initials M.A. she doesn’t know…

Maura Solis, Parksdale resident in Madera, California, came up. She stated just a recap of everyone, there is no budget obviously to fix things out there as fast as they think they want it to be done but yet they want to make this move to City by those dates, March or so forth. She doesn’t think the community wants that. She doesn’t want that. She doesn’t want it prezoned. She doesn’t want it to be part of the City. They moved out there for reasons and the gangs and a lot of issues of traffic, cars coming in and out of your neighborhood when she was living in the City. So her choice, her family, her children, they want to be out there for a reason. She noted that the neighbors look out for each other. They also have their space in between where she doesn’t see their faces when she wakes up. She commented that it is as simple as that. It is those little things that benefit them every day, every morning. Like they said, this is a democracy. They continue to persuade others on what they want and they vote for that. For herself, her neighbors, and the ones that couldn’t make it that are either at work or Spanish speaking, they don’t want that. They don’t want it to be the City. They want to continue to be County. Like her father Jose Solis had said, that the registered voters, there are a lot of people out there that are just residents. They are not legally here or able to vote but they would like to stay the way they are and nothing is going to change fast enough for them whether it is curbs, lights, etc. The list can go on and on but that is what she would like to tell the Council. She thanked the Council.

Mayor Poythress asked if there is anybody else.

Ms. Alvarez replied she does not have anyone else signed up.

Bernice Jackson Hyatt, Parksdale resident in Madera, California, directed her question to the City Administrator David Tooley. She noted that he said there is a significant need in their County that the
County hasn’t addressed. She stated that if there is such a significant need in their County, why hasn’t the City gone to the County to address that to them (residents) instead of turning them over to the City because what is going to happen, if the City does take over, yes the residents are going to have to foot the bill. Right now they can say oh it is going to be a long road out but no, their taxes are going to go up. Everything is going to go up and it is going to hit a lot of people. By the City Administrator saying there is a significant need out there so he is telling her, the City is trying to clean them up out there because the City sees a significant need for their area which nobody else has. She noted that the County hasn’t addressed that with them and they are County so if the City feels there is a significant need, what is that significant need for them.

Mr. Tooley replied he would be happy to address her question if she would like to wait. Mr. Tooley asked that she please understand that he represents the City. He stated there has been an ongoing discussion about annexation between the City and County for some time. In preparation for that discussion, the City and County agreed to jointly fund an infrastructure study where they look at water, sewer, streets, street lighting; all of the kinds of things that cities or counties are normally required to provide. That joint study demonstrated that there was a very large degree of deferred maintenance so they wanted to make sure they were going in with their eyes open that if in fact annexation took place, they wanted to know what that cost was going to look like. Mr. Tooley added that the City will have to absorb that cost. The City will have to absorb the cost of maintenance. They will have to absorb the cost of repair. They will have to absorb the cost of police and fire service and that is part of that tax sharing negotiation that takes place between the City and County. He added that the tax sharing agreement is a requisite element before LAFCO considers the annexation. He advised that the City has its own problems in the City. They make do the best they can with resources they have but typically where they make some headway is that they aggressively pursue grants and other kinds of opportunities where they bring State and Federal money back into the community. Their first choice is to find solutions before they ask for tax or rate increases. In each of those cases, as a tax or ratepayer, residents have due process rights. They have the ability to say no.

Ms. Jackson Hyatt directed her comment to the residents to get out and get their neighbors because when LAFCO has their meeting, they have to vote this down if they choose not to because they are going to have to be their voice because right now, they were told if you were a property owner and not a registered voter, you have the right to vote now. By law, if you are not a registered voter but you own your property and your home, you cannot vote so she is urging all of them to make sure that their neighbors are aware of this because they don’t really know what they have to lose because there is going to be a lot to lose once the City takes over if it happens.

Jim Glynn, Parksdale resident in Madera, California, stated he noticed on one of the answers for zoning on animals, it says he can have two sheep or whatever but if for whatever reason he does not have those animals on his property for six months, the grandfathered portion will no longer apply. He can longer have animals period. He advised that a lot of people here do have animals on their property. If he so chooses to put a different type of animal on his property, he thinks it is his right. It is his property and this is just one other example that he can’t agree with this. He thanked the Council.

Mark Duvall, Parksdale resident in Madera, California, urged the Council to vote no on this. As everybody else, they love living there. They like it how it is. They want it to stay that way. He asked, if it does get prezoned, if it does end up in the City eventually, how does the City envision Parksdale in 10 or 15 years. He wondered if they can answer that for him.

Mayor Poythress stated that from a service level they would probably have a different level of services. They would probably have more law enforcement coverage. They would have, noting that he hasn’t studied it enough to know, but he knows that they would have availability of whatever water resource the City has within City limits. They have 19 wells, or something. He noted that a few may be down but they have redundancy within the City system so if there are some wells that are down, the other wells pick it up so you are not out of water unlike some places that don’t have redundancy in the County. He added that the City has Public Works. They have a system where they go around systematically and chip seal their roads so he thinks they would see more of a consistency of services being delivered. He noted that as far as
what it would look like from a structure standpoint and commercial, that all depends on the market. Just like today, if there was going to be some commercial development, retail or whatever, and if somebody saw an opportunity to invest, then they would not only have the opportunity to do that today in the County but they could do that in the City under the prezoned areas that they talked about.

Mr. Duvall asked if there is anybody interested in buying some of that property as of now.

Mayor Poythress asked in term of… you know commercial.

Mr. Duvall clarified if there is anybody, any corporation, or anybody like that that wants to buy some property in Parksdale.

Mayor Poythress stated that is a good question. If they haven’t bought it yet they are probably not interested.

Mr. Duvall stated this all has to do with the SMD Project. They are thrown in the middle of it. They just don’t like it. Why should they have to change their way of life just because somebody wants to make some money on the other side of the street.

Mayor Poythress reminded them that they will have a chance to voice their concerns with the County and also with the vote at LAFCO as Ms. Jackson Hyatt mentioned. There will be that opportunity to gather together but there will be processes before then to address these concerns with the County and perhaps they could be led to go down the road of perhaps omitting the requirement for Parksdale to be annexed. He stated that is a possibility.

Mr. Duvall referred to the letter they received with the questions answering and stated, with all due respect to the Council, it was a joke. He commented that they didn’t answer any of the questions that these people asked and if they did, it is in legal mumble jumble that they have no idea what it is. He thanked the Council.

Mayor Poythress asked if there is anybody else who would like to address the Council at this time.

Lester Moore, Parksdale resident in Madera, California, stated he had some questions that were brought. He wants to make sure he understands it right. Even though residents out there have owned their property for 20-30 years, if they’re not registered voters, they have no say in this.

Mayor Poythress replied that is the way it is worded.

Community Development Director Dave Merchen clarified that as has been provided in multiple handouts to the community, there is a two-step process so to speak, or a sort of a two tiered protest process. If it goes to a protest hearing at LAFCO, 50% of registered voters can kill the application by protesting but, 25% of the landowners containing 25% of the land can create the need for an election, or require an election, in order to determine the outcome of the annexation proposal. If the question is can a landowner just by being a landowner have an impact, yes they can file a protest as a landowner and if 25% of the landowners with 25% of the land protest, there will be an election and then the election laws would kick in registered voters would only be able to participate in that election. He restated that there is a role for landowners.

Mr. Moore stated they have a lot of landowners out there he is sure are not registered and they own the place, they need to vote so that is what he was wondering about is whether they would have a vote and they will. He thanked the Council.

Mayor Poythress asked if there is anybody else who would like to address the Council at this time.

Ed McIntyre, residing in Madera, California, stated he has a couple of comments he’d like to make. One is to just give some context to this whole proceeding. He has been doing land use consulting for 30 years. He is a real estate agent. He asked that they forgive him for addressing the residents but he thinks these are comments that he would like to direct toward them. He stated that 25 years or so ago there was an
annexation west of town. He thinks it was called the Venturi annexation and it was stalled by a group of people that lived in an unincorporated subdivision just like Parkwood called the Groves. He asked if anybody is familiar with the Groves. He noted that this was a small community that was a long way from Madera when they got settled just like Parksdale. He got to be part of the annexation in that he was hired to do outreach to the owners in that area. He talked to every one of them. He went door to door and he said, you’re property taxes won’t go up. That only way that goes up is through a reassessment generally through a change of ownership. He noted that really nothing is going to happen to their property if they don’t want it to happen. He added that if they go out to the Groves right now, they will see on the Gray property, he doesn’t know if anybody remembers the Gray’s. He thinks “Bobby” does because they played Babe Ruth with them. They had a donkey on that property for 30 some odd years after the annexation. There are goats out there right now and it hasn’t really changed that much. He added that there has been a few new houses built and the City put a new road in there which is nice. The people he talked to, he said, if you want to keep your house, your property the way you have it right now, that is how it is going to be. He noted that theoretically, if your animals leave the property for six months, you could lose the right to have them but he thinks that donkey is gone, there are goats there now; was it six months, two months, one month. He noted that the City is not going out there looking every day to see if the animals are still there. He stated, just as a practical matter, they probably can kill the annexation and the City is just going to do what they have to do to maintain their obligation to LAFCO in attempting to file an annexation for zoning but to have orderly development, they have all of the City of Madera on the other side on 28. He noted there is a great big sewer line that goes all the way up Tozer, all the way up to 145. He stated that there will be a lot of urbanization there and he doesn’t think there is anybody looking right now at the moment to build any subdivisions because still on the other side there are lots of lots in KB, all those subdivisions on the eastside if you drive through. He just drove through them last week doing an inventory. He noted there are still a lot of houses to build so he wouldn’t anticipate any subdivision maps by any big developers coming into Madera but he will say they are going to build a new elementary school just up the road there on Sunrise and Tozer and there could be even more educational facilities on that site. He added that there might even be a new high school out there on the eastside because there is a potential for a lot more people there and nobody is going to ask them to change the way they are living right now. He noted there are still lots of lots north and south of them that can be used for development and it is more economical to do that. He anticipates that happening.

Mr. McIntyre noted that his second comment is, and he is a little confused, on 14 are they prezoning all the way up to the south side of 14. What he sees in the annexation, and he has seen three or four different maps, noting that his question in the context of an orderly development, that the City would then have maybe 200 more acres to develop that is open land which has access to sewer. He pointed out to Mr. Boyle the properties he is referring to. Mr. Boyle pointed out the area.

Mr. McIntyre stated that if they are not including these parcels, he would encourage them to. He doesn’t know how far along they are in the process, but these parcels here would be much more. He pointed out some other parcels where sewer is available, the open parcels, those would be much more inclined to do urban development; not what Parksdale is right now.

Mr. Boyle stated that staff did consult with LAFCO in advance of their application for prezoning and it was LAFCO’s recommendation that the City kept their prezoning areas only to those areas that are proposed. He advised that they did actually have a dialogue about squaring off and expanding the borders. It was recommended that they did not. Mr. Boyle stated he is not sure if there is a specific rationale other than to maintain the nature of the requirement within the current requirement per the SMD application to maintain these boundaries as required per that annexation agreement.

Mr. McIntyre recommended that they look at doing that in a more holistic manner just for the purposes of more economy of orderly development as it occurs. If they are not going to be annexed now and there is an application for annexation, staff would just have to back it up and do it all over again. He would suggest that we, noting that he lives in the City, look at that whole corridor of Tozer where the sewer line already exists. He added that it is already in the sphere of urban development and have the City go in and start the process of urban development there. He thinks that would be important for the City for a number of reasons he won’t get into now.
Mr. McIntyre stated that his last comment is the Sheriff’s Department, tonight, they have one unit that is responsible for Parksdale, Firebaugh and Rolling Hills whereas the City of Madera, they are adjacent so there is much more economy and there would be a better law enforcement presence there. He thanked the Council.

Mayor Poythress asked if there is anybody else that would like to address the Council during the public hearing. No other requests were made and Mayor Poythress closed the public hearing and brought the item back to Council for any other comments or discussions.

Council Member Oliver stated as a follow up to Mr. Solis’ daughter. He believes she mentioned the opportunity to persuade others and provide input. He is curious, before this process even began, if folks of Parksdale, noting that he doesn’t know who this question should go to whether it is with staff or a representative of LAFCO but before it began, were folks ever given the opportunity to weigh in before they were applied as a condition of approval on this application.

Community Development Director David Merchen replied that the short answer is no; not that they are aware of.

Council Member Oliver stated that is unfortunate as they should have.

Council Member Holley stated the City is just doing what LAFCO required the City to do. He advised that they have the right out there to make the final decision. As the Council sits here and makes decisions because development is going that way whether it is tomorrow or next year or years down the road. They can prolong it as long as they (residents) want to but it is up to them to prolong it. The City is only doing what is required for us as a City to go that way. He added that when the college was built, a lot of folks didn’t realize that there is a sphere of influence that was done out there. He noted that the City did not have any thoughts about going that way during that time but that was in that zone so as they were talking over the years, noting that he was a Planning Commissioner for the City then he became a Planning Commissioner for the County, and those steps kept coming up. He noted that this has not just happened yesterday. This has been going on for several years, probably 9 to 10 years. As they continue to go forward it is starting to bring some people out of the woodwork but these meetings have been happening for quite a while. He stated that it is up to them as landowners or registered voters, if they are not registered get registered. He added that this is an election year and their vote counts. He advised that they tell their constituents out there to start doing what they need to do to stop things like this if they don’t want to see it happen.

Mayor Poythress asked if there are any other comments from members of the Council.

Council Member Rigby stated he empathizes with the Parksdale community. He grew up on Cronin Street. His grandparents lived there for years; 50 years if not more. His grandfather was an illegal alien until he realized his voice counted, he became a legal citizen and registered voter. He feels responsible to be prepared as a City in case annexation does get passed, that they need to be ready to move forward with a rezoning plan. He has complete confidence in the Parksdale community that they will come together and make the decision that they feel is best for them be it through LAFCO. He cannot echo his colleagues’ comments enough; if you are not registered to vote, now is the time. If you are a landowner, then there is a process that you can go through to push the vote. He advised that growth is inevitable. Madera is growing on all sides north, south, east and west and he looks forward to the opportunity to grow Madera collectively and to make it a great City, not neglecting anybody but giving everyone the opportunity to live life the way that they so choose but if they can help make it better, he thinks that is what he would like to do.

Mayor Poythress stated if there are no other comments…

A gentleman from the audience stated he has a question.
Mayor Poythress stated that we are done with public comment but so they can move forward, asked if there is anybody else who wants to do comment. Mayor Poythress advised this is the last comment. He told the gentleman to go ahead and come up to the microphone.

Julian Martinez, Parksdale resident in Madera, California, asked where do they go to vote. He has asked this question before and it wasn’t answered. He asked who do they contact to vote this out. A lot of them don’t want that. He asked who do they need to contact to make a petition or where do they go to vote this out.

Mayor Poythress replied that they will contacted just like they were contacted about this meeting through the processes. They will be contacted in regards to whatever meetings are going to occur with the County as well as LAFCO.

Someone else wanted to speak and Mayor Poythress advised that they were done with public comment. They had the public comment period. It was a public hearing and they’ve got to move on. He advised that they will be contacted. It is not going to be a secret vote; no secret ballot. Mayor Poythress stated they would love to have them keep Parksdale anyway they want it. They’ve got that right to do it and they will be contacted.

Mayor Poythress called for title.

Council Member Medellin apologized for the interruption but they have a representative from LAFCO here, their Executive Director Dave Braun who might be able to help out with a lot of their questions.

Dave Braun with Madera LAFCO stated he just wanted to mention that there has been some sort of confusion about the process and who gets to vote. He advised that in the process they will have two meetings. They will have one meeting to discuss the annexation; to discuss the merits of it and then there will be a second meeting which is what they call the protest hearing. At that hearing, all registered voters will have the opportunity to protest and all landowners will have the opportunity to protest and as Mr. Merchen mentioned, there are two different thresholds of 50% or more of registered voters are opposed to it, it kills it; and 25% or more of the landowners protesting will require that it be put on for an election. He noted that is the process. The other thing he would like to mention is there was talk about the fact that Parksdale is being required to be annexed because of this other project by SMD and State law requires as it was mentioned by City staff that any, what is determined to be a disadvantaged community that is adjacent to an annexation, that property has to be considered for annexation but it doesn’t say that the property has to be approved, that it has to be annexed. They just have to consider it for annexation and whether it is annexed or not, once it is considered then the SMD annexation can proceed. He just wanted to make that clear.

Mayor Poythress asked if it is ok to move on with title.

The introduction of an ordinance was read by title by the City Clerk.

ON MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER MEDELLIN, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLIVER, FURTHER READING WAS WAIVED AND THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0.

INTRO. ORD. INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA AMENDING THE OFFICIAL CITY OF MADERA ZONING MAP PREZONING THE SPECIFIC PARCELS IDENTIFIED WITHIN EXHIBIT “A”

Mayor Poythress moved on to the resolution and announced that he would accept a motion for action.

ON MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIGBY, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLEY, RES. NO. 16-19 WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0.
RES. NO. 16-19  RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA
APPROVING AN AMENDMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN CHANGING THE
LAND USE DESIGNATION OF APPROXIMATELY 86 ACRES OF LAND
LOCATED WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY OF PARKSDALE

Mayor Poythress called on the City Clerk for a late distribution announcement.

City Clerk Sonia Alvarez announced that pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, members of the public are advised that documents related to the following agenda item were distributed to the Council less than 72 hours before this meeting. Under Section D, Written Communications, item D-1, subject matter written request from the Madera County Economic Development Commission for funding toward the High Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility location, the report was distributed to the Council this evening. Ms. Alvarez advised that extra copies are available at the podium for members of the public wishing a copy.

C-2 Public Hearing and Consideration of Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Section 1310 of Chapter 3 of Title X of the Madera Municipal Code Pertaining to Action of Appeals of Planning Commission Denials

Planning Manager Chris Boyle stated that their second item is an application for an ordinance amendment to Section 1310 of Chapter 3 of Title X of the Madera Municipal Code as it relates to actions of appeals of Planning Commission actions. He advised that it really is in response to their current ordinance which comes out of their 1961 ordinance which called out that four-fifths vote would be required to overturn an action of the Planning Commission. He noted that in 2012 they moved to a seven member Council and this requested ordinance would better reflect the current composition of the Council as a seven member body. He advised that staff looked at whether a five-sevenths or six-sevenths vote would be applicable noting that 80% was required in the past; a five-sevenths vote would be a 71% whereas a six-seventh vote would be 86%. In light of that, staff recommends that a five-sevenths vote be selected by the Council in that it is less egregious than the 80% currently required. He commented that in sum, the five-seventh vote of the whole of the Council would then be more reflective of the seven member body that the Council has been since 2012. Mr. Boyle advised that the Planning Commission and staff recommend that the Council, after considering public testimony, introduce the ordinance amending Section 1310 of Chapter 3 of Title X of the Madera Municipal Code. Mr. Boyle offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Poythress asked if there are any questions of Mr. Boyle before they open up the public hearing. No questions were asked.

Mayor Poythress opened the public hearing and asked if there are any members of the public who would like to discuss this particular item.

Ed McIntyre, residing in Madera, California, asked if they are in the process of amending this ordinance, why wouldn’t they just allow as a matter of course an appeal from an applicant who was denied an application at the Planning Commission to come before the Council. He asked why would it require noting that many municipalities do this. He is wondering why they would require their body to vote on whether or not to hear the appeal.

City Attorney Brent Richardson replied that is not what it is. It is the threshold to overturn a decision of the Planning Commission. He explained that it is not actually whether to let the person appeal. Anybody can appeal; it is just where the threshold lies to overturn a decision of the Planning Commission. That is what they are changing.

Mr. McIntyre thanked the City Attorney.

Mayor Poythress asked if any other members of the public wish to comment on this item. No one else came forward and Mayor Poythress brought the item back to Council.

Mayor Poythress stated if there is no other discussion then title.
The introduction of an ordinance was read by title by the City Clerk.

**ON MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM RIGBY, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON,**

**FURTHER READING WAS WAIVED AND THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0.**

**INTRO. ORD.**  
INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 1310 OF CHAPTER 3 OF TITLE X OF THE MADERA MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO ACTION ON APPEAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION DECISIONS

**C-3**  
Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption of an Ordinance Rezoning Property Located at 1006 and 1010 West Yosemite Avenue from the R1 (Low Density Residential) Zone District to the WY (West Yosemite Professional Office) Zone District

Planning Manager Chris Boyle stated that the Planning Commission and staff continue to recommend approval of the ordinance rezoning subject properties to the West Yosemite Professional Office Zone District. Mr. Boyle offered to answer any questions.

The ordinance was read by title by the City Clerk.

On motion by Council Member Oliver, and seconded by Council Member Holley, further reading was waived and Ord. No. 929 C.S. was adopted unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

**ORD. NO. 929 C.S.**  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA AMENDING THE OFFICIAL CITY OF MADERA ZONING MAP TO REZONE APPROXIMATELY 12,500 SQUARE FEET OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1006 AND 1010 WEST YOSEMITE AVENUE IN PROXIMITY TO THE INTERSECTION OF WEST YOSEMITE AVENUE AND O STREET FROM THE R1 (LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) ZONE DISTRICT TO THE WY (WEST YOSEMITE PROFESSIONAL OFFICE) ZONE DISTRICT.

**D. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

**D-1**  
Written Request from the Madera County Economic Development Commission for Funding of a Media Outreach and Education Campaign Targeting Madera County as the Site for the High Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility

Bobby Kahn with the Madera County Economic Development Commission stated that as the Council is aware, both the County Board of Supervisors, the City Council along with agencies such as his own and the Madera County Transportation Commission have adopted similar resolutions supporting the heavy maintenance facility site in Madera County. Mr. Kahn advised that since that time, there has been a formation of a coalition between the cities and the County to put on an aggressive marketing plan to promote a Madera County site to the High Speed Rail Authority. He noted that they are leaving it as a generic site at this time but a site in Madera County. He added that with this, they have discussed a strategy of what they would do and how this program will take place. He advised that with that, it is going to require a certain level of funds of which the Economic Development Commission (EDC) obviously does not have. He explained that they are before the Council tonight because the EDC has been asked to be the lead agency that moves this marketing program forward.

Mr. Kahn stated that there are several other items of interest that they could also include with this as far as headquarters, command centers, light maintenance facilities and so forth but their main focus at this time will be on the heavy maintenance facility. Mr. Kahn offered to answer any questions.
Mayor Pro Tem Rigby asked what the media outreach plan is and what type of media does he foresee. He wondered what kinds of things Mr. Kahn sees the EDC doing with the allotted money.

Mr. Kahn replied that the Economic Development Commission is going to be the lead agency but there is going to be a coalition of leaders so there is not mistake between the County and the cities. Mr. Kahn advised that the EDC will be taking direction basically from those folks. It won’t be the EDC dictating to the Council. What they have discussed is the formation of webpage, social media outreach, a media blitz as far as working with the press, working with local and regional press, and a multitude of other things such as flyers, campaigns that have been put together. He added that at this time, the strategy has been discussed not in perfect detail and that is why he was a little hesitant. He explained that it was not hesitant about what they are doing but because he does not like to come before the Council without an exact plan laid out because he knows that those are the kinds of questions he is going to get. Mr. Kahn stated that the money that would be put forward would be expended and they can work out an approval process. If they can hold the money separately. He advised that they have a 501(c)(3) account that they hold monies for different agencies so they can have a separate accounting. He noted that is kind of the extent of what they are looking for. He is sorry they do not have the exact plan but through discussions, it was easily determined that there is going to be a need for funding beyond what the EDC would have in its budget. He advised that the EDC’s budget is very tight and basically all of their marketing dollars are 100% expended every year so to place a $10,000 or $20,000 program on them is something that they can’t absorb.

Mayor Pro Tem Rigby stated he understands and thanked Mr. Kahn.

Council Member Medellin stated he thinks this is a golden opportunity. They have been in discussion with the High Speed Rail for a number of years and just so they are clear, this is not necessarily a pro or anti-high speed rail move but a 1,500 job in Madera County move. He stated that this is something they cannot pass up. They are competing, if you will, with Merced County, Fresno County, and even further south for the heavy maintenance facility. He thinks they as a Council, and he knows that the Board of Supervisors are also considering this money as well as the City of Chowchilla, to band together and put this media blitz to put Madera on the map and show Sacramento and the High Speed Rail Authority why that maintenance facility should be here in Madera County. He added that they have the most miles of track than anybody else and they will be impacted more than anybody else and asked why wouldn’t they receive the heavy maintenance facility and employ Madera County residents. He reminded them that that number is 1,500. He added that Supervisor Rodriguez is here and he has been talking about 1,500 for a long time now. If they can sit at the table and map out this media blitz whether it is print, ad, social media, whatever they can do to bring awareness to Madera County, he thinks this is a small price to pay to put them ahead of everybody else.

Council Member Oliver agreed with Council Member Medellin and added that he would also like to acknowledge Mr. McIntyre in the audience. He noted that Mr. McIntyre has been a loud proponent for locating the maintenance facility in Madera County as well. He asked Mr. Kahn to confirm that this would not be for site specific rather for Madera County in general.

Mr. Kahn agreed and explained that this would be for sites that have been submitted. He added that there has also been discussion, noting that it is not for sure, that the High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) may consider alternative sites. At the time that the Authority asked for the sites to be submitted in 2009, there were a lot of alternatives still on the map so there is that opportunity. He emphasized that it is a marketing campaign for Madera County. They are not marketing any specific site.

Council Member Oliver commented that time is of the essence. He knows that yesterday at the High Speed Rail Board meeting, Kern County put on quite a presentation. He noted that Kern County is certainly a little late to the game.

Council Member Oliver agreed that they should certainly move forward with this. He added that this is a unified effort and whether folks like it or not, they are the back bone of this project and they do bear some of the most land acquisitions of any other community and he thinks it would make an indelible economic impact on their City and County. He would certainly support this and he might even make the
recommendation to look at, in the event that they have a match or a commitment, to increase that amount of funding to $15,000 and insure that it doesn’t exceed that amount, so long as they have a matching commitment whether it be from the County or from a partner like Chowchilla.

Council Member Robinson commented that you can’t get in the game unless you buy a ticket and the $10,000 or more would be beneficial to their City and County.

Mr. Kahn advised that he has one last comment. He referred to Council Member Medellin’s comment that this also means 1,500 jobs and added that if they have the heavy maintenance facility located in their County, they are also going to have other businesses that are going to locate close by that are going to be supporting that. They can leverage those jobs into even more. He added that the surrounding manufacturers might even be more of a plum than even the maintenance facilities themselves.

Mayor Poythress asked if there are any other comments. No other comments were made and Mayor Poythress announced that he would accept a motion for action.

Council Member Holley made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Council Member Robinson. [A vote was not taken on this motion. After further clarification, a new motion was presented by Council Member Oliver. See below.]

Mr. Tooley asked for clarity before they vote on what they are approving. He knows there is an interest in engaging in this activity. He needs some clarity on whether it is $10,000 or $15,000 because next meeting he will be bringing back a mid-year budget adjustment.

Council Member Oliver stated he would like to make a motion to fund the EDC’s media outreach and education campaign not to exceed $15,000. The motion was seconded by Council Member Robinson and the motion was passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Kahn thanked the Council and added he is sure they will be back with more information as this develops.

D-2 Presentation by the Madera County Behavioral Health Services on Mental Health Services Act Community Planning Process

David Weikel, Behavioral Health Program Supervisor, stated he is going to give a very brief presentation of part of their services. He explained that every year they have a planning process and anybody and everybody from any part of the community is able to come to it. He is really glad that Council Member Holley invited him to come to this. He advised that they have five big meetings coming up and the presentations there will be much longer.

Mr. Weikel advised that he works in the managed care area. He has also worked as a therapist and as a case worker. He has worked in public policy. He has done a lot of outreach so he has really covered a lot of ground and he can answer and field most questions. If he doesn’t feel comfortable fielding the questions, he is just going to say he will get back to them when he can give them some solid answers.

Mr. Weikel stated they do both mental health as well as substance abuse. On the mental health side they serve around 2,000 per year. On the substance abuse side they serve about 500 and that is of course far fewer than are out there that could benefit from their services but being an optional benefit, they are funded as a federal option. He added that although their caseloads are three to four times the recommended they are still getting good outcomes and those are some of the things he wants to show the Council today; some of the good outcomes they are getting. He offered to answer any questions before he starts. No questions were asked.

Mr. Weikel stated this part will only be about the Mental Health Services Act portion of their services. He referred to the PowerPoint presentation and stated that what they see is the types of people that they serve by race and ethnicity. One of the things that they will notice is that the Hispanic and Non-White Other category will be just about the same. He noted that anybody who has worked for the Federal government
will let them know that people have to choose race first which is a separate category from ethnicity and that is why the Hispanic and Non-White Other is almost exactly the same because the people that are Hispanic have to pick Non-White Other so they can pick Hispanic. Mr. Weikel advised that their requirement is the requirement of the Federal government so they have to report this out and make their form thusly.

Mr. Weikel commented that they also have a lot of new prevention services which allows them to really go out to the community to provide education, to provide information about one of the number one things that community members have a question on is, what can I do as a citizen, not wanting to be a therapist or a doctor or anything like that, what can I do to help people dealing with this to do well. They have lots of training and education opportunities for them and because they go out into the community, they see a lot more people from the Hispanic community because often they do not want to come in for their services for various reasons; part of which is also stigma. They can see that they serve quite a few people and the numbers he gave the Council is on the treatment side; not on the prevention side. He advised that on the prevention side they serve a lot more people but, the depth of the intervention is a little bit less.

Mr. Weikel referred to their general values. They like to communicate with their partner agencies both City, County, any of the non-profits, any other agency to really provide services and help people to live well in the community. They try to provide services that are culturally appropriate. They like the community and the people that attend their services to help them, to advise them about how they can improve them. They try to help people to the best of their ability to overcome the disability from mental illness so that they can get back to work, back to school and such.

Mr. Weikel stated that some of the big things that they have continuously been wanting to reduce for the past 20-30 years is the reduction in these seven core outcomes if people don’t get the right services. They include suicide, incarcerations, school failure/dropout, unemployment, basic prolonged suffering, homelessness and removal of children from their homes. He noted that those aren’t necessarily a given; those are usually things when people don’t get the appropriate services, some of those things may happen. He restated that it is not like a given if these things automatically happen if you have a mental illness because it is not.

Mr. Weikel referred to the display and advised that when they see the green part of the pie or the yellow part of the pie, that is about how large the Mental Health Services Act funding is in their budget. Why that is important is not because it grew so much, it is because they lost a lot in the downturn so it became a bigger part. They lost a lot of the funding streams.

Mr. Weikel advised that FSP stands for Full Service Partnership. He explained that those are intensive outpatient services that are usually two to three years to people who have serious persistent monthly illnesses that really cause them a lot of trouble and they want to provide intensive services. The other one is called Expansion and it is regular outpatient services funded by the Mental Health Services Act. That is another reason why it is so important because it is a big part of their budget.

Mr. Weikel stated that the referrals that they get are primarily internally when somebody comes to them and they see that they need intensive services. He noted that this is for children and because they are smaller, they had to combine the number of people across age groups. He advised that this age group is technically zero to 25 and depending how old you are in the room, 25 is still probably not fully adult yet. He stated that most referrals come from internally, then Social Services, and then family members.

Mr. Weikel displayed the race/ethnicity breakdown. He noted that it is the same as he just mentioned. He referred to the right hand side and that is the ethnic breakdown which is primarily Hispanic, quite a bit of Caucasian, then African American and then a few of the Others.

Mr. Weikel moved to the next slide. He advised that he is showing this because somebody asked him last year in a stakeholder process on what it looks like over several years. He noted this is over three fiscal years’ worth of information on five different things. What it shows is the reduction in crisis events which is going to the ER (emergency room), reduction in psychiatric hospitalization, reduction in arrests, and reduction in incarceration. He added that once people stay and stick in the full service partnership, noting
that sometimes it takes a few times for them to stick and to actually stay in treatment but once they do, they will see a lot of these negative experiences be reduced.

Mr. Weikel stated that one of the things that is really important to educators is what does that do for grades. He explained that for grades not only does school attendance improve but good grades also improve because they are helping the children to really perform better in school and really get the resources and support that they need to do well.

Mr. Weikel referred to the Adult/Older Adult Full Service Partnership and advised that the age there is from basically age 26 and on. He advised that most referrals come from internally but they do have some from Social Services. He noted that they will see other counties there because sometimes they get people that are placed here that are from other counties that they still have to serve because they are placed in a juvenile home here.

Mr. Weikel explained that the next slide shows a breakdown of race/ethnicity. He noted it is similar except they get more White and Caucasian than Hispanic. What they see on the adult side is when somebody stays in a Full Service Partnership for three years, the amount of these negative outcomes, negative behaviors drop dramatically because they are able to go out there and see them two/three times or more. They are really able to get out there and teach and help them to overcome the disability that causes them to find themselves in these negative behaviors and situations.

Mr. Weikel moved to the next slide which shows that their revenues are increasing. He noted he would skip this one because it is mostly for community members.

Mr. Weikel explained that the next slide shows what they really started to do. They got money to do prevention and outreach services but they didn’t know how to count them to look at; what are we doing, why are we doing it, what is the purpose of it. He referred to the six items and explained that the general strategies that they have in prevention and outreach are getting as much information that they can out to the community in a community friendly way so that they know, if they see somebody with a mental illness, how can they support them. Also, if they need services, how do they refer into their services.

Mr. Weikel explained that the second one is primarily groups. They can be community groups. They can be formal trainings. They have done some training for law enforcement and other folks. The other one is when they see somebody out in the community that has not come in to them, they refer them in to them. They make sure that they get there. He stated they have two wellness centers noting that this is a really important thing. They have one place called Hope House and one called Mountain Wellness Center because sometimes when you find someone in the community and you say why don't you go to Behavioral Health, they are like that is the last place I want to go, I'm not crazy, I don't want to go there. What this provides is an opportunity for them to go there and do things like get a meal, get a shower if they are homeless, do their laundry. Doing those kinds of things gives them an opportunity to engage them, to be around other people that have the same issues and say it is really ok to go over there. He noted that it really provides an opportunity that they don't have if you just send them to them because 9 times out of 10 when somebody refers somebody to them, they don't make it. Mr. Weikel advised this is an option. If you know somebody you can say well how about if you go check out this community center, they can give you a meal, if you need to wash your clothes because you are homeless, and that is another way to engage them.

Mr. Weikel referred to the other two things. The environmental is policy changes which they are not there yet for that and the community based process is basically talking about doing the best they can to work with their partner agencies to serve the community. For example, their outreach workers are now going out with Public Health, community nurses and it allows them a way to get in to talk to people that wouldn't otherwise come to their doors. They can provide them with services and other information.

Mr. Weikel stated that their first fiscal year 13/14 was a partial year so they didn’t really jump up quite that much but they did increase a little bit. What they were trying to do during that year was to really perfect how they are going to count things so they are not just endlessly serving a lot of people. They really have
a purpose behind that. They can see that they served thousands and thousands of people but it is not therapy, it is education, it is giving people information. He noted that it is outreach that is needed so that when people find other people that maybe have a mental health issue, they know what to do to refer in to them and to support them while they are still in the community.

Mr. Weikel advised that shown are the general age groups that have been served in the prevention outreach. The numbers there are the numbers of groups not numbers of individuals.

Mr. Weikel explained that the slide shows the long list of the different types of services they provide in prevention. He will not go over all of them because this is a 10 minute presentation. He noted that basic needs is one of them, groups, 1 to 1, a lot of outreach, and everything from MHFA Adult to Promotores de Salud. He advised that these are all research practices that when you implement them you get the results that you want because they have been proven to be effective.

Mr. Weikel stated that they have one project that they are currently doing now. He advised that the focus of the project is to learn how to better collaborate with their partner agencies. The service that they are providing involving the agencies in this is an outreach and education program for mothers that experience what is called perinatal mood and anxiety disorder. He explained that it is a mental health condition that is specific to pregnancy. He added that not every woman gets it but it is a short term thing. It is probably about three to six months. Once a mother has given birth, her body readjusts and the condition goes away. He stated that it is a really important thing to understand if somebody is experiencing that they are not necessarily going to be coming in to their services forever; it is just short term.

Mr. Weikel commented on two other things they are trying to do. He explained that they get several people going to the locked institutions and when they come back they don’t always follow up with them (Behavioral Health) so one of the ideas is to connect with them via video-conferencing while they are in the institution, develop the relationship and when they come back there is somebody there to help them get to the resources they need.

Mr. Weikel stated that they could be serving a lot more of the Hispanic/Latino population. He noted this addresses cultural appropriateness. They know that many Latinos will not just come to their services, not because of the stigma but because they don’t know what it is, they don’t know who you are and if they don’t know who you are and you’re not recommended by somebody they know, they are not going to come. One of the ways to get around that is to do what Migrant Health has been doing for 30 years is going out and doing educational groups. That is what that project would do is to go out into the community, provide educational groups as a means of facilitating access to their services; another way of getting people into their services.

Mr. Weikel stated that they have three housing projects. He is not sure if they all new that. He stated that these are all specifically for people that have serious mental illness but have gotten to the point where they are stable and they’re first step is to get stable housing so they can move into employment and whatnot. They have a four bedroom house here in Madera, a four-plex in Chowchilla and they just opened a seven bedroom apartment project with a contract through Turning Point of California in the Oakhurst area.

Mr. Weikel stated one of the things they have been trying to do over the past four years is try to increase the number of Hispanic and Spanish speaking staff. He noted that these numbers are basically telling them that they have done that. They have increased the number of Hispanic clinicians which are the professional staff, 50% of Hispanic general staff, increased the peer support staff. He explained that peer support are people that have gone through services and come out the other side and they are doing well so they try to be peers to others to help them overcome their disability. Overall Hispanic employees increased 9% and an increase in overall Spanish speaking employees. They have managed to do that over the past three years despite the economic downturn. They have really made a concerted effort to include those folks in their staffing pattern.

Mr. Weikel stated that is the shortest presentation he can give, about 10 minutes. He advised that if they come to one of these presentations he will give them a lot more about other parts of their outpatient services.
They will have a lot more opportunities to ask questions. He noted that whatever the questions are he can answer most people’s questions. Also, they can learn a lot more about their substance abuse. One of the things he is trying to do this year, and the last couple of years, is that they actually have outcomes as they have seen that show that their services work like they have reduced incarceration, things like that. They also have that on the substance abuse side. When people come to their substance abuse services and they stay and they stick, they get better. Rather than just reporting how many people did we serve and how much did it cost, they are actually trying to get out the actual behavioral differences that people want to see that are stakeholders and people want to experience that come to their services. Mr. Weikel offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Poythress asked if there are any questions.

Council Member Holley thanked Mr. Weikel for bringing that presentation to them. He sat on this board with him and a lot of things were going through his mind on how they can get this out to the public. Knowing this is a County thing but it sits right in their City limits so he thinks they needed to be more supportive of trying to get folks to help them to make this happen. He knows they work with a lot of the City’s agencies here. He thanked Mr. Weikel for this presentation and is glad he had the opportunity to come out and share this with them.

Council Member Medellin stated he noticed that the contractor used the Housing Authority. He asked Mr. Weikel if Madera County owns the property.

Mr. Weikel replied that the one in Oakhurst is contracted to Turning Point of California but they also have worked for the Housing Authority.

Council Member Medellin referred to the ones in Madera and Chowchilla and asked if they use them for background checks or services, things like that.

Mr. Weikel replied that they do background checks. They try to work with people. When you develop a mental illness sometimes it sets you sideways for about 20 years. It is hard to get back in the employment arena when you come back and say, you know I’ve been off the grid for 20 years, can you give me a job. So they really try and work with them. When they refer people to employment they really try to make sure that they are actually ready for that. One of the ways they do that is providing them with volunteer opportunities first, see how they do with that, partially paid positions they do that. He noted that one of the most important things about those things is sometimes that’s better than therapy because you can see what their challenges are like trying to do what they are doing because it is a real job rather than having to sit across the room from you as a therapist trying to guess what their experiences are on the outside.

Council Member Robinson asked if they work with a lot of veterans.

Mr. Weikel replied that they actually do work with veterans. They sort of have to jockey between the actual VA (Veteran’s Administration) because they actually cover the County but they do serve veterans.

Council Member Robinson referred to some of the problems that people have such as mental problems like bipolar and schizophrenic and asked if they just recommend that they go to a doctor or clinic or pills.

Mr. Weikel stated he would give a two part response. He added that believe it or not, there are people out there with serious bipolar and schizophrenia and some of the other things, that have learned to adapt to their illness and they have great jobs and they are like CEO’s and things like that. He advised that doesn’t happen frequently but it does happen because they have learned how to manage their illnesses. What they are talking about is people qualify for their services have those. Their income has to be under 200% of Federal poverty line. That is a really important one because they get people who have jobs, like you don’t qualify for Medi-Cal so yes they do that and they provide services. When they get people who have productive jobs they have to basically serve them with their prevention and outreach education just because they don’t qualify for the funding streams.
Mayor Poythress thanked Mr. Weikel and stated his appreciation.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

There are no items for this section.

F. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Robinson reported that on January 22, 2016 he attended the Administrative Services Policy Committee meeting. He wanted to highlight the League’s 2016 Three Strategic Goals which prioritize: number one, improving funding for transportation infrastructure; securing additional affordable housing resources; and developing policies on local revenue modernization. He advised that the Governor’s proposed 2016/17 budget contained good fiscal news for cities overall. He added that the proposed budget of $170.7 billion stresses fiscal prudence with a focus on planning for a future recession.

Council Member Robinson reported that at the last general meeting in Visalia held on February 11, 2016, the Executive Director Randall Winston gave a speech on how to capture cap and trade funding to use for affordable housing in disadvantaged areas.

Council Member Holley reported that he attended his first prison meeting. He was sitting there with all the folks from the CCWF (Central California Women’s Facility) at the prison. He advised that it was very productive. He thinks Council Member Robinson is really going to enjoy sitting up there across from those guys noting that they aren’t all women. He thinks their partnership will really play an important part in working with them.

Council Member Medellin reported that he took the opportunity to take advantage of the invitation from Council Member Oliver to tour downtown Fresno, their Fulton Mall area, and some of the immediate changes that they have. He stated that it was very fascinating. He will let Council Member Oliver speak a little bit more about that. He added that the growth they had there was kind of an eye opener. He thinks it gave them some real good ideas. They had about a dozen of them from the Downtown Association.

Council Member Medellin reported that he is sure they will get a couple of calls tomorrow because there are a couple of downed trees on Westberry just north of Sunset if they haven’t gotten calls already.

City Administrator David Tooley reported that City crews are already on that.

Council Member Holley commented that he has one in his yard and wondered if they are over there too.

Council Member Oliver added to Council Member Medellin’s comments. They organized a group of folks from business owners to MDA (Madera Downtown Association) members and other community leaders to tour downtown Fresno. He has worked there for 10 years and he would say over the last three years there truly has been evidence of revitalization both generated from the private side as well as the public sector. They toured some new mixed use developments as well as examples in areas where private industry was blending the arts into their businesses and into their lobby ways, and also how Housing Authority, for example, was incorporating the city’s vision for downtown revitalization into some of their new units as well. He thinks the goal out of that wasn’t necessarily to pick one or two or three ideas that they can run with but really is to kind of plant the seed and change the mentality. He kind of saw two comparisons with Fulton Mall. One, for many years, folks pegged that as a reason for lack of true revitalization and investment in the area. He thinks that they can, in some way shape or form, make a similar comparison to Yosemite Avenue but with a change in mentality, with being creative, with getting new folks to the table, he thinks they have seen a lot of progress there in Fresno and it was just very eye opening to bring some folks from our town.

Council Member Oliver reported that he attended a neighborhood watch meeting for the Sonora team. He advised that this is actually their fifth gathering in the past year. They had their first neighborhood watch almost a year ago to the day. They had over 40 people in attendance, a lot of new attendees, a lot of
children. He added that there were a lot of concerns with regard to vehicle theft that has obviously been on a lot of folk’s minds in recent days but it was a really great discussion. He stated that it was good to see leaders like Leticia Vargas step up and take on additional roles and responsibilities in the neighborhood. He added that it has been a productive week.

Mayor Poythress reported that he attended a neighborhood watch meeting on "L" Street at the Fourth Street Church of God. He stated that it was a really good turnout as usual and a lot of neighbors brought a lot of concerns. They took the information and they were able to answer some of the questions. He noted that it sounds very similar to all the other neighborhood watch meetings and moving along really well.

G. CLOSED SESSION

G-1 Closed Session Announcement – City Attorney

City Attorney Brent Richardson announced that the Council will adjourn to closed session in two matters, pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2) to discuss anticipated litigation as described under item G-2; and pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1) to discuss pending litigation as described under item G-3.

The Council adjourned to closed session at 7:41 p.m.

G-2 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2): 3 case

G-3 Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1):

1 case: Jeremy Harlow WCAB No. ADJ 8687619

G-4 Closed Session Report – City Attorney

The Council returned from closed session at 7:54 p.m. with all members present.

City Attorney Brent Richardson announced that the Council met in closed session in two matters: pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2) to discuss anticipated litigation as described under item G-2 and reported that no reportable action was taken; and

Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1) to discuss pending litigation as described under item G-3, Mr. Richardson noted that Council Member Rigby recused himself due to a social relationship with the claimant, and reported that no reportable action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Poythress at 7:55 p.m.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE VISION MADERA 2025 PLAN

Approval of the minutes is not addressed in the vision or action plans; the requested action is also not in conflict with any of the actions or goals contained in that plan.

SONIA ALVAREZ, City Clerk

ANDREW J. MEDELLIN, Mayor