MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MADERA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA

July 20, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting for 07/20/16 was called to order by Mayor Poythress at 6:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Mayor Poythress announced that the public address system is down and has been down for a little bit. Mayor Poythress stated that even though the recordings are still taking place, they will intentionally be a little bit more vociferous so people can hear and if there was any public comment at any time, they are free to not be quiet when they are at the microphone. Mayor Poythress stated this is their one opportunity to really blast out and it would be a good thing.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Robert L. Poythress
Council Member Andrew J. Medellin
Council Member Donald E. Holley
Council Member Derek O. Robinson Sr.
Council Member William Oliver
Council Member Cece Foley Gallegos

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Charles F. Rigby

Others present were City Administrator David Tooley, City Attorney Brent Richardson, City Clerk Sonia Alvarez, City Engineer Keith Helmuth, Director of Human Resources Wendy Silva, Planning Manager Chris Boyle, Director of Financial Services Tim Przybyla, Battalion Chief Jim Forga, Chief of Police Steve Frazier, Parks & Community Services Department Business Manager Mark Etheridge, Public Works Operations Director David Randall, Community Development Director David Merchen, Grants Administrator Ivette Iraheta, Chief Building Official Steve Woodworth, Information Services Manager Ted Uyesaka, Grants Department Program Manager Jorge Rojas and Police Commander Dino Lawson.

INVOCATION: Pastor Steve Estrada, New Harvest 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.

Mayor Poythress asked if there were any members of the public who wished to address the Council. No comments were offered.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation Recognizing U.S. Coast Guard Retiree Kenneth D. Miller

Mayor Poythress stated that for the first item, the Council would like to recognize somebody who is retiring but that in this particular case, the individual didn’t look like he was of an age to retire. Mayor Poythress stated that from what he sees, the person looks like a very young individual, although in that profession, they can retire a little bit early and then go on to another career. Mayor Poythress asked Kenneth Miller to join him.

Mayor Poythress stated that Mr. Miller is a native Maderan and has had a great 20 year career in the U.S. Coast Guard. Mayor Poythress asked Mr. Miller to tell them a little bit about his time in Madera, his experience in the Coast Guard and to introduce his family.

Kenneth Miller thanked everybody and stated it was a privilege to be there. Mr. Miller introduced his wife and fellow Maderan, Roni Arellano Miller, his daughters Peyton [inaudible] and Aubrey. Mr. Miller also introduced his parents Gene and Sydnee Miller, his father-in-law and mother-in-law John and Yvonne Arellano. Mr. Miller thanked them all for being present.

Council Member Holley stated that Mr. Miller shouldn’t forget his extended family.

Mr. Miller stated that Donald Holley worked with his mom and dad for many years.

Mr. Miller stated he was born and raised in Madera and as soon as he graduated from high school, he took the summer off and then he joined the service on September 16, 1996; 20 years. Mr. Miller stated that it’s been quite an experience; he’s traveled the world quite a bit and the first 12½ years were on ships. He saw quite a bit of the world. He’s been stationed in Astoria, Oregon and was in Hawaii for 3½ years on ships. Mr. Miller stated that pretty much in 2001, he was stationed in San Diego and then up to the Bay Area. So, from 2001 until now he has just been going back and forth to the Bay Area and San Diego. Mr. Miller stated that he can’t really complain on the news stations so he’s very happy about that.

Mayor Poythress asked Mr. Miller what he was thinking of doing at this time in his career and was he looking to spend some time with family, kind of reassessing and things like that.

Mr. Miller stated that his wife is actually a softball coach at York College in York, Nebraska. It’s going on her third year there so they bought their house out there and they are getting settled in. Peyton is already going in the second grade and Aubrey will be going into Pre-K so they are settling in. Mr. Miller stated he will take the first year off and be a stay at home dad and then after that they will reevaluate. Mr. Miller stated he will be on the coaching staff as an assistant coach also so he’s easing back into it.

Mayor Poythress stated that was great and that it was a great honor of their City to recognize Mr. Miller for his time in the service and his service to their country in the Coast Guard and it’s certainly with a 20 year career not something that everybody does.

Mayor Poythress stated it was great having Mr. Miller there and representing our City. Mayor Poythress stated he knows that even when Mr. Miller is out there people might ask where he is from and so forth and hopefully Mr. Miller will say it’s near Fresno. Mayor Poythress stated a lot of people ask where Madera is. Mayor Poythress stated he knows that Mr. Miller represented them well.
Mayor Poythress stated that the Office of the Mayor is providing a proclamation recognizing Mr. Miller’s service and it mentions that Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth D. Miller of the rank of CWO3 (Chief Warrant Officer) with the United States Coast Guard as Maritime Security under the efforts of Homeland Security and whereas be it resolved that he, Mayor Robert Poythress, on behalf of the citizens of the City of Madera and the City Council do hereby proclaim the 20th day of July as a day in celebration of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth D. Miller’s retirement and extend to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth Miller his sincere congratulations for his 20 years of service to the United States of America and further wish him all the best of health and happiness in his retirement.

Mayor Poythress stated he’d like to shake Mr. Miller’s hand in recognition of that and congratulate him and present him with the proclamation.

Mayor Poythress introduced Mr. Miller to Chuck Doud the publisher, editor, owner and chief bottle washer of the Madera Tribune.

2. Presentation of a $1.4 Million Grant Award from the FAA to the City of Madera for the Madera Airport Apron Reconstruct Project – Phase II

Mayor Poythress stated that the second item that they’d like to discuss is an FAA grant award and that was being represented by a big [publicity] check. Mayor Poythress asked that Jason Rogers of the City of Madera and Sandra Garcia representative for Congressman Costa’s office [approach the podium].

Mayor Poythress stated that in today’s Madera Tribune there is a section that talks about things that happened 25 years ago and Ms. Garcia’s boss’ picture was in it; he was mentioned and he looks a little bit different than he does today.

Ms. Garcia stated it was because he doesn’t have his arctic blond hair.

Mayor Poythress indicated he would give her the newspaper so that she could share with people in her office.

Ms. Garcia stated that she actually drove through Madera today. Ms. Garcia stated she was in Chowchilla and a couple of different Madera residents pointed out that she should stop by Madera to get the paper. Ms. Garcia stated they get the paper delivered to their office.

Mayor Poythress stated it was an extra copy as everyone is going to want one to put in their house.

Mayor Poythress asked Mr. Rogers to describe what the check was all about.

Jason Rogers, Administrative Analyst for the Public Works Department stated that the City of Madera applied for funding through the Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration’s Airport Improvement Program [AIP] in order to reconstruct a portion of the general aviation apron at the airport. Mr. Rogers stated the FAA agreed to make available $1,370,587 through their AIP grant process in order to cover 90% of the cost associated with the project.

Mr. Rogers stated the AIP provides grants to public agencies for the planning and development of public use airports and it was important to understand that for the City’s airport, a lot of their primary funding for development of the airport is through the federal government’s AIP program.

Mr. Rogers stated that they will use the check to reconstruct 179,500 square feet of the aviation apron and stated that the pavement that is going to be replaced is more than 30 years old; it is long overdue. Mr. Rogers stated some of it is cracked, weathered and showed signs of distress so they are going to get new pavement out there that will allow for some heavier planes and more traffic to go out to the airport and increase development at the airport.
Ms. Garcia thanked everyone for allowing her to speak on behalf of Congressman Costa. Ms. Garcia stated that unfortunately Congressman Costa couldn’t make it today because he is traveling to Armenia with a delegation but he had shared some words with her that he wanted to share with all of the Council. Ms. Garcia read the following: Congratulations to the City of Madera for receiving Federal Aviation Administration funding for improvements at the Madera Municipal Airport. Long term investment made to our San Joaquin Valley’s transportation systems help to reinforce safety, improve travel and increase connectedness throughout the state, country and world. Again, congratulations and I look forward to a positive impact this funding will have in our community. Congratulations.

Mayor Poythress stated he thought that with this improvement they would have the capacity to have a major airline start landing there.

Mr. Rogers stated that maybe next time.

Mayor Poythress thanked Ms. Garcia.

Mr. Rogers stated they did grade it for a potential charter business coming in so that way they can theoretically in the future have that potential.

Mayor Poythress stated there were some great improvements. Mayor Poythress stated that he knew that for those involved in the airport, maintenance, grant opportunities and things like that, that the City has received, he knows that for himself, he’s not a pilot but from all the people involved in aviation, they just have great things to say about the City’s airport.

Mayor Poythress stated that Mr. Doud was taking pictures again. Mayor Poythress asked Mr. Doud if he wanted a picture of the giant check.

Mr. Doud stated that the most important part was in the picture and that was the money.

Mayor Poythress thanked Mr. Doud and Ms. Garcia.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mayor Poythress called on the City Clerk to make the late distribution announcement.

Sonia Alvarez, City Clerk 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 E, Administrative Reports, Item E-1, subject matter is a Resolution Approving the Purchase of Easements. The revised exhibit for the Presbytery of San Joaquin easement deed was distributed to the Council this evening. Extra copies are available at the podium for members of the public wishing a copy.

Mayor Poythress thanked Ms. Alvarez.

**A. WORKSHOP**

There are no items for this section.

**B. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- B-1 Minutes – There are no minutes for consideration.
- B-2 Information Only – Warrant Disbursement Report
B-3 A. Consideration of a Resolution Awarding Construction Contract for the Apron Reconstruction Phase II Project at Madera Municipal Airport to Granite Construction, Inc. in the Amount of $1,208,874 and Authorizing Contingencies of up to Ten Percent (10%) as Approved by the City Engineer and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Agreement on Behalf of the City

B. Consideration of a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Reinard W. Brandley for Professional Services for the Engineering Services for Construction Surveillance, Resident Engineering, Testing and Inspection in Connection with the Apron Reconstruction Phase II Project at the Madera Municipal Airport and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Agreement on Behalf of the City (Report by Dave Randall)

B-4 Consideration of a Resolution Approving an Agreement for Special Services between the City of Madera and the Law Firm of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Agreement (Report by Wendy Silva)

B-5 Consideration of a Resolution Approving a Third Amendment to the Employment Agreement with the Executive Director of the Successor Agency to the Former Madera Redevelopment Agency (Report by Wendy Silva)

B-6 Consideration of a Resolution Approving the VantageTrust II Multiple Collective Investment Funds Trust Participation Agreement for the VantageCare Retirement Health Savings Plan (Report by Wendy Silva)

B-7 Consideration of a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Madera Approving an Agreement with James G. Palmer Appraisals, Inc. for Professional Appraisal Services for Easements and Land Acquisition on the Sharon Boulevard Infrastructure Project and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Agreement (Report by Keith Helmuth)

B-8 Consideration of a Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Chief of Police At-Will Employment Agreement to Capture Existing Benefits and Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute the Amendment (Report by Wendy Silva)

Mayor Poythress asked if there were any items on the Consent Calendar that a Council person would like to have pulled for further discussion. Seeing none, he entertained a motion for action.

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

RES. NO. 16-103 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR APRON RECONSTRUCTION PHASE II PROJECT TO GRANITE CONSTRUCTION, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,208,874 AND AUTHORIZING CONTINGENCIES OF UP TO TEN PERCENT (10%) AS APPROVED BY THE CITY ENGINEER, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MADERA

RES. NO. 16-104 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH REINARD W. BRANDLEY FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION SURVEILLANCE, RESIDENT ENGINEERING, TESTING AND INSPECTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE APRON RECONSTRUCTION PHASE II PROJECT AT THE MADERA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT, AND
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MADERA

RES. NO. 16-105 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR SPECIAL SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT FOR SPECIAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF MADERA AND THE LAW FIRM OF LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE

RES. NO. 16-106 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY OF THE FORMER MADERA REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AT WILL EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

RES. NO. 16-107 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA APPROVING THE VANTAGETRUST 11 MULTIPLE COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT FUNDS TRUST PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT FOR THE VANTAGECARE RETIREMENT HEALTH SAVINGS PLAN AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

RES. NO. 16-108 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH JAMES G. PALMER APPRAISALS, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL SERVICES FOR EASEMENT AND LAND ACQUISITION ON THE SHARON BOULEVARD INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

RES. NO. 16-109 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE AT WILL EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

C. HEARINGS, PETITIONS, BIDS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, AND AGREEMENTS

C-1 Public Hearing and Consideration of a Resolution Establishing Appropriation Limits for Fiscal Year 2016/2017 (Report by Tim Przybyla)

Tim Przybyla, Director of Financial Services stated he thought this was a Consent Item. Mr. Przybyla stated this was merely the approval which is done each year for the appropriation of funds for the new budget and as can be seen in the report, the City is well within their appropriation limits. Mr. Przybyla stated this is related to the budget which was approved at the last City Council meeting and it is one of the formalities that they need to go through to make sure the City can spend their money.

Mayor Poythress thanked Mr. Przybyla and stated that he thought the item was put in this section because of the public hearing and that’s why it wasn’t under the Consent Calendar.

Mayor Poythress asked if there were any questions of Mr. Przybyla before opening the item for public hearing. Seeing none; public hearing was opened. Seeing none; he brought the item back to the Council for action.

ON MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLIVER, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON, ITEM C-1 WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0. ABSENT: MAYOR PRO TEM RIGBY.
RES. NO. 16-110  A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE APPROPRIATION LIMIT FOR THE 2016-17 FISCAL YEAR

C-2 Public Hearing to Consider the Community Development Block Grant Review and Advisory Committee Recommendations and Request for Council to Make Tentative Allocations for the 2016/2017 Action Plan (Report by Ivette Iraheta)

Ivette Iraheta, Grants Administrator stated this is the first Council hearing for the City FY 2016/2017 CDBG Action Plan. Ms. Iraheta introduced CDBG Program Manager, Jorge Rojas who offers translation services to those who may require it [in the audience].

Jorge Rojas stated in Spanish that this meeting is to schedule the CDBG funds for FY 2016/2017 and asked if there was anybody who needed translation services. Seeing none, Ms. Iraheta stated that the primary purpose of tonight’s meeting was for Council to consider the Review and Advisory Committee’s [RAC] tentative allocations. Final approval is scheduled for the August 3rd City Council meeting. Ms. Iraheta stated that as a result, Council would allocate $847,853 to fund the various projects and programs that applicants have submitted for consideration.

Ms. Iraheta stated that staff included four columns on the worksheet that Council had before them to assist them with the process this evening. Ms. Iraheta stated that the first column indicates the Committee’s recommended allocations and that was done on the June 30th meeting that they had. Ms. Iraheta stated that the second column expresses staff’s preferences for the use of the funds and the third column is where Council would be making their tentative allocations.

Ms. Iraheta stated that given the broad scope of the grant, the CDBG award has a potential to advance an extensive number of the Vision Plan’s objectives depending on the Council’s allocations tonight. Ms. Iraheta introduced Ken Hutchings, Chairperson of the committee who will explain how the committee arrived at their allocations.

Mr. Hutchings stated it was a privilege to be there today. Mr. Hutchings stated that as was mentioned, he has the opportunity of serving along with five others in the RAC Advisory Committee for the distribution of CDBG funds. Mr. Hutchings stated he came a little unprepared to answer the question because he didn’t really get to discuss with his fellow committee members what was going through their minds or whatever but he thinks that for the most part they have presentations from groups that were petitioning for the use of the CDBG funds.

Mr. Hutchings stated that going through this process makes you realize that there are social problems in the City but then you get a good feeling when you know all the various people who are trying to combat it so basically RAC is stuck with the task of distribution of insufficient funds for what really needs to be done. Mr. Hutchings stated that speaking for himself, there are a lot of good organizations out there who are trying to make Madera a better place to live.

Mr. Hutchings stated he thinks something that has been a consideration for RAC in the past is for their organizations that have received CDBG funds and still appear to be doing good. Mr. Hutchings stated he knows that whenever RAC is doing allocations, they traditionally ask if the organization has been funded in the past and what the level of the funding has been. Mr. Hutchings thinks that in many instances RAC uses that information to justify their current recommendation that if they’ve given it to them in the past and they’re displaying a good track record of having accomplished stuff with these valuable funds or whatever then RAC is happy to fund them again. Mr. Hutchings asked if the Council had any questions.

Mayor Poythress asked if there were any questions for Mr. Hutchings. Seeing none, Mayor Poythress thanked Mr. Hutchings for helping out in the effort.

Ms. Iraheta stated that a lot of the applicants are there tonight as well as the program presentations from them.
Mayor Poythress stated that what has worked really well in the past is to take each activity type section separately and deal with it. Mayor Poythress stated that for instance they could work with the Administration section and then move into Public Services and then finish up with Capital Projects and Public Improvements.

Mayor Poythress stated that the first thing he would like to do is to take a look at the Administration activity type....

Brent Richardson, City Attorney advised Mayor Poythress that he needed to open public hearing for this item and suggested they do this at the outset.

Mayor Poythress opened the item for public hearing. Mayor Poythress stated they've got local Administration, the amount requested in the Fresno/Madera Continuum of Care and asked if anyone had any questions of the groups whether it be the City of Madera or Fresno/Madera Continuum of Care.

Council Member Oliver stated he had a couple of questions for the Continuum of Care grant application and asked that the applicant approach the podium.

Elizabeth Wisener, Community Services Program Manager with the Community Action Partnership of Madera County [CAPMC] stated she would answer any questions the Council may have regarding their application.

Council Member Holley stated that since he is a Board Member, he had to excuse himself and left the room.

Council Member Oliver asked that Ms. Wisener elaborate as to the $16,000 funding allocation request and what that money will go to. He understands that it contributes towards the City’s involvement with the Continuum of Care and he asked that she tell them a little bit more about that effort.

Ms. Wisener stated they will use the money as they have in the past to support the activities of the Madera County Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. Ms. Wisener stated there are certain activities that they do every year. They are a member of the Fresno/Madera Continuum of Care Board and they also sit on the Executive Committee. Ms. Wisener stated they oversee the Madera County Homeless Coalition; they promote homeless awareness activities each year. In November, they put on some type of homeless awareness. Last year, they went to the homeless and distributed 200 lunches. Ms. Wisener stated they brought the members of the Coalition together, they do the annual Homeless Point-In-Time Count and that’s quite an endeavor to coordinate and plan.

Ms. Wisener stated that this year, she’s excited because it’s the first year in five years that there’s actually some hope on the horizon of getting some additional services for homeless. They just surveyed 88 of the homeless in Madera with a tool called VI-SPDAT [Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool] which is a tool that ranks them according to their vulnerability and they found 56 men and a good number ranked 10 or higher which means they are probably chronically homeless.

Ms. Wisener stated CAPMC was awarded some funds through their Community Services Block Grant that is earmarked specifically to address homeless issues and what they are hoping to do is leverage that with funds that are available from the Continuum of Care. Ms. Wisener stated that every year she sees the Emergency Solution Grant come and go and they haven’t been able to apply for it because of the matching dollars and this is the first year that there are 200,000 something dollars sitting on the Continuum of Care that are supposed to go to the entities that are not awarded an Emergency Solution Grant and Madera is one of them.

Ms. Wisener thinks she has come up with a way to get the match for that and the Housing Authority has offered some units in Chowchilla so they are trying to see how they can blend the money of the Community
Services Grant with the Emergency Solutions Grant; if they can get it to start some services for homeless men.

Ms. Wisener stated that when they did the count, they found eight veterans and HUD [Housing and Urban Development] has given them until the end of this year to house all of the homeless veterans that want to be housed. They’ve gone out looking for veterans in Madera and they couldn’t find them and now they have eight and there’s money to serve them. Ms. Wisener stated that the Continuum of Care has bi-weekly meetings where they look at who’s on the registry and how they’re moving along to get them housed and now for Madera she can ask what they are going to do with these eight vets and how they can help get them moving through the string to get them housed. Ms. Wisener stated they work very closely with the VA (Veterans Administration) to do the outreach and get them connected.

Council Member Oliver asked if the 88 folks that were identified through the survey were identified through the Point-In-Time Count that they do once a year.

Ms. Wisener stated that the Point-In-Time Count is not the same and they sent their numbers to HUD and HUD hasn’t approved them yet so they won’t allow her to release them until they get the final blessing from HUD. There’s about 200 in Madera and of those they’ve interviewed 88. Ms. Wisener stated the assessment that they did is the first step to getting them housed and that’s in addition to the count that they do in January.

Council Member Oliver stated that he’s done the Point-In-Time Count in the past and it is very eye opening and educational. When they go out, they survey those folks whether it be at an encampment or wherever their dwelling might be, it would be that information that they’d capture.

Council Member Oliver stated that he knows it obviously makes them eligible for federal HUD monies and that some of the proceeds go toward their Community Action Partnership and housing especially for women and children. Council Member Oliver asked if there was any coordination with the City’s Grants Department at looking how they can leverage each other’s priorities, the Consolidated Plan and those objectives. Council Member Oliver asked if there been any dialogue in that respect.

Ms. Wisener asked if [he was referring to] the Grants Department at the City of Madera.

Council Member Oliver responded affirmatively.

Ms. Wisener stated that what she did was look up the City’s Consolidated Plan and in her application she identified the areas in the Consolidated Plan that this application lines up with and that was to support the activities of the Homeless Coalition, to support the Fresno/Madera Continuum of Care and kind of indirect support to the Shunammite Place. Ms. Wisener stated that’s really not funded through this grant but it’s their participation on the Continuum of Care that allows them to continue getting that funding.

Council Member Oliver encouraged on-going dialogue with the City’s Grants Department staff as they are looking for opportunities and obviously by participating with this body it does make some more grant funding available.

Council Member Oliver stated that his only other suggestion and comment is to just respect community partners. Just looking through, there’s numerous agencies that are working to combat homelessness and provide services. The Point-In-Time Count is a great tool to acknowledge some of that need but he encourages them to look within. Council Member Oliver stated the City has a Code Enforcement Department that is engaging this population of people once or twice a week and this discussion came up briefly as they had a policy discussion on how to continue that program.

Council Member Oliver heavily recommended that if they move forward tonight with the $16,000 expenditure that they coordinate with those departments that are engaging this population and he thinks
that a lot of the community outreach and activities that she’s mentioned are good things but he thinks there’s a tremendous opportunity to make tangible short term impact by engaging that community.

Council Member Oliver stated he doesn’t know if this Emergency Services money that might be available could go towards the hiring of a staff member or advocate that could join the Code Enforcement and Public Works staff as they notice these encampments and engage this population. He is not sure if that might be a possibility.

Ms. Wisener stated she would have to look.

Council Member Oliver encouraged a discussion with their respective staffs that are engaged in this population almost on a weekly if not on a daily basis.

Ms. Wisener stated that is a great recommendation. Ms. Wisener stated she’s invited the City police to attend their Homeless Coalition meeting and she saw the Chief earlier. She did touch base with him after their count in January. Ms. Wisener stated she knows the police have been trying to clean up the riverbeds and the riverbeds are looking so much better. She asked if they can coordinate better next year and how they can support what the police are doing and then work together when it’s time to do the count.

Council Member Oliver stated that the police is a facet to that but again the City does have a Code Enforcement wing. Council Member Oliver stated the City has directed policy as far as public health and safety and benefit to the community to clean up some of these encampments.

Council Member Oliver stated that in fact in one of the presentations that the City had at a Successor RDA [Redevelopment Agency] Agency Revitalization meeting two months ago, you see some of the homeless population in the background in the picture of the encampments so they engage this population whether it’s receptive or not and they do provide those noticing/postings and he knows that the City is currently evaluating their policy, best practices and how to move forward.

Council Member Oliver encouraged Ms. Wisener to pick up the phone and call Jim Taubert who oversees that division. Council Member Oliver stated the Homeless Coalition is a great effort but he’d really like to see tangible hand holding with the City departments and staff that are on the ground engaged in this population. Council Member Oliver stated he thinks it would go a long way and he likes the Point-In-Time Count; it’s necessary; the federal government requires it but even then a one or two day survey in one year, he doesn’t know if it’s a statistical, accurate sampling as to some of the true needs. Council Member Oliver stated they have an opportunity having staff that engage this population and he thinks it’s a way to turn a negative situation into a positive for these folks.

Ms. Wisener stated that she would love to do that and if they are awarded, she will gladly do that. Ms. Wisener stated they have a great group of people on the Homeless Coalition; she will invite them to come. Ms. Wisener asked that they let her know what the needs are and how they can rally the Coalition to help. Ms. Wisener stated that they’ve just entered into a contract with Madera Behavioral Health to oversee two of their housing projects that serve homeless so they’re kind of working with them; they serve a huge homeless population. Ms. Wisener stated they are working with Housing Authority so she is all for strengthening the collaborations they already have.

Council Member Oliver thanked Ms. Wisener.

Ms. Wisener asked if the Council had any questions.

Mayor Poythress asked if there were any questions for Ms. Wisener.

Mayor Poythress asked if there were any other members of the public who would like to comment on the allocations under the Administration portion of the projects before they moved on. Seeing none, Mayor Poythress asked that Council talk a little bit about it amongst themselves. Mayor Poythress stated they
have the requested amounts, what RAC recommended, what staff recommended and now Council has to decide on the amounts. Mayor Poythress asked if there were any comments among Council in regards to the allocations.

Council Member Medellin thanked Ms. Wisener for her presentation, for her hard work and her team’s hard work and efforts over the years.

Council Member Medellin stated he concurs with his colleague. He thinks those are some wonderful suggestions to work within the City of Madera and Code Enforcement. They are all trying to accomplish the same thing so working together would certainly help that. Council Member Medellin stated he appreciates RAC and he thanked the team for sitting down and going through each one of the interviews.

Council Member Medellin recommended RAC’s recommendation with the $150,978 to Local Administration and $16,000 to the Continuum of Care.

Mayor Poythress thanked Council Member Medellin and asked how the rest of the Council thought about that. Mayor Poythress stated they could see a lot of heads nodding so they'll go ahead and include that for now.

Mayor Poythress stated they would move on to the Public Services portion. Mayor Poythress stated they have a maximum allocation of $125,227. They have the amount requested by the various organizations, they have RAC’s recommendation and then they have staff’s recommendation. Mayor Poythress stated that what they’ll do first of all is open it up to Council and asked if there were any questions or any items that Council would like to have clarified.

Council Member Oliver stated he would like a brief presentation from each of the applicants. Council Member Oliver stated this is a very competitive pool of money and it would help him have a little bit more frame of reference if they could take a moment and share a little bit about their application.

Mayor Poythress stated they would start off by going down the list; they would start off with the Madera County Workforce Investment Center. Mayor Poythress asked that applicants come up to the podium and give their name and address.

Elaine Craig, Executive Director for the Madera County Workforce Investment Corporation. Ms. Craig thanked the Council for the opportunity to present and to further clarify or provide more information or answer any questions on their application.

Ms. Craig stated she has a PowerPoint [presentation] but she is not sure the Council really wants her to go through all of it again but she will point out that they are a non-profit corporation. They separated from the County Office of Education approximately three and a half years ago in order to get 501C3 status.

Ms. Craig stated they oversee the Madera County Workforce Assessment Center which is the America’s Job Centers of California for Madera County. Ms. Craig stated that what they do every day all day is assist people coming through the doors who are looking for employment, better employment, skills training, education, including high school diploma or its equivalent including supportive services that facilitate success in going through the process.

Ms. Craig stated they also do direct job referrals through job orders from the employers in the community that give them job orders that have job openings.

Ms. Craig stated she has a youth program and she has a business services specialist team that respond to the needs of the employers and then she has course specialists that assist job seekers coming through the doors. Ms. Craig stated that was 101 in Workforce Development in Madera County.
Ms. Craig stated they have been reduced in funds every year since she’s been in the system which has been 18 years going back to the Job Training Partnership Act and in 1998 the Workforce Investment Act was federally legislated and they have reduced funding almost every year. Ms. Craig stated they anticipate another 18% reduction unless the federal House changes that but right now they are looking at yet another reduction.

Ms. Craig stated she’s given the Council kind of what they do and she will further explain that the Workforce Development Board has designated certain industries and they are based on labor market data so everything they do is indeed based on labor market data so if someone came in and said they wanted to be a massage therapist; great work, but they would not train in that. Ms. Craig stated the labor market/the economy does not show a need for that and oftentimes does not provide for living wage self-sufficiency and that is one of their mandates both from their federal law and from the Board.

Ms. Craig stated that based on labor data, they have identified manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, transportational logistics, health care, renewable energy and recently the Board added hospitality and tourism to address the economy in eastern Madera County. They typically train and do upscale training and education in those areas.

Ms. Craig stated they are on their fifth round application so she’s gone through each round of funds that the Workforce has received of Community Development and Block Grant funds. Ms. Craig stated that the Council will notice that their application always asks for substantially more funds in order to do more extensive training in those areas. They’ve received lower amounts of funds in each round and subsequently she’s had to lower the numbers that they’ve had to indicate on their outcomes that they would serve. Ms. Craig pointed out that even though they’ve indicated in the application, after their amount has been decreased for example, in the first round they were to serve 7 to 8 and they actually served 12.

Ms. Craig stated that in the first year of this money, they actually did a pre-apprenticeship program so they contracted with their local labor council and they did a pre-apprenticeship where these folks walk out of the room and out of the training with a forklift certification, an OSHA10 certification, First Aid/CPR and then they are given priority to sign up at the holes for apprenticeship programs.

Ms. Craig stated they fully expended the funds. Ms. Craig stated they do not leverage any or spend any of the funds on staffing, overhead or operational costs. Ms. Craig stated that every dollar the City gives them for every round that they’ve received has always been for direct customer service and they leverage their formula funds for staffing and for overhead and operational costs. The funds also contribute towards supportive services.

Ms. Craig stated she’s given the Council outcomes for each of the rounds of funds as far as employment, average wages, certificates that were received, on the job training (OJT) that they may have done and she’s taken that all the way through for them for the second, third and the fourth rounds. Ms. Craig noted this last round of $13,000 they said they were going to serve 10; they’ve served 29 to date. They have fully expended those funds and again leveraging formula funds. Ms. Craig stated that again she’s given the Council outcomes, wages and types of training.

Ms. Craig stated they’ve actually contracted with the adult school this last year and bought a HiSET [High School Equivalency Testing] class which is the high school equivalency test; they don’t do the GED anymore in Madera; it’s the HiSET. They bought a class so they could get an instructor providing tutorial assistance to the folks in this class. Ms. Craig stated it was open entry so that students/participants could walk in and out three days a week including end of the evening up to nine o’clock in the evening. Ms. Craig stated they really tried to open it up to give more opportunity for folks that need flexibility in order to get through this. Ms. Craig noted that this is important because their Board eight years ago through policy mandated that they would not spend federal formula funds on any person who did not have a high school diploma or its equivalent. That is not a mandate of their law, in fact the law says they can be basic skills deficient which is 9th grade or below and the employers in this community have consistently said they need to have the minimum requirement of a high school diploma or its equivalent so their Board went in that
direction. Ms. Craig stated again supportive services, mileage books, uniforms, supplies, fees; all of that gets paid for by them [Workforce Investment Corporation].

Ms. Craig stated that for this round and the $10,000 that has been allocated by the RAC, they would again be asked to lower the numbers from the application so it would probably go down to about 8. Ms. Craig wished she could give the Council quantitative numbers on how many they would end up serving; she wished she could give them high numbers with the amount of money but she can’t and to be quite honest it’s customized by each individual who walks through the door and who’s in most need.

Ms. Craig stated they take the funds from CDBG because either a person is tapped out because they have caps; they just lowered their cap at the June board meeting. Ms. Craig stated training is expensive. The cheapest form of education and training is at the Community College system, however the length of time to get through a program is often time substantial and these folks need and want training and industry recognized certificates as quickly as possible in order to get into the workplace so they choose proprietaries or they chose places where mileage is higher in order to get them back and forth. Ms. Craig stated they choose places that, and it is customer choice under their law with some level of reasonableness that they look at; so sometimes these folks are coming in and they’ve capped out.

Ms. Craig stated this CDBG money is used and for one person it might just be mileage; for another person it might be the standardized dress and work boots that are required by the employer otherwise they won’t be hired. Ms. Craig stated another might be for the books for the Madera Adult School equivalency. Ms. Craig stated that unfortunately she can’t give the Council quantitative numbers but the money gets used specifically for those where they can maximize giving them the financial assistance to make them successful in whatever their program and training needs are.

Ms. Craig stated that if she didn’t have the $10,000 or any other amount they would have to make decisions that potentially the City of Madera adult low income residents who walk through their door won’t get all of the mileage or that they [Workforce Investment Corporation] possibly won’t pay for the whole semester of books and if the Council has been to school lately, they are still very, very expensive. A set of books for a maintenance mechanic for a semester can cost upwards through $1,000. Ms. Craig stated those are the types of decisions they make. They have very restrictive money; it’s ratcheted down by federal mandate and eligibility. Ms. Craig stated this money because it’s more unrestricted is then used for someone who possibly is not eligible under their federal formula and is desperately in need of assistance and has done everything Workforce Investment Corporation asked of them and Workforce Investment Corporation knows they are going to be successful if they can provide them with a little bit of assistance. That’s where this money comes into play for them.

Mayor Poythress thanked Ms. Craig for all her great work at Workforce Investment Corporation.

Ms. Craig asked if the Council had any questions.

Mayor Poythress responded that she’s covered a lot.

Mayor Poythress stated they would move on to the next organization, Pequeños Empresarios.

Rosa [no last name given] stated Leonor Hippolito is the Founder and President of Pequeños Empresarios. Rosa stated Ms. Hippolito is taking English classes right now and asked that Rosa translate a little bit.

Rosa [no last name given] translated the following for Ms. Hippolito. Ms. Hippolito stated she has been waiting for this moment for five years. She found the door and she has here, Pequeños Empresarios. She knows they are going to like this program because the children out there need all of us. Ms. Hippolito stated that Rosa will help her with the presentation.
Rosa stated she will help Ms. Hippolito with the presentation and that she is serving as the Accountant for Pequeños Empresarios if the Council would like to add something. Rosa stated she will go as fast as she can with the presentation because she knows the Council has to catch up on time.

Rosa stated this story began five years ago as Ms. Hippolito said even though she didn’t have education in Mexico or here; she barely made it to less than middle school. Rosa stated that Ms. Hippolito still came and it’s changing the history of some of the kids in the City of Madera and Fresno. Rosa stated that one of the important things was that Ms. Hippolito just got recognition not long ago from the City of Madera that was Hands On Hero and the Council could probably tell her what that is because she is actually from the Bay Area.

Rosa stated that after she [Rosa] found out about this program, she fell in love with it and seeing the need that they have, she comes all the way from the Antioch area to try to help and support Ms. Hippolito as much as she can with a little bit of translation or even requesting some of her friends for help. For example, they have someone working in Puerto Rico right now helping them with the website because they don’t have the funds to pay someone. Rosa stated she reaches out to people and that’s what she tries to be good at and she guesses that is what Ms. Hippolito hired her to do that.

Rosa stated they have helped more than 600 families through the City of Madera and Fresno. They are finding some support in Fresno with Steve Rios from Wells Fargo; he gave them a grant last year for $10,000. Rosa stated that Mr. Rios gave them another grant this year for $10,000 after Ms. Hippolito had an accident they were in red numbers so all the funds have been distributed. Rosa stated that Mr. Rios did say that once they get another grant for $10,000 they would give them another $20,000 for the organization so they are actually hoping that $7,000 number is going to rise today.

Rosa stated that the program does seven different kinds of classes.

One of those is the finance classes. They had 27 kids open a bank account not long ago about a couple of months ago. What they teach them is financial education, the flow of money, how they open their own bank account. Rosa stated they manage sales and customer service. They prepare them to become successful entrepreneurs. Rosa stated these kids, when you look at them, they seriously go out there and they can sell cupcakes and anything they can get their hands on to be able to open their own bank account and take ownership on finances.

Rosa stated they do personal development. They develop their own leadership style. They become educated, responsible and respectful and committed to themselves and others. Rosa stated they teach children how to manage their fears and how to improve their self-esteem. Right now, they have two of the kids that are making a Spanish movie called the “Vida de un Cantante” or “The Life of a Singer”. Rosa stated these two kids sell their videos out there promoting Pequeños Empresarios and the kids gave them a call. Rosa stated they are actually doing the movie right now and they are very, very proud of them. Rosa stated they have another kid that finished the program a couple of years ago. He moved to the City of Monterey and now he writes for the newspaper and he talks a lot about Pequeños Empresarios and how it helped him.

Rosa stated another thing they do is the cultural classes. They opened this class for everybody in the community; any ethnicity, but they do have a lot people in their own community that don’t know how to read, write or speak Spanish so they are trying to enrich their cultural values by teaching them about the Spanish heritage but also this class is done in Spanish so anybody who comes along can learn. Rosa stated they do have a teacher that speaks Spanish and does Spanish classes for everybody.

Rosa stated they have etiquette classes. Children learn proper behavior at home and public places. They learn dining experiences etiquette and they learn how a gentleman and a lady should be treated. Rosa stated she wished she had taken that class a long time ago.
Rosa stated they have a Care of the Planet class. Their children take awareness of our planet and how to contribute to a better world respecting natural cycles and maintaining the ecosystem we have in harmony. Rosa stated the children have planted a few trees in the City of Madera so they are out there. They clean and recycle in public places as well. Rosa stated they have a lot of new programs. They take their kids to the park and they do a lot of that.

Rosa stated they teach them about nutrition as well; good habits and how to keep a healthy body.

Rosa stated all of this is done through classes in a classroom environment with dynamics and songs and everything they can get their hands on.

Rosa stated that they raise funds doing most of it with sales or asking for donations from small businesses.

Rosa stated the needs for their program…. They were doing classes in the City of Madera at the public library but obviously it’s a quiet place to have 26 children in a class full of excitement so they moved to Sierra Vista Elementary School. Rosa stated they just borrow a space there and they take all the materials for the classes back and forth every week so they do need to have their own space to conduct the program. They need furniture for the classroom, they need computers and materials for the classes.

Rosa stated they have a coach that comes in to do the self-development class for the kids to teach them about their self-esteem and leadership and they also have the Spanish teacher and they need the wages for them.

Rosa stated they want to increase the number of participants to 100; right now they only have 26 children and that’s all they can afford at the moment because they did a carnival not long ago and they were only able to raise $1,100 so it’s not enough to help all of these kids in the City.

Rosa stated they also want to do translation of their program so they can reach out to other cultures in California.

Rosa stated these are some of their kids [in the audience]. Some of the signs they have up indicate they are a champion, they are happy, they are a leader, they are Mexican and another one says they are intelligent. Rosa stated all of these kids are really making a difference out there in their school, the community, with their family and so they’re doing a lot of these things for these kids.

Rosa stated she knows they have the First 5 in different cities. She is not so familiar with the program because her oldest child is a Marine and 23 years old so she can’t recall that far back. Rosa stated she does see the need of these kids because they do take it from age 5 to 12 which is the gap as soon as they are done with the First 5 and they can take over from there and do something amazing or at least have an after school program that they would be able to implement in different schools or have it available in different schools so these kids can benefit from everything that the Council just saw on the slides.

Rosa stated that what they need right now more than anything are funds. She believes this is the first time they’ve applied in the City of Madera even though Ms. Hippolito lives here in Madera and she is involved in the community and embraces all the community and the children. Rosa stated this is the very first time they’ve asked for a grant from here and she is going to volunteer to take a two day class on how to help them try to reach out for grants and see where to look for funds and help them out because she thinks it’s a worth it program.

Rosa stated maybe they’re thinking about the kids going from 5 to 12 years old it’s what the program covers but the values that they’re putting in these kids at that age and where it’s going to go from here on and the teenagers that are going to be in the City of Madera after they go to this program, is going to be amazing.

Rosa asked if the Council had any questions.
Mayor Poythress asked if there were any questions for Rosa.

Council Member Holley stated he had the opportunity to talk with her and see her [Ms. Hippolito] ideas and see the value that she’s applying to these kids. Council Member Holley stated it’s not just taking kids and teaching them about bank accounts, it’s teaching them how to be entrepreneurs and how to dress up. Council Member Holley stated that what she’s doing with these kids is really awesome. He wished they had more teachers like that, groups like that and try to show them something. Council Member Holley stated that’s what they’re about; trying to raise the kids in the right way so he thinks this is a really very awesome program that she’s putting together and whatever help the Council can give her, he thinks she’s well deserved of using it.

Council Member Holley stated he talked to her [Ms. Hippolito] when she had it in her garage and trying to do things in her garage is not really a safe atmosphere but she did it anyway because she wanted to make a difference in kid’s lives no matter what the outcome was.

Rosa stated that she had a story written out that she was going to read out in two minutes because she thinks she talks fast enough but she didn’t do it. Rosa stated that they are working on a e-magazine which is going to start with the story of Pequeños Empresarios and they are going to take it to any small business owners in Madera and Fresno and they are trying to raise it to help as many kids as possible. Rosa stated that is coming up and she will make sure the City of Madera gets one.

Gilbert Servin greeted the Council. Mr. Servin stated he has been involved with Pequeños Empresarios for almost a year volunteering and doing a lot of work to bring their books and everything current. Mr. Servin stated he did help them in the application process for the grant application requested here.

Mr. Servin stated the reason he is involved in this group is because like himself, he came to this country more than 50 years ago and when he came here he didn’t speak a word of English and it was so difficult for him to get ahead. Mr. Servin stated that if it wasn’t for his counselors that supported him from grade school all the way to university, he wouldn’t have been an accountant. He’s been an accountant for more than 45 years.

Mr. Servin recommends that the Council increase the amount of money they had recommended. Mr. Servin stated they asked for $30,000 and apparently they are only going to get $7,000 and to be honest they need the full $30,000 so they can permanently move the program into a facility that would have permanent basis, they have the computers, the books, they have everything to assist these children to become better citizens and better students and basically better educated persons that will eventually become fully employed or self-employed.

Mr. Servin stated that as Entrepreneurs [Pequeños Empresarios] said, a lot of them will become entrepreneurs and that’s one thing he considers himself, an entrepreneur, because if it wasn’t for his ideas and bringing these things together…..he’s been doing grants throughout the State of California for more than half a billion dollars’ worth of grants and when he came across the Pequeños Empresarios, he thought it was a heck of a good program and that’s why he’s involved in it and he pleads with the Council to increase their request to the $30,000 they requested originally. Mr. Servin thanked the Council.

Council Member Medellin stated he wanted to echo the comments of his colleague, Council Member Holley. Council Member Medellin thanked Rosa for the presentation and her passion. Council Member Medellin especially thanked Ms. Hippolito for her vision, foresight and passion for these kids.

Council Member Medellin stated that Ms. Hippolito had invited him a couple of times but he had a scheduling conflict but she showed him a video of these children that were very young and very small and very amazing and he thinks that what she is doing is making the next generation’s leaders and he has no doubt that some of those children would sit up here [at the dais] one day here in Madera. Council Member Medellin stated that to take that young mind and teach them about financial education and leadership but he thinks more importantly, self-esteem which is something that is lacking with all of our children.
Council Member Medellin thanked them for their efforts and moving from her home and cooking and giving these kids everything she has for the betterment of the children.

Council Member Medellin stated the application stated 80% of the kids are Hispanic so it’s not just Mexican or Hispanic children. Council Member Medellin asked if it was for anybody who wants to be involved.

Rosa replied affirmatively and stated they take anybody else who wants to come to the program and give it a try to see if it’s something that they like. She knows there are a lot of kids that would like to learn Spanish and this is a good way to start. Rosa stated it is open to everybody.

Rosa stated that they want to translate a lot of the things they have right now because there are a lot of parents that want more information and most of the stuff is in Spanish. The person who is helping her in Puerto Rico is doing the translation of the flier that they currently have. Rosa stated they are doing some modifications to it so that it makes a little bit more sense because she knows that when they try to translate something from Spanish to English, it is really not the same verbiage so they are trying to make common sense for some of the people out there such as the business owners that will consider their program to be part of/within the City. Rosa asked if the Council had any questions.

Council Member Medellin thanked her and stated he applauded their efforts.

Council Member Oliver thanked them for the presentation and he is definitely excited about this program. Council Member Oliver stated the amount they’ve accomplished in just a short period of time is truly impressive and as his colleagues mentioned translating business principles as life skills is certainly a large priority.

Council Member Oliver noted that the office and office expenses that are budgeted is roughly 57% of the overall budget or business plan and asked if the program is self-sustainable and will those match dollars still sustain with Wells Fargo Bank in the event that the Council were to fund some amount and that were to go to that office expenditure and then next year HUD or the City’s federal funding partner says the City doesn’t have any allotment of money. Council Member Oliver wanted to know what would happen in that situation.

Rosa stated that Ms. Hippolito is not known to be a quitter and she has definitely been through a lot of struggles and Rosa thinks that the reason she joined Ms. Hippolito’s vision is because she saw the passion that Ms. Hippolito has for all these kids. Rosa stated that when she saw that Ms. Hippolito has 26 kids here and 16 kids in Fresno, they have a least 40 parents. She stated they know that a lot of parents don’t get as involved as you want them to be so when she knew that Ms. Hippolito was doing the carnival and everything that was going on and Ms. Hippolito was in charge of 1,000 things, she [Rosa] canceled the three events she had that day so she could be Ms. Hippolito’s support.

Rosa stated that if she’s passionate to believe in something that is changing the future of our children….Rosa stated she is a single mother who has a 7 year old girl and she wants her [daughter] to go to this program so she is actually moving in two weeks. She was planning to move to Madera and now that she’s hearing all about Madera, she’s falling in love with Madera so she might stay here instead of Fresno. Rosa stated she was planning to move to Fresno within a couple of weeks and see how things go over there but she does have the option of being in Madera too but her main concern/the biggest thing she is doing is moving here to help Pequeños Empresarios to get afloat. Rosa stated that regarding next year, Ms. Hippolito is not only a fighter for what she believes [in] and the vision that she has but now Ms. Hippolito has her [Rosa] on board so yes it will sustain.

Council Member Oliver stated there is obviously a great degree of promise and potential and he appreciates them starting here in the City of Madera and he thinks they have a partner. Council Member Oliver suggested they look at some of their competitors in this pool. Council Member Oliver stated they have the City’s Parks & Community Services Department, they do work quite often in after school programs and with
the young people. There’s the Coalition for Justice who work a lot of times with kids especially past 12 years of age and so he thinks she has some tremendous partner opportunities with some of those folks.

Rosa stated she didn’t think they had reached out to those people as of right now but as she’s getting involved she is a person who asks a thousand questions so she’s trying to meet half way with what works for Ms. Hippolito and her vision as well. Rosa stated they will start wherever they need to start to make it work.

Council Member Oliver thanked her for the presentation.

Mayor Poythress stated that it’s always easier to reach out to others when you live in the community.

Council Member Robinson stated that it is great that they are working with the youth because as some people say, it takes a village. Council Member Robinson stated that in today’s work environment, Spanish is essential to advancement along with business principles, finance and technical. Council Member Robinson asked what days and times they held their classes.

Rosa stated that right now they are doing classes in Madera on Fridays. Rosa stated they are about to start the program next month because obviously when school closes for the summer they don’t have a place to be at so the kids lose those activities for a couple of months. Rosa stated that they usually have classes on Friday from 5 – 8 [pm]. It’s once a week. Rosa stated that if they add more children to the program, they can only have 20-25 children per classroom so they would do four classes within a week to cover 100 children if they’re able to help 100 in a week.

Council Member Robinson stated he knows that Madera Housing Authority is going to start a computer center for youth and they may be able to …..

Rosa stated that per Ms. Hippolito, she’s tried to keep the kids encouraged to stay within the program for these couple of months and today she has an activity and she happened to schedule it today which is the same day they are here and everybody was asking why she wasn’t going to be there. Rosa stated they have 27 kids in the park in Madera right now just doing some classes in the park because they don’t have a place to do it; they are still getting out there.

Council Member Robinson stated they have a center out there on Kennedy and also on Yosemite so there might be some room available.

Rosa asked if the Council had any questions. She stated she’d meant to be very brief and she just talked on.

Mayor Poythress thanked her and stated that the next presentation will be from the Madera Coalition for Community Justice the College Access Project.

Miriam Chavez stated she will not be going over the PowerPoint from last time however she does want to give the Council a very brief overview of what they did with the grant they were funded last year; she wants to give the Council a yearly update.

Ms. Chavez stated last year they were awarded $10,000 during the past grant cycle. They said they were going to be serving 25 students however they actually served 38.

Ms. Chavez stated the students participated in a variety of different workshops and discussions. One of their biggest areas of focus was college prep where they talked about A-G requirements. They are serving youth after 12 years of age all the way up to 18 to 21. Ms. Chavez stated they talked about FAFSA, how to pay for college, grants, scholarships and all of that.
Ms. Chavez stated they also had the opportunity to take the students on a field trip to UC Merced and CSU Stanislaus that way they were able to compare a CSU campus from a UC campus, the different opportunities, the different areas of research and study. That was one of their biggest areas.

Ms. Chavez stated they also focused on service learning so the students were able to participate in different activities to be involved in their communities. One of the areas was actually Environmental Justice which is an area where Mark Cauley focuses on.

Ms. Chavez stated they did focus on Healthy Relationships as well. They addressed an area of overall health. Ms. Chavez stated the reason they focused on healthy relationships was because teen pregnancy is a big issue in Madera County but most importantly it’s important for students and youths to understand what a healthy relationship looks like, how to establish healthy relationships with not just with the person they are dating but other people as well and what do healthy relationships look like.

Ms. Chavez stated that during their Inner Faith event, the youth had an opportunity to have a little photo booth where they had loveis# and they posted pictures on social media and they would say what love is to them.

Ms. Chavez stated they also participated in their annual Cesar Chavez event where they were able to look back at what Cesar Chavez did for the farmworker community and all the different positive changes that were made through that.

Ms. Chavez stated they also participated in Earth Day which is another area that they focused on. Mr. Cauley was working on it with them. In Earth Day, the youth prepared the dirt for planting in the community garden that they have off of Lake Street. Ms. Chavez stated they were able to prepare that for the preschoolers from the Madera Child Development Center to go and plant their seeds as well as students from Washington Elementary. It is an open community garden.

Ms. Chavez stated they also have a Health Team Fair where the youth were able to network with different organizations and agencies in the community and have them share information to other youth and community members on how to remain healthy whether it’s nutrition-wise, emotional health and all of that aspect.

Ms. Chavez stated that some of their youth actually gave a presentation to Council last month so they’ve been actively working in the community in different things. Ms. Chavez stated that due to that presentation, they also have an upcoming interview with Univision this next week so they will be on live TV talking about the positive things they are doing in Madera. Those are some of the things they did in the past year.

Ms. Chavez stated that for this upcoming grant cycle they are asking for $18,500. They are incorporating a parent component to this piece. The reason they are adding a parent component is because from this past year of working with youth, they’ve come to realize that youth and parents don’t necessarily have the best communication and it’s really important for them to start learning how to start those healthy relationships within their family; how to build that communication.

Ms. Chavez stated they are also working with parents through their partnership with Madera Unified School District. They’ve also come to realize that parents don’t know how to have these conversations or don’t know how to initiate them and it’s very important that they instill those values in the youth and help parents learn parenting skills such as the best approaches to teach their youth what is valuable or important to them. Ms. Chavez stated that a lot of the times the youth they are working with don’t even know what their values are or don’t know how to evaluate them so that is another area that they focus on.

Ms. Chavez stated that one of the biggest differences for this upcoming grant cycle is the parent component which will entail a 12 week leadership program where they focus on Caray Corazon which is values, parenting skills, how they reflect back on their own personal experiences and how those affect how they are instilling certain things in their children as well. Ms. Chavez asked if the Council had any questions.
Council asked that they identify themselves.

Miriam Chavez apologized and stated she is the Office Manager and Mark Cauley stated he is the Outreach Coordinator. Ms. Chavez stated that they also have a parent and her children here who are products of their programs.

Council Member Robinson asked how their community garden is going.

Ms. Chavez stated it is definitely a very interesting project because they want to incorporate and want to participate. The way they can involve people are the ones that are already involved in their programs. Ms. Chavez stated it is really hard to spread the word to everyone else. She knows that during this time they’ve planted some stuff but she doesn’t know what it is. She stated that Mr. Cauley probably knows.

Mr. Cauley stated it was vegetables and things like that.

Ms. Chavez stated they are preparing for pumpkins for the fall so that the pre-school kids and everyone is welcome to come and purchase.

Council Member Robinson asked how many hours they spend there and what days.

Ms. Chavez stated it is open for everyone to have access to it Monday thru Friday from 8 am – 5 pm. It is open for everyone to come in to the garden however their staff is there when they have projects going on for the youth and when they’re working on something to prepare something necessary or that want to come in for field trips and plant something or a tour or anything like that.

Council Member Robinson stated that he hasn’t seen that much being done.

Ms. Chavez stated that with the heat it has been difficult and they are also trying to change their ways since they do focus on Environmental Justice to save water, water conservation and they’re trying to look for different plants and ideas that are more water friendly as they know that is a big problem here in the Central Valley.

Council Member Robinson asked if they pay for the water.

Ms. Chavez and Mr. Cauley stated they do not, technically it is City property.

Council Member Robinson asked if they can harvest.

Mr. Cauley and Ms. Chavez stated it is open to the public.

Council Member Robinson asked if it was open to the public not just for the Coalition.

Mr. Cauley and Ms. Chavez stated it is open to the public; that it was a community garden.

Council Member Robinson asked if anybody can go in there and plant.

Ms. Chavez stated that yes it is open to anybody. It is open from 8 am – 5 pm for anyone who is willing to come in and plant whether they’re organic vegetables or anything like that.

Council Member Robinson asked if it is very organized.

Ms. Chavez replied affirmatively and that it was focused.

Mr. Cauley stated that different organizations work off a certain plot.
Ms. Chavez stated they also have a collaboration with United Way of Fresno and Madera Counties.

Council Member Robinson stated he is on the Board of United Way.

Ms. Chavez stated they have connection with May [no last name given] who wants……

Council Member Robinson stated that she [May] is no longer there.

Ms. Chavez stated sorry. She was not aware of that.

Council Member Robinson stated that when you are a gardener, you want to get the maximum amount of yieldage. To know how to garden then they have to try to bring in other people like master gardeners.

Ms. Chavez stated that is definitely an area they want to explore for the future. They want to explore nutrition, healthy eating, accessible foods, all of that and she definitely thinks gardening is a very important aspect of that.

Council Member Robinson stated that he’s been there and next time they should make it more user friendly, accessible and at least have some people there teaching them how to do it.

Ms. Chavez stated she agreed and that was a great recommendation and that is something that she will bring up to the board.

Council Member Medellin thanked them again for their presentation and stated they did a fantastic job, reaching out with FAFSA and the young ladies that gave their presentation here did a wonderful job. Council Member Medellin stated he got to see them at the school board presentation and a few other places and that they’ve pretty much almost memorized their speeches.

Council Member Medellin extended a huge thank you to Lourdes [no last name given]; he knows she’s not present.

Council Member Medellin stated his favorite time of the year is when they do the intercultural/interfaith program at Hatfield Hall. Council Member Medellin stated that in this day and age, this is a wonderful time to educate ourselves on the many diverse people they have here just in Madera and just for a moment get to spend time with their culture and their faith and get to meet a number of new people and he thinks that is something that we need more of so he asked that they please extend his thanks to Lourdes and to them for their efforts in that event.

Mayor Poythress thanked them.

Mayor Poythress stated that the last in this category would be the City of Madera Parks Senior Services.

Mark Etheridge, Business Manager for the Parks and Community Services Department stated it is his privilege to present the CDBG application that the Parks & Community Services filled out this year. Mr. Etheridge stated that he’s worked with the City for 17 years and he’s seen quite a few CDBG applications be put forth in that time and he must admit that not every time has he been able to make a personal connection with the subject matter at hand, however he finds that more and more every day he’s becoming connected with Senior Services in a personal way so it is a privilege to speak on this.

Mr. Etheridge stated that the City through the Parks & Community Services provides services for seniors at three sites. They have the Frank Bergon Senior Center where there is an assembly room, pool table, small kitchen facility, place to watch TV, books to read, those sort of things. Mr. Etheridge stated they have the Pan Am Community Center with the same sort of set up of assembly rooms, places for
classes/programs, that sort of thing and the Adult Day Care Center where they provide respite services for those individuals that have Dementia, Parkinson’s disease and other related ailments.

Mr. Etheridge stated he’d like to go over briefly what they provided with the previous dollars that they’ve been granted through the CDBG process.

Mr. Etheridge stated they have a meals program and it consists of the presentation of congregate meals at the various senior sites. They also have a Meals on Wheels program that served an average of 80 clients last year with 14 meals per week per client for a total of 58,000 individual servings of meals. Mr. Etheridge stated this program makes a significant dent in the hunger situation among seniors in the community.

Mr. Etheridge stated they also offer wellness and nutrition at their various sites. Those programs include Tai Chi, Zumba, aerobics, walking, chair exercises, Yoga, dance instruction and many other individual programs and in the past year they’ve been able to serve or provide over 10,000 service units to Madera citizens.

Mr. Etheridge stated that recreation and educational activities were also provided at the sites. These are things like the Police Department giving talks on safety that particularly pertain to seniors and their concerns. Mr. Etheridge stated they have technology related programs. There’s a video that’s out that shows their seniors enjoying a basic computer class which is just basic programming, how to operate, making them comfortable with the computer.

Mr. Etheridge stated they have some genealogy programs, arts & crafts, ceramics classes, educational speakers, games, intergenerational programming, cooking classes and as the Council could see, the list goes on and on.

Mr. Etheridge stated that the Adult Day Care offers respite to those with degenerative diseases and the recreational and fitness wellness programs are also available there.

Mr. Etheridge stated he has a lot of statistics and facts and figures that he will go through individually for their enjoyment.

Mayor Poythress stated they might enjoy it if he didn’t.

Mr. Etheridge stated that taking that hint, keeping that in mind, keeping it short, they are asking for $125,227 in CDBG allocation. Mr. Etheridge stated that surveys tell them that seniors in the community want more programming, more choices, more forms of recreation, they want more in general and the problem on the other hand is resources. They are funded through FMAAA the Fresno Madera Area Agency on Aging, donations, fundraising and CDBG along with the City’s General Fund to a certain extent and unfortunately several of those funding streams have diminished and continue to diminish as time goes by. Mr. Etheridge stated that is why they are asking for that amount of money.

Mr. Etheridge stated that in the interest of everybody’s bedtime including the seniors in the community, he didn’t bring anybody for testimonials so he’ll just read a little bit from some written testimonials:

My name is Nancy Young and I am a program participant at the Pan American Center. I would like to submit a letter on behalf of the City of Madera’s Parks & Recreation Department for support of funding for senior programs. Pan American Center is like our home away from home. We enjoy the new programs that are offered every day and try to help as much as we can to keep our Center safe, clean and fun. Any funding provided can go a long way to enriching our lives and we thank you for your consideration.

Mr. Etheridge stated there are quite a few of those letters and he’ll just sample another one.

My mother has been attending the Madera Adult Day Care Center for the past eight years. I can’t tell you how much they’ve done for my mother and myself. If it wasn’t for the Madera Adult Day Care Center, I
would not be able to function at all. It is such a wonderful blessing to be able to know that our mother’s cared for and safe with people who are kind and compassionate. I cannot say enough of how much the program means to me and my mother.

Mr. Etheridge stated that would conclude his presentation and he asked if the Council had any questions.

Mayor Poythress thanked him.

Mayor Poythress stated that in the Public Services category, they have the RAC recommendations and they have staff recommendation and now they are ready for Council recommendations and asked if anybody would like to suggest some for action.

Council Member Oliver stated he would throw out a few numbers and recommendations essentially in line with RAC with some deviations. Council Member Oliver proposed $95,000 for Parks, $12,000 for the Coalition, $10,000 for Pequeños Empresarios and the remaining amount for Workforce Investment Center.

Council Member Holley stated he would like to concur with that.

Council Member Medellin stated earlier when Ken made his presentation, he talked about track record and history which except for the Pequeños Empresarios there is a lot of history and track record. Council Member Medellin stated that as he mentioned before about the Coalition, they have an impeccable track record on what they are doing in the community. Council Member Medellin stated he truly believes in the Pequeños Empresarios; he know they are just getting off the ground but what this money will do to help the youth of Madera. He will certainly agree with Councilman Oliver. Council Member Medellin stated that with those numbers, he too would concur.

Council Member Robinson asked if they could read out those numbers again and to who.

Mayor Poythress stated it looked like $8,227 to Workforce Investment, $10,000 to the Pequeños Empresarios, $12,000 to the Madera Coalition and $95,000 for the Senior Services.

Council Member Robinson stated he had no problem with the $10,000 for Pequeños Empresarios but he thinks Madera County Workforce, the adults need money so they can support their families because they have been reducing their amount every year and they need the head of the household to earn to take care of their families.

Mayor Poythress asked if Council Member Robinson was more in line with the RAC recommendation of $10,000.

Council Member Robinson stated $10,000 or more.

Mayor Poythress asked if they potentially made that $10,000, he himself would feel uncomfortable taking any more from Senior Services and asked if that would potentially come from the Coalition.

Council Member Robinson replied affirmatively.

Mayor Poythress asked what the others on the Council thought about that.

Council Member Oliver stated he concurred with Councilman Robinson as far as Workforce Investment Center. He thinks his recommendation and motivation is looking at the different funding streams that these organizations have.

Council Member Oliver stated that certainly there’s a little bit greater capacity although any single dollar whether it be $1,000 or $10 [thousand] for Workforce Investment Center certainly goes a long way. Council Member Oliver stated he thinks in line with Mr. Hutchings comments earlier. He believes in looking back at
past performance as a positive and healthy indicator. Council Member Oliver stated he thinks the presentation that the Coalition provided here tonight provided a pretty good overview of how they see a lot of gaps in the community and exploit those issues and turn them into opportunities.

Council Member Robinson stated they run the community garden the way they run that, he wasn't impressed.

Council Member Oliver stated that might be one particular facet; a very, very small facet of an organization.

Council Member Robinson stated that was expensive.

Council Member Oliver stated he understands that but he thinks today they are looking at the Community Development Block Grant dollars and most of these services are oriented towards our young people, our seniors and those looking for work.

Council Member Robinson stated if the head of the household can't get ahead then you’re going to have to give more money to the youth in order for them to do something and he'll [head of household] stay home and won’t be able to find a job.

Council Member Medellin stated it’s an argument both ways and Council Member Robinson brings up a very good point but he would not reduce funding for one particular aspect of a community garden especially in light of the drought that they’ve had and the amount of people working for the Coalition. Council Member Medellin stated this is not taking any money from anybody’s paycheck, it certainly goes to a worthy cause in training people but it doesn’t take any money from somebody’s particular income.

Council Member Robinson asked why they were reducing it to $8,000.

Council Member Medellin stated it was in order to spread the difference, the increase for the Pequeños and the Coalition for Community Justice.

Council Member Robinson stated that like he said if the adult can’t get ahead, can’t make a living then the whole family suffers.

Council Member Holley stated his suggestion was to give $10,000 to the Workforce Investment Center, $10,000 to the Pequeños, $10,000 to the Coalition and the balance goes to the Parks [Senior] Services.

Council Member Robinson concurred with that.

Council Member Foley Gallegos concurred with that.

Mayor Poythress stated he would be fine with that.

Council Member Medellin asked what the balance would be for Parks.

Mayor Poythress stated the balance was $95,227.

Council Member Medellin stated 10 [thousand] for Workforce….

Mayor Poythress stated 10 [thousand] all the way down and then ….

Council Member Medellin stated 10 [thousand] across and the balance which is 95 [thousand]…

Mayor Poythress stated 227…[$95,227]
Mayor Poythress stated he wanted to respect the work that RAC has done and it’s a little bit more in line with what they came up with too. He appreciates their efforts because he knows Council has taken a look at it this evening but RAC took a really hard look at it in their committee work and he doesn’t want to diminish that.

Mayor Poythress asked if the Council was good with this.

Council Member Medellin stated he was good with that recommendation.

Mayor Poythress asked if there were any other comments for the public in regards to this. Seeing none, he moved on to Capital Projects and Public Improvements.

Mayor Poythress stated they have three categories and in the Amounts Requests, RAC Recommendations and Staff Recommendations are exactly the same. Mayor Poythress stated that descriptions where this money is going is mentioned in the staff report. Mayor Poythress asked if there were any questions that Council had of staff in regards to the recommendations.

Mayor Poythress addressed Mr. Rojas and stated the Council was in concert with all the recommendations.

Mayor Poythress asked if there was anybody from the public who would like to comment on Capital Projects and so forth. Seeing none, Mayor Poythress asked Mr. Richardson, City Attorney if it would be appropriate to close the public hearing and stated that these are the tentative allocation recommendations at this time.

Mr. Richardson stated that is what it will be, but brought back for approval at the next meeting.

Mayor Poythress thanked everybody on the RAC Committee, from the outstanding organizations that were mentioned earlier. Mayor Poythress stated that everything is worthy; there is no organization that was not worthy of funding or full allocations, it’s just that as they can see, Council has to make decisions and work it out. Mayor Poythress stated that he does think that from a tentative basis, they have some fair allocations to be able to help folks out.

Council Member Holley re-entered the Council Chambers and took his seat at the dais.


Keith Helmuth, City Engineer stated that on an annual basis, the Engineering Department prepares a Landscape Maintenance District Engineer’s Report. This report addresses the City’s Landscape and Lighting Assessment Districts. The Parks Department continues to assess the reasonable assessments. This assessment period includes such factors as new staff hired and drought impacts and that might be unduly impacted. Two years gives you a little bit more of an ability to go ahead and take out some of the
fluctuations. Mr. Helmuth stated staff had applied Cost of Living adjustments to several zones or landscape covenants allowed the escalation of acceptance based on inflationary factors but only if the projections indicate that it was warranted. Mr. Helmuth stated that the report also typically does several other things. Those include adding additional districts to the Engineering Report that did not exist in the previous year’s report. No districts were added this year and as Council is aware, they are trying to make attempts not to add any more zones. They are already up to 80 and 80 is a bit much. Mr. Helmuth stated they also update exhibits and assessments to reflect parcels that may have been divided or merged in the previous year. No parcels have been merged or divided. Mr. Helmuth asked the Council to approve the Engineer’s Report and adopt the resolutions to levy and collect assessment following the public hearing portion of this item. Mr. Helmuth asked if the Council had any questions.

Mayor Poythress asked if there were any questions regarding the Engineer’s Report or the Intention to Levy and Collect Annual Assessments.

Mayor Poythress stated it was a very nice report, comprehensive and really did a nice job of explaining everything.

Mayor Poythress stated they had two actions. One would be a minute order on C-3A and he asked for a motion for action on that item.

**ON MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLEY, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON, ITEM C-3A WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0. ABSENT: MAYOR PRO TEM RIGBY.**

Mayor Poythress stated that the next item would be the consideration of a resolution of Intent to Levy and Collect Annual Assessment. Mayor Poythress stated he would accept a motion for action on that item.

**ON MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLEY, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON, ITEM C-3B WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0. ABSENT: MAYOR PRO TEM RIGBY.**


**D. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

**D-1 Consideration of a Request from Pastor Roger Leach for a Resolution in Support of the “In God We Trust” Motto for the Council Chambers**

Pastor Roger Leach stated he appreciated the Council listening to all the wonderful projects in this town and it really means a lot for each and every one.

Pastor Leach congratulated Council Member Foley Gallegos on her election.

Pastor Leach stated he wanted to bring this to their attention because he feels that sometimes they're at a time in our country where they need a little extra and there’s a motto they have in the United States called “In God We Trust”. Pastor Leach stated he wanted to briefly give the Council some history and then go right into it. He stated he would go fast over all of the material that he’s given the Council.
Pastor Leach stated the phrase actually started to happen during the Star Spangled Banner during the War of 1812. It came about during the time of the fourth stanza in that wonderful song that they all sing at the beginning of baseball games and all political campaigns. Pastor Leach stated it also has some history that goes back into the time when our country was involved in a Civil War back in the 1860s whenever we started really working with trying to bring healing for our community and to our country.

Pastor Leach stated that in the Star Spangled Banner, the fourth stanza talks about: O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand between our loved home and the war’s desolation. Blessed are blest with victory and peace. May the heaven rescued land praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation. Then conquer we must, when our cause is just and this be our motto “In God is our trust” and the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave o’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Pastor Leach stated that each year that he goes to Washington, DC he is amazed whenever he stands before the flag that is displayed during the time of that war and he sees the size of it. It is about the size of this room and they start to see the impact that was made in our country.

Pastor Leach stated there is actually a descendent of Francis Scott Key that lives in their community; his name is Martin Key and he’s like a great nephew or great nephew of Francis Scott Key. Pastor Leach stated it’s kind of unique to have that within their community.

Pastor Leach stated that on April 22, 1864, Congress passed legislation to start to put “In God We Trust” on all our coins. Another act of Congress was in 1865 where the mint started putting it on other types of coins and gold coins. Pastor Leach stated he’s trying to establish an understanding that their motto is “In God We Trust” in the United States. Pastor Leach stated it has been interrupted at certain times with the five cent piece; the old buffalo nickel did not have it on but following that the Jefferson nickel did and then all our different coinage all the way through our time period has had “In God We Trust”. Pastor Leach stated the motto has been in continuous use on the one cent coin since 1909; it’s been on most of our coins since that time.

Pastor Leach stated it’s really important that on July 30, 1956 President Eisenhower on the 84th Congress approved a joint resolution with the entire Congress declaring that “In God We Trust” was the national motto that we would have in our country.

Pastor Leach stated that from that particular time on, the coinage started to go into even printed dollars and then they started to see, that was the silver standard, which it probably should still be on.

Pastor Leach stated that starting in 1964, they actually started to produce the motto “In God We Trust” on the Federal Reserve Notes and then in 2002 and 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to reaffirm the national motto that was already done and in this particular resolution, it encouraged the public to display this motto on all public buildings including schools and government institutions. Pastor Leach stated it’s kind of unique that it was.

Pastor Leach stated there was a federal lawsuit that happened in 2003. It went through the courts for two years. Davidson County won in Federal District Court in Greensboro, North Carolina. The case also went to court of appeals. The case was also appealed all the way to Supreme Court and was referred back to the appellate court that upheld that decision.

Pastor Leach stated the man that was in charge of the U.S. Motto Committee went through and said some wonderful things. The Council can read that, but it was in response to establishing the motto on a lot of the buildings in Washington, DC and across the country. Pastor Leach stated that the man made a comment that now this really is a case law and that they haven’t had a challenge since that time.

Pastor Leach stated that to provide a motto in this public meeting room, the financing could not come from the Council or the City or from the government; they would have to raise that publicly and he would love to spearhead that particular type of project to do that. Pastor Leach stated he would work with the Council
and anybody the Council has so they could do this. Pastor Leach stated local businesses, churches and individuals would love to help.

Pastor Leach stated there is a non-profit organization called In God We Trust America which is based out of Bakersfield and last year at this time they said they had about 531 cities and counties through the United States that had approved the motto. Some of the newest cities were Laguna Niguel down in the area of southern California and the City of Orange. Pastor Leach stated that in 2015, there were 107 cities and counties in California that have adopted this resolution in addition to 83 other legislative bodies in Arkansas, Colorado, Florida and Georgia.

Pastor Leach stated that along with this there is a seal or a phrase in Latin “e pluribus unum” which means “Out of Many, One” along with “In God We Trust” is actually sometimes put together as one type of display in public buildings and he has no problem with that.

Pastor Leach stated that in the State of Florida, its motto is “In God We Trust” and in about a week and a half on July 30, 2016 it will be the 60th anniversary that the U.S. motto has been adopted.

Pastor Leach asked that the Council talk about the resolution declaring the motto “In God We Trust” to be displayed in a public meeting room. Pastor Leach again stated that he would be glad to help out in any way that he could.

Pastor Leach stated that the last couple of slides indicate that U.S. Congress Resolution 13 in the 112th Congress in 2011 reaffirmed “In God We Trust” as the official motto of the United States. Pastor Leach stated that it passed the House 396 to 9. They incredible that big of a margin of our Congress working together under one type of a bill; it's great.

Pastor Leach stated that the next couple of slides have the Congressional Districts in California. California is considered a pretty liberal state, but of all the districts in California 48 said yea, 3 of districts said no and 2 did not vote. Pastor Leach stated whenever they talk about the large display of public support it came from our own congressional people.

Pastor Leach directed the Council to notice the first page of all of the ones that voted. Dennis Cardoza Congressional District 18 Democrat voted yes; Jeff Denham of the 19th Congressional District voted yes; Jim Costa whose representative was just there voted yes, Devin Nunes voted yes and Kevin McCarthy also voted yes of these central California districts.

Pastor Leach stated he would just like to conclude his presentation; he would be glad to work with anybody that the Council has, work with Council as far as the resolution, work with Council in providing funds, work with Council in any way. Pastor Leach stated that he really feels like this is an opportunity for their community to get behind something and say this is a great type of thing.

Pastor Leach stated they might have people that ask why they say In God We Trust. Pastor Leach stated the three major religions that they have represented in this town are Christian/Judeo-Christian, Jewish and Muslim and each one of them have a direct descendant to a person by the name of Abraham and Abraham had faith in God so all three of those major religions can go back to the source of who got his. Pastor Leach asked if the Council had any questions.

Mayor Poythress thanked Pastor Leach and asked if anyone had questions for Pastor Leach.

Mayor Poythress thanked that he just pulled up the website of the In God We Trust organization that was started by Jackie Sullivan. She is a Council Member in Bakersfield and right now in California there are 125 cities and counties, mainly cities that have adopted the resolution to go with the “In God We Trust” motto or designation within City Hall and it looks like it's from that organization in regards to the process and what they've done is passed all the legal tests and so forth.
Mayor Poythress stated that what they are looking for is comments, direction, bring it back for resolution to move forward.

Pastor Leach commented that if anybody really doesn’t want to receive that motto he would be glad to take anything that comes out of their purse or pocket that would have that on their currency as far as a thing they’d like to divest themselves from that; money. Pastor Leach stated he would be glad to take that from them tonight and apply that to future good.

Council Member Medellin stated that as far as direction, he thinks they should absolutely move forward with that and do what they have to do to bring that resolution before the Council sooner rather than later.

Council Member Holley concurred stating it was a long time coming and he wondered when it was going to get here.

Mayor Poythress stated they had direction.

Mr. Richardson asked if Ms. Alvarez had noted the result of the discussion.

Mayor Poythress thanked Pastor Leach.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

E-1 Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Purchase of an Easement Over Real Property, and Accepting Two Easement Deeds as Donations from Property Owners, on Behalf of the City of Madera, in Connection with the MAX Bus Shelters and Amenities Project (Report by Keith Helmuth)

Jose Aguilar, Deputy City Engineer stated he was there to present Item E-1 for approval and acceptance of right-of-way easement for the MAX Bus Shelters and amenities. Mr. Aguilar stated this project consists of 21 bus shelters with trash cans and benches. Mr. Aguilar stated 18 units of these bus shelters are within the City right-of-way and relocations require easements to accommodate the bus structures and provide sufficient accessibility with the four divisions in compliance with ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] requirement.

Ivette Iraheta, Grants Administrator stated she brings good news to Council tonight. She is very pleased to make this presentation on the various enhancements that have been carried out in the City to improve their transit system. Ms. Iraheta read a recap of the Mission Statement: The City of Madera Transit Department seeks to provide transit customers in the City's transit services with public transportation to specified destinations in a professional, courteous and timely manner with equipment that is accessible, affordable and comfortable.

Ms. Iraheta stated they started off with the Dial-A-Ride services. This service started off in the 1970s. Senior citizens expressed their need for transit services and it was later made available to the general public, but for Dial-A-Ride, their first priority is to provide services in response to disabled Americans.

Ms. Iraheta stated they also operate Madera Area Express Service. This began in the late 1980s. They have two routes serving the City's shopping, medical and educational destinations and they are happy to say their services benefit the local economy which also reduce vehicle emissions.

Ms. Iraheta stated that in the 2010s an evaluation of their system bus shelters and amenities was conducted. Ms. Iraheta referred to a slide and stated that is what the bus shelters looked like back then and there was a general consensus that these shelters lacked functional and aesthetic features and did not promote their community’s perception of public transportation therefore an effort to enhance the bus shelters and its amenities was initiated.
Ms. Iraheta stated it was a two phased project and it started off with an extensive search for the new shelter design. This was conducted in partnership with Madera RDA [Redevelopment Agency], Madera ADA Advisory Council, Madera Beautification Committee and the Heartland Opportunity Center. Ms. Iraheta stated there was a consensus to design a unique bus shelter to incorporate a preferred design features of accessibility, affordability and comfort.

Ms. Iraheta stated that an RFP [Request for Proposal] was first issued to design their first 40 bus shelters and the architect was retained to incorporate their ideas. Ms. Iraheta referred to the presentation slides which showed the potential designs. Ms. Iraheta stated they chose the basic model and accentuated that with a tile roof with this design. Ms. Iraheta stated they see this throughout the City.

Ms. Iraheta stated they installed 40 [bus shelters] in 2013. Ms. Iraheta showed Council slides depicting bus shelters on Yosemite Avenue, in front of Cottonwood Creek Apartments and in front of the Social Services building. Ms. Iraheta stated the 40 [bus shelters] were installed by the end of 2013.

Ms. Iraheta stated that after that, the public and various interested parties told them that there was a need to provide more convenient and accessible service in northeast Madera and in a new housing development in southeast Madera. They also wanted the frequency to be improved and reduced from 35 minutes to 30 minutes so they responded by installing seven new bus stops and this was completed in the winter of this year. Ms. Iraheta referred to another slide which showed those locations.

Ms. Iraheta stated they will now begin route service to these new bus stops on August 22, 2016. They are releasing bilingual press releases to announce new stops and they will also be posting signs at the bus stops and the actual buses.

Ms. Iraheta stated that they will begin design for 21 new bus shelters. The Engineering Department is working on the design and they [Grants Department] have started the RFP process to purchase these additional bus shelters. Ms. Iraheta stated they anticipate starting construction for the installation of these 21 bus shelters in the spring of 2017 and they will be going on at existing bus stops. Funding is being provided through Measure T – Transit Enhancement Fund, LCTOP, Prop 1B and Cal-OES. Ms. Iraheta stated that for the 21 bus shelters they do need right-of-way.

Mr. Aguilar stated Council was looking at [a slide of] the three locations where right-of-way easements are required. Mr. Aguilar stated that a letter of offer was sent to all three property owners of the land where easements are needed and they offered the minimum amount of $500 based on the annual valuation for just compensation that is consistent with state and federal regulations. Mr. Aguilar stated that two property owners donated the affected portions of their property and one owner decided to accept the $500 offered as a nominal fee for real property.

Mr. Aguilar stated Council was looking at [a slide of] all the 21 bus shelter various locations in the City of Madera. Mr. Aguilar apologized as the image is not as clear as they usually have as they were extracted from the plans. Mr. Aguilar recommended that Council approve the purchase of an easement and acceptance of two easement deeds as donations from the property owners. Mr. Aguilar stated that concluded their presentation and asked if the Council had any questions.

Mayor Poythress thanked them and asked if the Council had any questions, comments or thoughts.

Council Member Robinson stated that the bus shelter doesn't really offer that much shelter from the elements; other cities might have glass. Council Member Robinson stated that if they look at third world countries, they have bus shelters that are better.

Mayor Poythress stated that here in Madera versus some other places, they have at least the covering for the sun and actually it might be good that they don’t have that back so they can get some wind through otherwise, if they get in there and they don't have wind and it's one of those hot days, they can bake in there.
Council Member Robinson stated he was looking at the shelter in the picture and the shade was on the other side.

Council Member Medellin stated that the shelters still look brand new today. He thinks they've been kept up very, very well. Council Member Medellin stated they've served their purpose and hopefully people are not under them for any length of time and he knows that travel routes have been reduced. Council Member Medellin stated that through MCTC [Madera County Transportation Commission] that was one of the concerns that people had as to how long do they have to wait for the next bus to come around and the City's reduced that and they continue to reduce that wait time.

Council Member Medellin stated it was a very nice presentation and thanked them.

Mayor Poythress stated that this particular action is to approve the purchase of the easement of real property and accept the easement deeds and donations.

**ON MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLEY, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MEDELLIN, ITEM E-1 WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0. ABSENT: MAYOR PRO TEM RIGBY.**

RES. NO. 16-112
A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA APPROVING
THE PURCHASE OF AN EASEMENT OVER REAL PROPERTY, AND
ACCEPTING TWO EASEMENT DEEDS AS DONATIONS FROM PROPERTY
OWNERS, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MADERA, IN CONNECTION WITH
THE MAX BUS SHELTERS AND AMENITIES PROJECT

E-2 Consideration of a Request to Designate a Voting Delegate and Alternate for the League of California Cities Annual Conference (Report by Sonia Alvarez)

Sonia Alvarez, City Clerk stated that the League of Cities Annual Conference is scheduled for October 5th; she will double check the dates as she may have the wrong dates. Ms. Alvarez stated they are requesting that the Council designate the voting members for their annual business meeting where they vote on resolutions submitted to the League.

Ms. Alvarez stated that currently Mayor Pro Tem Rigby is scheduled to attend and Council Member Robinson will be registered soon.

Council Member Holley nominated Council Member Oliver to that position.

Mayor Poythress asked if Council Member Oliver was going to the conference as it has to be somebody who is going to the event so it should be Mayor Pro Tem Rigby or Council Member Robinson.

Council Member Oliver stated he definitely appreciated it but he has not registered. Council Member Oliver stated that if it was necessary, he would be happy to do so but as Councilman Robinson and Councilman Rigby are already going to be in attendance, he would nominate they serve as voting delegate and first alternate. If there is a third alternate, he would be happy to serve.

Mayor Poythress asked if they are looking at the nomination of Mayor Pro Tem as the primary alternate and then Council Member Robinson as the....

**ON MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLIVER, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MEDELLIN, MAYOR PRO TEM RIGBY WAS DESIGNATED AS PRIMARY DELEGATE AND COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON WAS DESIGNATED AS ALTERNATE DELAGATE UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 6-0. ABSENT: MAYOR PRO TEM RIGBY.**
Mayor Poythress stated he thought David Tooley, City Administrator had a comment in regards to a potential Ad-Hoc Committee or at least....

David Tooley, City Administrator stated there was no action to be taken that evening; he just needed some clarification by Council. Mr. Tooley stated that by email, he’s let Council know that there’s going to be a Neighborhood meeting that has to do with the River Trail. Mr. Tooley stated several Council Members have expressed an interest in attending and of course they are limited by the Brown Act to no more than three. Mr. Tooley stated that he simply needs some clarification this evening on who from the Council plans to attend and he’ll coordinate the activity and make sure Council has support for it, but he needs to know which two or three Council Members are committed to that meeting.

Council Member Medellin stated that since it is District 1, Council Member Gallegos should be first on the list as part of that and he would like to attend as well.

Mayor Poythress stated they have two and Council Member Robinson. Mayor Poythress stated they have their three.

Mr. Tooley stated that if that reflects the will of the Council, that’s where they’ll go. Mr. Tooley thanked the Council.

Mayor Poythress thanked Mr. Tooley.

F. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Holley thanked everybody and stated his wife was present and asked that they greet her. Council Member Holley stated he is trying to get her to attend more meetings so she can see how the Council acts and how they treat him.

Council Member Holley stated that just the other day he had a chance to visit across the street where they have a new County Fire Department office and he talked to Dave [Allen] and Mr. Allen would like to invite any Council Member to go over and look at it. Council Member Holley stated it is a new asset to the County as well as to the City.

Council Member Medellin stated he had the honor and pleasure of attending the Madera Association of Realtors luncheon today where their honorable Mayor spoke and got some great input. It was very interactive including dry erase pens and a board. Council Member Medellin stated he wouldn’t steal Mayor Poythress’ thunder and would let him speak about it, but it was great input and feedback and he certainly appreciated what Mayor Poythress did and to listen to everybody.

Council Member Medellin stated they have some difficult times around the nation in respect to police officers; the men and women who protect them every day and there are a couple of employees of a local print shop that decided to kind of take matters into their own hands. Council Member Medellin stated they want to on their own time purchase t-shirts, [like] the one he is wearing this evening, and they want to donate all the proceeds to our local law enforcement our Madera Police Department so what they did is they went around to some local businesses and asked if they wouldn’t mind selling the shirts for them as they were going to donate proceeds. Council Member Medellin stated his shirt is literally the first shirt hot off the press. Council Member Medellin stated they’ve had dozens and he would almost say hundreds of people say they would purchase, they would buy to show their support for the men and women at Madera Police Department as well as Highway Patrol and Madera County Sheriff’s Department; they want to show support.

Council Member Medellin stated they will be seeing this on social media and who knows where else. Council Member Medellin stated today was kind of the brain child and these are millennials that decided to pull a few extra dollars out of their own pocket to support as well as many other people that have stopped by the Police Department and shown support whether it be food, wall hangings, pictures or things like that.
Council Member Medellin stated that solidarity is what they need in Madera, it’s what they need in California and it’s what they need across their nation. Council Member Medellin just wanted to thank them for their efforts in trying to raise money to help Madera Police Department in their efforts whether it be the Kids’ Camp that is [occurring] this summer or reading to third graders in the elementary schools or whatever other endeavors they may have; they want to help support the Police Department and support those efforts.

Mayor Poythress stated maybe something in November.

Council Member Medellin stated it was quite possible.

Mayor Poythress thanked Council Member Medellin.

Council Member Oliver advised Council Member Medellin to count him in as he’d be happy to support that as it is certainly needed in the community and the nation.

Council Member Oliver stated he held a Constituent Mobile Office Hour last week at Starbuck’s. Council Member Oliver stated that when he does these he tries to do two back-to-back. Council Member Oliver stated there was a lot of great interaction and engagement from members of their community. Council Member Oliver stated he appreciates staff for being very responsive; he often times walks out with a list of action items, concerns, complaints and ideas and then he gets on email and phone and talks to the City’s experts in those fields on how to address those. Council Member Oliver stated there was a good turn out and he was definitely there on behalf of the entire City Council as Councilman Holley often emphasizes and it was a pretty good day.

Mayor Poythress thanked Council Member Oliver.

Council Member Robinson stated he had the honor of attending the Police Department’s Oath of Office Ceremony; they welcomed in a few more police officers. Council Member Robinson stated it was a family affair and the food was great; he got seconds. Council Member Robinson stated it was on the 16th.

Mayor Poythress asked if Council Member Robinson had gotten invited to that event.

Council Member Robinson replied affirmatively.

Council Member Robinson stated that on the 19th, yesterday, he attended the Neighborhood Watch Program on Coolidge Street. Council Member Robinson stated there are only three or four Neighborhood [Watch Programs] in his district so he is trying to increase it.

Council Member Robinson stated he attended the new Bitwise 50,000 square foot building. Council Member Robinson stated it’s a technology site that represents 107 businesses. Council Member Robinson stated they said it was vital to encompass rural communities.

Council Member Robinson stated they teach Hashtag and another company is Geekwise. Council Member Robinson stated it’s a think tank. They want to train the community to code and write software and they want to establish businesses and jobs in order to attract people before the Light Rail they’re building with private funds in Fresno.

Council Member Robinson stated they want to increase the skills, they want to get the grants and they want the population to be trained. Council Member Robinson stated the next class starts August 8th; it’s a six weeks class.

Council Member Robinson stated they want to get the information to the community and Bitwise knows what the community needs; they already did the research.
Council Member Robinson stated that in a year and a half, they’re going to have a 2.5 million square foot building with a charter school inside and they are saying they want to be the next Silicone Valley.

Council Member Robinson stated they are due to break ground on the Light Rail in 2018 and it will extend to Friant, Fireball, Del Rey, Bazonne and Fresno County. Council Member Robinson stated they expect that to be started in 18 months.

Council Member Robinson stated they want to have an at least 250,000 workforce by 2020 and they said 1.5 million jobs will be needed. Council Member Robinson stated the project based its CARTS Center for Advance Research and Technology in Clovis also. They are willing to come and have a meeting. Council Member Robinson stated he spoke to Linda Shaw for the Housing and she wanted to start a computer lab and they said they’re willing to come and talk to her and also talk to the school district.

Mayor Poythress stated that’s a big deal and thanked Council Member Robinson for helping make that connection.

Council Member Foley Gallegos stated she has great things to say.

Council Member Foley Gallegos stated she also got to attend the City of Madera Police Oath Ceremony with Councilman Robinson and it was amazing to see the unitedness that the City of Madera has with all their policemen and women. Council Member Foley Gallegos stated one thing there was a hoorah about is that four of the new officers are three born and raised Maderans and she was really pleased to see that children that have been born in Madera and have gone through the school system are now going to protect them in the City of Madera. Council Member Foley Gallegos stated there were a lot of promotions with Corporal, Lieutenants. Council Member Foley Gallegos stated it was great to meet the families of all the people that protect them and she thanked them on behalf of the Council for their services.

Council Member Foley Gallegos stated she also got to be with the Engineering Department in their staff meeting and that was very good knowledge for her and she hopes she wasn’t too intruding on their time. Council Member Foley Gallegos indicated that Keith Helmuth, City Engineer stated his staff might be nervous and she advised him that she just wanted to get knowledge.

Council Member Foley Gallegos stated she went to meet with Chris Boyle, Planning Manager regarding one question and was in there for a couple of hours getting more knowledge.

Council Member Foley Gallegos stated that tomorrow she would be at Public Works.

Council Member Foley Gallegos stated she’s trying to get all the areas.

Mayor Poythress stated great job.

Mayor Poythress stated he would tag on to what Council Member Medellin mentioned as far as the Madera Association of Realtors. Mayor Poythress stated there are a lot of folks in there that are on the ground, they’re meeting with people and they’re selling and buying homes, etc. Mayor Poythress stated he thought they would be a great organization to bring in more to the fold with the City and the next time the City has a Citizens Academy he thinks they’d be a great organization to really make a lot of invitations to. Mayor Poythress stated the City could probably get seven or eight people maybe more just from that organization to be involved because there is definitely a lot of interest. They are really ramping up operations and really wanting to get more involved.

Mayor Poythress stated that before they meet again as a Council they are going to experience National Night Out; the first Tuesday in August, August 2nd. Mayor Poythress stated it’s a great event and he thinks they will have over 40 neighborhoods……

One of the Councilmembers indicated it was 48 neighborhoods.
Mayor Poythress stated there is a great competition going around right now amongst the Council and so forth as far as........

Council Member Holley stated that Council Member Medellin has the most.

Council Member Foley Gallegos stated so far.

Council Member Medellin stated that Council Member Foley Gallegos had just put down the gauntlet.

Mayor Poythress stated that was great.

Council Member Medellin stated that they are all City of Madera and competition aside if they have over 40 or 48 neighborhoods regardless of which district for example District 2 which has the most, regardless of that they are all Maderans and he thinks that is the effort of their [Neighborhood] Revitalization [Department] and they've done a fantastic job.

Mayor Poythress stated it was a big win for the entire City.

Mayor Poythress stated that anybody who can participate that hasn't found a way to participate yet, this would be a wonderful thing to do.

G. CLOSED SESSION

There are no items for this section.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Poythress at 8:22 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

Zelda Leon, Deputy City Clerk