

MINUTES - MORRO BAY CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING – JUNE 23, 2020
TELECONFERENCE – 3:00 P.M.

AGENDA NO: A-1
MEETING DATE: August 11, 2020

City Council conducted this meeting in accordance with Section 3 of California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020 in response to the present State of Emergency in existence due to the threat of COVID-19. This meeting was held via teleconference for all participants.

PRESENT: John Headding Mayor
 Dawn Addis Council Member
 Robert Davis Council Member
 Jeff Heller Council Member
 Marlys McPherson Council Member

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Scott Collins City Manager
 Chris Neumeyer City Attorney
 Dana Swanson City Clerk
 Jennifer Callaway Finance Director
 Scot Graham Community Development Director
 Steve Knuckles Fire Chief
 Jody Cox Police Chief
 Eric Endersby Harbor Director

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Headding established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. with Council Members Addis and McPherson present. Council Members Davis and Heller joined the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

<https://youtu.be/-BHZlqz1CXA?t=208>

Dan Sedley, Morro Bay, requested the Council table the proposed resolution, based on the unconstitutional manner it was presented, and requested more funding for the Morro Bay Police Department.

The public comment period was closed.

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA ITEM:

- I. RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS; RECEIVE AND DISCUSS REPORT FROM MBPD CHIEF COX ON POLICE REFORM; CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 64-20 AFFIRMING THAT RACISM IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND URGING PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS DECLARE RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY; CONSIDER PROVIDING FURTHER DIRECTION TO STAFF; (CITY MANAGER)

<https://youtu.be/-BHZlqz1CXA?t=686>

City Manager Collins and Police Chief Jody Cox provided the report.

Mayor Headding re-opened public comment.
<https://youtu.be/-BHZlgz1CXA?t=2549>

Quinn Brady, Los Osos, encouraged the City to take active steps to provide more resources for mental health and community support.

Courtney Haile, San Luis Obispo resident and co-founder of R.A.C.E. Matters, encouraged unanimous support of the proposed resolution and recommended health officials designate racism as a public health emergency.

Travis Ford, Morro Bay, stated we must do everything in our power to prevent racially motivated tragedies from happening in Morro Bay and encouraged the Council to declare racism a public health crisis.

Mayor Headding closed public comment.

Mr. Collins and Chief Cox responded to questions raised by the Council.

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to adopt Resolution No. 64-20 affirming that racism is a public health crisis and recommending that public health officials declare racism as a public health emergency. The motion was seconded by Council Member Heller for discussion.

The Council requested staff keep the Council apprised as to what happens at the State Level regarding the use of the carotid hold, and also report back on a potential community organization with specifics on accountability with regard to the vetting of general police performance issues.

Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0 by roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Recorded by:

Dana Swanson
City Clerk