

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Harness, Smith, Hinesly, Morales, Gonzalez

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Nunes, Anderson, Barkley

DUSD BOARD MEMBERS: Froese, Kizirian, Worrell, Rojas, Villarreal

DUSD STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Hernandez, Meyer, Kaljumagi

CALL TO ORDER

The work session was called to order at 5:35 pm.

1.1. City Council Members Attendance

All members present.

1.2. School Board Members Attendance

All members present.

1.3. Adoption of Joint Meeting Agenda

It was motioned by Vice Mayor Morales, second by Council Member Smith, to adopt the joint work session agenda.

AYES: Harness, Smith, Hinesly, Morales, Gonzalez

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by DUSD Board Member Rojas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3.1. Unscheduled

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1. Dinuba Vocational Center Update

Assistant City Manager Anderson reported background information as to the current activities taking place at the Vocational Center. They were: the CBI class; Dinuba Fire Department CPR certification classes; Universal Biopharma; entrepreneurial classes; WET (CVBI); California Centers for International

Trade; Debudio & Defendis Insurance Co; Odwalla; Harry & David Co; city recruitment testing; and Dinuba Economic Development Commission meetings. She reported that future plans include business development classes; job skill development; and business incubation.

Anderson reported that longer term goals include a commercial kitchen for which EDA funding is available.

City Manager Nunes said staff is working with the schools on the LINK Learning Program and the adult school and the Reedley College Adult School program.

Dr. Hernandez referenced the Joint Powers Agreement between the City and the School District and cited his interpretation of what "opportunity" means. He shared copies of the EDA original grant application. Dr. Hernandez said if the District buys the building they can continue programs the City now has and add more to them.

Principal Meyer stated he would like to see the vocational center become more like the CART facility in Clovis. He said if the District buys it they will use the facility all hours of the day and night. Meyer said the benefits of the vocational center are: it would create foot traffic downtown and better education for students.

College of the Sequoias President Carrizosa was present and he said the original intent was to be an anchor and promote the downtown area years ago.

Dr. Hernandez requested the Council's feedback on the District's offer to purchase.

City Manager Nunes shared her part in the EDA grant years ago. She said the District pulled out of the vocational center due to funding issues and so did Reedley College. There were a few tenants left once they left like Workforce Investment Board, Proteus, basic school district classes like ESL. Shortly after that, Ruiz Foods was interested in purchasing the building for their home office so Reedley College classes were moved to the high school and the other tenants, once notified of the pending sale to Ruiz, moved out. Then Ruiz Foods pulled out of the sale and we were left with an empty building. Before that we were training 1800 people a year at the vocational center.

Council Member Smith said his daughter took a CAN class at the vocational center that was given by the school district but she felt she did not gain anything from the curriculum.

City Manager Nunes said we just got the building back from Universal Biopharma. The city's focus is to train adults. Staff is talking with College of Sequoias about classes at the center.

John de la Montanya got up to comment about the original intent of the vocational center. Council Member Smith asked him for whom the center was intended and Montanya responded it was intended for adults. Council Member Smith stated "it doesn't matter who owns the building."

Vice Mayor Morales asked the School Board why they haven't built a new school yet.

Board Member Worrell said a new school is \$90 million and the district doesn't have the money. She in turn asked why the City wants to keep the vocational center building. Mayor Hinesly asked Worrell why the District wants the building and she asked what happened to the bond money the District receives from residents.

Board Member Froese said the District has no money because they have lost their capacity to sell bonds. He said the District has about \$21 million.

Council Member Smith referred to a report about the School's Bond spending and said the Measure when proposed was misrepresented to the voters and funds were used for things other than what they were intended.

Board Member Worrell said the District has a Bond Oversight Committee and she said the funds were spent exactly as they were intended but the school district simply has no bonding capacity.

Worrell asked what the building currently appraises for and Nunes said we don't have a current appraisal but there was one done a couple years ago or at least when Ruiz Foods proposed to buy the building. Nunes said at that time it was appraised at \$1.4 million just for the building.

Council Member Harness said there must be a backup plan in everything. He asked the school board what their plan is once Governor Brown is no longer in office and beyond that time. Harness said even if the building were available to the school district, he asked what their plans are beyond that.

Board Member Froese said their enrollment figures are tremendous and they keep growing. He said there will be a greater need than just a high school very soon.

Board Member Worrell asked why the Council hesitates to sell the building. Council Member Harness said the Council is not ready to sell the building at this time. It's an asset.

Discussion followed in regard to the use of the building and City Manager Nunes said the District can use the former Justice facility on College at no cost to the District. She said further that they could place mobile units on the premises like the former tenant had.

Board Member Kizirian said "it's not a good environment for the kids."

Board Member Rojas said the District wants to buy because there is a chance that future Councils may elect to boot them from the facility.

Discussion followed in regard to gifting of public funds.

Vice Mayor Morales said the building is not for sale.

Mayor Hinesly said the focus of the vocational center is helping people get jobs. She said she is a supporter of education but the City Council made a commitment to the jobless. She said she believes if the focus is not on that people will begin to leave the community.

4.2. Sportsplex

No discussion.

4.3. Critical Incident Communication Protocol

No discussion.

4.4. Information Sharing

None

ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT WORK SESSION

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Janet C. Hinesly, Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Barkley, Deputy City Clerk