



CITY OF ATASCADERO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

City Hall Council Chambers, 4th floor
6500 Palma Avenue, Atascadero, California

City Council Special Meeting:

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Moreno called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and Mayor Moreno led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: **By Teleconference** - Council Members Bourbeau, Dariz, Funk, Mayor Pro Tem Newsom, and Mayor Moreno

Absent: None

Others Present: None

Staff Present: **By Teleconference** – City Manager Rachelle Rickard, Administrative Services Director Jeri Rangel, Community Development Director Phil Dunsmore, City Attorney Steve McEwen, Deputy City Manager/City Clerk Lara Christensen, and IT Manager Luke Knight

A. MANAGEMENT REPORTS:

1. **Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant**

- **Fiscal Impact:** The adoption of this temporary emergency grant program would result in a direct fiscal impact to the General Fund in the amount of \$250,000. Additional expenditures as a result of staff time and resources is expected to result in costs up to \$20,000. Staff time expended on this program will not be recouped in full, however there is a potential for some long term revenue benefit as a result of maintaining business in Atascadero.

- Recommendation: Council adopt Draft Resolution authorizing the City Manager to allocate up to \$250,000 from the General Fund towards an emergency grant program to assist small businesses that have demonstrated significant financial impacts due to emergency business closures as a result of COVID-19. [City Manager]

Community Development Director Dunsmore gave the staff report and answered questions from the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The following citizens spoke by telephone on this item: None.

Mayor Moreno closed the Public Comment period.

MOTION: By Mayor Moreno and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Newsom to adopt Resolution No. 2020-087 authorizing the City Manager to allocate up to \$250,000 from the General Fund towards an emergency grant program to assist small businesses that have demonstrated significant financial impacts due to emergency business closures as a result of COVID-19, prioritizing businesses unable to adapt to the new stay-at-home order requirements and amending the application as follows:

1. Add the word “substantial” in front of the word compliance on the fourth bullet under the eligibility requirements on page 1, in front of the word loss on question #1 under eligibility verification on page 2, and in front of the word compliance on question #9 under eligibility verification on page 3.
2. Add the language “or 15 full-time equivalents” before the word as on the sixth bullet under the eligibility requirements on page 1 and before the word as on question #6 under eligibility verification on page 3.
3. Add the following term to the Grant Application Process and Terms on page 4 – “5. If awarded, businesses receiving funding must send a notice by May 15, 2021, either emailed or delivered directly to the City of Atascadero, briefly describing how the funds were used and how the funds helped maintain the business and/or workforce.”
4. Add the following questions to the application – “Has the business received any type of assistance funds due to the COVID-19 pandemic?” and “Does the business plan to cease operations anytime between now and April 30, 2021?”

Motion passed 5:0 by a roll-call vote.

- B. DISCUSSION ITEM:** Discussion of COVID 19 issues including oral updates by Mayor Moreno and City Manager Rickard, questions by City Council, public comment and comments by City Council.

1. Coronavirus (COVID-19) update – Mayor Moreno
2. Coronavirus (COVID-19) update – City Manager Rickard

Mayor Moreno and City Manager Rickard provided updates on Coronavirus (COVID-19) and answered questions from the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Emails from the following citizens were read into the record by Deputy City Manager/City Clerk Christensen: Hayley Mattson

Mayor Moreno closed the Public Comment period.

C. ADJOURN

Mayor Moreno adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m. to the Next Regular Session on January 12, 2021.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:



Lara K. Christensen
Deputy City Manager / City Clerk

APPROVED: January 12, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT PROVIDED BY EMAIL

B. DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

SUBMISSION FROM: Hayley Mattson

From: Hayley Mattson | 13 Stars Media <hayley@13starsmedia.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:11 PM

To: City Clerk <cityclerk@atascadero.org>

Cc: Heather Moreno <hmoreno@atascadero.org>

Subject: Public Comment: Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant Meeting 12/15

Importance: High

Good afternoon,

I would like to submit the following for public comment for tonight's meeting, it is also attached.

Thank you for your time and service.

City of Atascadero Special Meeting, Dec. 15
Action Item 1. Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant

From: Hayley Mattson
Atascadero Home Owner, Local Business Owner and Mom
Dear Atascadero City Council,

Tonight, you have called a special meeting to discuss "Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant" due to the recent "Stay-at-Home" orders that Gov. Newsom put into place on Dec. 5.

I am an Atascadero resident, active within the community, and local business owner with my husband. We publish several publications that cover Central California. As with most, our company took an enormous hit this year, and we had only just started to slowly recover when this second stay-at-home order was put into place.

We employ an outstanding team of professionals that depend on us to maintain financial stability, and as with most small businesses, that is who you are supporting. Each one of them makes a difference to the whole. Counting on the government to assist with that is not financially responsible as a business owner.

I have seen each of you talk about your love and support for small business. I ask that you show that in your actions today. I request that the City of Atascadero take the approach that Paso Robles City Council did in a courageous 5-0 vote last week in moving back to the Purple Tier, along with writing a letter to the Governor on our behalf.

We are responsible adults, and we live in a community that cares for one another. We need to stop the hateful rhetoric that people are "super spreaders" or that they intentionally "let the virus to use them as a weapon that kills" this is truly an insult to the core of being a good human.

I believe we can all agree on the following: wear a mask if you cannot socially distance, wash your hands, and then wash them again. If you feel ill, stay home, do not go around others, and if you think you were exposed, quarantine.

The one thing that is lacking on a large scale is personal responsibility for one's self. I spent most of my career in healthcare, and nearly every year at this time, our hospitals were over capacity for most of the flu season. Interesting enough, the flu is not very relevant this year; however, I would strongly urge anyone to look into the numbers of years past. You will find thousands of families that lost their loved ones to the flu, including a large number of children that our country did not mourn for, nor did we close anything down for. Any physician will tell you that the flu shot is a guess of which strain may hit us this year, not a guarantee you won't get it.

COVID-19 is a real threat; there is no question about that. However, with self-responsibility and now the vaccine, we will get through this. But if we keep our small businesses, restaurants, health clubs, beauty salons, wineries, personal care, and others handcuffed by a revolving door of restrictions, they will not continue, which in turn directly impacts Atascadero and the larger economy.

We want our community to be "safely open." If you are afraid, ill, immune-compromised, etc., please stay home so we can have businesses here for when you feel safe.

I commend Mayor Moreno for taking the initial stand and sending a letter to our County Supervisors; I hope you all will join her and take a stand for the businesses that support all of you.

Please be courageous and supportive; vote to allow us to go back to the purple tier. If we encourage personal responsibility for ourselves, we can truly start to recover.

*Stronger together,
Hayley*

Hayley E. Mattson
Co-Founder & Publisher | 13 Stars Media
Editor-In-Chief

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