

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
275 MAIN STREET, 4th FLOOR, WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA

November 5, 2019

6:03 PM

In accordance with City policy, all Planning Commission meetings are recorded on audio and video in their entirety, and are available for review in the Community Development Department (CDD). These minutes are a brief summary of action taken.

1. ROLL CALL

Chair Jenni Veitch-Olson, Vice-Chair Matthew H. Jones, and Commissioners, Jenna Rodriguez, Philip F. Tavaréz, Ed Acosta and Anna Kammer and were present. Commissioner Jenny T. Sarmiento was absent.

Staff members present were City Attorney Alan Smith, Community Development Director Suzi Merriam, Principal Planner Justin Meek, Recording Secretary Deborah Muniz, Development Review Technician Lizette Salgado, and City Interpreter Mindy Esqueda.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Boni Haduca, 26 Western Drive, had questions for the Commissioners regarding project at 1 Western Drive.

John Menke, 35 9th Street, shared his views on the project at 1 Western Drive, including concerns about parking and traffic impacts to his neighborhood.

Greg Caput, 7 Alton Way, shared his views about the approved plans for the approved project at 1 Western drive and reiterated concerns about potential the parking impacts in the surrounding neighborhood.

Marilyn Hyde, 809 Vermont Street, owner of Hyde Apartments, expressed opposition to the hotel project.

Patty Muldown, 35 9th Street, shared concerns about the hotel project.



David Trevino, 15 Alton Way, expressed his concerns regarding the 1 Western Drive project and stated his belief that there is no need for a new hotel.

Susan Holford, 614 Atri Court., shared concerns about parking and accessibility difficulties in the area of the approved project at 1 Western Drive.

Jean Haduca, 26 Western Drive, shared concerns about the Hotel project.

Victor Morani, Watsonville Neighbors, thanked the Commissioners for their work, thanked the Register Pajaronian for the information on the 1 Western Drive project and expressed a recommendation for Commissioners to review the project once again and evaluate any issues that may arise for the surrounding neighborhood.

Luz Maria Gonzales, 447 Rogge St, expressed concerns about recent water bill increases.

Silvia Castillo, 439 Rogge St, shared concerns about the water bill increases.

Community Development Director Suzi Merriam shared that the Planning Commissioner have no authority over the water rate increases and recommended to call customer service and attend a City Council meeting.

Vice-Chair Jones inquired about approval date for the 1 Western Drive project.

Chair Veitch-Olson stated that the project would be discussed at the next City Council Meeting and that the Commission should table the topic and allow City Council to discuss the matter then.

Director Merriam clarified approval dates for the hotel project and stated that a building permit is ready for issuance. She also stated that City Council has also requested clarification from staff and will connect with them for answers.

Commissioner Acosta asked for further clarification from Mr. Greg Caput's comment.

Greg Caput clarified.

Vice-Chair Jones and Commissioner Acosta asked Director Merriam for clarification about the minor modification for the 1 Western Drive Project.

Director Merriam clarified.

Vice-Chair Jones and Commissioner Acosta requested a project update for the 1 Western Drive hotel project.

Chair Veitch-Olson stated that there will be an update of the project in the next meeting's agenda.



Susan Holford added to her comment regarding the approved hotel project.

Commissioner Acosta stated he is a community servant and is here to serve his community.

City Attorney Alan Smith clarified the approval and permitting process.

Commissioner Acosta stated that he believes that the change appears to not have been a minor change and asked for transparency on the project information.

City Attorney Smith clarified.

Chair Veitch-Olson added that Director Merriam is always open to meet with the Commissioners to clarify any questions or concerns.

Vice-Chair Jones added that he is here to serve his community and will be following up with his appointed City Council member on the status of the project.

Boni Haduca added to his public comment on the 1 Western Drive project.

John Menke added that parking will be a great issue and suggested review of parking regulations.

Chair Veitch-Olson asked for a report on a future agenda item from the Secretary.

Commissioner Rodriguez thanked the public for attending the meeting and invited the public to the Digital Nest 5th Year anniversary being held on Sunday, November 11th from 4-6 P.M.

Chair Veitch-Olson invited the public to Holidays in the Plaza November 24th at 1 P.M. and tree lighting at 5 P.M. at the Downtown Watsonville Plaza.

A. ORAL PRESENTATION ON PLANNING HISTORY TIMELINE

Principal Planner Justin Meek gave a presentation on the history of planning.

Principal Planner Meek also presented a housing update along with a brief summary of the Downtown Watsonville Specific Plan (DTWSP) stakeholder meetings.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. MOTION APPROVING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 MEETING

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Chair Veitch-Olson, and carried by the following vote to approve the Consent Agenda:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: Rodriguez, Tavarez, Acosta



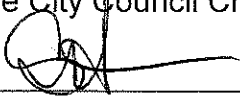
NOES: COMMISSIONERS: Veitch-Olson, Jones, Kammer
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS: None
Sarmiento

5. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

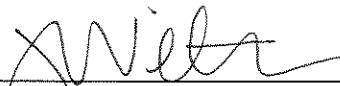
Director Merriam announced that the Cannabis Regulations would be going to the December Planning Commission Meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Veitch-Olson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM. The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers.



Suzi Merriam, Secretary
Planning Commission



Jenni Veitch-Olson, Chair
Planning Commission