



**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**CITY OF CERES, CALIFORNIA**  
**City Council Chambers, 2701 Fourth Street**

**Monday, July 9, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.**

Mailing Address: Ceres City Hall, 2720 Second Street, Ceres, CA 95307-3292  
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Members of the public are advised that all cellular telephones and any other communication devices are to be turned off upon entering the City Council Chambers.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vierra called the July 9, 2018 City Council meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL – Present:**

Mayor: Vierra  
Vice Mayor: Kline

Council Members: Ryno

Absent: Council Members Lane, Durossette

**INVOCATION**

Invocation was given by Loren Gregory, Valley Christian Center.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Vierra.

**PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS** to the Council on matters not included on the agenda (five minutes).

Lee Brandt spoke regarding illegal fireworks. He stated that an illegal fireworks task force is needed during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. He understands the City's budget constraints, but something needs to be done. He commented that fines should be increased to \$10,000 for the first offense, \$15,000 for second offense and community service from 100 to 200

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hours. He further stated that as a member of the Measure H Oversight Committee, he understands that Ceres voted for the half-cent sales tax increase to increase the safety and welfare of Ceres residents. He believes that instead of the Public Safety Departments buying what they want, he would like to see Public Safety use that money to keep the residents of Ceres safe.

Richard Evans, Ceres residents stated that he knows that there has been some discussion in the community regarding the banning of all fireworks. However, firework booths generate money for non-profits, such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and church and youth organizations. It also provides sales tax to the City. He has volunteered at his church's fireworks booth for the past three years and his booth does not sell loud fireworks. They only sell the sparklers. The illegal fireworks are the ones that are causing the problems.

Mayor Vierra commented that he intends to request that the City Manager bring back a special study session to discuss the fireworks issue. He would like to be provided with some insights on what other jurisdictions are doing. Council Member Ryno agreed and asked that something be put in place before next year, as there are also issues on New Year's Eve.

City Manager Wells stated that he can return with a discussion item on the first or second Council meeting in August.

Dave Pratt stated that during his morning walk on the trail, he found a handful of fuses about a foot long. His guess is that those are being tied to light fireworks. The person lights the fuse and leave the area to avoid detection.

Don Cool commented that he is glad to hear that the fireworks issue will be discussed. He described his experience and frustration with the illegal fireworks being lit in his neighborhood. He detailed an event that occurred with a neighbor that was lighting illegal fireworks. He further commented that the State of Wisconsin started a program that utilizes a citizen group of about half dozen people. Those people use their own vehicles and patrol the neighborhoods and call the Police to give the locations of where there are illegal fireworks.

Gene Yeakley stated that it is evident that fireworks are an issue and that it is disturbing a lot of people. He usually leaves the City during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to avoid the noise. He is a war veteran and suffers from anxiety. He suggested that a \$2,000 fine be considered for illegal fireworks. Also, the offenders should be subject to arrest. He also commented on an issue with signage at Walmart. He noticed that the sign in question was removed after his call to the City. There are issues with signs being posted and he wondered if people are getting fined. He also spoke regarding the posting of signs on utility poles and the responsibility of the organization that the utility poles belong to.

Verna Evans stated she agrees that loud fireworks are a nuisance. She understands the pros and cons of the issues regarding safe and sane fireworks and illegal fireworks. There are two separate issues. She has worked with firework booths for some time and sees the money that it raises for the children's ministry and youth ministry, as well as other services to the community. The money raised goes to good causes. There are two issues, and she does not want to see the local people hurt by others with illegal fireworks.

Sheila Brandt, invited everyone to attend the Concerts in the Park that will be held tomorrow. The concert will consist of 1940's music. She also mentioned that last week, Whitmore Park did not look clean for the concert held that evening. She asked that someone go out and look at it before tomorrow's event.

#### APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

None.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

None.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed on the consent calendar are considered routine in nature and will be enacted by a single motion unless otherwise requested by an individual Council Member or public for special consideration. Otherwise the recommendation of staff will be accepted and acted upon by roll call vote.

1. Clerks Report of Posting. The agenda of the July 9, 2018 City Council meeting was posted on July 2, 2018. (Nayares-Perez)
2. Waive Readings. All Readings of Ordinances and resolutions are waived. (Nayares-Perez)
3. Approval of Minutes (Nayares-Perez)
  - a. Minutes of the June 25, 2018 Regular City Council meeting.
4. Register of Audited Demands for Period covering June 21, 2018 through June 28, 2018. (Dean)
5. General Correspondence – Information Only
  - a. CIP Update (Jordan)
  - b. FY 17-18 CIP Project Delivery Report. (Jordan)
  - c. Recreation May Monthly Report (Westbrook)
  - d. Redevelopment & Economic Development Department Monthly Report – June (Hallam)
6. **Resolution No. 2018-073**, approving the Stanislaus County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Subrecipient Agreement Between Stanislaus County and the City of Ceres for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-2019. (Westbrook)
7. **Resolution No. 2018-074**, authorizing the City Manager to sign the Fourth Amendment to the Agreement for Professional Security Services with Ontel Security Services, Inc. (Wells)

Mayor Vierra asked if any Council Member or citizen would like an item pulled from the Consent Calendar and be heard under separate motion. No items were removed from Consent.

Mayor Vierra asked, if anyone from the Public had any comments. There being no comments, Mayor Vierra brought the item back to Council for direction.

**MOTION:** Motion by Vice Mayor Kline, seconded by Council Member Ryno, approving Consent items 1-7. **3/0/2 Motion passes see below** by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	3	Council Members:	Kline, Ryno, Mayor Vierra
NOES:	0	Council Members:	None
ABSENT:	2	Council Members:	Lane, Durossette

#### CONSIDERATION OF ITEM(S) REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

No items were removed from Consent.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

#### PUBLIC HEARING

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

None.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

#### COUNCILMEMBER REFERRALS

Any Council Members that would like to have an agenda item placed on a future agenda shall make a request under this section of the agenda.

Mayor Vierra asked that a discussion item regarding fireworks be placed on a future agenda.

#### REPORTS

At this time, any Council Members or City Staff will make an announcement, or report briefly on his or her activities.

- Mayor
- City Council
- Council Member Ryno commented on the Neel Park improvements. She recently visited that park with her grandchildren and it looked fabulous. She loves the sail cloths all over the area that help keep it cool. It's too bad that they can't get a grant to retrofit the existing parks with the sails. She was disappointed at all the trash in the park. It was very disheartening that people would go to the new playground and leave trash behind. They personally picked up water bottles and candy wrappers left behind.

- City Manager Wells announced that the nomination period for the November 6, 2018 General District Election begins on Monday, July 16, 2018 and closes on Friday, August 10, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. If an incumbent for one of the offices being voted upon does not file nomination papers by 5:00 p.m. on August 10, 2018, the filing period will be extended until August 15, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. Election information can be found on the City's website. A Centennial Committee meeting will be held tomorrow evening at 5 p.m. There is one opening on the Measure L Citizens Oversight Committee. Applications for the Measure L Committee are available online.
- City Attorney
- Departments
  - Tom Westbrook, Director of Community Development, announced a Ribbon Cutting for Fired Up Grill & Meal Prep on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - Daryl Jordan, Engineering Director/City Engineer, provided an update on the Mitchell/Service Road project.
  - Brent Smith, Chief of Police, provided the statistics of the fireworks calls and citations issued on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- County Supervisor not in attendance.

There being no further business, Mayor Vierra adjourned the Regular City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. and convened in a Closed Session meeting with the below listed items being discussed.

#### CLOSED SESSION

##### 1. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR**

(Pursuant to Section 54957.6 of the Government Code)

*City Negotiator:* Liebert, Cassidy, Whitmore

Employee Organization: **Miscellaneous Bargaining Unit**

Employee Organization: **First Line Supervisors/Confidential Bargaining Group**

Employee Organization: **Mid-Management Employees**

Employee Organization: **Public Safety Mid-Managers**

Employee Organization: **Ceres Professional Firefighters Association**

Employee Organization: **Ceres Police Officers Association**

##### 2. **PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT – FIRE CHIEF**

(Pursuant to Section § 54957 of the Government Code)

#### REPORTS FROM CLOSED SESSION

7:23 p.m. Reconvened to Open Session.

**ACTION:** No reportable action.

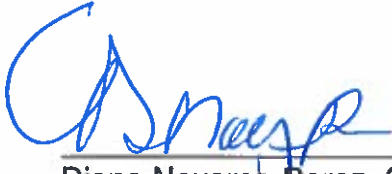
**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, July 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located in the Community Center at 2701 Fourth Street, Ceres, CA

There being no further business, Mayor Vierra adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.



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Mayor Vierra



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Diane Nayares-Perez, City Clerk