



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman Rodrigo Espinoza, *District 1*

Lee Lor, *District 2*

Daron McDaniel, *District 3*

Lloyd Pareira, *District 4*

Scott Silveira, *District 5*

Phone: (209) 385-7366 Fax: (209) 726-7977

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES - FINAL

Special Meeting - 10:00 A.M.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020

Merced County Administration Building

2222 M Street

Board Room, Third Floor

Merced CA, 95340

www.countyofmerced.com

The Board of Supervisors welcomes you to its meetings which are regularly held on a scheduled Tuesday and your interest is encouraged and appreciated.

Important Notice Regarding COVID-19

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor's Office, in order to minimize the spread of the COVID 19 virus, the Board Chambers will have limited public seating during the Merced County Board of Supervisors meetings. The County will conduct business in compliance with social distancing requirements with seating for the public limited to 25. The County will also provide some overflow space on a first come first served basis.

The following alternatives are available to members of the public to watch these meetings:

AUDIO/VIDEO BROADCAST: All board meetings are normally broadcast live and replayed on local cable television. A list of cable channels and broadcast times are available at the following website: <http://www.co.merced.ca.us/1581/Comcast-Ch-96-Broadcast>

Live stream of the Board of Supervisors meetings at <https://www.facebook.com/MercedCounty/> or <https://www.co.merced.ca.us/2206/Board-of-Supervisors-Meetings>.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Public opportunity to speak on any matter of public interest within the Board's jurisdiction including items on the Board's agenda, except for those items specifically scheduled as public hearings (testimony limited to three (3) minutes per person).

All comments for items on the agenda other than those scheduled as public hearings will be taken at the beginning of the Board Meeting during the public comment period. In order that interested parties have an opportunity to speak, any person addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. Please raise your hand when requested and you will be directed to the podium. Please note that in order to maintain social distancing only one person may speak at a time, at the podium.

The Agenda is divided into three sections:

- **CONSENT CALENDAR:** These matters include routine financial and administrative action and usually are approved by a single vote.
- **SCHEDULED ITEMS:** These items are noticed hearings, work sessions and public hearings.
- **REGULAR CALENDAR:** These items include significant policy and administrative actions. Immediately after approval of the CONSENT CALENDAR, if the time of the hearing of SCHEDULED ITEMS has not arrived, the REGULAR CALENDAR will be considered.

If you choose not to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting but desire to make general public comment, or comment on a specific item on the agenda, you may do so as follows:

WRITTEN COMMENTS: Members of the public may submit written comments as follows: by email to

publiccomments@countyofmerced.com,

by mail or hand delivery at the Clerk of the Board's Office at the above address. Comments should be submitted as soon as possible but not later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Board meeting. You will need to provide the following information: Board Meeting Date, Item

Number, and your comments. Please submit a separate email for each item you are commenting on. Please be aware that public comments received that do not specify a particular agenda item will be made part of the record of proceedings as a general public comment. Written comments will be provided to the Board Members, and will be part of the record of the meeting, but will not be read during the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Public opportunity to provide testimony is limited to three (3) minutes per person. Please raise your hand and you will be directed to the podium. Please note that in order to maintain social distancing only one person may speak at a time, at the podium.

CLOSED SESSION: This is the portion of the meeting conducted in private without the attendance of the public or press to discuss certain confidential matters specifically permitted by the Brown Act. The public will be provided an opportunity to comment on any matter to be considered in closed session prior to the Board adjourning into the closed session.

BOARD AGENDA AND MINUTES: Board agendas, minutes, and copies of items to be considered by the Board of Supervisors are posted on the Internet at least 72 hours preceding a Tuesday meeting at the following website: www.countyofmerced.com

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS: Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual or other disability or Spanish or Hmong interpretation in order to review an agenda, or to participate in a meeting of the Board of Supervisors per the American Disabilities Act (ADA), may obtain assistance by requesting such accommodation in writing. Please address your written request to the Clerk of the Board, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA 95340 or telephonically by calling (209) 385-7366. Any such request for accommodation should be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which assistance is requested.

Spanish and Hmong interpreters are available.

Interpretes de espanol y hmong estan disponibles.

Peb muaj tug paab txhais lug Mev hab Hmoob.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2 COMPLIANCE (LATE AGENDA ITEMS)

10:00 A. M. INVOCATION led by Sheriff Vern Warnke/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON ANY MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION INCLUDING ITEMS ON THE BOARD'S AGENDA, EXCEPT FOR THOSE ITEMS SPECIFICALLY SCHEDULED AS PUBLIC HEARINGS (TESTIMONY LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER PERSON)

REVIEW BOARD ORDER – SEE PAGE 4

REPORTS/BOARD DIRECTION

County Executive Officer, County Counsel, Board of Supervisors Members

REGULAR CALENDAR

BOARD ACTION

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

1. Adopt a Resolution calling for an election to be held in the Boards jurisdiction on November 3, 2020, for the purpose of submitting to voters a general tax measure, to establish a retail transactions and use tax (sales tax) at the rate of 1/2 % (1/2 cent per dollar) for a period of fifteen (15) years; and consolidate said election with the Statewide General Election to be conducted on the same date; and to permit the Elections Department to provide elections services. (4/5 Vote Required)

MODIFIED RECOMMENDATION AYES: ALL

REVIEW BOARD ORDER – SEE PAGES 4 AND 5

BOARD ORDERS – SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES – AUGUST 4, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING

10:00 A.M. SCHEDULED ITEM **2020-08-04 PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY**

Public Comments received via email for Public Opportunity and Scheduled Items are on file with the Clerk.

The following spoke in opposition of a proposed general tax measure increase: Sheriff Vern Warnke; Kathy Ballard, Citizen of Los Banos; Jovana Morales, Policy Advocate with Leadership Council; Sheng Xiong, Leadership Council; Anthony Martinez, City of Merced Council Member; Brenda, Merced resident; Chrisantema Gallardo, Director of 99Rootz; Jose Moran, Livingston resident; Paul Creighton, City of Atwater Mayor; Blanca Ojeda, Community Organizer with Faith in the Valley and Merced resident; and Clara, UC Merced Alumni.
Present: Espinoza, Lor, McDaniel, Pareira, Silveira

ACTION ITEM NO. 1 **2020-08-04 EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

The Clerk announces item to adopt a Resolution calling for an election to be held in the Boards jurisdiction on November 3, 2020, for the purpose of submitting to voters a general tax measure, to establish a retail transactions and use tax (sales tax) at the rate of ½% (1/2 cent per dollar) for a period of fifteen (15) years; and consolidate said election with the Statewide General Election to be conducted on the same date; and to permit the Elections Department to provide elections services (4/5 Vote Required) is before the Board for consideration.

Jim Brown, County Executive Office states that due to not having a full Board on July 28th staff was directed to continue this item to a special meeting to allow all members to participate in discussions. He further states the County has been working on this since last summer. Mr. Brown reviews a power point presentation on the Sales Tax Measure covering the following slides: Taxes, Initial Process, Fall 2019 Polling, February 2020 Online Community Feedback Form, and Challenges.

Supervisor Silveira corrected main bullet point # 2 of slide entitled “Initial Process” indicating that it should state Fall 2019, and not Fall 2020.

Curt Below with FM3 Research joins the meeting remotely to walk through the June 2020 Polling and go over the key findings of the Community Survey and covers the following slides: **Methodology**, **ISSUE ENVIRONMENT**:- Homelessness and the economic impact of COVID-19 are the most pressing problems, The public health impact of COVID-19 is seen as a comparatively lesser problem, Few are concerned about jail, abuse by police, library and park conditions, or too much growth, Though the local economic impacts of the coronavirus was a top concern, a majority still expressed confidence in their ability to afford near-term living expenses, Three quarters of respondents said they feel the County needs additional funding. **REACTIONS TO A POTENTIAL LOCAL FUNDING MEASURE**:- Hypothetical Ballot Language Tested, Around three in five respondents indicated they would support a local funding measure, with little difference between a 9- and 15-year duration, Majorities of respondents across all five Districts expressed support for a measure, Aggregate support levels mirrored reactions to a similar measure in a 2019 survey, though the intensity gap narrowed, Support for a measure remained above 50% threshold for passage after an exchange of information. **COMMUNITY SPENDING PRIORITIES**: - Maintaining 911 emergency response, fire protection, sheriff response times and preventing violent crime were top priorities, Retaining qualified deputies, preparing for public health emergencies and supporting jobs were also

important to respondents, Majorities viewed economic recovery services as middle-tier priorities, Library improvements ranked low in importance, as did facilities in general. CONCLUSIONS: - Summary of Findings, and Contact Information for FM3 Research.

Mr. Brown reviews slides covering: Potential Spending Priorities, Considerations and Next Steps / Options.

The Board has lengthy discussion on the item.

Upon motion of Supervisor McDaniel, seconded by Supervisor Silveira, duly carried, the Board approves modified recommendation to not move forward with the proposed general sales tax measure to establish a one half (1/2) cent sales tax to be placed on the November 3, 2020 ballot for voter approval.

Ayes: Espinoza, Lor, McDaniel, Pareira, Silveira