



# Visalia City Council

## Visalia City Council

### Meeting Minutes - Final

Visalia City Council  
707 W. Acequia  
Visalia, CA 93291

Mayor Brett Taylor  
Vice Mayor Liz Wynn  
Council Member Steve Nelsen  
Council Member Emmanuel Hernandez Soto  
Council Member Brian Poochigian

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**Tuesday, February 18, 2025**

**7:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers**

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#### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Member Brian Poochigian, Mayor Brett Taylor, Council Member Steve Nelsen, Council Member Emmanuel Hernandez Soto, and Vice Mayor Liz Wynn

#### **CALL TO ORDER WORK SESSION - 5:00 PM (Unless otherwise noted)**

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Citizens are now invited to comment on issues within the jurisdiction of the Visalia City Council and items listed on the Closed Session agenda. The Council asks that you keep your comments concise and positive. Creative criticism, presented with appropriate courtesy, is welcome. Each speaker will be allowed three minutes, and a timer will notify you when your time is expired. Please begin your comments by stating and spelling your name and providing your city of residence.

#### **WORK SESSION AND ACTION ITEMS (as described)**

**1. New Employee Introductions:**[25-0007](#)

## Visalia Police Department

Jeremie Aguilera, Community Service Officer

Preston Regalado, Community Service Officer

Joseph Grant, Police Officer

Kathleen Pritchard, Police Officer

Jonathan Vargas, Police Officer

David Walstrom, Police Officer

Eddie Aceves, Police Officer (lateral)

Edward Carrillo, Police Officer (lateral)

Esmeralda Corona, Police Officer (lateral)

Joseph Rodriguez, Police Officer (lateral)

Jared Winter, Police Officer (lateral)

## Administration

Reyna Rivera, Chief Deputy City Clerk

2. General Plan Reserve Area Discussion and Appropriation [25-0012](#)  
Authorization - Receive report on the Reserve area and appropriate \$170,000 to conduct Capital Improvement Project to hire a consultant to help with identifying and establishing land use designations for the Reserve area and update the General Plan and issue corresponding Request for Proposals.

Planning and Community Preservation Director Paul Bernal and Economic Development Manager Devon Jones presented an updated Reserve Area Property Owner Map and provided an overview of potential next steps, including staff recommendations for future planning.

Economic Development Manager Jones highlighted recent development activity in the Sequoia Gateway area. Planning and Community Preservation Director Bernal discussed designated land use policies, the need for a specific plan in the industrial area, and the importance of initiating an environmental review process.

Council inquired about development under the County jurisdiction, infrastructure limitations, and land use restrictions near the airport. Staff confirmed coordination with the County and noted that the planning process could take a minimum of two years.

A motion was made by Council Member Steve Nelsen, seconded by Council Member Brian Poochigian, to accept the General Plan Reserve Area report and approve the appropriation of an additional \$170,000 to the budgeted Capital Improvement Project (CIP) #CP0671 which is listed at \$130,000 given the full project scope and anticipated cost associated with this type of general plan update, and 2. Issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit planning consultants to help with identifying and establishing land use designations for the Reserve area and processing the appropriate environmental document. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Brian Poochigian, Brett Taylor, Steve Nelsen, Emmanuel Hernandez Soto, Liz Wynn

## **ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION - 6:00 PM (Or, immediately following Work Session)**

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting to closed session at 5:57 p.m.

## **CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION - 7:00 PM**

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## INVOCATION

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION / RECOGNITION

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

This is the time for general public comment on issues within the jurisdiction of the Visalia City Council. Each speaker tonight may speak for up to 3 minutes during this general comment period on a matter that is not on this agenda.

The public may also make one comment for up to 3 minutes prior to the consideration of the Consent Calendar, and immediately before any regular agenda item is heard. The Council asks that you keep your comments concise and positive. Creative criticism, presented with appropriate courtesy, is welcome.

Each speaker will be allowed three minutes and a timer will notify you when your time is expired. Please begin your comments by stating and spelling your name and providing your city of residence.

Public comment was received from Irene Lapin, Sarah Smith, Taylor (no last name provided), Doug Sorenson, and Debra (no last name provided).

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent Calendar items are considered routine and will be enacted in one motion.

This is the time for members of the public to provide public comment on an item on the Consent Calendar. Comments will not be taken individually by the public if an item is pulled by a Council Member. Each speaker is allowed up to 3 minutes, and a timer will notify you when your time is expired. Please begin your comments by stating and spelling your name and providing your city of residence.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Calendar by Council Member Poochigian and seconded by Council Member Hernandez Soto. The motion carried by the following unanimous vote:

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| <b>Aye:</b> | Brian Poochigian, Brett Taylor, Steve Nelsen, Emmanuel Hernandez Soto, Liz Wynn  |                                |
| 1.          | Authorization to read ordinances by title only.  | <a href="#"><u>24-0593</u></a> |
| 2.          | Purchase of a 2024 Dodge Ram 5500 for Wastewater Collections Division - Authorize the purchase of a 2024 Dodge Ram 5500 from Jim Manning Dodge, Inc. for \$236,430.10. | <a href="#"><u>24-0534</u></a> |

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| 3.  | Notice of Completion - Authorize the City Manager to file a Notice of Completion for the Recreation Park Stadium Lighting Project Phase 3, Baseball Field Lighting.  | <a href="#"><u>24-0581</u></a> |
| 4.  | Award Sole Source Design Contract: Authorize the City Manager to award a sole source professional design services contract to 4Creeks, Inc., for the 30% engineering design of the Shirk Street Widening Project from Walnut Avenue to Noble Avenue for an amount not to exceed \$289,048.   | <a href="#"><u>24-0591</u></a> |
| 5.  | Consultant Contract Amendment & Fund Appropriation - Authorize a contract amendment with Carollo Engineers in the amount of \$238,900 to include the Wastewater funds for additional nexus study services, and the transfer and additional appropriation from specified funds.   | <a href="#"><u>24-0605</u></a> |
| 6.  | Notice of Completion for Sequoia Bend Unit 3 - Request authorization to file a Notice of Completion for Sequoia Bend Unit 3 subdivision located on the south side of East Goshen Avenue, between North Cain and North Virmargo Street, containing 42 residential lots.   | <a href="#"><u>24-0606</u></a> |
| 7.  | Geographic Information Systems Software Agreement - Authorize the City Manager to enter into a three-year sole source contract with Environmental Systems Research Institute for their Small Government Enterprise License Agreement and Premium Support Annual Subscription for a not to exceed \$418,300, and appropriate \$118,000 in FY 24/25 and \$119,000 in FY 25/26 from the Technology Internal Service Fund. | <a href="#"><u>24-0610</u></a> |
| 8.  | Acceptance of Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program Funds - Accept and authorize the appropriation of funds awarded from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District under the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program in the amount of \$37,800 to the Wastewater Fund to chip and spread the material generated by the City's walnut orchard demolition and removal project.                                       | <a href="#"><u>25-0001</u></a> |
| 9.  | Notice of Completion - Authorize the City Manager to file a Notice of Completion for the Landscape & Irrigation of Groundwater Recharge Basin G at the East Side Regional Park.  | <a href="#"><u>25-0003</u></a> |
| 10. | Notice of Completion - Authorize the City Manager to file a Notice of Completion for the Construction of Groundwater Recharge Basin G project at the East Side Regional Park site and to appropriate or return funds as indicated in this report.  | <a href="#"><u>25-0004</u></a> |
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| 11. | Water Management Plan - Receive the 2024 Visalia Water Management Annual Report and consider approval of the 2025 Water Management Plan submitted by the Visalia Water Management Committee.   | <a href="#"><u>25-0006</u></a> |
| 12. | Award a Contract for Vehicle Front End Alignment and Suspension Work - Authorize the City Manager to award an annual contract for vehicle front end alignment and suspension work to Barnes & Davidson DBA Gross and Stevens in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 annually, totaling \$500,000 over the life of the contract, with an option to renew annually for up to four (4) additional one-year terms. | <a href="#"><u>25-0008</u></a> |
| 13. | Accept the City of Visalia Cash and Investment Report for the second quarter of the fiscal year which consists of months October, November, and December of 2024.  | <a href="#"><u>25-0009</u></a> |
| 14. | Revised Resolution - Adoption of Revised Resolution No. 2024-52, per City Council direction from the February 3, 2025, City Council meeting, upholding the appeal of and overturning the Visalia Planning Commission's denial of Conditional Use Permit No. 2024-29 for the Jack in the Box restaurant.  | <a href="#"><u>25-0013</u></a> |
| 15. | Ordinance Adoption - Second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-12 approving Zoning Text Amendment No. 2024-04, a request to by the City of Visalia to amend Visalia Municipal Code Title 17 (Zoning) Chapter 17.32 Special Provisions to regulate Short-Term Rentals, Citywide.  | <a href="#"><u>25-0014</u></a> |

## REGULAR ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

Comments related to regular Items and Public Hearing Items are limited to three minutes per speaker, for a maximum of 30 minutes per item. The Mayor may reasonably limit or extend the public comment period to preserve the Council's interest in conducting efficient, orderly meetings.

1. Adoption of General Plan Elements - Public hearing and adoption of General Plan Amendment No. 2024-01: A request by the City of Visalia to adopt a comprehensive update to the Safety Element of the Visalia General Plan, and to adopt a new Environmental Justice Element for inclusion in the Visalia General Plan. The regulations will apply Citywide to properties within the Urban Growth Boundary of the City of Visalia. The project is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Code of Regulations Section 15061(b)(3). [25-0005](#)

Planning and Community Preservation Director Paul Bernal introduced the item and consultant Michael Gibbons of Mintier Harnish. Mr. Gibbons provided a presentation on the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, including background, project overview, state requirements (SB 1000, SB 379, SB 99, AB 747), and the update process.

The Environmental Justice Element presentation included identification of four disadvantaged neighborhoods (Northwest Visalia, Oval Park, East Visalia, and Seven Oaks), community engagement activities, and six focus areas including pollution exposure, access to healthy food, and physical activity. Key findings and policy objectives were also outlined.

The Safety Element update included a review of current hazards such as fires, floods, droughts, earthquakes, and climate change. The purpose of the update is to reduce risk and revise outdated policies. Mr. Gibbons noted the element was last updated in 2014 and is now required to align with recent legislation and the Housing Element.

Mayor Taylor opened the public hearing at 8:09 p.m.

Public comment was received from April Lancaster, Michelle Kenner, Kevin McCuster, Kathy Falconer, Karen Degrode, Gary Grey, and Taylor (no last name provided).

There being no further comments, Mayor Taylor closed the public hearing at 8:24 p.m., and referred the matter back to Council.

Council discussed the identification of disadvantaged neighborhoods, access to grocery stores, and participation levels in community engagement efforts. Additional topics included health equity, survey methodology, and application of policies citywide. Members expressed support for the planning efforts, acknowledged the importance of ongoing implementation, and emphasized the city's past and current efforts related to public health, environmental safety, and equitable planning.

The Council expressed appreciation for public comments and the work of staff and consultants.

A motion was made by Council Member Steve Nelsen, seconded by Council Member Brian Poochigian, to approve. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Brian Poochigian, Brett Taylor, Steve Nelsen, Emmanuel Hernandez Soto, Liz Wynn

## **CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting to order at 8:29 p.m.

## **UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

### **1. Upcoming City Council Meetings**

[24-0594](#)

Monday, March 3, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m. at 707 W. Acequia

Monday, March 17, 2025, @ 7:00 p.m. at 707 W. Acequia

Note: Meeting dates and times are subject to change, check posted agenda for correct details. In compliance with the American Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in meetings contact 713-4512.

Written materials relating to an item on this agenda submitted to the Council after distribution of the agenda are available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk, 220 N. Santa Fe Street, Visalia CA 93292, during normal business hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reyna Rivera  
Chief Deputy City Clerk