

TRACY CITY COUNCIL - SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

Tracy City Hall, 333 Civic Center Plaza, Tracy, CA.

1. Mayor Arriola called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.
2. There were no actions taken pursuant to AB 2449.
3. Roll call found Council Members Bedolla, Evans, Nygard, Mayor Pro Tem Abercrombie and Mayor Arriola present. City Council had no declarations of conflict.
4. Items from the audience – Robert Tanner apologized to the Council for his statement in the previous meeting when he thought that the Pledge of Allegiance had been overlooked.
5. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - 5.A. Staff recommends that City Council receive an update regarding the impending completion of Phase II construction of the Temporary Emergency Housing Facility (TEHF), CIP 71112, impacts to provision of services and provide input for future vision for the site.

Midori Lichtwardt, City Manager and Virginia Carney, Homeless Services Manager provided the staff report.

Council comments and questions.

Robert Tanner shared that option 4 would be great, option 1 or 2 is doable but option 4 would be best, asked what the success rate and how many unhoused people are there and are those beds currently at the shelter filled.

Alice English expressed that there was a lot of information and requested that staff be more transparent with information, shared that there were not many answers, and shared that Option 4 is too good to be true with a zero cost to the City, asked for clarification regarding City involvement, and shared that there are options within the City such as Emerson House and that Option 2 would be better, unsure of Options 3 and 4 and will this be open to unhoused residents from neighboring cities.

Vannie Dart urged that Council table this item and shared that staff has not provided enough information to decide at this time, inquired about the number of occupied beds, how many are using the shelter as a permanent solution, asked how far the City will go in increasing beds and expressed frustration that funds that can be used for infrastructure are used for the shelter expansion.

Arturo Sanchez, Assistant City Manager provided clarification regarding Option 4 and that other County residents cannot be prohibited from entering the shelter if the need exists.

Virginia Carney, Homeless Services Manager shared statistical information regarding the success rates, specifically in the areas of length of stay, housing referrals, job referrals and current wait lists.

Captain Juan Oregel from the Salvation Army shared that there are unhoused Tracy residents that have been transferred to neighboring cities because the services that those residents need are currently not provided in Tracy, is willing to reach out to work with partner organizations within San Joaquin County to be effective and shared that more and more are becoming homeless due to financial obstacles that may come about from job loss or illnesses.

Council questions continued.

Genevieve G. Valentine, Director of Behavioral Health Services provided additional information regarding the services that are currently provided at the Temporary Emergency Housing Facility.

Mayor Arriola shared that he is not in support of Option 4, City already tried and the needs that the community needed were not met. Regarding Phase 4 Options regarding the potential opportunities in working with Behavioral Health Services, see an opportunity to meet an unmet need regarding mental health, and provides an opportunity to lower costs by having new funding options. Regarding Phase 3, is in support of forming a new partnership with Cal Aim and Health Plan of San Joaquin to provide an unmet need to the elderly population and those with disabilities. Summarized support to Options 2 and 3 that amend Phases 2 and 3.

Pamela Lee from Health Plan of San Joaquin provided clarifying information for Phase 2.

Council Member Evans and shared his experience when visiting Pescadero Park and the neighboring homes in May 2022, the shelter and the laws put in place to protect the parks are beneficial for both the homeless population and the community at large, shared information regarding the amount of dollars spent and clarified that while there is a need throughout the City to improve on infrastructure and other needs the funds that are allocated for the shelter through grants, can only be spent on the shelter. The City has provided a pathway for people to get back on their feet, supports Option 1 and supports this item to return to Council with more information for Council to make an informed decision.

Council Member Nygard expressed support for Options 2 and 3 to expand services and agrees that these are unmet needs and if services can be provided it would ease the burden on the emergency rooms, where beds for mental health patients are limited, requested that staff develop cost recovery strategies and projection of potential reimbursements.

Council Member Bedolla asked for clarification on what the options would provide.

Arturo Sanchez, Assistant City Manager provided clarification of options available to Council.

Council Member Bedolla expressed support for Option 3 which amends Phase 4 and brings Behavioral Health Services on site, even if it reduces the number of beds. Thanked partners, non-profit organizations and staff for all their work.

Mayor Pro Tem Abercrombie supported working with Behavioral Health Services and Health Plan of San Joaquin and moving forward with Phase 2 and keep shelter under City control, requested more information for Option 4, thanked Salvation Army and staff.

Midori Lichtwardt City Manager summarized Council consensus;

- Build out Option 1 which is Phase 2
- Staff to explore more options and bring back to Council
- Bring back more information on Phases 3 and 4
- Get partner contracts/agreements solidified
- Clarified that a transition plan needs to be in place

Mayor Arriola stated that no official action was taken and shared that Council sentiments are:

- Continuation of services for Phase 2 with the Salvation Army through the remainder of their contract with the potential to continue partnership
- Potential amendment to Phase 4 with Behavioral Health Services to address individuals with severe needs
- Potential amendment of Phase 3 and partner with Health Plan of San Joaquin to look at recuperation efforts, specifically for the elderly, disabled and vulnerable population for shelter services

Virginia Carney, Homeless Services Manager reiterated that the process for a Request For Proposal needs to start soon since the current shelter operator contract is set to expire on October 31, 2025.

1. Adjournment Time: 7:02 p.m.

ACTION: Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Abercrombie and seconded by Council Member Bedolla. Roll call found Council Members Bedolla, Evans, Nygard, Mayor Pro Tem Abercrombie and Mayor Arriola all in favor; passed and so ordered.

The above agenda was posted at the Tracy City Hall on February 13, 2025. The above are action minutes. A recording is available at the office of the City Clerk.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk