

Date: May 19, 2021 Phone: 831-884-1224

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MARINA CITY COUNCIL ALLOCATES \$150,000 FOR IMMEDIATE REPAIR OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY CONCERNS AT WATER CITY (THE MARINA SPORTS CENTER)

Marina, CA. – In April the Water City roller hockey building on Second Avenue in the City of Marina was "red tagged" by the Marina City Building Officials due to significant fire, life safety and other code violations. The violations were determined to be so significant that the facility was deemed immediately dangerous and unsuitable to be occupied until violations and dangerous conditions are corrected.

Under the terms of an agreement with the City the tenant, Water City Roller Hockey, Inc., has leased the facility on a month-to-month lease for various roller skating and roller hockey uses. Water City Roller Hockey had an obligation under the lease to maintain the facility and all fire and life safety systems including fire sprinkler, fire suppression, fire alarm, electrical, plumbing, heating and ventilation systems. The proprietor of Water City was immediately given notice of lapses and time to remedy these problems in accordiance with the lease obligations. The proprietor was unable to make needed repairs and surrendered possession of the facility back to the City, voluntarily terminating the lease.

On May 18, 2021, the Marina City Council allocated \$150,000 to immediately make necessary repairs to protect the building and the public and bring the building into safety compliance.

"Our priority is to ensure we have a building that is safe, one that is not at risk of causing harm to anyone who sets foot in it" said Mayor Bruce Delgado. "We owe our community assurances that this is a facility that we must take care of – it is a gem, one of only two rinks operated by the Army still in use in the country."

The \$150,000 slated for repairs is in addition to the \$45,000 the Council earmarked for study and redesigning the building, which was being re-envisioned as a recreational center, per a 2019 plan before the previous City Council, and after meetings with the public. That plan did not include a use for roller sports.

In 2019 the City hired Jeff Katz Architecture and the Isaac Sports Group to develop concept plans for renovating the Sports Center and expanding uses of the facility to meet the broader sport and recreational needs of Marina's youth, families, and senior residents. Working with the Marina Recreation and Cultural Services Commission, open houses, study sessions and public meetings have been held since 2019.

After listening to comments and concerns from the public this year, the Council asked consultant Jeff Katz to revise the design, incorporating roller sports into a repurposed and renovated multisport Sports Center and its cost, financial pro-forma and business model.

The next steps for the building are being reviewed and studied.

The City Council will be looking at funding options in its upcoming budget to move forward with renovation of the facility which is estimated to cost more than \$3 million.

Meetings will be held with the public and the Recreational and Cultural Services Commission as final design and use decisions are made for the facility.

The public is welcomed to follow this issue by watching twice monthly (every other Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.) City Council meetings on Access Media Productions (AMP) on Community Television Cable 25 and on the City of Marina Channel. Meetings are live-streamed, with past meetings available on the AMP website at https://accessmediaproductions.org/.

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