

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the La Mesa City Council
Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
La Mesa Dale Elementary
4370 Parks Avenue, La Mesa, California 91941

From 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., members of the public were encouraged to visit informational displays by the Public Works, City Clerk, Community Development, Community Services, Fire and Police Departments.

Mayor Arapostathis called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Arapostathis; Vice Mayor Parent; Councilmembers Alessio, Baber and Weber.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: City Manager Garrett; City Attorney Sabine; City Clerk Wiegelman; Assistant City Manager Humora.

TOWN HALL MEETING

A MEETING WITH THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS LA MESA AND ITS FUTURE

The Mayor and Members of the City Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and made opening comments.

City Manager Garrett introduced City staff and made opening comments.

Public Works Director Leja provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding pavement management which included information on street pavement maintenance, safety repairs (potholes), zone resurfacing, and the process for prioritizing the streets that require maintenance or repair.

Public Works Director Leja answered questions from the public regarding the projects occurring on University Avenue, traffic issues, traffic calming tools, sidewalk repair and maintenance, bicycle lane improvements, construction projects occurring in west La Mesa, dangerous intersections, and street lighting and visibility.

Captain Nicholass provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding animal control services.

Captain Nicholass answered questions from the public regarding State laws relating to coyotes and raccoons, procedures for the removal of dead animals, and how to keep wildlife out of yards.

Community Services Director Richardson provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Livable La Mesa project.

Assistant City Manager Humora provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the City's communication tools and outreach efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Hitchcock, resident, spoke regarding the La Mesa Village Farmers' Market.

A resident spoke regarding vacant lots.

Wendy Mihalic, resident, spoke regarding the implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan.

Jim Newland, resident, spoke regarding the La Mesa Historical Society.

Emily Green, resident, spoke regarding support for a citizens' oversight committee, increasing recycling efforts within the City, the community choice energy program, creativity and innovation, creating more opportunities for young people to be involved with City government, and combatting gun violence.

Karen Gibson, resident, spoke regarding the lack of public trash cans and recycle bins along City streets.

Samantha Sanchez, resident, spoke regarding the need for more parks and inquired about the future of the empty buildings the illegal dispensaries occupied.

Eunice Ventura, resident, spoke regarding the maintenance of the median islands on University Avenue and El Cajon Boulevard.

Alex Chau and Mahmoud Salem, Helix Charter High School students, spoke on their project design for Club MESA that would filter out plastics from storm drains.

David Woodard, resident, spoke on Council decision-making and the changing demographic of La Mesa.

Jack Shu, resident, spoke regarding the format of the Town Hall meetings.

Bonnie Baranoff, resident, spoke regarding Town Hall meetings, City Boards and Commissions, and non-profit and civic organizations.

Muriel Johnson, resident, spoke regarding marijuana.

Ricky Williams, resident, spoke regarding the Climate Action Plan, the Bicycle Facilities and Alternative Transportation Plan, and traffic calming tools.

A resident spoke regarding street lighting and speeding vehicles.

Carol Lockwood, resident, spoke regarding the old marquee at Helix Charter High School and the lack of advertising for school programs, activities, and events.

Woman, resident, spoke regarding storm drains and the maintenance of street medians.

Bob Duggan, resident, spoke regarding the need for a rainy day fund.

The Council and senior staff members responded to the questions and concerns of the speakers.

The Mayor and Members of the City Council made closing comments.

No action was taken by the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Arapostathis adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Megan Wiegelman, CMC
City Clerk

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the La Mesa City Council
Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
Murray Manor Elementary
8305 El Paso Street, La Mesa, California 91942

From 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., members of the public were encouraged to visit informational displays by the Public Works, Community Development, Community Services, Fire and Police Departments.

Mayor Arapostathis called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Arapostathis; Vice Mayor Parent; Councilmembers Alessio, Baber and Weber.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: City Manager Garrett; City Attorney Sabine; City Clerk Wiegelman; Assistant City Manager Humora.

TOWN HALL MEETING

A MEETING WITH THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS LA MESA AND ITS FUTURE

The Mayor and Members of the City Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and made opening comments.

City Manager Garrett introduced City staff and made opening comments.

Public Works Director Leja provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding pavement management which included information on street pavement maintenance, safety repairs (potholes), zone resurfacing, and the process for prioritizing the streets that require maintenance or repair.

Public Works Director Leja answered questions from the public regarding walkability improvements and the materials being used to pave streets.

Captain Nicholass provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding animal control services.

Community Services Director Richardson provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Livable La Mesa project.

Assistant City Manager Humora provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the City's communication tools and outreach efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Schmitz, resident, spoke regarding the microphone feed in the Council Chamber, the Town Hall meeting locations and dates, Grossmont Center, the Fletcher Parkway corridor, the Master Plan of La Mesa, access to Sunset Park, the Friends of the La Mesa Library organization, library services in the City, and City subcommittees.

Jim Newland, resident, spoke regarding the La Mesa Historical Society.

Carlos, resident, spoke regarding traffic and speeding issues near Murray Manor Elementary and the installation of antennas by telecom companies.

Polly Kanavel, resident, spoke regarding street closure notifications, traffic signs informing cars to yield for pedestrians, vehicles running red lights, potholes, and an upcoming street closure at Alvarado Road and Guava Avenue.

Richard Gibson, resident, spoke regarding the Climate Action Plan and City elections moving from at large to districts.

Phil Bernie, resident, spoke regarding the City's efforts on improving the streets and the underground utility program.

Sean Connacher, resident, spoke regarding the emission goals of the City's Climate Action Plan.

Tom Brady, resident, spoke regarding the timing of the traffic signals at various intersections.

Janet Castañón, resident, spoke regarding the recommendation to implement a citizens' oversight committee and commended the Police Chief on his community outreach efforts.

Brenda Gibson, resident, spoke regarding the Community Relations and Veterans Commission, video streaming the Town Hall meetings, the tools available to share the video streaming link of City Council meetings, and communication between the members of the City's boards and commissions and the City Council.

Bobby Buckman, resident, spoke regarding shrubbery near the freeway onramp, the potential traffic issues the Costco gas station may create, the installation of City street lights on smaller residential streets, the homelessness issue, and gang members within the City.

Rachel Buckman, resident, spoke regarding a Nextdoor post she read regarding gang related activity.

The Council and senior staff members responded to the questions and concerns of the speakers.

The Mayor and Members of the City Council made closing comments.

No action was taken by the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Arapostathis adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Megan Wiegelman, CMC
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