

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the La Mesa City Council
Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Maryland Avenue Elementary
4370 Maryland Avenue, 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 Services, Fire and Police Departments.

Mayor Arapostathis called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Arapostathis; Vice Mayor Baber; Councilmembers Alessio (arrived at 6:34 p.m.), Parent and Weber.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Interim City Manager Humora; City Attorney Sabine; City Clerk Wiegelman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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.

Councilmember Alessio arrived at 6:34 p.m.

Interim City Manager Humora introduced City staff and made opening comments.

Senior Management Analyst Dedmon provided a PowerPoint presentation on City communication highlighting the City’s website, the City newsletter, La Mesa E-Government Tools, the City’s social media platforms, and the live streaming of City Council meetings on the City’s website.

Mayor Arapostathis informed the public that an active development projects list and interactive development projects map were available on the City website under the Community Development page.

Public Works Director Firsh provided a PowerPoint presentation on Public Works maintenance highlighting City infrastructure, citywide scheduled maintenance, and zone scheduled maintenance.

Community Services Director Richardson provided a PowerPoint presentation on recreation and parks highlighting the new playground at La Mesita Park, the Vista La Mesa Park renovation, the expansion of the Parks Program, the renovations of the Community Center and Adult Enrichment Center, the Livable La Mesa Initiative, funding for Phase 2 of Improvements for Collier Park, Park Appreciation Day, the MacArthur Park Master Plan, and upcoming events.

Captain Sweeney provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Alzheimer's Response Team (ART) pilot program that trains first responders on how to help those with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Hitchcock, resident, spoke regarding the medians on University Avenue.

Tim Hallisay, resident, spoke regarding concerns with the traffic and pedestrian improvements on University Avenue.

Emily Small and Jeremy Parson, residents, spoke regarding traffic concerns on Southern Road.

Austin Koop and Byron, residents, spoke regarding traffic concerns on Gateside Road and the need for a crosswalk on the corner of Spring Street and Palm Avenue.

Randy Dykstra, resident, spoke regarding the crosswalk lights where Baltimore Drive turns into Lakeshore Drive and homeless encampments.

Albert Cascia, resident, spoke regarding the installation of lights under the 125 Highway overpass and illegal dumping south of the 125 Highway overpass.

Tyler Morningstar, resident, spoke regarding installing curb ramps at sidewalk corners, traffic concerns, and the planting of trees throughout the City.

Brenda Leek, resident, spoke regarding traffic concerns on 3rd Street and La Mesa Boulevard.

Addie Pastorè and Nathan Pastorè, residents, spoke regarding an incident that occurred on La Mesa Boulevard with a local business owner and traffic concerns near the La Mesa Boys and Girls Club.

Patrick Ellis, resident, spoke regarding flooding issues near Lake Murray Café.

Noelle Suffield, resident, spoke regarding traffic supervision before and after school.

David Beltz spoke regarding traffic calming project designs for schools in the City.

Emily Green, resident, spoke regarding updating City murals and adding more public art.

Sherry Lenke, resident, thanked the Council and City staff for their efforts with the recently adopted smoking ordinance.

Polly Kanavel, resident, spoke regarding pedestrian safety at intersections, an upsurge of cars running red lights, safety for citizens with reduced mobility, accidents on Alvarado Road, parking and traffic issues near Bob Stall Chevrolet, and potholes in the eastbound lane near the intersection of Fletcher Parkway and Baltimore Drive.

A resident spoke regarding public art and the need for a shade structure at the Harry Griffen Park playground.

Angela Deegan, resident, spoke regarding the need for pedestrian and bike friendly infrastructure and improved transit, ways to encourage and provide alternatives to driving, banning methane gas connections in new housing developments, and not allowing any more drive-thrus to open in the City.

Steve Chavez, resident, spoke regarding the homeless in Rolando Park.

Mike Williams, resident, spoke regarding the homeless in Rolando Park.

Bonnie Baranoff, resident, spoke regarding the homelessness issue and the efforts of the Citizen Task Force on Homelessness.

Margaret Graham, resident, spoke regarding electric vehicle charging stations.

Jim Newland, resident, spoke regarding the La Mesa Historical Society and the efforts being made to update the City's Historic Resources Inventory.

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
City Clerk