

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

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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