

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the La Mesa City Council
Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa, California

This meeting was conducted utilizing teleconferencing and electronic means consistent with State of California Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City Council minutes are prepared and ordered to correspond to the City Council Agenda. Agenda Items can be taken out of order during the meeting.

The Agenda Items were considered in the order presented.

Mayor Arapostathis called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None.

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

INVOCATION – COUNCILMEMBER WEBER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Humora provided an update on the rules and regulations issued by the City in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and summarized the latest health order changes from the State of California and County of San Diego.

City Manager Humora provided an update on the La Mesa Police Department Grossmont Trolley incident.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN REPORTS

The Mayor, Council and staff made announcements and reported on various events taking place in the City. No action was taken.

PRESENTATION

REPORT FROM THE CITIZEN PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE (TASK FORCE) ON THE DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR THE LA MESA COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD (CPOB) AND REQUEST TO EXTEND THE TASK FORCE UNTIL THE CPOB IS FULLY FUNCTIONING – Chair McRae

Chair McRae reviewed the draft proposal for the La Mesa Community Police Oversight Board and explained the purpose for the request to extend the Task Force until the CPOB was fully functioning.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)

City Clerk Wiegelman and Executive Assistant to the City Manager Mackey read aloud the first 300 words of the emailed public comments submitted by 4:00 p.m. the day of the Council meeting.

John Bucher submitted a comment regarding an independent CPOB.

Matthew Jenkins submitted a comment regarding actions of the La Mesa Police Department (LMPD).

David Myers submitted a comment regarding an independent CPOB.

Jennifer Grigg submitted a comment regarding data privacy, holding a town hall meeting, and City communications.

Natalie Rothell submitted a comment regarding an independent CPOB, government transparency, and de-escalation training.

Melissa Walter submitted a comment regarding government transparency and an independent CPOB.

Ashton submitted a comment regarding an independent CPOB.

Nora Kearney Johnson and Leroy Johnson submitted a comment regarding an independent CPOB.

Mike Dawson submitted a comment regarding actions of the LMPD and an independent CPOB.

Cheri Robertson submitted a comment regarding an independent CPOB and actions of the LMPD.

Marc Weiswasser submitted a comment in support of the LMPD.

Emily Green submitted a comment regarding actions of the LMPD and reallocating the LMPD budget.

Antarpreet Kaur submitted a comment regarding reallocating the LMPD budget.

Demetrius and Rebecca Antuna submitted a comment regarding actions of the LMPD and denouncing all vigilante groups.

Lawrence Martinez submitted a comment in support of the LMPD.

Richard Hammett submitted a comment regarding concerns over the Task Force proposal for a CPOB with an investigation-focused model of civilian oversight of law enforcement.

Jessica Stephens submitted a comment regarding actions of the LMPD and reallocating the LMPD budget.

Missy Solis submitted a comment regarding a CPOB, actions of the LMPD, and accountability.

Brian Long submitted a comment regarding actions of the LMPD and reallocating the LMPD budget.

Rebecca Littlejohn submitted a comment regarding LMPD communications and actions of the LMPD.

G.E. Vogt submitted a comment regarding actions of the LMPD and demilitarizing the LMPD.

Kasey Zahner submitted a comment regarding actions of the LMPD, trust and accountability, the membership of the proposed CPOB, and denouncing all vigilante groups.

Art Fusco submitted a comment regarding the membership of the proposed CPOB and actions of the LMPD.

Sarah Young submitted a comment regarding denouncing vigilante groups.

Trevor Rinzler submitted a comment regarding demilitarizing the LMPD and actions of the LMPD.

Edward Perry submitted a comment regarding transparency in the City's budget, denouncing violence, acknowledgement of the people's right to organize, and the implementation of a volunteer program that allows for intergenerational and multicultural growth opportunities.

Kristen Miller submitted a comment regarding her conflict with the La Mesa Spring Valley School District.

Meegan Nolan submitted a comment regarding actions of the LMPD.

Sasha Fitzpatrick submitted a comment regarding demilitarizing the LMPD and actions of the LMPD.

Vinton Omaleki submitted a comment in support of the proposed CPOB and regarding the membership of the proposed CPOB.

CONFLICT DISCLOSURES

There were no conflict of interest disclosures.

BOARD AND COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

1. INTERVIEW OF APPLICANTS FOR TWO UNSCHEDULED VACANCIES ON THE CITIZEN PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE

City Clerk Wiegelman briefly explained the interview process and stated that Kathie Taylor and Richard Nasif were not able to attend the City Council meeting due to prior commitments. City Clerk Wiegelman said they had provided written statements expressing their interest in being considered for appointment to the Citizen Public Safety Oversight Task Force.

The following applicants spoke regarding their qualifications and interest in being appointed:

Patricia Harris
Aaron Landau
Satomi Rash-Zeigler
Andy Trimlett

City Clerk Wiegelman said the appointments would be made at the August 11th City Council meeting.

Following the interviews, no action was taken.

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

2. RESOLUTION APPOINTING AND/OR REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO CITY OF LA MESA BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Arapostathis nominated the following individuals for appointment or reappointment to the various City Boards and Commissions:

Community Relations and Veterans Commission

Andrea Britland
Alan "Rich" Gann
Emon Perrin

Design Review Board

Christopher Langdon

Environmental Sustainability Commission

Eugenie Budnik
Stephen Grooms
Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret
Richard Williams

Historic Preservation Commission

Crystal Arnote
Carmen Pauli

La Mesa Community Parking Commission

Gaetano "Tony" Gaipa
Melissa McCune

Personnel Appeals Board

Peter Gregorovic
Tony Orlando
Jocelyn Watkins

Traffic and Mobility Commission

Alex Mueller
Tony Ortega

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Baber to approve (1) the reappointment of Alan "Rich" Gann and the appointment of Andrea Britland and Emon Perrin to the Community Relations and Veterans Commission; (2) the reappointment of Christopher Langdon to the Design Review Board; (3) the reappointment of Stephen Grooms, Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret, and Richard Williams and the appointment of Eugenie Budnik to the Environmental Sustainability Commission; (4) the reappointment of Carmen Pauli and the appointment of Crystal Arnote to the Historic Preservation Commission; (5) the reappointment of Melissa McCune and appointment of Gaetano "Tony" Gaipa to the La Mesa Community Parking Commission; (6) the reappointment of Peter Gregorovic and Tony Orlando and appointment of Jocelyn Watkins to the Personnel Appeals Board; (7) the reappointment of Tony Ortega and appointment of Alex Mueller to the Traffic and Mobility Commission; and (8) adopt the Resolution confirming the appointments.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Baber, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Parent, and Councilmember Weber
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2020-077 was adopted.

City Clerk Wiegelman explained the nomination process for the Community Services Commission and Planning Commission.

The Council began the open nomination process for two positions on the Community Services Commission.

City Clerk Wiegelman announced the nominations as follows:

Round 1:

Mayor Arapostathis nominated Ginger Radenheimer and Matthew Bohan.
Vice Mayor Baber nominated Ginger Radenheimer and Matthew Bohan.
Councilmember Alessio nominated Ginger Radenheimer and Mariko Nakawatase.
Councilmember Parent nominated Ryan Fallica and Mariko Nakawatase.
Councilmember Weber nominated Natalie Clark Addleson and Matthew Bohan.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Alessio and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to approve the reappointment of Ginger Radenheimer and the appointment of Matthew Bohan to the Community Services Commission and adopt the Resolution confirming the appointment.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Baber, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Parent, and Councilmember Weber
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2020-077 was adopted.

The Council began the open nomination process for two positions on the Planning Commission.

City Clerk Wiegelman announced the nominations as follows:

Round 1:

Mayor Arapostathis nominated Polly Kanavel and Andrew Torpey.
Vice Mayor Baber nominated Andrew Torpey and Jerry Jones.
Councilmember Alessio nominated Andrew Torpey and Jerry Jones.
Councilmember Parent nominated Andrew Torpey and Ryan Fallica.
Councilmember Weber nominated Polly Kanavel and Andrew Torpey.

City Clerk Wiegelman asked the Mayor and Council to select Jerry Jones or Polly Kanavel for Round 2 of the nomination process.

Round 2:

Mayor Arapostathis nominated Polly Kanavel.
Vice Mayor Baber nominated Jerry Jones.
Councilmember Alessio nominated Jerry Jones.
Councilmember Parent nominated Jerry Jones.
Councilmember Weber nominated Polly Kanavel.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Alessio and seconded by Vice Mayor Baber to approve the reappointment of Andrew Torpey and the appointment of Jerry Jones to the Planning Commission and adopt the Resolution confirming the appointment.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Baber, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Parent, and Councilmember Weber
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2020-077 was adopted.

CONSENT CALENDAR

(Items 3 through 7)

3. APPROVAL OF MOTION TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE TEXT OF ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS AT THIS MEETING

Approved.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020

Approved.

5. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR BONDED INDEBTEDNESS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Resolution No. 2020-078 was adopted.

6. RESOLUTION AWARDED BID 19-19 RENEWAL OPTION 1, TYPE B ASPHALT CONCRETE, TO SUPERIOR READY MIX CONCRETE AND CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL ASPHALT

Resolution No. 2020-079 was adopted.

7. RESOLUTION GRANTING AN EASEMENT TO SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC (SDG&E) FOR PUBLIC UTILITY PURPOSES OVER A PUBLIC PROPERTY AT 8065 LA MESA BOULEVARD

Resolution No. 2020-080 was adopted.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Alessio to approve Consent Calendar Items 3 through 7.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Baber, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Parent, and Councilmember Weber
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

Motion passed.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

8. LETTER FROM THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES REQUESTING THE DESIGNATION OF A VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE FOR THE ANNUAL LEAGUE CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 7 THROUGH OCTOBER 9, 2020, IN LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Vice Mayor Baber to designate Vice Mayor Baber as the voting delegate and Councilmember Alessio as the alternate voting delegate for the Annual League Conference.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Baber, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Parent, and Councilmember Weber

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

STAFF REPORT

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION CONFIRMING AND RATIFYING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS INCLUDED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 3-2020 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 4-2020 AS ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY AND DISASTER PURSUANT TO LA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.56.060 FOR THE DIRECT PROTECTION AND BENEFIT OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF LA MESA

Mayor Arapostathis read the title of the Resolution.

City Manager Humora reviewed the actions included in Executive Order No. 3-2020 and Executive Order No. 4-2020.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Vice Mayor Baber to adopt the Resolution confirming and ratifying the rules and regulations included in Executive Order No. 3-2020 and Executive Order No. 4-2020 as issued by the Director of Emergency and Disaster pursuant to La Mesa Municipal Code Section 2.56.060 for the direct protection and benefit of the citizens of the City of La Mesa.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Baber, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Parent, and Councilmember Weber
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2020-081 was adopted.

10. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING CORONAVIRUS AID RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (“CARES”) ACT GRANT FUNDING TOTALING \$1,061,700 FROM THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO FUND ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

City Manager Tomaino provided a PowerPoint presentation on the CARES Act, eligible uses of the CARES Act Grant funding, the allocation of the County of San Diego’s CARES Act Grant funds, and the City’s proposed expenditure plan for the County of San Diego’s CARES Act Grant funds.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Vice Mayor Baber to adopt the Resolution accepting and appropriating Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act Grant funding totaling \$1,061,700 from the County of San Diego to fund eligible expenditures.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Baber, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Parent, and Councilmember Weber
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2020-082 was adopted.

11. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING CORONAVIRUS AID RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (“CARES”) ACT GRANT FUNDING TOTALING \$748,408 FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO FUND ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

City Manager Tomaino provided a PowerPoint presentation on the allocation of the State’s CARES Act Grant funds and the City’s proposed expenditure plan for the State’s CARES Act Grant funds.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Alessio to adopt the Resolution accepting and appropriating Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act Grant funding totaling \$748,408 from the State of California to fund eligible expenditures.

Council questions and comments continued.

ACTION: Substitute Motion - Motioned by Councilmember Parent and seconded by Councilmember Weber to (1) adopt the Resolution accepting and appropriating Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act Grant funding totaling \$748,408 from the State of California to fund eligible expenditures; (2) allocate \$374,204 of the State’s CARES Act Grant funding to a business assistance program and \$374,204 to a renters assistance program; and (3) direct staff to bring back for Council consideration at the August 11, 2020 Council meeting a draft proposal for a renters assistance program. – WITHDRAWN

Council questions and comments continued.

City Clerk Wiegelman read aloud the first 300 words of the emailed public comments submitted by 4:00 p.m. the day of the Council meeting.

Mary England submitted a comment in support of allocating the State’s CARES Act Grant funding to local businesses.

Councilmember Alessio stated she would be voting no on the substitute motion because she did not support any potential reduction of the CARES Act Grant funds allocated to small businesses.

ACTION: Substitute Motion - Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Parent to (1) adopt the Resolution accepting and appropriating Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act Grant funding totaling \$748,408 from the State of California to fund eligible expenditures; (2) direct staff to bring back for Council consideration at the August 11, 2020 Council meeting a draft expenditure plan for the CARES Act Grant funds from the County of San Diego and State of California that allocates funds to City services, a business assistance program, and a renters assistance program.

Vote: 3-2

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Councilmember Parent, and Councilmember Weber
No: Vice Mayor Baber and Councilmember Alessio
Abstained: None
Absent: None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2020-083 was adopted.

12. DISCUSSION REGARDING A PROPOSED TOWN HALL MEETING REGARDING THE EVENTS OF MAY 30, 2020

City Manager Tomaino provided a PowerPoint presentation on the platform, format, date, and public participation options for the proposed town hall meeting.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Debbie Kinsinger submitted a comment providing recommendations for the proposed town hall meeting.

Lauren Gillihan submitted a comment regarding the issues to discuss at the proposed town hall meeting.

Melissa Walter submitted a comment in support of the proposed town hall meeting.

Matt Jenkins submitted a comment providing recommendations for the proposed town hall meeting.

Jenna Sweeney submitted a comment providing recommendations for the proposed town hall meeting.

Emily Green submitted a comment requesting the format of the proposed town hall meeting include live questions and answers.

The Antuna family submitted a comment providing recommendations for the proposed town hall meeting.

Rebecca Littlejohn submitted a comment regarding holding more than a one-time town hall meeting.

Council questions and comments continued.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Parent to (1) hold the town hall meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2020 via Zoom and allow public participation by way of email, Zoom, and in-person; and (2) direct staff to include relevant information and materials regarding the events of May 30th in the agenda packet and proactively inform the public on what the City may and may not disclose at the town hall meeting.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Baber, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Parent, and Councilmember Weber

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

HEARING

13. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REPORT WITH THE FINAL DETERMINATION OF SEWER SERVICE CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 TO BE COLLECTED ON THE COUNTY PROPERTY TAX ROLL AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO FORWARD A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE RESOLUTION, TOGETHER WITH A COPY OF THE REPORT TO THE OFFICE OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY AUDITOR**

Notice of the hearing was given in accordance with legal requirements, and the hearing was held on the date and at the time specified in the notice.

Mayor Arapostathis opened the hearing for Item 13.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Firsh explained the process to place sewer service charges on the property tax bills and the City's customer outreach efforts.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Alessio to close the hearing since there were no members of the public who wished to speak.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Baber, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Parent, and Councilmember Weber

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Alessio to adopt the Resolution confirming the report with the final determination of sewer service charges for Fiscal Year 2021 to be collected on the County property tax roll and directing the City Clerk to forward a certified copy of the Resolution, together with a copy of the report to the Office of the San Diego County Auditor.

Vote: 4-1

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Parent, and Councilmember Weber

No: Vice Mayor Baber

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2020-084 was adopted.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

The Mayor and Council reported on various outside boards, commissions and committee meetings they attended. No action was taken.

AB 1234 REPORTS (GC 53232.3(d))

There were no reports.

CITY ATTORNEY REMARKS

There were no remarks.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Arapostathis adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Megan Wiegelman, CMC
City Clerk