

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the La Mesa City Council and
Special Meeting of the La Mesa Public Financing Authority
Tuesday, January 12, 2021 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 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: CITY COUNCIL

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

ABSENT: None.

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

ROLL CALL: LA MESA PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY

PRESENT: Chairman Arapostathis; Authority Members Baber, Parent, Shu, and Weber.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Executive Director Humora, General Counsel Sabine; Assistant City Manager Tomaino; Secretary Wiegelman.

INVOCATION – COUNCILMEMBER BABER

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, summarized the latest health order changes from the State of California and County of San Diego, and reported on the COVID-19 vaccination distribution process.

City Manager Humora provided an update on the Chief of Police recruitment.

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

MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY REPORT

Mayor Arapostathis presented the State of the City report highlighting the many accomplishments in 2020 and the challenges the City successfully overcame.

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

Amy Anderson submitted a comment regarding the City's efforts to address problems within the La Mesa Police Department.

Kristen Miller submitted a comment regarding the Mayor's response to her conflict with the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District.

Jennifer submitted a comment requesting the ban of leaf blowers within City limits.

Jane Peterson submitted a comment recommending a two-pronged approach to raise traffic safety awareness in memory of her friend and neighbor Kelly Cameron.

Aaron Amerling submitted a comment regarding the installation of free parking signage directing drivers to the parking lot behind the police station.

Judith Pineda submitted a comment on adding a no idling policy to the City's Climate Action Plan.

Dianne Osterling submitted a comment thanking the San Diego Foundation for making grants available to local municipalities for programs and policies supporting quality of life for older San Diegans. Dianne Osterling commented on the City of La Mesa's use of the allotted grant funds.

CONFLICT DISCLOSURES

There were no conflict of interest disclosures.

BOARD AND COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

1. INTERVIEW OF APPLICANT FOR AN UNSCHEDULED VACANCY ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION

City Clerk Wiegelman briefly explained the interview process.

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

Leslie Cooper
Brianna Coston

Following the interviews, no action was taken.

2. INTERVIEW OF APPLICANTS FOR THE CITY'S COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD

City Clerk Wiegelman briefly explained the interview process. City Clerk Wiegelman stated that John Bucher, Steve Wedel, and Sharna Miller were not able to attend the City Council meeting due to prior commitments but had provided written statements expressing their interest in being considered for appointment to the Community Police Oversight Board ("CPOB"). City Clerk Wiegelman announced that Cleto DiGiovanni had withdrawn their application.

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.

Debbie Kinsinger submitted a comment regarding Councilmember Shu's efforts in the creation and implementation of the CPOB and the opportunities and responsibilities of those selected to serve on the CPOB.

Lauren Cazares submitted a comment in support of appointing Gustavo Munoz to the CPOB.

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

Stuart Aitken
Demetrius Antuna
Michelle Beale
William Beltz
Victor Borja
Janet Castanos
Joshua Chanin
Lisa Charukul
Bruce Chase
Larry Darby
Morgan Davis
Patricia Dillard
Robert Duff
Jose Fernandez
Wendy Filter

Ana Fuentes
Richard Garcia
Jim Gogek
Monica Gomez-Dunham
Michelle Gonzaba
Paul Hagen
Leroy Johnson
Grant Jordan
Brandon Kertson
Elio Limonchi
Erin Limonchi
Teresa Love
Luke Martin
Michael McWilliams
Myriam Moody
Linda Morton
Gustavo Munoz
Alfred Navarro
Ruben Rivera
Michael Salazar
Yashica Sylvester
Caitlin Tiffany
Andy Trimlett
Gregg Ward
Susan Wayne
Daniel Westerman

Following the interviews, no action was taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL

(Items 3 through 9)

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.

Jessica Hale submitted a comment on Item 7 regarding the lack of expenditures for homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services for the development of housing.

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 REGULAR MEETING AND CITY OF LA MESA SUCCESSOR AGENCY SPECIAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020

Approved.

5. **A. RESOLUTION ORDERING THE SUMMARY VACATION OF AN EASEMENT FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR PUBLIC ROAD PURPOSES BEING A PORTION OF MILDEN STREET, LYING IN THE WESTERLY PORTION OF LOT 80, EASTERLY OF LOT 10 OF MURRAY HILL, IN THE CITY OF LA MESA, DEDICATED PER MAP NO. 1342; AND**

Resolution No. 2021-001 was adopted.

- B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A QUITCLAIM DEED CONVEYING THE CITY'S REAL PROPERTY INTEREST IN LOT 80 IN THE CITY OF LA MESA, PER MAP NO. 1342 IN THE FORM OF A DEDICATION FOR PARK PURPOSES RECORDED JANUARY 29, 1982, IN INSTRUMENT NO. 82-026590**

Resolution No. 2021-002 was adopted.

6. **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FIRST AMENDMENT FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE AGREEMENT FOR AUDIT SERVICES WITH ROGERS, ANDERSON, MALODY AND SCOTT, LLP**

Resolution No. 2021-003 was adopted.

7. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE CITY OF LA MESA HOUSING ASSET FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ADDENDUM TO THE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

Approved.

8. **RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO NV5 FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR GROSSMONT CENTER DRIVE BRIDGE REHABILITATION AND WIDENING PROJECT**

Resolution No. 2021-004 was adopted.

9. **RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S PURCHASING OFFICER TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT TO FUND WELLNESS AND FITNESS EXAMS BY SAN DIEGO SPORTS MEDICINE**

Resolution No. 2021-005 was adopted.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Baber and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to approve Consent Calendar Items 3 through 9.

Vote: 5-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

CONSENT CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL AND LA MESA PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY
(Item 10)

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.

Melissa Walter submitted a comment regarding the expense and services of the Police Department.

Jeff Waller submitted a comment regarding the expense and services of the Police Department.

Manuel Gomez submitted a comment regarding the expense of the Police Department and adding support resources for police officers.

Teri Andre submitted a comment regarding researching grants for environmental, homeless, and mental health issues, and racial bias training for police officers.

Debbie Kinsinger submitted a comment regarding the successful management of the City's funds under the duress of the pandemic.

10. ACCEPTANCE OF BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE CITY OF LA MESA FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

Approved.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember/Authority Member Baber and seconded by Councilmember/Authority Member Parent to approve Consent Calendar Item 10.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor/Chair Arapostathis, Vice Mayor/Authority Member Weber, Councilmember/Authority Member Baber, Councilmember/Authority Member Parent, and Councilmember/Authority Member Shu

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL

11. CONSIDERATION AND APPOINTMENT AND/OR REAPPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES, AND TO THE COUNCIL AD HOC AND STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES

Council discussion ensued regarding their interests in serving on the various outside boards, commissions, and committees and the Council ad hoc and standing subcommittees.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Parent and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to appoint: (1) Councilmember Baber as the primary representative on the East County Economic Development Council; (2) Vice Mayor Weber as the primary representative on the Harry Griffen Park JPA (3) Councilmember Parent as the primary representative and Councilmember Shu as the alternate representative on the Heartland Communications Facility Authority; (4) Councilmember Parent as the primary representative and Councilmember Baber as the alternate representative on the Heartland Fire Training Facility Authority; (5) Mayor Arapostathis and Councilmember Baber as the primary representatives and Vice Mayor Weber as the alternate representative on the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District/City of La Mesa Joint Steering Committee; (6) Councilmember Baber as the primary representative on the League of California Cities San Diego County Division; (7) Councilmember Baber as the primary representative and Councilmember Shu as the alternate representative on the Metro Wastewater Joint Powers Authority; (8) Councilmember Parent as the primary representative on the Mission Trails Regional Task Force; (9) Michele Greenburg McClung as the primary representative and Carol Lockwood as the alternate representative on the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee; (10) Councilmember Shu as the primary representative, Mayor Arapostathis as the first alternate representative, and Vice Mayor Weber as the second alternate representative on the San Diego Association of Governments Board of Directors; (11) Councilmember Baber as the primary representative and City Manager Humora as the alternate representative on the San Diego Community Power Board of Directors; and (12) Councilmember Shu as the primary representative on the Sweetwater River Watershed Advisory Panel.

Vote: 5-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Parent to: (1) appoint: (a) Mayor Arapostathis and Councilmember Baber to the Audit Standing Subcommittee; (b) Vice Mayor Weber and Councilmember Shu to the Future of MacArthur Park Standing Subcommittee; (c) Mayor Arapostathis and Councilmember Parent to the Downtown Events Standing Subcommittee; (d) Mayor Arapostathis and Vice Mayor Weber to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Citizen Emergency Preparedness; (e) Councilmember Parent and Vice Mayor Weber to the Civic Center Master Plan Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (f) Councilmember Baber and Councilmember Parent to the Review of the Design Review Board Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (g) Councilmember Parent and Councilmember Shu to the Housing Affordability Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (h) Councilmember Baber and Councilmember Parent to the Extension of Proposition L Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (i) Mayor Arapostathis and Councilmember Parent to the Review of City Streets for Greater Pedestrian Access Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (j) Mayor Arapostathis and Councilmember Parent to the Business Rebound Ad Hoc Subcommittee; and (k) Mayor Arapostathis and Vice Mayor Weber to the Community Police Oversight Board Nominating Ad Hoc Subcommittee; and (2) establish an Animal Welfare Ad Hoc Subcommittee comprising of Councilmember Baber and Councilmember Shu.

Vote: 5-0

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

Motion passed.

COUNCIL INITIATED

12. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SEEK REVIEW BY CITY STAFF AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION – COUNCILMEMBER JACK SHU

Councilmember Shu explained the purpose and intent of the proposed Climate Emergency Resolution.

Mairs Ryan spoke in support of adopting a climate emergency resolution.

Laura Lothian submitted a comment regarding the re-opening of La Mesa businesses being the real emergency facing La Mesa and the issue that should be City Council's top priority.

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

The following members of the public submitted comments in support of adopting a climate emergency resolution:

Julie Morisot
Judith Pineda
Kevin Do
Mike Rancourt
John Bottorff
Wendy Mihalic
Debbie Kinsinger
Anna-Francesca Magat
Pia Piscitelli
Leana Cortez
James Wang
Noah Harris on behalf of Climate Action Campaign
Rev. Christian DeMent on behalf of La Mesa First United Methodist Church
Laura Minna-Choe
Melissa Walter
Lois Knowlton on behalf of La Mesa First United Methodist Women
Debbie McDaniel-Lindsey on behalf of La Mesa First United Methodist Church Outreach Committee
Timothy Robinson

Maleeka Marsden on behalf of San Diego Green New Deal Alliance
David Harris
Angela Deegan
Anne Sheridan

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Shu and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to: (1) direct staff, the Environmental Sustainability Commission and other Commissions as recommended by the City Manager, to review the proposed climate emergency resolution; (2) establish an ad hoc subcommittee comprising of Councilmember Baber and Councilmember Shu for the purpose of reviewing the recommendations from staff and Commissions and preparing a final draft of the climate emergency resolution; and (3) direct staff to bring back for Council consideration at the February 23, 2021 Council meeting, or as soon as possible thereafter, the final draft of the climate emergency resolution.

Vote: 5-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

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 meetings of the City Council and the La Mesa Public Financing Authority at 9:45 p.m.

Megan Wiegelman, CMC
City Clerk