

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the La Mesa City Council
Tuesday, April 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, except for Item 8 which was considered after Item 9.

Mayor Arapostathis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None.

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

INVOCATION – COUNCILMEMBER ALESSIO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Humora thanked the donor of the “We are One Strong Community” billboard in MacArthur Park and the Public Works Department for the installation of the billboard. City Manager Humora provided an update on the traffic signals that were reprogrammed to automatically display the pedestrian crossing signals, the City parks that were closed to visitors, and the County of San Diego’s latest health order changes.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN REPORTS

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

PRESENTATIONS

PROCLAIMING MAY 15, 2020 AS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY

Mayor Arapostathis read aloud the proclamation proclaiming May 15, 2020 as Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Day.

PROCLAIMING APRIL 2020 AS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

Mayor Arapostathis read aloud the proclamation proclaiming April 2020 as Volunteer Appreciation Month.

ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Vice Mayor Baber requested Item 8, resolution adopting the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant program and resolution amending the Citizen Participation Plan, be considered after Item 9.

ACTION: It was the consensus of the Council to consider Item 8 after Item 9.

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.

Philip Narveson submitted a comment regarding the City parks being closed.

Allyson Wallace submitted a comment on postponing the effective date of the City's Smoking Ordinance.

Stephanie Parker submitted a comment regarding a homeless problem on Massachusetts Avenue and Waite Drive.

Elizabeth Jenner submitted a comment regarding a homeless problem on Massachusetts Avenue and Waite Drive.

Aubree Salas submitted a comment regarding a homeless problem on Massachusetts Avenue and Waite Drive.

Deborah Jarmon-Johnson submitted a comment regarding the need for a strong City moratorium on evictions.

Vinton Omaleki submitted a comment regarding the need for a strong City moratorium on evictions.

Veronica Origel submitted a comment regarding the need for a strong City moratorium on evictions.

Residents of Culbertson Avenue submitted a comment regarding their concerns with a house operating as an Airbnb on Culbertson Avenue.

CONFLICT DISCLOSURES

Vice Mayor Baber announced he had a conflict of interest on Items 8 and 10 due to the proximity of his home to Collier Park and would recuse himself for the vote on Items 8 and 10.

CONSENT CALENDAR

(Items 1 through 5)

Councilmember Parent requested Consent Calendar Item 3 be pulled for separate consideration.

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

Approved.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020

Approved.

3. REMOVED.

4. RESOLUTION AWARDDING THE THIRD RENEWAL OPTION OF ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR THE 2020 ANNUAL CONCRETE MAINTENANCE PROJECT TO MIRAMAR GENERAL ENGINEERING

Resolution No. 2020-036 was adopted.

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE FY19 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM – URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE GRANT OF \$255,425

Resolution No. 2020-037 was adopted.

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Mayor Baber and seconded by Councilmember Parent to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 through 5, except for Item 3.

Vote: 5-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF AN AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY HOME CONSORTIUM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 WITH AUTOMATIC RENEWAL IN EACH SUCCESSIVE PERIOD

Councilmember Parent spoke on the funding priorities of the San Diego County Home Consortium.

Senior Planner Kinnard explained the process for changing the program the City's HOME funds subsidize.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Parent and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to (1) adopt the Resolution authorizing renewal of an agreement to participate in the San Diego County HOME Consortium for Fiscal Year 2021-2022; and (2) direct staff to engage with the County of San Diego staff to consider allocating a portion of HOME funds to subsidize multifamily developments.

Vote: 4-0-1

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

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2020-038 was adopted.

STAFF REPORTS

6. A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF RETIRED ANNUITANT PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 7522.56 AND 21221(h) AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA EXECUTIVE ORDER N-25-20; AND

B. CONSIDERATION OF AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH SARAH WALLER-BULLOCK FOR THE INTERIM APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Administrative Services Director Freeman explained California Government Code Sections 7522 and 21221(h) which authorizes the City to reemploy a retired CalPERS annuitant without reinstatement from retirement upon a finding that the retired person has specialized skills needed to perform work of a limited duration. Administrative Services Director Freeman stated State of California Executive Order N-25-20 suspends the work hour limitations for retired annuitants and the 180-day break in service requirement under Government Code Section 7522.56(f). Administrative Services Director Freeman provided an overview of Sarah Waller-Bullock's expertise and background and reviewed the terms and conditions of the employment agreement.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Alessio and seconded by Vice Mayor Baber to (1) adopt the Resolution authorizing the hiring of retired annuitant pursuant to Government Code Sections 7522.56 and 21221(h) and State of California Executive Order N-25-20; and (2) authorize the City Manager to sign the employment agreement with Sarah Waller-Bullock for the interim appointment to the position of Director of Finance.

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. 2020-039 was adopted.

7. GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL FORECAST COVID-19 UPDATE

Finance Director Waller-Bullock provided a PowerPoint presentation on the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency on the long range projection of the City's General Fund revenues, expenditures, and reserves. Finance Director Waller-Bullock reviewed the economic factors and state actions to date, recapped the financial forecast presented in March, reviewed the General Fund revenues impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency and ongoing economic impacts, provided updated General Fund expenditure and ending reserves estimates for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and compared the base forecast to the updated COVID-19 forecast.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to place on the next agenda the consideration of suspending all business license fees for one year.

HEARINGS

8. A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PLANNING PERIOD JULY 2020 THROUGH JUNE 2025 AND THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD); AND

B. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR HUD FUNDING PROGRAMS

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.

Vice Mayor Baber left the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Mayor Arapostathis opened the hearing for Item 8.

Senior Planner Kinnard provided a PowerPoint presentation on the CDBG program, HUD requirements for the allocation of funds, the proposed 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan goals, the proposed 2020-2025 allocation of CDBG program funds, the CDBG Year 1 (Fiscal Year 2020-2021) Action Plan, and the additional CDBG program funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Senior Planner Kinnard stated that staff would return to Council with additional information and recommendations regarding the CDBG CARES Act funds.

Council questions and comments ensued.

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.

Bonnie Baranoff submitted a comment regarding the CDBG CARES Act funds being allocated to programs that help the homeless, provide housing security for low and moderate income persons who are out of work and at risk of becoming homeless, and provide short-term working capital assistance to small businesses in La Mesa.

Lois Knowlton, La Mesa First United Methodist Church, submitted a comment regarding CDBG funds being used to help prevent low to moderate income renters in La Mesa from becoming homeless.

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

Vote: 4-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Vice Mayor Baber

Motion passed.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Alessio and seconded by Councilmember Weber to adopt the Resolution adopting the Consolidated Plan for Community Development for the planning period July 2020 through June 2025 and the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan for the CDBG program and authorizing submittal to HUD.

Vote: 4-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Vice Mayor Baber

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2020-041 was adopted.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Alessio to (1) adopt the Resolution amending the Citizen Participation Plan for HUD funding programs; and (2) direct staff to expedite the allocation of the CDBG CARES Act funds.

Vote: 4-0

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

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2020-042 was adopted.

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SANDAG) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT TO THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION CONGESTION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RTCIP) DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SANDAG COMMISSION ORDINANCE 04-01 AND TRANSNET EXTENSION ORDINANCE AND EXPENDITURE PLAN

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 9.

Public Works Director Firshst provided an overview of the annual adjustment to the Regional Transportation Congestion Improvement Program (RTCIP) development impact fee.

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 Vice Mayor Baber and seconded by Councilmember Parent to adopt the Resolution adopting the SANDAG annual adjustment to the RTCIP Development Impact Fee for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

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. 2020-040 was adopted.

10. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FINDINGS FOR THE QUIMBY ACT PARKLAND DEDICATION IN-LIEU FEE AND PARK ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENT IMPACT FEE AS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 66001 AND APPROPRIATING EXISTING AND ANTICIPATED FUNDS FOR COLLIER PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND FOR PROJECTS AS OUTLINED IN THE PARKS MASTER PLAN

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 10.

Senior Management Analyst Dedmon provided a PowerPoint presentation on the park in-lieu and impact fees, the findings per Government Code Section 66001, and the appropriation of funds for park projects based on the Park Master Plan.

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: 4-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Vice Mayor Baber

Motion passed.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Alessio to adopt the Resolution approving the findings as required by California Government Code Section 66001 and appropriate funds for Collier Park improvements and for projects as outlined in the Parks Master Plan.

Vote: 4-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Vice Mayor Baber

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2020-043 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

At 7:51 p.m., Mayor Arapostathis adjourned the meeting in honor and memory of all those who had lost their lives to COVID-19 and twin sisters and Helix High School students Caira and Leah Christopher.

Megan Wiegelman, CMC
City Clerk