

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the La Mesa City Council
Tuesday, May 12, 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 6:00 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 – VICE MAYOR BABER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Humora provided an update on the City’s efforts during the COVID-19 public health emergency and summarized the latest health order changes from the State of California and County of San Diego.

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 AS POPPY MONTH

Mayor Arapostathis read aloud the proclamation proclaiming May as Poppy Month.

PROCLAIMING MAY 2020 AS WATER SAFETY MONTH

Mayor Arapostathis read aloud the proclamation proclaiming May 2020 as Water Safety Month.

PROCLAIMING MAY AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Mayor Arapostathis read aloud the proclamation proclaiming May as Older Americans Month.

PROCLAIMING MAY 17 – 23, 2020 AS NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Mayor Arapostathis read aloud the proclamation proclaiming May 17 – 23, 2020 as National Public Works Week.

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Interim Finance Director Waller-Bullock reported on the national, state and local economic outlook, state budget issues, the performance of the City's General Fund, and Proposition L benchmarks for the quarter ended March 31, 2020.

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.

Kathleen Brand submitted a comment regarding revising the planning code for mixed-use neighborhoods.

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

Raleigh Parish submitted a comment regarding the need for a strong City moratorium on evictions.

Elizabeth Jenner submitted a comment thanking City staff for their efforts in cleaning up the corner of Waite Drive and Massachusetts Avenue.

CONFLICT DISCLOSURES

There were no conflict of interest disclosures.

CONSENT CALENDAR

(Items 1 through 5)

- 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 28, 2020**

Approved.

- 3. APPROVAL OF THE CITY TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED MARCH 31, 2020**

Approved.

- 4. RESOLUTION TO AWARD RFP 20-12 TO WESTERN AUDIO VISUAL AND SECURITY FOR THE UPGRADE TO THE AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM IN THE CITY COUNCIL OVERFLOW ROOMS/EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER AND APPROPRIATION OF UNENCUMBERED PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BUDGET**

Resolution No. 2020-044 was adopted.

- 5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A HEAVY DUTY TRUCK FOR THE MAINTENANCE, CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR OF CITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

Resolution No. 2020-045 was adopted.

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Mayor Baber and seconded by Councilmember Alessio to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 through 5.

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

- 6. CONSIDERATION OF RELIEF TO LA MESA BUSINESSES OF IN-CITY BUSINESS LICENSE FEES DURING THE COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY**

Interim Finance Director Waller-Bullock provided a report on the number of active business licenses, the number of business licenses for in-City businesses with a fixed location, the fees

charged to in-City businesses and out-of-City businesses, and the measure of relief the waiver of business license fees would provide for in-City businesses.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Alessio and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to adopt the Resolution confirming the Director of Emergency and Disaster's regulation to waive in-City business license fees for La Mesa businesses commencing May 13, 2020 through April 30, 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. 2020-046 was adopted.

HEARING

7. CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN TO PROGRAM CDBG CORONAVIRUS (CDBG-CV) FUNDS

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 7.

Senior Planner Kinnard provided a PowerPoint presentation on the priority need goals that were established in the 2015-2019 CDBG Consolidated Plan, the regulations and requirements of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funds, the highest identified need being homeless services, the type of homeless services that could be provided using the CARES funds, other public services identified in the 2015-2019 CDBG Consolidated Plan that the CARES funds could subsidize, and other activities the CARES funds could be used for that would require a more comprehensive adoption and implementation process.

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.

Kathleen Brand submitted a comment on allocating a portion of the CARES funds to the MacArthur Park Community Garden to help move the project forward and provide low and moderate income families with additional access to healthy foods.

Council questions and comments continued.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Alessio to close the hearing since there were no more 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 Councilmember Alessio and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to (1) direct staff to prepare and circulate a streamlined Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to identify homeless service providers; (2) direct staff to provide services within the City's existing 2015-2019 CDBG Consolidated Plan as quickly as possible; such services may include care, counseling, and testing services; and (3) draft an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Action Plan that allocates available funding to homeless services and return to Council on May 26, 2020 for final review and approval.

Vote: 5-0

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

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.

ACTION: Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to establish an ad hoc subcommittee comprising of Mayor Arapostathis and Councilmember Alessio for the purpose of working with the county, school district, and local businesses on the reopening of the local economy.

AB 1234 REPORTS (GC 53232.3(d))

There were no reports.

COUNCIL INITIATED

8. CONSIDERATION OF THE STATUS OF CITY PARKS AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING OPENING/CLOSING – MAYOR ARAPOSTATHIS AND VICE MAYOR BABER

Mayor Arapostathis provided an overview of the county and City orders as they relate to parks and commented on the cooperation of residents and the enforcement of said orders.

Vice Mayor Baber recommended reopening the gates of MacArthur Park to allow individuals to walk and jog through the park.

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.

Bruce Robertson submitted a comment in support of reopening the City parks.

Philip Narveson submitted a comment in support of reopening the City parks.

Council questions and comments continued.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Vice Mayor Baber to direct staff to reopen MacArthur Park and work with the school district to determine if Sunset Park should remain closed or be reopened. County guidelines were to be followed at all City parks.

Vote: 5-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

CITY ATTORNEY REMARKS

There were no remarks.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:30 p.m., Mayor Arapostathis adjourned the meeting in memory of Metropolitan Transit System Chief Executive Officer Paul Jablonski, a fierce advocate for public transportation who dedicated 45 years of his life to working in transit.

Megan Wiegelman, CMC
City Clerk