

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the La Mesa City Council,
 Special Meeting of the La Mesa Public Financing Authority and
 Special Meeting of the City of La Mesa Successor Agency
 Tuesday, June 23, 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: CITY COUNCIL

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.

ROLL CALL: LA MESA PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY

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

ABSENT: None.

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

ROLL CALL: CITY OF LA MESA SUCCESSOR AGENCY

PRESENT: Chairman Arapostathis; Agencymembers Alessio, Baber, Parent and Weber.

ABSENT: None.

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

INVOCATION – COUNCILMEMBER PARENT

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Humora introduced the new Assistant City Manager, Carlo Tomaino.

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.

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

PROCLAIMING JUNE 2020 AS LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH

Mayor Arapostathis read the Proclamation proclaiming June 2020 as LGBTQ Pride Month.

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.

Jennifer Grigg submitted a comment regarding government transparency and encouraging the participation of all community members.

Jimmy Long submitted a comment regarding the raising of the LGBTQ Pride Flag event in La Mesa.

Jo Light submitted a comment regarding the raising of the LGBTQ Pride Flag, the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department, and in support of placing a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police Oversight Commission in conjunction with the establishment of an emergency Police Oversight Commission by the City Council.

Kathryn Nelson submitted a comment requesting the City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, and La Mesa Police Department hold a virtual town hall meeting.

Jessyka Heredia submitted a comment regarding the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department, the La Mesa Civil Defense group, the raising of the LGBTQ Pride Flag, holding a virtual town hall meeting, and in support of placing a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police Oversight Commission.

Kasey Zahner submitted a comment in regards to approving a Police Oversight Commission.

Tim Cooper submitted a comment in regards to the City Council establishing a Police Oversight Commission.

Ozra Malikyar submitted a comment in regards to the City Council establishing a Police Oversight Commission and defunding the La Mesa Police Department.

Gisela Salgado submitted a comment regarding the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department, denouncing the La Mesa Civil Defense group, the raising of the LGBTQ Pride Flag, holding a virtual town hall meeting, and in support of placing a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police Oversight Commission.

Mejgan Afshan submitted a comment regarding the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department and the immediate creation of a Police Oversight Commission.

Kimberly Randles submitted a comment regarding the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department, denouncing the La Mesa Civil Defense group, holding a virtual town hall meeting, and in support of placing a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police Oversight Commission.

Gino Serrano submitted a comment thanking the City Council and staff for keeping the City safe.

Sasha Jonestein submitted a comment regarding recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department and implementing free WiFi for all community members.

Cheri Robertson submitted a comment regarding actions of the La Mesa Police Department and the changes that need to be made to the La Mesa Police Department.

Rachel Rosado submitted a comment requesting the City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, and La Mesa Police Department hold a virtual town hall meeting.

Katie Green submitted a comment regarding the City's Targets for Action and Vision Statement, recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department, denouncing the La Mesa Civil Defense group, the raising of the LGBTQ Pride Flag, holding a virtual town hall meeting, and in support of placing a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police Oversight Commission.

Jenne Hallisay submitted a comment regarding the raising of the LGBTQ Pride Flag, the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department, denouncing the La Mesa Civil Defense group, reallocating the City budget, holding bi-monthly town hall meetings, and in support of placing a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police

Oversight Commission in conjunction with the establishment of an emergency Police Oversight Commission by the City Council.

Jessica Hale submitted a comment regarding the raising of the LGBTQ Pride Flag, the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department, denouncing the La Mesa Civil Defense group, reallocating the City's budget, holding a virtual town hall meeting, and in support of placing a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police Oversight Commission.

Melissa Walter submitted a comment regarding the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department and holding a virtual town hall meeting.

Emily Green submitted a comment regarding holding a virtual town hall meeting, the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department, denouncing the La Mesa Civil Defense group, and the use of social media by elected officials.

Andy Trimlett submitted a comment regarding the formation of an emergency Police Oversight Commission, holding a virtual town hall meeting, reallocating the City budget, and the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department.

Kathy Hillery submitted a comment regarding government transparency, establishing an emergency Police Oversight Commission, the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department, and the raising of the LGBTQ Pride Flag.

Heela Tucker submitted a comment regarding government transparency, the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department, defunding the La Mesa Police Department, and the formation of a Police Oversight Commission.

Robin Tucker submitted a comment regarding government transparency, the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department, defunding the La Mesa Police Department, and the formation of a Police Oversight Commission.

Mike Dawson submitted a comment regarding the formation of a Police Oversight Commission and the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department.

Meegan Nolan submitted a comment regarding the recent actions of the La Mesa Police Department, holding a virtual town hall meeting, and providing free WiFi.

Pursuant to the City's Public Comment policy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, public comments received after 4:00 p.m. the day of the Council meeting were not read aloud at the meeting. The following emailed public comment was received after 4:00 p.m. the day of the Council meeting:

Debbie Kinsinger submitted a comment regarding holding meetings in which public comments are read by the author and holding an open public forum.

CONFLICT DISCLOSURES

There were no conflict of interest disclosures.

CONSENT CALENDAR – CITY COUNCIL

(Items 1 through 8)

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 EMERGENCY MEETING HELD MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020**

Approved.

3. **APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE POLICY FOR THE DISPLAY OF FLAGS AT CITY FACILITIES**

Approved.

4. **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2020 SAN DIEGO REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE AND AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)**

Resolution No. 2020-064 was adopted.

5. **RESOLUTION APPROVING A TASK ORDER TO COMPASS ROSE GIS FOR AS-NEEDED MAPPING AND GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021**

Resolution No. 2020-065 was adopted.

6. **RESOLUTION AWARDED SECOND RENEWAL OPTION OF ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE AND EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO CLARK TELECOM & ELECTRIC, INC.**

Resolution No. 2020-066 was adopted.

7. **RESOLUTION AWARDED FIRST RENEWAL OPTION OF ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE, EMERGENCY REPAIRS, AND RELATED CONSTRUCTION SERVICES TO SOUTHWEST TRAFFIC SIGNAL SERVICE, INC.**

Resolution No. 2020-067 was adopted.

8. **RESOLUTION AWARDED SECOND RENEWAL OPTION OF ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR STREET SWEEPING SERVICES WITH CANNON PACIFIC SERVICES, INC., DBA PACIFIC SWEEPING**

Resolution No. 2020-068 was adopted.

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Mayor Baber and seconded by Councilmember Alessio to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 through 8.

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 REPORTS – CITY COUNCIL

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF THE ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER AS THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY AND DISASTER PURSUANT TO LA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.56.050

Mayor Arapostathis read the title of the Resolution.

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Mayor Baber and seconded by Councilmember Alessio to adopt the Resolution confirming the Mayor’s appointment of the Assistant City Manager as the Assistant Director of Emergency and Disaster pursuant to La Mesa Municipal Code Section 2.56.050.

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. 2020-069 was adopted.

10. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION CONFIRMING AND RATIFYING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS AS ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY AND DISASTER PURSUANT TO LA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.56.060, AS A RESULT OF RIOTING AND LOOTING RELATED TO A POLICE PROTEST COMMENCING ON MAY 30, 2020, 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 stated the action issued was to waive all fees related to obtaining permits and inspections for repair work to recover from damage sustained during the rioting and looting on May 30 and May 31, 2020.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Alessio and seconded by Vice Mayor Baber to adopt the Resolution confirming and ratifying the rules and regulations as issued by the Director of Emergency and Disaster pursuant to La Mesa Municipal Code Section 2.56.060, as a result of rioting and looting related to a police protest commencing on May 30, 2020, 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. 2020-070 was adopted.

STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL – FINANCING AUTHORITY - SUCCESSOR AGENCY

11. A. CONSIDERATION OF THE 2020-2021 MID-BIENNIUM BUDGET UPDATE; AND

City Manager Humora stated the 2020-2021 Mid-Biennium Budget contained necessary revisions and adjustments to the 2019-2021 Biennial Budget adopted in August 2019. City Manager Humora provided an overview of the information presented at the March 2020 Council Budget Study Session and the April 28, 2020 financial forecast update. City Manager Humora summarized the current and future projects and programs that were incorporated in the 2020-2021 Mid-Biennium Budget.

Interim Finance Director Waller-Bullock provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Fiscal Year 2019-2021 Biennial Budget process and the amended budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Interim Finance Director Waller-Bullock highlighted the changes to the General Fund revenue and expenditures, interfund transfers, General Fund reserves, and other City funds, and reviewed the Proposition L benchmarks, the Citywide training budget, and pension expenses for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Captain Nicholass answered Council questions regarding the La Mesa Police Department's budget.

Council questions and comments continued.

Melissa Walter Weiss spoke regarding the La Mesa Police Department's budget and reallocating the City's budget.

Meegan Nolan spoke regarding the La Mesa Police Department's budget and reallocating the City's budget.

Missy Solis spoke regarding the La Mesa Police Department's budget and reallocating the City's budget.

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.

Sasha Jonestein submitted a comment regarding the La Mesa Police Department budget.

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Mayor Baber and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to (1) direct staff to work with the Citizen Task Force on Homelessness to reexamine the budget to determine funding opportunities for retaining professionals and/or services in mental health, de-escalation, homelessness, and counseling, for non-emergency calls, research what other cities have done to provide said services, and return to Council with their findings; and (2) adopt the Resolution adopting an amended budget 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. 2020-071 was adopted.

B. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING (1) THE APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021, AND (2) THE ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT FACTORS USED TO CALCULATE THE APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT

Interim Finance Director Waller-Bullock said staff recommended the City Council adopt the Resolution pursuant to Propositions 4 and 111, establishing the Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and selecting the growth in new Non-Residential Construction in the City of La Mesa and the population growth in the County of San Diego as the annual adjustment factors used to compute the Appropriations Limit.

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Mayor Baber and seconded by Councilmember Parent to adopt the Resolution pursuant to Propositions 4 and 111, establishing the Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and selecting the growth in new Non-Residential Construction in the City of La Mesa and the population growth in the County of San Diego as the annual adjustment factors used to compute the Appropriations Limit.

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. 2020-072 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.

COUNCIL INITIATED

12. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITIZEN PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE TO PLACE A MEASURE ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION – MAYOR ARAPOSTATHIS AND VICE MAYOR BABER

Vice Mayor Baber explained that in order for a ballot measure to be placed for the November 2020 General Election, the Citizen Public Safety Oversight Task Force (“Task Force”) would need to bring forth the proposed ballot measure for Council consideration no later than the July 28, 2020 Council meeting. Vice Mayor Baber recommended creating a Council ad hoc subcommittee to work with the City Attorney and the Citizen Public Safety Oversight Task Force on researching and writing the ballot measure.

John Moore spoke regarding the events that occurred on May 30 and May 31, 2020.

Rick Sweeney spoke in support of the La Mesa first responders and recommended establishing a day of recognition for first responders.

Melissa Walter Weiss spoke in support of placing a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police Oversight Commission, and requested Task Force Member Steven Evans, La Mesa Police Officers’ Association representative, be removed as a voting member and made a consultant to the Task Force.

Meegan Nolan spoke in support of placing a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police Oversight Commission, and requested Task Force Member Steven Evans, La Mesa Police Officers’ Association representative, be removed as a voting member and made a consultant to the Task Force.

Missy Solis spoke in support of placing a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police Oversight Commission in conjunction with the establishment of an emergency Police Oversight Commission by the City Council, and requested Task Force Member Steven Evans, La Mesa Police Officers’ Association representative, be removed as a voting member and made a consultant to the Task Force.

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.

The following members of the public submitted a comment in support of placing a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police Oversight Commission:

Janet Castanos
Emily Green
Donna Cross

The following members of the public submitted a comment in opposition of placing a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police Oversight Commission and in support of the City Council establishing a Police Oversight Commission:

Debra Caringi
Nathaniel Tate
Chevelle Tate
Monchel Lewis
Eldon Vogt
Maggie Barragan
John Bucher
Yahairah Aristy
Mike Stowe
Kathleen Brand
Kira Cooper
Andrea St. Julian
Thomas Loffarelli
Dennis Selder
Vinton Omaleki
Jon Wreschinsky

Caitlin Tiffany submitted a comment requesting the City Council refrain from making any decisions about how to move ahead with a Police Oversight Commission without first hearing the Task Force's proposal.

Pursuant to the City's Public Comment policy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, public comments received after 4:00 p.m. the day of the Council meeting were not read aloud at the meeting. The following emailed public comment was received after 4:00 p.m. the day of the Council meeting:

Colin Campbell submitted a comment in support of placing a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police Oversight Commission in conjunction with the establishment of an emergency Police Oversight Commission by the City Council.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Parent and seconded by Councilmember Weber to direct staff and the City Attorney to provide informational and advisory resources to the Citizen Public Safety Oversight Task Force to assist in their recommendation to City Council on whether or not to place a ballot measure for the November 2020 General Election regarding the establishment of a Police Oversight Commission.

Vote: 3-2

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

Motion passed.

13. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE DIRECTION GIVEN TO THE CITIZEN PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE AND ESTABLISHING A TIMELINE FOR WHEN THE TASK FORCE SHOULD PRESENT THEIR FINAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL – COUNCILMEMBER WEBER AND COUNCILMEMBER PARENT

Councilmember Weber explained the purpose for amending the direction given to the Task Force and establishing a timeline for when the Task Force should present their final report to the City Council.

Councilmember Parent said there seemed to be a consensus that a police oversight board was needed which was the reason for proposing to remove the Task Force objective of conducting community sensing and education to determine whether La Mesa needs a citizen police oversight committee. Councilmember Parent stated the removal of the objective would not preclude public participation in the process of carrying out the other objectives of the Task Force.

Council questions and comments ensued.

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.

The following members of the public submitted a comment in support of amending the direction given to the Citizen Public Safety Oversight Task Force and establishing a timeline for when the Task Force should present their final report to the City Council:

Maggie Barragan
Darlene Vogt
John Bucher
Kathleen Brand
Thomas Loffarelli

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Parent and seconded by Councilmember Weber to (1) remove the Citizen Public Safety Oversight Task Force objective to conduct community sensing and education to determine whether La Mesa needs a citizen police oversight committee; (2) direct the Citizen Public Safety Oversight Task Force to complete their objectives

and provide a recommendation to the City Council at the September 8, 2020 Council meeting; (3) direct staff to provide the Citizen Public Safety Oversight Task Force with the necessary resources to complete their objectives by the September 8, 2020 Council meeting; and (4) approve the appropriation of up to \$50,000 from General Fund Reserves to provide outside legal assistance to the Citizen Public Safety Oversight Task Force.

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

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

Megan Wiegelman, CMC
City Clerk