

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the La Mesa City Council
Tuesday, July 27, 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 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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 announced SeeClickFix had replaced YourGOV.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN REPORTS

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

ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)

There were no comments.

CONFLICT DISCLOSURES

There were no conflict of interest disclosures.

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

1. 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:

Design Review Board

David Taylor Jr.

Environmental Sustainability Commission

Michael Bourton

La Mesa Community Parking Commission

Luke Martin

William Walton

Mobility Commission

Mike Calandra

Ed Krulikowski

Personnel Appeals Board

Fabriene Hudson

Mariah Williams

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Baber and seconded by Councilmember Parent to: (1) approve the appointment of David Taylor Jr. to the Design Review Board; (2) approve the reappointment of Michael Bourton to the Environmental Sustainability Commission; (3) approve the appointment of Luke Martin and William Walton to the La Mesa Community Parking Commission; (4) approve the reappointment of Mike Calandra and Ed Krulikowski to the Mobility Commission; (5) approve the reappointment of Fabriene Hudson and appointment of Mariah Williams to the Personnel Appeals Board; and (6) adopt the Resolution confirming the appointments.

Vote: 4-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None
Absent: None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2021-091 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 M. Moana Cabiles and Patrick Dean.

Vice Mayor Shu nominated Patrick Dean and Paige Scott.

Councilmember Baber nominated M. Moana Cabiles and Patrick Dean.

Councilmember Parent nominated M. Moana Cabiles and Patrick Dean.

City Clerk Wiegelman announced that M. Moana Cabiles and Patrick Dean received a majority nomination.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Baber to approve the reappointment of M. Moana Cabiles and Patrick Dean to the Community Services Commission and adopt the Resolution confirming the appointments.

Vote: 4-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2021-091 was adopted.

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

City Clerk Wiegelman announced the nominations as follows:

Round 1:

Mayor Arapostathis nominated Cheryl Alvarado, Lauren Cooper, and Paige Scott.

Vice Mayor Shu nominated Lauren Cooper, Debbie Kinsinger, and Grant Yamada.

Councilmember Baber nominated Cheryl Alvarado, Lauren Cooper, and Paige Scott.

Councilmember Parent nominated Cheryl Alvarado, Lauren Cooper, Grant Yamada.

City Clerk Wiegelman announced that Cheryl Alvarado and Lauren Cooper had received a majority nomination.

City Clerk Wiegelman asked the Mayor and Council to select either Paige Scott or Grant Yamada for Round 2 of the nomination process.

Round 2:

Mayor Arapostathis nominated Paige Scott.

Vice Mayor Shu nominated Grant Yamada.

Councilmember Baber nominated Paige Scott.

Councilmember Parent nominated Paige Scott.

City Clerk Wiegelman announced that Paige Scott had received a majority nomination.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Baber to approve the reappointment of Lauren Cooper and the appointment of Cheryl Alvarado and Paige Scott to the Planning Commission and adopt the Resolution confirming the appointments.

Vote: 4-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2021-091 was adopted.

CONSENT CALENDAR

(Items 2 through 6)

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

Approved.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE LA MESA CITY COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 22, AND JULY 13, 2021

Approved.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE LA MESA CITY COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 22, AND JULY 13, 2021

Approved.

5. RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT TO DILIGENCE, LLC FOR INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD

Resolution No. 2021-092 was adopted.

6. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A STANDARD AGREEMENT FOR SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA MESA AND BUREAU VERITAS NORTH AMERICA, INC. FOR BUILDING DIVISION STAFF AUGMENTATION SERVICES

Resolution No. 2021-093 was adopted.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Baber to approve Consent Calendar Items 2 through 6.

Vote: 4-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

STAFF REPORT

7. CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY (“JUNETEENTH”) AS A PAID HOLIDAY FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LA MESA

Administrative Services Director Freeman stated that on June 17, 2021, Juneteenth was established as the eleventh federal holiday and formal action by the Council was required to establish Juneteenth as a paid City holiday. Administrative Services Director Freeman explained the process for implementing Juneteenth as a City holiday and the difference between a floating holiday and a closed City holiday.

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.

Demetrius Antuna submitted a comment in support of designating Juneteenth as an official paid holiday in the City of La Mesa.

ACTION: Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to: (1) establish Juneteenth as a paid holiday in the City of La Mesa; (2) designate Juneteenth as a floating holiday for employees for Calendar Year 2021; and (3) designate Juneteenth as a closed City holiday beginning in Calendar Year 2022.

HEARING/ORDINANCE: FIRST READING

8. CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE TO REVISE THE EXCEPTIONS TO PROVIDE STREET IMPROVEMENTS AS PER LA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 24.05.040C – PREREQUISITES TO DEVELOPMENT, AND 24.06.040B – PREREQUISITES TO DEVELOPMENT, TO EXCEPT BUILDING ADDITION AND ACCESSORY STRUCTURE PROJECTS 1,000 SQUARE FEET IN AREA OR LESS AND ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

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 8.

Mayor Arapostathis read the title of the Ordinance.

Community Development Director Kusiak provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed amendments to Title 24 (Zoning) of the La Mea Mesa Municipal Code (“LMMC”), highlighting the issue and problem with the current requirements for public improvements and the residential and commercial exceptions, the findings from the analysis done by Willdan Financial Services (“Willdan”), Willdan’s recommended basis for exceptions and overall recommended changes to LMMC Title 24, and the Planning Commission’s recommendation.

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 the need for safe streets and ways to implement the Sidewalk Improvement Plan while fulfilling goals in the Climate Action Plan and creating safe routes to schools and parks.

LaToshe Dejuarnet spoke regarding street improvements on Waite Drive.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Parent to close the hearing since there was no one else in the audience who wished to speak.

Vote: 4-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Parent and seconded by Councilmember Baber to approve the introduction and first reading of the Ordinance amending the La Mesa Municipal Code to revise the exceptions to provide street improvements as per La Mesa Municipal Code Sections 24.05.040C – Prerequisites to Development, and 24.06.040B – Prerequisites to Development, to except building addition and accessory structure projects 1,000 square feet in area or less and accessory dwelling units, as amended, to except building addition and accessory structure projects 1,200 square feet in area or less and accessory dwelling units.

Vote: 4-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

HEARING

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE HOUSING ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN 6TH CYCLE UPDATE

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.

Community Development Director Kusiak provided a brief overview of the Housing Element update and introduced Veronica Tam, Veronica Tam and Associates, who provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 6th Cycle Housing Element update, highlighting the process, the State Department of Housing and Community Development's ("HCD") comments on the City's Housing Element, the programs under the Housing Element, and the action items to implement the Housing Element of the General Plan.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Parent and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to close the hearing since there was no one in the audience who wished to speak.

Vote: 4-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Parent and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to adopt the Resolution adopting the Housing Element of the General Plan 6th Cycle, as amended, to remove: *“A community’s racial and ethnic composition may have implications for housing needs to the extent that different groups have different household characteristics, income levels, and cultural backgrounds that may affect their housing needs and preferences. Studies have also suggested that different racial and ethnic groups differ in their attitudes toward and/or tolerance for “housing problems” as defined by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including overcrowding and housing cost burden. According to these studies, perceptions regarding housing density and overcrowding, as well as the cultural practices of living with extended families tend to vary among racial and ethnic groups.”* from the *Race/Ethnicity Characteristics* section on page 9 of the Housing Element.

Vote: 4-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2021-094 was adopted.

COUNCIL INITIATED

10. CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTING STAFF TO RETURN THE SIGNAL TIMING OF THE TRAFFIC SIGNALS THAT WERE REPROGRAMMED TO AUTOMATICALLY DISPLAY THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNALS BACK TO THEIR PRE-PANDEMIC STATUS – MAYOR ARAPOSTATHIS AND COUNCILMEMBER BABER

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.

Carol Rainey submitted a comment in opposition of returning the signal timing of the traffic signals that were reprogrammed to automatically display the pedestrian crossing signals back to their pre-pandemic status.

Mike Calandra submitted a comment in opposition of returning the signal timing of the traffic signals that were reprogrammed to automatically display the pedestrian crossing signals back to their pre-pandemic status.

Noah Harris spoke in opposition of returning the signal timing of the traffic signals that were reprogrammed to automatically display the pedestrian crossing signals back to their pre-pandemic status.

Mayor Arapostathis and Councilmember Baber explained a number of residents had expressed concerns with the reprogrammed traffic signals.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to continue to have the pedestrian crossing signals automatically display at the reprogrammed traffic signals and direct staff to research the use of touchless pedestrian push buttons at intersections where pedestrian traffic is heaviest and return to Council in 90 days with their findings.

11. CONSIDERATION OF FORMING A TASK FORCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING AND PROMOTING THE ARTS AND CULTURE IN LA MESA – VICE MAYOR SHU AND COUNCILMEMBER BABER

Vice Mayor Shu and Councilmember Baber explained the Task Force would address cultural diversity and inclusion by enhancing and promoting the arts and culture in La Mesa.

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 forming a Task Force for the purpose of enhancing and promoting the arts and culture in La Mesa:

Tom Giacchina
Polly Giacchina
Patsy Kirk
Nick Giacchina
Melissa Walter
Manual Gomez
Gerald Kirk
Dr. Edward Henry
Demetrius Antuna
Craig Reed on behalf of Envision La Mesa
Alison Lindsay
Ursula Koenig

Mejgan Afshan spoke in support of forming a Task Force for the purpose of enhancing and promoting the arts and culture in La Mesa.

Mayor Arapostathis provided a brief history of the La Mesa Arts Alliance and recommended the La Mesa Municipal Code be amended to add an Arts and Culture Commission.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Mayor Shu to establish an Arts and Culture Commission composed of eleven (11) City of La Mesa residents: one member recommended by the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District; two at-large members; one member from each of the following areas: visual arts, music, building and structures, using art with new technologies, and cultural history; and one member from each of the following communities: youth community (20 years of age or younger) and senior community (over 55 years of age). The Commission would provide Council with monthly progress reports beginning two months after its formation and return to Council in early 2022 with a report on how to promote the arts in the City of La Mesa while considering

diversity and inclusion of the communities within the City. The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Council questions and comments continued.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Parent to establish an ad hoc Subcommittee comprising of Mayor Arapostathis and Vice Mayor Shu for the purpose of drafting a formal proposal for the creation of an Arts and Culture Commission. The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Council questions and comments continued.

ACTION: Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to draft a recommendation for the creation of an Arts and Culture Commission with the consultation of Mayor Arapostathis and Vice Mayor Shu and bring the recommendation to Council for consideration.

12. CONSIDERATION OF FORMING A TASK FORCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDING A METHOD TO EXPAND THE LA MESA BRANCH OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY LIBRARY – VICE MAYOR SHU

Vice Mayor Shu explained the need for a Task Force to review possible options to expand the La Mesa Branch of the San Diego County Library.

Mayor Arapostathis and 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 forming a Task Force for the purpose of reviewing options and recommending a method to expand the La Mesa Branch of the San Diego County Library:

Susan Wayne
Cynthia Cuthbert Vitas
Nora Kearney-Johnson
Mary Harris
Linda Johnson
Kathleen Brand
Karen Travis Zachary
Joyce Purcell
Joe Glidden
John Schmitz on behalf of the Friends of the La Mesa Library
Sharon Smith
Dr. Janet Castanos
Irene Branski
Lois Knowlton
Gerard Bazile
Ellen Heigert
Dr. Anthony Mc Ivor

Carol Yaremko
Bonnie Baranoff
Demetrius Antuna
Carole Robasciotti
Catherine Smith
Antonia Lopez

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Mayor Shu and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to establish a Task Force for the purpose of reviewing options for expanding the La Mesa Branch of the San Diego County Library commensurate to the Community's size and needs and recommending to Council a course of action. The Task Force shall be composed of seven (7) members: one member shall be recommended and employed by the San Diego County Library system; one member shall be recommended by the Friends of the La Mesa Library; one member shall be a representative from the education community; one member shall be a representative from the faith community or a non-profit organization; and three members shall be at large representatives. If time permits, the Task Force would bring their recommendation to Council by the end of 2021.

Vote: 4-0

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

At 8:33 p.m., Mayor Arapostathis adjourned the meeting in honor and memory of Patricia Stewart, long time employee of the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District and founder of the AM/PM Latchkey Program (Extended Student Services Program).

Megan Wiegelman, CMC
City Clerk

DRAFT