

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the La Mesa City Council  
Tuesday, January 26, 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 6:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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.

**INVOCATION – COUNCILMEMBER BABER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION – CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney Sabine announced there were no reportable actions.

**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.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING JANUARY 30, 2021 AS FRED KOREMATSU DAY OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE CONSTITUTION**

Councilmember Shu presented the proclamation proclaiming January 30, 2021 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution and presented the proclamation to Karen Korematsu, daughter of Fred Korematsu and head of the Korematsu Institute, and George Takei, actor, author and activist.

Karen Korematsu, daughter of Fred Korematsu and head of the Korematsu Institute, and George Takei, actor, author and activist, thanked the City Council for recognizing Fred Korematsu Day. Karen Korematsu provided an overview of the history of Fred Korematsu Day and available resources to learn about diversity and inclusion. George Takei spoke of the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans and Fred Korematsu's bravery and resilience during and after that time.

Councilmember Shu encouraged the community to use history as a tool, to not only learn from it but use it to help eliminate racial tensions within the community, improve government, and move forward in unity.

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 comments in support of the proclamation proclaiming January 30, 2021 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution:

Erin Tsurumoto Grassi on behalf of Alliance San Diego  
Dulce Aguirre on behalf of Border Angels  
Gretchen Newsom on behalf of IBEW Local 569  
Rev. Kelly Ryan  
Nancy Shimamoto  
Nora Hirozawa  
Rev. Mary Sue Brookshire

### **PRESENTATION FROM HILLARD HEINTZE ON THE FINAL AFTER-ACTION REPORT FOR THE CIVIL UNREST OF MAY 30, 2020**

Robert Davis, Chad McGinty, and Bob Boehmer of Hillard Heintze provided a PowerPoint presentation on the assigned tasks for the after-action report, the process involved in an after-action report, the overall observations and key findings of the after-action report, and their recommendations moving forward.

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.

Melissa Walter submitted a comment regarding concerns with the After-Action Report.

Demetrius Antuna submitted a comment regarding the reason the protest occurred in La Mesa and an error in the After-Action Report.

Following Council questions and comments, 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)**

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.

Kristen Miller submitted a comment regarding the City's response to the May 30<sup>th</sup> civil unrest and alleged issues and abuses of the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District.

Dianne Osterling submitted a comment regarding government transparency.

### **CONFLICT DISCLOSURES**

There were no conflict of interest disclosures.

### **BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

#### **1. RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

City Clerk Wiegelman explained the nomination process for the Planning Commission.

The Council began the open nomination process for the unscheduled vacancy on the Planning Commission.

City Clerk Wiegelman announced the nominations as follows:

#### **Round 1:**

Mayor Arapostathis nominated Lauren Cooper  
Vice Mayor Weber nominated Lauren Cooper  
Councilmember Baber nominated Lauren Cooper  
Councilmember Parent nominated Brianna Coston  
Councilmember Shu nominated Brianna Coston

**ACTION:** Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Baber to approve the appointment of Lauren Cooper to the Planning Commission and adopt the Resolution confirming the appointment.

**Vote:** 5-0

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

**No:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2021-006 was adopted.

## **2. RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE CITY'S COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD**

Sharna Miller spoke regarding her interest in being appointed to the Community Police Oversight Board.

Mayor Arapostathis nominated the following individuals for appointment to the City's Community Police Oversight Board:

Patricia Dillard, Police Beat 1 Resident Representative

Leroy Johnson, Police Beat 2 Resident Representative

Caitlin Tiffany, Police Beat 3 Resident Representative

Gustavo Munoz, Police Beat 4 Resident Representative

Janet Castanos, Helix Charter High School Representative

Robert Duff, La Mesa-Spring Valley School District Representative

Brandon Kertson, La Mesa Faith Based Community Representative

Michael McWilliams, La Mesa Business Community Representative

Brian Smith, Older Adult Representative

Ana Fuentes, Young Adult Representative

Yashica Sylvester, Advocate for People Experiencing Homelessness, Substance Abuse, Mental Health or Other Social Issues Representative

The Mayor and Council expressed their appreciation for all of the residents who submitted an application to serve on the City's Community Police Oversight Board.

**ACTION:** Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Vice Mayor Weber to approve the appointment of Patricia Dillard, Leroy Johnson, Caitlin Tiffany, Gustavo Munoz, Janet Castanos, Robert Duff, Brandon Kertson, Michael McWilliams, Brian Smith, Ana Fuentes, and Yashica Sylvester to the Community Police Oversight Board and adopt the Resolution confirming the appointments.

**Vote:** 5-0

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

**No:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2021-007 was adopted.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

(Items 3 through 6)

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 on Item 5 regarding the allocation of the Police Department budget and partnering with an experienced organization for the program to be successful and a better use of the grant.

Councilmember Shu requested Consent Calendar Item 5 be pulled for separate consideration.

**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 THE LA MESA PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY SPECIAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021**

Approved.

**5. REMOVED.**

**6. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION AND ALLOCATION OF LIABILITY RISK FUND RESERVES TO THE LIABILITY RISK FINANCING ACCOUNT FOR UNEXPECTED EXPENSES RELATED TO COVID-19, CIVIL UNREST IN MAY 2020, AND POLICE OFFICER DISCIPLINARY MATTER**

Resolution No. 2021-008 was adopted.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Parent and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to approve Consent Calendar Items 3 through 6, except for Item 5.

Vote: 5-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**5. RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY OF LA MESA TO APPLY FOR THE BOARD OF STATE AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROPOSITION 64 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM – COHORT 2**

Councilmember Shu inquired if the City had reports on the impact of cannabis businesses on a community and if any other City Department was applying for the Board of State and

Community Corrections Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Program – Cohort 2 (“Grant Program”).

Acting Police Chief Nicholass stated the City was taking a proactive approach to educate the community to help prevent any potentially negative impacts cannabis businesses may have on the community.

City Manager Humora said that the Police Department was the only City Department applying for the Grant Program.

Council questions and comments ensued.

**ACTION:** Motioned by Councilmember Shu and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to adopt the Resolution directing the City of La Mesa to apply for the Board of State and Community Corrections Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Program – Cohort 2.

**Vote:** 5-0

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

**No:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** None

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2021-009 was adopted.

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **7. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2023 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

Assistant City Manager Tomaino provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2021-2023 Community Engagement Plan, highlighting the current communication statistics, efforts and team, and the proposed Community Engagement Plan principles, goals and initiatives.

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 the proposed 2021-2023 Community Engagement Plan.

Dianne Osterling submitted a comment regarding the focus and outreach efforts of the proposed 2021-2023 Community Engagement Plan.

**ACTION:** Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Baber to: (1) adopt the proposed 2021-2023 Community Engagement Plan; and (2) authorize staff to develop and propose a full-time communications position for the upcoming two-year budget cycle.

**Vote:** 5-0

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

**No:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** None

Motion passed.

## **HEARING**

### **8. CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FY 2019-2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN TO PROGRAM CDBG CORONAVIRUS (CDBG-CV3) FUNDS**

Senior Planner Kinnard provided a PowerPoint presentation on the priority needs of the 2015-2019 CDBG Consolidated Plan, the CDBG Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act, the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 CDBG Annual Action Plan, the allocation of the CDBG-CV1 funds, and the proposed allocation of the CDBG-CV3 funds.

Council questions and comments ensued.

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

**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) direct staff to draft an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Action Plan that allocates available funding to homeless housing solutions and a housing stability program and return to Council on February 9, 2021, for final review and approval.

**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**

### **9. CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTING STAFF TO PREPARE AN URGENCY ORDINANCE FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION, TO CAP COMMISSION RATES FOR FOOD DELIVERY SERVICES DURING THE DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY – COUNCILMEMBER PARENT**

Councilmember Parent explained the purpose and intent of adopting an urgency ordinance to cap commission rates for food delivery services during the declared State of Emergency. Councilmember Parent stated he would be comfortable with directing the City Manager to issue an executive order rather than an urgency ordinance in order for the cap to be implemented more quickly.

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 comments in support of an urgency ordinance to cap commission rates for food delivery services during the declared State of Emergency:

Grant Yamada  
Alejandra Tarolli  
Dario Rivero  
Patrick Tamashiro  
D.J. Mull  
Alicia Aguayo  
Marykay Fisher  
David Cohn  
Lesley Cohn

Council questions and comments ensued.

**ACTION:** Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Vice Mayor Weber to direct the City Manager to issue an Executive Order consistent with the City of San Diego's Executive Order 2021-1, to cap commission rates for food delivery services during the declared State of Emergency.

**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 meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Megan Wiegelman, CMC  
City Clerk