



Wednesday, May 20, 2020
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council

CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the South Pasadena City Council was called to order by Mayor Joe on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at 7:49 p.m., in the Council Chamber, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

A brief introduction was provide by Mayor Joe of new procedures in place in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

ROLL CALL

Present via Zoom: Councilmembers Cacciotti, Khubesrian, and Schneider; Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud; and Mayor Joe.

Absent: None

City Staff Present: City Manager DeWolfe; City Attorney Teresa Highsmith (in attendance via Zoom); Fire Chief Paul Riddle; Police Chief Joe Ortiz; and Chief City Clerk Ayala were present at Roll Call.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Marina Khubesrian, M.D. led the flag salute.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. Coronavirus Update and Discussion

Fire Chief Paul Riddle provided a PowerPoint presentation on general overview of City, and a report on the Fire Department, Police Chief Joe Ortiz provided a verbal report on the Police Department, followed by City Manager DeWolfe who provided a PowerPoint presentation on reopening strategies from Los Angeles County and the City.

City Council had various questions and comments throughout the presentation including hospitalization capacity in Los Angeles County; COVID-19 cases within the City; concerns on wearing face masks; community education on power outages; hygiene stations for unhoused residents; reopening of Library and its services; City employee shift staggering; reopening City Hall; etc.

Chief Riddle, Chief Ortiz, and City Manager DeWolfe responded to questions accordingly.

No public comment was received on this item.

2. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Labor Negotiations

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Conference with Labor Negotiators regarding labor negotiations with the following groups:

- Unrepresented Management Employees
- South Pasadena Police Officers' Association
- South Pasadena Firefighters' Association
- South Pasadena Public Service Employees' Association
- South Pasadena Public Service Part Time Employees' Association

City Negotiators: City Manager Stephanie DeWolfe; Interim Human Resources Manager Michael Casalou

City Attorney Highsmith reported the following:

Item A – City Council received a briefing by the City's Labor Negotiator regarding labor negotiations with the City's bargaining unions and unrepresented employees. Direction was provided to the City's Labor Negotiator.

3. Public Comments - General

Mayor Joe announced public comments were received in writing via e-mail from the following individuals on general topics. Comments received would be uploaded to Additional Documents and become part of the final meeting record.

Chief City Clerk Ayala read the public comment aloud.

- Delaine Shane – Shared concerns regarding the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget and the community needs to make recommendations that are more informed.
- Sam Burgess – Asked for an update in converting public walk signals to be automatic.

- Betty Emirhanian – Expressed disappointment for the City’s budget survey and provided suggestions on improvement.
- Betty Emirhanian – Provided comments on the public comment e-mail word limit.

City Manager DeWolfe notified City Council that staff would contact and address public comment concerns the following day.

Councilmember Cacciotti suggested having residents call in during public comment to allow the speaker the appropriate amount of time, and how this can be implemented.

City Manager DeWolfe responded that additional information could be provided to Council along with associated costs of implementing a system that would allow this.

COMMUNICATIONS

4. Councilmembers Communications

Councilmember Khubesrian shared a PowerPoint to motion the Al Fresco Pasadena Initiative (second provided by Councilmember Schneider); Al Fresco Pasadena Initiative implementation strategies and benefits to local businesses; City of Los Angeles third-party food delivery services ordinance and suggested the City pass their own ordinance if no action was taken from the County.

Councilmember Schneider shared he would like to use \$6,000 of his discretionary fund for a first cut scale drawing of a loop ramp, conceptualized by Commissioner John Fisher and asked that Mr. Fisher oversee the project (a second was made by Councilmember Cacciotti). Councilmember Schneider also shared concerns regarding public comments for commission meetings; City’s future polling; requested that the expansion of City streets for bicycle use be discussed at the next Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission meeting (second provided by Councilmember Cacciotti).

Councilmember Cacciotti requested that the copy of the budget provide an outline of every department and positions, salaries or hourly rates, to include duties and responsibilities for the June 3rd City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Khubesrian expressed concern over Councilmember Cacciotti’s request. Councilmember Cacciotti responded to said concern.

City Manager DeWolfe confirmed that the information requested would be provided to the City Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud supported and endorsed Councilmember Cacciotti’s request; suggested the public comment word limit be increased to 250 words; announced that residents who have been financially affected by COVID-19 are able to receive a discount on their electric bill provided by the Power Alliance and Southern California Edison; announced the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approval of an extension eviction moratorium

ordinance; thanked residents who are complying with the Safer From Home orders; and congratulated residents who are graduating this year.

Mayor Joe reported on a Library Board of Trustee meeting where they discussed book curbside pick-up; concerns for the Library's ventilation system; more signage to promote social distancing and mask use.

5. City Manager Communications

City Manager DeWolfe announced the upcoming American Red Cross Blood Drive taking place on Thursday, June 18th, and reported that with Monday being Memorial Day, seniors can order an extra meal ahead of time for the holiday.

6. Reordering of and Additions to the Agenda

No reordering of agenda items for this meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chief City Clerk Ayala announced Additional Documents for Item Nos. 11, 12 and 15.

Councilmember Khubesrian pulled Item Nos. 11, 12, and 17 for individual discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud pulled Item No. 15 for consideration of public comment.

Councilmember Cacciotti pulled Item No. 9 for individual discussion.

City Manager DeWolfe asked that Item No. 18 be moved and considered for the next City Council meeting. Council agreed.

No public comment was received on Consent Calendar.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to approve Consent Calendar Items Nos. 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16, and 19.

7. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on March 4, 2020

City Council approved the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on March 4, 2020.

8. Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting on March 18, 2020

City Council approved the Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting on March 18, 2020.

10. Approval of Prepaid Warrants in the Amount of \$86,966.35; General City Warrants in the Amount of \$305,530.68; General City Warrant Voids in the Amount of (\$2,912.05); Supplemental ACH Payments in the Amount of \$37,055.93

City Council approved the Warrants as presented

13. Adoption of a Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of South Pasadena and the Los Angeles County District Attorney, Alhambra Office, for the Implementation and Use of the Electronic Charge Evaluation Request Portal

City Council adopted the attached Resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of South Pasadena (City) and the Los Angeles County District Attorney, Alhambra Office for the implementation and use of the Electronic Charge Evaluation Request portal (eCER).

14. Adopt Resolution No. 7651 to Execute and Join the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust Joint Powers Agreement to Attract and Secure Additional Funding for Supportive and Affordable Housing Projects

City Council adopted **Resolution No. 7651** to execute the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) Joint Powers Agreement (Agreement) to attract and secure additional funding for supportive and affordable housing projects.

16. Adoption of Resolution No. 7653 Supporting and Authorizing Staff to File an Application for the Local Early Action Planning Grant Program for the Preparation and Adoption of the 2021 Housing Element Update

City Council adopted **Resolution No. 7653** supporting and authorizing the Staff to file an application for the Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grant Program for the preparation and adoption of the 2021 Housing Element Update.

~~18. Award of Contract to Better 4 You Meals in the Amount of \$85,135 for the Catered Senior Meal Program beginning June 1, 2020 and Fiscal Year 2020-2021, with the Option to Renew the Contract for an Additional Four Year~~

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council:

- ~~1. Award a contract for the Senior Meal Program (Program) to Better 4 You Meals in the amount of \$85,235 for Fiscal year 2020-2021, to provide meals at the Senior Center and for home delivery. The contract will serve for a one-year period. Additionally, in accordance with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) guidelines, staff may automatically renew the contract up to four additional years (pending sufficient funds from CDBG), for a contract total of five years, ending in 2025.~~
- ~~2. Approval starting June 1, 2020; contract with existing caterer will be terminated effective May 30, 2020.~~

Agenda Item No. 18 was pulled by City Manager DeWolfe and will be considered at the June

3rd City Council meeting.

19. Approval of CalPERS Resolution No. 7654 Fixing the Employer Contribution under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act at an Equal Amount for Employees and Annuitants

City Council approved the proposed **Resolution No. 7654**, to reflect recently negotiated changes to the employer contribution under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act (PEMCHA) at amounts specified in the attached resolution for employees and annuitants.

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT

9. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on March 18, 2020

Councilmember Cacciotti requested the following amendments be made to his comments on Item No. 3, page 9-3 of the agenda packet:

- Addition of language to specify that the request regarding powered leaf blowers should be done by ordinance.
- Addition of language to specify that the recommendation regarding enterprise funds should come back to Council with the percentage of funds that should go to the general fund, as opposed to how much should be set aside for capital improvements.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHNEIDER, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on March 18, 2020 with amendments as listed by Councilmember Cacciotti.

11. Discretionary Fund Requests from Mayor Robert Joe (\$1,000) and Councilmember Michael Cacciotti (\$2,000) for a Combined \$3,000 in Support of the Festival of Balloons Fourth of July Youth Public Art Display

Councilmember Khubesrian shared concerns from the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission regarding the Festival of Balloons and asked that SPARC be considered to volunteer for the event.

Councilmember Cacciotti shared the community concerns on how to celebrate 4th of July, the benefits to celebrating with an event that would include balloons, and agreed that the City should transition away from using balloons.

City Council held a brief discussion regarding the concerns, benefits, and costs of the event.

Chief City Clerk Ayala announced public comments received and read them aloud.

Public Comment:

- Sam Burgess – Expressed opposition to the item and concern for what discretionary funds are being used for.

- Madeline Di Giorgi – Expressed concern for the environmental impact using balloons can have.
- Rona Bortz – Expressed excitement to see the event celebrated and provided alternatives to using balloons.

Councilmember Khubesrian asked that a Natural Resources and Environmental Commission liaison work with the Festival of Balloon / 4th of July Committee to come up with creative alternatives to using balloons and having SPARC volunteers assist. Councilmember Cacciotti concurred.

Mayor Joe clarified that balloons would not be used for the event.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, CARRIED 5-0, to approve Discretionary Fund requests by Mayor Robert Joe in the amount of \$1,000 and Councilmember Michael Cacciotti in the amount of \$2,000 for a combined \$3,000 for the Festival of Balloons Fourth of July Youth Public Art Display on Mission Street and Fair Oaks Avenue.

Amendments were made by Councilmember Khubesrian and considered in the motion that the City will defer from using balloons for the event, will have a Natural Resources and Environmental Commission and/or Youth Commission liaison assist, and contact SPARC for volunteers.

12. Discretionary Fund Requests from Mayor Robert Joe (\$2,000), Mayor Pro Tem Diana Mahmud (\$5,000) and Councilmember Marina Khubesrian (\$3,000), for a Combined Total of \$10,000 for True North Polling Survey Professional Services Agreement

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud amended the item to use only \$3,000.00 from her discretionary fund for this item and asked polling be done for support of a transit oriented tax and height limits.

City Attorney Highsmith advised on the contracts scope of services and the possibility of having it brought back to Council on a future date.

Councilmember Cacciotti, Councilmember Khubesrian, and Councilmember Schneider discussed the proposed contract's scope of services.

Mayor Joe suggested placing the True North Polling contract on a future agenda for discussion and a vote.

City Manager DeWolfe clarified the tonight's vote is only for the use of discretionary funds and the contract's scope of services can be discussed at the next City Council meeting.

Direction was provided to City Manager DeWolfe to continue the item to a future meeting.

Chief City Clerk Ayala announced public comments received and read them aloud.

Public Comment:

- Josh Albrekton – Thanked Mayor Joe and Councilmember Khubesrian for donating from their discretionary funds and expressed support for the item.

15. Adopt a Resolution No. 7652 to Approve Participation in the Los Angeles Urban County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Chief City Clerk Ayala announced public comments received and read them aloud.

Public Comment:

- Helen Tran – Provided suggestions on what funds can be used for and asked City Council to ask the community for input on expenses. (comment was signed by 26 residents)

City Manager DeWolfe provided clarification on the resolution's purpose and potential repercussions if not approved.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHNEIDER, CARRIED 5-0, to approve: adopting **Resolution No. 7652** to approve participation in the Los Angeles Urban County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program by authorizing the Mayor, or his/her designee to sign a Cooperation Agreement with the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA).

Councilmember Cacciotti asked staff to correct the date specified on the contract for Agenda Item No. 14, page 14-6 of the agenda packet, to reflect May 20th.

17. Approval of First Contract Amendment with Pasadena Humane Society and SPCA for Animal Control Services Extending the Contract Term until June 30, 2021 and Increasing the Total Compensation to \$171,570

Councilmember Khubesrian asked City Manager DeWolfe to provide an update on the recent negotiations since the posting of the meeting's agenda.

City Manager DeWolfe briefly reported on the recent negotiations.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, CARRIED 5-0, to approve: the first contract amendment with the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA (PHS) to extend the contract term for one year until June 30, 2021 and increase the total compensation by \$43,678 to \$171,570.

PUBLIC HEARING

20. Appeal of the Planning Commission Decision (Project No. 2311 – Appeal) – to Approve the Mission Bell Mixed-Use Project located at 1101-1115 Mission Street (APNs 5315-008-043 and -045)

Prerecorded presentations were provided as follows:

Staff – PowerPoint presentation by Debby Lin from Lin & Associates

Appellant – Mitchel Tsai representing the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters.

Applicant – Emily Murray from Allen-Matkins representing the applicant for Mission-Bell.

City Council had various questions following the staff presentation regarding proper signage for public parking; project consistency with the City's General Plan; converting commercial space to residential space; etc.

Ms. Lin answered questions accordingly.

Chief City Clerk Ayala announced public comments received and read them aloud.

Public Comment:

- Josh Albrektson – Expressed support for the denial of the appeal.
- Andrew Berk – Expressed support for the denial of the appeal and supported the projects continuance.
- Kris Morrish – Expresses support for the denial of the appeal and commended the developers efforts.
- Brandon Yung – Expressed support for the denial of the appeal and asked the project not be delayed.
- Laurie Wheeler - Expressed support for the denial of the appeal and listed positive outcomes from the project.
- Mitchell Sawasy - Expressed support for the denial of the appeal.

Rebuttal Period:

Mr. Tsai provided rebuttal comments regarding the projects impact on historical resources; California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) violations; concerning Environmental Impact Reports; etc.

Ms. Murray provided rebuttal comments regarding the community approval of the project; CEQA requirements; projects consistency with the City's General Plan; etc.

Councilmember Schneider had questions regarding affordable housing following Ms. Murray rebuttal comments.

Ms. Murray answered questions accordingly.

Mayor Joe, Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud, Councilmember Cacciotti, and Councilmember Khubesrian had questions regarding CEQA laws; Cultural Heritage Commission's support for the project; consistency of project with the City's General Plan; public parking compliance; project requirement violations; code enforcement violations; adoption of parking requirement ordinance; etc.

City Attorney Highsmith, Ms. Murray, and Kanika Kith, Planning Manager, answered questions accordingly.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, CARRIED 5-0, adopt **Resolution No. 7655** to deny the Appeal (Project No. 2311-Appeal) and uphold the Planning Commission certification of an Environmental Impact Report and approval of the Mission Bell Mixed-Use development located at 1101, 1105, 1107, and 1115 Mission Street, subject to the Conditions of Approval.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

21. Adoption of Resolution No. 7656 Establishing a Vehicle Miles Traveled Methodology Developed in Accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act Transportation Impact Analysis Requirements

Margaret Lin, Manager of Long Range Planning and Economic Development, presented the staff report.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud and Councilmember Schneider had questions and comments regarding Level of Service; time sensitivity on the item; neighboring local jurisdiction's adoptions; etc.

Shahid Abbas, Public Works Director, Manager Lin, and Sean Daly, Iteris Consultant, answered questions accordingly.

No public comment was received for this item.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, CARRIED 5-0, to approve: the adoption of the proposed **Resolution No. 7656** establishing a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Methodology developed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Transportation Impact Analysis requirements while maintaining the use of Level of Service (LOS) to analyze and mitigate transportation impacts.

Additional Document provided edits to the proposed Vehicle Miles Traveled Transportation Impact Analysis Methodology.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Joe deferred the adjournment of the meeting to Councilmember Khubesrian.

Councilmember Khubesrian adjourned the meeting in memory of Tom Nott, City Resident and Architect, and Nicole Grandjean, owner of Nicole's Market and Café, and provided a few words in their memory.

There being no further business, at 11:46 p.m. Mayor Joe adjourned the meeting.

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Evelyn G. Zneimer, Esq.
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Evelyn G. Zneimer
City Clerk

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Robert S. Joe
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Robert S. Joe
Mayor