



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021 AT 7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the South Pasadena City Council was called to order by Mayor Mahmud on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom, in accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20. The City Council Chambers are located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor	Diana Mahmud
Mayor Pro Tem	Michael Cacciotti
Councilmember	Jack Donovan
Councilmember	Jon Primuth
Councilmember	Evelyn G. Zneimer

Linda Thai, Deputy City Clerk, announced a quorum.

CITY Sean Joyce, Interim City Manager; Teresa Highsmith, City Attorney; Linda

STAFF Thai, Deputy City Clerk were present at Roll Call. Other staff members

PRESENT: were present and presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Flag Salute was led by Mayor Mahmud.

1. Closed Session Announcements

City Attorney Highsmith reported the Closed Session from the April 20, 2021 Special Meeting. She noted that the City Council met with the City Manager recruitment firm and after much deliberation, the City Council voted unanimously to withdraw their offer of employment to Christopher Jordan.

A. ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – Initiation of Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)

Number of Potential Cases: 1

City Attorney Highsmith reported that Council met in Closed Session to receive a briefing on the item. She noted direction was provided to the City Attorney's Office but no action was taken in closed session.

B. INITIATION OF LITIGATION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – Initiation of Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(3)

Number of Potential Cases: 1

City Attorney Highsmith reported that Council met in Closed Session to receive a briefing on the item. She noted direction was provided to the City Attorney's Office but no action was taken in closed session.

2. Public Comment - General

Mayor Mahmud announced that comments submitted via email are added to the record as “Additional Docs” as listed below.

Deputy City Clerk Thai noted the following public comments were received:

Written Public Comment:

- Rachel McIntyre

Recorded Public Comment(s):

- Sam Burgess
- Travis Dunville

PRESENTATION

3. DMV/Donate Life Month Proclamation

Mayor Mahmud read and presented the proclamation for DMV/Donate Life Month to Linda Tyer, OneLegacy.

4. Armenian Genocide Remembrance Proclamation

Mayor Mahmud read and presented the proclamation for Armenian Genocide Remembrance.

Deputy City Clerk Thai noted the following public comments received:

Written Public Comment:

- Shoghig Yepremian
- Marina Khubesrian, Mark Dreskin, Sofie Armine Dreskin, Aram Dreskin
- Suzie Abajian

Recorded Public Comment:

- Shoghig Yepremian

COMMUNICATIONS

5. Councilmembers Communications

Councilmember Primuth commented on a recent Transportation Commission meeting; thanked Linda Thai for covering the City Council meeting; discussed the significance of Donate Life Month; and thanked the community for their recent feedback on the City Manager recruitment.

Councilmember Donovan commented on discussed the recent Parks & Recreation Commission meeting and a recent sign project installation with the South Pasadena Little League.

Councilmember Zneimer provided updates on the request for proposals for the rapid flashing beacon projects; and commented on a recent Cultural Heritage Commission meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti thanked the community for their recent feedback on the City Manager recruitment; shared photos of the Garfield Reservoir, his neighbor walking his dog, an adult daycare van delivering meals, a natural gas truck, using an electric lawn mower; and reminded the community of the upcoming Natural Resources & Environmental Commission and the Public Art Commission meetings.

Mayor Mahmud expressed gratitude to WISPPA for their recent community event, the South Pasadena Preservation Foundation for their community meeting regarding SB 381 and to the community for their email communication; commented on the Arroyo Verdugo Joint Powers Authority meeting and a recent podcast regarding joining the Clean Power Alliance.

6. City Manager Communications

None

7. Reordering of, Additions, or Deletions to the Agenda

Interim City Manager Joyce requested to remove Agenda Item Nos 15, 17, 18 from the agenda.

Planning and Community Development Director Hankamer provided further clarification on Agenda Item No. 17 and stated additional details should have been included in the staff report.

CONSENT CALENDAR

8. THIS ITEM WAS PULLED TO BE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY.

9. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on January 20, 2021

It is recommended that the City Council approve the minutes of the regular January 20, 2021 City Council meeting.

10. Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting on January 20, 2021

It is recommended that the City Council approve the minutes of the special January 20, 2021 City Council meeting.

11. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on February 3, 2021

It is recommended that the City Council approve the minutes of the regular February 3, 2021 City Council meeting.

12. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on February 17, 2021

It is recommended that the City Council approve the minutes of the regular February 17, 2021 City Council meeting.

13. Approval of an Agreement with Acorn Technology for Ongoing Managed Information Technology Services for \$269,700 Annually for a Three-Year Term with an Option to Extend

It is recommended that the City Council approve an Agreement with Acorn Technology (Acorn) for its continued services and management of the City's information technology (IT) infrastructure, for an annual contract amount of \$269,700 for three years until June 2024, with an option to extend for two additional years.

14. Adoption of a Resolution Initiating the Proceedings and Ordering of the Preparation of the Engineer's Report for Fiscal Year 2021-22 Lighting and Landscaping Maintenance District

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Adopt Resolution No. ...initiating the proceedings for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Lighting and Landscaping Maintenance District (LLMD); and
2. Authorize the preparation of the Engineer's Report for the annual levy and collection of assessments.

15. Second Reading and Adoption of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 36 (Zoning) of the South Pasadena Municipal Code Pertaining to Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Regulations

THIS AGENDA ITEM WAS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA.

16. Monthly Investment Reports for February 2021

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council receive and file the monthly investment reports for February 2021.

Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti requested to pull Item No. 16 for separate discussion.

COUNCIL ACTION AND MOTION

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti, seconded by Councilmember Donovan, and approved by roll call vote to approve Consent Calendar Agenda Items 9-14, as presented.

Motion carried, 5-0.

CONSENT CALENDAR - AGENDA ITEM(S) PULLED FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION

8. Approval of General City Warrants in the Amount of \$177,705.67; General City Warrant Voids in the Amount of (\$82.13); Payroll in the Amount of \$551,317.30; Supplemental ACH Payments in the Amount of \$134,838.67; LAIF Wire Transfers in the Amount of \$1,500,000.00

It is recommended that the City Council approve the Warrants as presented.

Mayor Mahmud opened the public comment period.

Deputy City Clerk Thai noted the following public comments were received:

Written Public Comment:

- Alan Ehrlich

Recorded Public Comment:

- Alan Ehrlich

With no other requests to speak, the public comment period was closed.

Interim City Manager Joyce responded to public comment and noted that the California Government Code allows the City to hire consultants to perform City functions and responded to City Council inquiries.

COUNCIL ACTION AND MOTION

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti, seconded by Councilmember Zneimer, and approved by roll call vote to approve Agenda Item 8, as presented.

Motion carried, 5-0.

16. Monthly Investment Reports for February 2021

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council receive and file the monthly investment reports for February 2021.

COUNCIL ACTION AND MOTION

Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti discussed the item and inquired regarding how investments and re-financing are determined.

Staff responded to the inquiries and stated that staff and the Finance Commission work together to determine the best investments

By consensus, the City Council received and filed the item as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING

17. First Reading and Introduction of an Ordinance to Amend South Pasadena Municipal Code (SPMC) Chapter 31 (Streets and Sidewalks) Pertaining to Signs in the Public Right of Way

This item was removed from the agenda.

As indicated in the additional documents, the following written public comments were received for this item:

- Deborah Lutz
- Lena Woo
- Ella Hushagen
- Alan Ehrlich

ACTION / DISCUSSION

18. Appointment of Christopher Jordan as City Manager and Approval of Employment Agreement

This item was removed from the agenda.

19. Adoption of an Urgency Ordinance Establishing Requirements for “Hero Pay” and Associated Protections for Grocery Workers in the City

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council read by title only, waiving further reading, and adopt an urgency ordinance to establish requirements for “Hero Pay” and associated protections for grocery workers.

COUNCIL ACTION AND MOTION

A staff report was presented. The City Council had questions and discussion regarding this matter. Assistant to the City Manager Demirjian noted a revised Urgency Ordinance was included as an additional document to include drug store workers.

Mayor Mahmud opened the public comment period.

Deputy City Clerk Thai noted the following public comments were received:

Written Public Comment:

- Randy Cabrera
- Michael Mizgalski
- Gilbert J Vargas
- Ella Hushagen
- Daniel Saunders
- Alan Ehrlich

Recorded Public Comment:

- Damali Navarro
- Phung Huynh
- Ariela Morrison
- Lauren Lein
- Maria McMillin
- Alexander Aquino
- Robin Becker
- John Srebalus
- Andrea Segal
- Victoria Patterson
- Michael Mizgalski
- Anne Bagasao
- Gail Tanita-Oswald
- Rachel Torres
- Afshin Ketabi
- Helen Tran
- Delaine Shane
- Aaron James

With no other requests to speak, the public comment period was closed.

Councilmember Zneimer expressed her support for the Hero Pay and Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti also expressed his support and reiterated the danger of COVID-19.

A motion was made by Councilmember Zneimer, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti and approved by roll call vote to approve Agenda Item 19, as amended.

20. Review and Provide Direction on the City of South Pasadena's Caltrans Surplus Property Disposition Strategy

Recommendation

1. On behalf of the Ad Hoc Caltrans Housing Subcommittee and staff, it is recommended that the City Council review and provide direction on amendments to SB 381.
2. Provide direction concerning a non-legislative solution for how the City might simultaneously pursue these same objectives.

A staff report was presented. The City Council had questions and discussion regarding this matter. Planning and Community Development Director Hankamer discussed the Community Forum on April 14, 2021 to discuss SB 381. Kristi Lopez, Senator Portantino's Office and Adam Eliason, CivicStone, provided an overview of SB 381 and where it is in the legislative process.

Councilmember Primuth expressed his appreciation for the workshop and inquired about potential mortgage assistance in the bill, Councilmember Zneimer and Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti inquired about the rehabilitation costs and restrictions associated with the Caltrans homes.

Mayor Mahmud opened the public comment period.

Deputy City Clerk Thai noted the following public comments were received:

Written Public Comment:

- Maria Lopez
- Mary H. Farley
- Chris Bray
- Jenny Bright
- Susan Sulsky
- Michael Girvigian
- Mike Lesnever
- Mark Haines

- Karla R. Miller
- Chris Bray
- Gilbert J. Vargas
- Gilbert Saucedo
- Victoria Patterson

Recorded Public Comment:

- Victoria Patterson
- Gilbert Saucedo
- Mark Gallatin
- Roberto Flores
- Angela Flores
- Michael Girvigian
- Delaine Shane
- Brian Bright

With no other requests to speak, the public comment period was closed.

Councilmember Primuth thanked the sub-committee for their work on the bill and asked for continued collaboration with the South Pasadena Preservation Foundation and inquired regarding the Caltrans Homes Sub-Committee; Councilmember Zneimer expressed concern with the potential costs associated with the bill and expressed her support for option 2; Councilmember Donovan stated that negotiations have not worked over the years; Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti expressed concern with further negotiations; Mayor Mahmud noted that the proposed bill protects the rights of the current Caltrans tenants.

COUNCIL ACTION AND MOTION

It was moved by Councilmember Zneimer, Second by Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti, to bring back an item to a future City Council meeting to develop a new sub-committee with a different scope of work.

It was moved by Mayor Mahmud, seconded by Councilmember Donovan, and approved by roll call vote to approve recommended action #1.

Motion carried, 4-1. Councilmember Zneimer voting No.

21. Award Contract to CivicStone, LLC to Determine, Prepare, and Implement a Surplus Property Acquisition and Rehabilitation Strategy in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$75,000

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Review CivicStone, LLC 's March 29, 2021 proposal to determine, prepare, and implement a surplus property acquisition and rehabilitation strategy relating to Caltrans' surplus residential properties located in South Pasadena; and
2. Appropriate \$75,000 from General Fund unassigned reserves to City Manager Professional Services Account 101-2010-2011-8170-000 for Step 1 Legislative phase of the scope described below.
3. Authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the attached agreement and any amendments with CivicStone, LLC in an amount not-to-exceed \$75,000 for the Step 1 Legislative phase to determine a surplus property acquisition and rehabilitation strategy.

A staff report was presented.

Councilmember Primuth expressed his support for the item.

Mayor Mahmud opened the public comment period.

Deputy City Clerk Thai noted the following public comments were received:

Written Public Comment:

- Victoria Patterson

Recorded Public Comment:

- Victoria Patterson

With no other requests to speak, the public comment period was closed.

Councilmember Zneimer discussed the proposed contract and requested that the consultant is compensated as work is completed.

COUNCIL ACTION AND MOTION

It was moved by Councilmember Primuth, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti, and approved by roll call vote to approve Agenda Item 21, as presented.

Motion carried, 5-0.

22. Request to Appropriate Undesignated General Fund Reserves in the amount of \$21,915 to Fund Two Full-time Positions, an Assistant Planner and an Accountant, for Fiscal Year 2021, and Include Funding in the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for the Two Positions

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council authorize \$21,915 of General Fund Undesignated Reserves to add an Assistant Planner and an Accountant position, effective immediately and authorize appropriations to the following accounts:

- Planning, Regular Salaries 101-7010-7011-7000-000 \$11,590; Retirement 101-7010-7011-7100-000 \$785; Health Insurance 101-7010-7011-7170-000 \$1,365; Workers Compensation 101-7010-7011-7110-000 \$170; Unemployment 101-7010-7011-7122-000 \$390.
- Finance, Regular Salaries 101-3010-3011-7000-000 \$5,660; Retirement 101-3010-3011-7100-000 \$400; Health Insurance 101-3010-3011-7130-000 \$1,365; Workers Compensation 101-3010-3011-7110-000 \$90; Unemployment 101-3010-3011-7122-000 \$100.

A staff report was presented.

Mayor Mahmud opened the public comment period.

With no requests to speak, the public comment period was closed.

COUNCIL ACTION AND MOTION

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti, seconded by Councilmember Primuth, and approved by roll call vote to approve Agenda Item 22, as presented.

Motion carried, 5-0.

23. Consideration of Appointment of City Council City Leased Recreational Facility Ad Hoc Committee

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council consider establishing an ad hoc committee to work with staff to review existing terms of City leased recreational facility agreements to develop proposed new terms for negotiation and appoint two City Council members to serve on the ad hoc committee.

A staff report was presented. The City Council had questions and discussions regarding this matter.

Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti discussed the historical importance of the ad hoc committee and stated that he would like to be on the ad hoc committee, Councilmember Zneimer discussed the importance of the agreements and noted how important they are for the future.

Mayor Mahmud opened the public comment period.

Deputy City Clerk Thai noted the following public comments were received:

Written Public Comment:

- Alan Ehrlich

Recorded Public Comment:

- Alan Ehrlich

With no other requests to speak, the public comment period was closed.

There was a discussion regarding who would sit on the ad hoc committee. Councilmember Primuth suggested that the committee should be made up of two members from the Finance Commission, the Natural Resources & Environmental Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and two City Councilmembers, with the Commissions appointing their own representatives.

COUNCIL ACTION AND MOTION

It was moved by Councilmember Primuth, seconded by Councilmember Zneimer and approved by roll call vote to approve Agenda Item 23, with the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti and Councilmember Donovan to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee with the amendment to invite the Parks & Recreation Commission, Natural Resources & Environmental Commission, and the Finance Commission to nominate up to two members from their commission to join the ad hoc committee.

Motion carried, 5-0.

24. Adoption of a Resolution Changing the Start Time of the Closed Session and Open Session Regular City Council Meetings

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the proposed resolution changing the start time of regular City Council meetings from 7:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for open session, and 6:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for closed session.

A staff report was presented. The City Council had questions and discussions regarding this matter.

Councilmember Zneimer expressed her support for the proposed time change but asked that she be excused or allowed to use the telephone to call into the meeting if she is

running late, Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti discussed the historical timeline of modified meeting start times in the past.

Mayor Mahmud opened the public comment period.

Deputy City Clerk Thai noted the following public comments were received:

Written Public Comment:

- Alan Ehrlich

Recorded Public Comment:

- Alan Ehrlich

With no other requests to speak, the public comment period was closed.

Mayor Mahmud suggested that the City Council approve staff's recommendation now and potentially modify the times when the current Brown Act Executive Order is rescinded or change the start time of closed session to 6:00 p.m. and the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Primuth discussed the start times for meetings at the School District.

COUNCIL ACTION AND MOTION

It was moved by Councilmember Donovan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti, and approved by roll call vote to approve Agenda Item 24, with the amendment that Closed Session will begin at 6:00 p.m. and regular meetings would begin at 7:00 p.m.

Motion carried, 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters, Mayor Mahmud adjourned the Virtual Zoom meeting of the City Council at 11:35 PM, to the next Regular City Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2021.

Respectfully submitted:



Lucie Colombo, CMC, CPMC
City Clerk

APPROVED:



DIANA MAHMUD
MAYOR

Attest:



Lucie Colombo, CMC, CPMC
City Clerk

Approved at City Council Meeting: 7/7/2021