



Wednesday, March 18, 2020
Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the South Pasadena City Council was called to order by Mayor Joe on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at 7:40 p.m., in the Council Chamber, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

Mayor Joe explained the guidelines for tonight's meeting that were set forth in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Cacciotti, Khubesrian, and Schneider; Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud; and Mayor Joe. (Councilmember Schneider participated via phone)

Absent: None

City Staff Present: City Manager DeWolfe; Assistant City Attorney Jared; City Clerk Zneimer; and Chief City Clerk Ayala were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Robert Joe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

- 1. Adoption of a Resolution No. 7646 Proclaiming a Local Emergency Due to the Outbreak of COVID-19, Adopting Regulations for Private and Public Facilities and Gatherings, Establishing Protections for Residential and Commercial Tenants and Property Owners, Requesting Reimbursement of Expenses, and Authorizing the City Manager to Take All Necessary Actions as the Director of Emergency Services**

Chief City Clerk Ayala announced Additional Documents on the item.

City Manager DeWolfe presented the staff report. City Manager DeWolfe also explained that the City had received extensive comments on Section 9 of the proposed resolution, and recommended the Council move forward with the resolution with the exclusion of Section 9. That particular section would then be brought back to Council at the earliest possible time.

City Council had various questions regarding impact of not approving the resolution tonight; differences between the amended resolution presented in the Additional Documents as compared to the original resolution; essential utility services; and sewer billings.

City Manager DeWolfe and Assistant City Attorney Jared responded to questions and comments accordingly, and provided clarification on Section 9 of the proposed resolution.

Public Comment:

- Rachel Hamilton – Thanked Council for their support for housing rights. Commented on the recent actions her landlord has taken regarding tenant evictions.
- Laurie Wheeler – Commented that the Chamber Board is in support of the resolution, and asks the Council consider language related to the eviction clause that addresses low-income residents and businesses without other sources of income.
- John Srebalus – Expressed concerns over the impact communities are experiencing due to the Coronavirus and tenant evictions, and expressed support for the proposed resolution.
- Anne Bagasao – Expressed concerns over the hardships that residential tenants are facing, and asks Council to take action to assist these individuals.
- Cambria Tortorelli – Expressed support for the proposed resolution and the provision on an eviction moratorium.

Chief City Clerk Ayala announced public comments were also received in writing via email from the following individuals expressing their support/opposition for the item. Comments received would be uploaded to Additional Documents and become part of the final meeting record.

- Delaine Shane – Support
- Ellen Daigle – Oppose
- Margo Rowder – Support
- Ron Rosen – Support
- Kyle Nelson – Support
- Dave Kinnoin – Support
- Cynthia Liu – Support
- Helen Tran (with 66 other individuals signing off in support) – Support
- Said Staudenmaier – Support
- Dean Serwin – Support
- Deborah Lutz – Oppose

- Ed Elsner – Support
- Ella Hushagen – Support

Councilmember Khubesrian read a portion of an email that was sent to her from Larry Abelson and shared his support of the item with recommended language for Section 9.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud asked for clarification on the maximum duration of time that the City could enact the proposed item.

City Attorney Jared responded, indicating that the maximum amount of time would be 60 days, with the City having the obligation to review the item prior to the 60-day period.

City Council had various additional questions regarding additional clarification on the provisions of the resolution provided in the Additional Documents; rental payment obligations; proposed tenant protections; legal effect of the eviction moratorium; language applying to commercial tenants; etc.

City Attorney Jared responded to questions and comments accordingly.

Councilmember Cacciotti asked a letter be sent to regional State Representatives asking for protection of landlords, as some still have to make payments on their properties.

Council held considerable discussion and dialogue on the item.

Council agreed to conduct two separate votes on the item. City Attorney Jared clarified the actions that could be taken.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, CARRIED 5-0, to adopt resolution as originally presented in the staff report with motion excluding action on Sections 9 and 10 to be taken on a separate motion.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 4-1 (MAHMUD), to adopt resolution Sections 9 and 10 as originally presented in the staff report with the addition of providing a report after sixty days of implementation and sending a letter to regional State Representatives regarding landlord and tenant protections.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud provided information on additional resources for renters, and requested that staff research State resources that are being made available to local governments.

Councilmember Cacciotti thanked those who came to the meeting during public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Joe adjourned the meeting and announced the regular City Council Meeting on March 18 following the Special Meeting.

There being no further business, at 8:50 p.m. Mayor Joe adjourned the meeting.

DocuSigned by:
Evelyn G. Zneimer
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Evelyn G. Zneimer
City Clerk

DocuSigned by:
Robert S. Joe
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Robert S. Joe
Mayor