

Minutes of the special meeting of the City Council of the City of Huntington Park held Monday, December 13, 2004.

The meeting was called to order in the Council Chambers at 6:05 p.m. by Mayor Noguez. Present: Vice Mayor Ofelia Hernandez, Council Member Richard V. Loya, and Mayor Juan R. Noguez. Absent: Council Member Edward Escareño and Council Member Mario Gomez.

Council Member Loya stated that he would like to recognize that Council Member Gomez was absent due to illness and that closure of the hospitals would result in Huntington Park residents having no hospital to go to for help.

Mayor Noguez opened oral communications, indicating that this was the time for anyone in the audience to address the City Council on any matter of City business and hearing none, declared oral communications closed.

Mayor Noguez announced that the special meeting was called for the purpose considering and/or taking action regarding the closure/sale of hospitals in our City.

Regina Clemente, Community Organizer with Community Health Councils (CHC), Inc., informed City Council that CHC is working on the sales of Tenet Hospitals in California but expressed concern because there is no buyer yet.

Kelley Dockrey, representing Huntington Park Doctors Group, LLC, informed City Council that Huntington Park has the largest percentage of patients admitted at the Community and Mission Hospitals. Mr. Dockrey also briefed City Council on long term options.

Gilbert Zamora Jr., Ultrasound Technician representing Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 399, informed City Council of the community's needs from the perspective of hospital staff and his personal satisfaction from helping those in need.

Joe Englanoff, MD, representing Huntington Park Doctors Group, LLC, briefed City Council regarding services provided by the Community and Mission Hospitals and various options for the purchasing and financing of the hospitals.

Dr. Suarez expressed his concerns with retrofitting of the hospitals.

Jorge Villanueva, representing Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), stated that losing the Community and Mission Hospitals would be bad for the community and the City.

Lark Galloway-Gilliam, Executive Director of Community Health Councils, Inc., encouraged City Council to take control in shaping the community and bring in experts to examine all options available to the City regarding the closure/sale of Community and Mission Hospitals.

Motion by Loya, seconded by Hernandez, to **direct staff to conduct a feasibility study on the potential purchase and financing of the Community and Mission Hospitals and to report back to City Council in no more than ninety (90) days**, carried as follows: Ayes: Vice Mayor Hernandez, Council Member Loya, and Mayor Noguez; Noes: None; Absent: Council Members Escareño and Gomez.

Motion by Loya, seconded by Hernandez, to **authorize staff to hire a healthcare consultant to assist staff in conducting the feasibility study and report back to City Council in 30 days with recommendations including costs**, carried as follows: Ayes: Vice Mayor Hernandez, Council Member Loya, and Mayor Noguez; Noes: None; Absent: Council Members Escareño and Gomez.

Motion by Loya, seconded by Hernandez, to **conduct a public hearing that will allow for community input into the feasibility study**, carried as follows: Ayes: Vice Mayor Hernandez, Council Member Loya, and Mayor Noguez; Noes: None; Absent: Council Members Escareño and Gomez.

There being no objection, Mayor Noguez **directed staff to send a letter on his behalf to Tenet Healthcare Corporation with the City Manager as the City's contact to set up a preliminary meeting among the City, Health Task Force representatives, Tenet, and other selected stakeholders within the next forty-five (45) days.**

Motion by Loya, seconded by Hernandez, to **hold a meeting with the Southeast Cities to present the feasibility study's findings and other related information**, carried as follows: Ayes: Vice Mayor Hernandez, Council Member Loya, and Mayor Noguez; Noes: None; Absent: Council Members Escareño and Gomez.

Mayor Noguez declared the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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Juan R. Noguez, Mayor

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Elba Romo, City Clerk