

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Huntington Park City Council
Monday, October 20, 2014

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Huntington Park, California was called to order at 6:19 p.m. on Monday, October 20, 2014, in the Council Chamber of City Hall at 6550 Miles Avenue, Huntington Park, California; Mayor Rosa Perez presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Angel Arias from Gage Middle School.

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Mayor Perez.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Rosa E. Perez; Vice Mayor Karina Macias and Council Members Ofelia Hernandez, Valentin Palos Amezcuita and Mario Gomez. Other City Officials and employees: Julio Morales, Interim City Manager, Isabel Birrueta, City Attorney, Jorge Cisneros, Chief of Police, Josette Espinosa, Director of Parks and Recreation, Annie Ruiz, Acting Finance Director, and Donna Schwartz, Interim City Clerk.

PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jackie Ornelas representative of the American Cancer Society presented an award to the City of Huntington Park for participating in the "Relay for Life" Event.

Priscilla Segura, representative from Central Basin Municipal Water District presented a PowerPoint on the districts "In a Drought, Shut Your Tap" program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Rodolfo Cruz, resident, commented on the proposed parking pilot program and the tax pension reform.
2. Betty Retama, resident, spoke in support of Nick Ioannidis and the conduct of the Police Department and commented on the wording on the agenda pertaining to flag salute stating it should be Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor asked for the record to change flag salute on the next agenda to Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Balle Machuca, resident, thanked Council and the City Manager for their efforts in working on the parking problem in the city.

4. Ivan Vitela, business owner of General Welding, spoke in regards to his process of obtaining his business license.

Mayor asked staff to work with Mr. Vitela in the process of his business license.

5. Carlos Pando, resident, commented on the tax increase and the proposed parking pilot program and the funds requested to run the program.

City Attorney explained the proposed parking pilot program is for city parking lot permit parking and not street overnight parking and that he could contact the City Manager regarding the funds.

6. George Franco, resident, commented on the audio system.
7. Alex Reynoso of Reynoso's Hit N' Walk, Inc., spoke in regards to the various programs his agency offers and thanked Council for their support.
8. Reynoso's Youth Board, recognized Alex Reynoso for his support, asked Council to continue closing down the marijuana dispensaries and acknowledge the businesses in the city.
9. Sandra Orozco, resident of Maywood, spoke in support of Nick the Greek, invited Council to an event Mr. Ioannidis is hosting, and commented on the conduct of the Police Department
10. Isabel Vedelrrain President of Hit N' Walk "Inovacion Vida," spoke about the program and what it offers pertaining to domestic violence.
11. Antonio Padilla, resident, spoke against the closure of the marijuana dispensaries.
12. Francisco Rivera, resident, commented on a yard sale held at a local high school and the closure of marijuana dispensaries.
13. Celedonio Piedras, voiced concern with the closure of the bingo program at the Huntington Park Senior Center and asked Council for their support in reestablishing the program.

Mayor Perez asked City Attorney to schedule a meeting with herself, Parks and Recreation Director to help resolve issue. Council Member Amezquita asked to be included.

PUBLIC COMMENT (CLOSED SESSION ITEMS ONLY) - None

At 7:20 p.m. Mayor Perez recessed to closed session

CLOSED SESSION

1. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) and 54956.9(e)(1) - Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation/Significant Exposure to Litigation: [One (1) potential matter]
2. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1) - Public Employee Employment
Name of Position Under Consideration: Interim City Manager
3. **Item continued to November 3, 2014**
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) – Conference with Legal Counsel to Discuss Existing Litigation
Case Name: *City of Huntington Park v. Watanabe, et al.*
Case No. 34-2013-80001678 (Superior Court, County of Sacramento)
4. Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(2) and 54956.9(e)(3) – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation/Significant Exposure to Litigation: Two (2) potential cases
5. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 – Conference with Real Property Negotiator
Location of Property: 5959-6169 Alameda Street, Huntington Park, CA 90255
City's Negotiator(s): Interim City Manager Julio Morales and City Attorney Isabel Birrueta
Party Negotiating With: Nicholas Alexander
Under Discussion: Discussion of both price and terms of payment as related to purchase of subject property

At 8:56 p.m. Mayor reconvened to open session. All Council Members present.

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

City Attorney Birrueta announced that direction was given on all closed session items with the exception of Item 3 which was continued to November 3, 2014, no action taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion was made by Council Member Gomez to approve consent calendar items, and approve the reading by title of all ordinances and resolutions, seconded by Council Member Amezquita. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Amezquita, Hernandez, Gomez, Vice Mayor Macias and Mayor Perez

NOTES: Council Member(s): None

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

1. Approved Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants dated October 20, 2014
2. Adopted Resolution No. 2014-41, adopting a pilot program for use of off-street city parking lots in downtown area.

CITY MANAGER

3. Adopted Ordinance No. 934-NS, Amending Chapter 11 of Title 5, Amending and Adding Provisions to Chapter 2 of Title 6, Amending Chapter 7 of Title 6, and Adding Chapter 8 to Title 6 of the Huntington Park Municipal Code Relating to Solid Waste

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4. Approved the amendment to the professional services agreement with Lorraine Mendez & Associate (LMA) to increase the contract amount by \$27,500.00 to provide additional program administrative and compliance services related to the HUD HOME Tenant Based Assistance Program and authorized the Interim City Manager to execute the contract.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

5. Adopted Resolution No. 2014-42 in support of Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014.
6. Approved the agreement with HF&H Consultants, LLC for solid waste contract management services and authorized the Interim City Manager to execute the agreement.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

REGULAR AGENDA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

7. **Item pulled by staff to November 3, 2014** - Presentation Regarding Business License Process Overview

PERSONNEL

8. Presentation Regarding Volunteer / Youth Worker Programs

Human Resources Manager Martha Castillo presented a PowerPoint on the volunteer and youth workers programs.

PARKS AND RECREATION

9. Discussion / Action of Christmas Lights on Pacific Boulevard

Parks and Recreation Director presented a PowerPoint providing two options of Christmas lights for Council to consider. Option 1) Western Decorators for rental of a Custom Skyline 42 total LED Skylines for 2014-\$20,000 and 2015 \$20,000 (Includes installation and removal) and Option 2) Dekra-Lite for a Classic Bow Skyline cost per unit is \$1,075 (3 lights per block for 5 blocks (15 total skylines) total one-time cost for 2014 \$34,681.25 and City would own but for 2015 there would be a cost of \$995 to install.

Council discussed at length the options and cost to rent or own. Concern was raised regarding the hanging of lights down the main thorough fares and the requirements previously discussed by Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Parks and Recreation Director asked Council to give direction to either purchase from Dekra-Lite or Western Decorators.

Council Member Gomez motioned to direct staff to move forward to purchase from Dekra-Lite a Classic Bow Skyline.

Council Member Amezcuita asked staff to check with Fire Department about the existing lights and what the requirements are.

Mayor Perez directed staff to incorporate the existing lights to make it more decorative. Council concurred.

Motion by Council Member Gomez, to direct staff to go with option B to purchase holiday lights from Dekra -Lite, confirm with Los Angeles County Fire Department the requirements and tending requirements to hang existing lights parallel, seconded by Council Member Amezcuita. Motion passed by the following vote:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM 9 (continued)

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Amezquita, Hernandez, Gomez, Vice Mayor Macias and Mayor Perez

NOTES: Council Member(s): None

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

10. Approve Amendment to the Agreement with Evan Brooks Associates to Assist with Transportation Planning and Management Services

City Manager presented the staff report and introduced Art Cueto representative of Evan and Brooks Associates who was available for questions.

Mr. Cueto stated that since 2009 the City was able to obtain 6.3 million in grants for 6 projects most recent City was successful in obtaining 2 bike projects, which are 100 percent funded through grants. The City is currently committed to 1.8 million in local match while leveraging its local resources.

Mayor Perez acknowledged the efforts of Evan Brooks Associates for obtaining the grants.

Council Member Amezquita asked how much of the available grant monies can be used for the Pacific Boulevard pedestrian improvement project. Mr. Cueto stated that of the monies the City already has in place an agreement with Metro for the pedestrian improvement project of 2.7 million in funds.

City Manager stated that the City at the moment has 2 million in matching grant requirement and only 1 million in Measure R monies Mr. Cueto of Evans Brooks Associates will aid in leveraging other monies used towards matching grant requirements which is vitally important.

Motion by Council Member Gomez, to approve amendment to the agreement with Evan Brooks Associates for transportation planning and management services and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the agreement, seconded by Council Member Amezquita. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Amezquita, Hernandez, Gomez, Vice Mayor Macias and Mayor Perez

NOTES: Council Member(s): None

REGULAR AGENDA (continued)

11. Approve the Asset Purchase Agreement with MAG Sweeping, Inc.; Previously Authorized by Council on June 16, 2014.

City Manager presented the staff report stating the current contract will terminate in 45 days at that point the new agreement with MAG Sweeping, Inc. will take effect.

Motion by Council Member Gomez, to approve the asset purchase agreement with MAG Sweeping, Inc. and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the agreement, seconded by Council Member Amezcuita. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Amezcuita, Hernandez, Gomez, Vice Mayor Macias and Mayor Perez

NOTES: Council Member(s): None

CITY MANAGER

12. Resolution for City Council Members Charitable Expenditures Policy

City Manager introduced City Attorney to present. He explained to Council the allocation of remaining funds. City Attorney clarified that for any monies allocated for charitable purposes must be done by majority vote and recommended bringing back this item for further discussion and action to allow Council to clearly understand the process. In concept, put aside travel, each of you would be designated a certain amount and as a Council can vote to recommend how it's disbursed.

Mayor Perez does not support staff's recommendations and feels any monies left over should go back into the general fund.

Council Member Gomez does not approve as written.

Motion by Council Member Gomez, not to approve resolution, seconded by Council Member Hernandez. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Amezcuita, Hernandez, Gomez, Vice Mayor Macias and Mayor Perez

NOTES: Council Member(s): None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM 12 (continued)

City Attorney asked Council that if they have any changes to let her know and would bring it back at a later date with different language.

City Manager stated he would meet with each of them if they would like.

Further discussion followed by Council with concern with the language, political aspect, and concurs with bringing back the resolution with different language.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Rosa E. Perez – Made comment to accusations made during public comment and supports bringing back “Immigrant of the Year” award noting one of the requirements should be they are residents of Huntington Park.

Vice Mayor Karina Macias – asked staff about the meetings being streamed on-line. Staff stated this will be looked into.

Council Member Ofelia Hernandez – At 10:00 p.m. Councilwoman Hernandez dismissed herself

- Discussion of Annual “Walk for Obesity” Event 9:00 am to 12 Noon on Saturday, November 1, 2014, from City Hall to Raul R. Perez Memorial Park

Council Member Valentin Palos Amezquita – noted a request by the Chamber of Commerce regarding funding for Christmas parade and asked if funds are available.

City Manager stated that the funds last year were put into a cable origination fund but that these funds were coming from the general fund as a subsidy. Last year he mentioned that the cable funds were going to run out partly due to a cable franchise cutting the city short of \$50,000 and the city itself running out of monies to support this fund. But if Council wants to fund it it would require an additional \$20,000 from the general fund. He stated he would bring this back at a future date to discuss the funding.

Council Member Mario Gomez – Nothing to report but would like to see “Immigrant of the Year” award return.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:10 pm Mayor Perez adjourned the meeting to the next Regular Meeting of the City of Huntington Park City Council on Monday, November 3, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna G. Schwartz, CMC
Interim City Clerk