

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Huntington Park City Council
Monday, December 1, 2014

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Huntington Park, California was called to order at 6:08 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2014, in the Council Chamber of City Hall at 6550 Miles Avenue, Huntington Park, California; Mayor Rosa Perez presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Rosa E. Perez; Vice Mayor Karina Macias and Council Members Ofelia Hernandez, and Valentin Palos Amezcuita. 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, and Donna Schwartz, Interim City Clerk.

Absent: Council Member Gomez

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Luis Garcia, 13 years old, student at Nimitz Middle School

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Mayor Perez

PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" to Luis Garcia for leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chris Johnson, CEO, Woodcraft Rangers, introduced participants, presented information and a video on the agencies afterschool programs.

Council presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" to Woodcraft Rangers for their commitment to education and the afterschool programs provided to the children in our community.

Blanca Soto of Tierra Blanca Arts Center who provided cultural awareness to our community recognizing the various folk & dancing performances.

Council presented Ms. Soto a "Certificate of Appreciation" for Semblanza 2014 6th Annual Folk & Dance Festival and for sharing her talent and providing cultural awareness to our community through her dances from different parts of the world.

Eddie Martinez and Elizabeth Juarez of Neighborhood Action Council presented information about the Council and their efforts of finding opportunities for additional open park space in Huntington Park.

PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

Karina De La Cruz, Community Services Officer, announced the Mayor's Annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest beginning December 1 through 17, 2014.

Interim City Manager Morales requested to move Regular Agenda Item #7 be presented at this time. Mayor agreed, Council concurred.

REGULAR AGENDA

PARKS AND RECREATION

7. HP Spartans Request for Use and Facility Fee Waiver for Salt Lake Park Ball Diamonds for Youth Baseball Tournament

Interim City Manager Morales presented the staff report.

Mayor Perez opened public comment.

Public Comment

1. Jose Sanchez of HP Spartans, spoke in support of the request for a fee waiver.
2. Leticia Martinez, Huntington Park Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support HP Spartans request for a fee waiver.
3. Palmina Reyes, parent, also spoke in support of the request for use and facility fee waiver.

Mayor Perez closed public comment.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Macias to review HP Spartans Special Event Park Use and Facility Fee Waiver Application for the use of the Salt Lake Park ball diamonds for a three-day baseball tournament, approve and issue permit for the use of the Salt Lake Park ball diamonds for the HP Spartan's baseball tournament, as required per the City's municipal code for activities in public places, and waive the non-budget impact facility use fees in the amount of \$1312.70, seconded by Council Member Amezcuita. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Amezcuita, Hernandez, Vice Mayor Macias
and Mayor Perez
NOES: Council Member(s): None

ABSENT: Council Member(s): Gomez

PUBLIC COMMENT

City Attorney Birrueta announced to the public the rules for public comment by citing government code section 54954.3 and Municipal Code section 2-1.207.

1. Michelle Sanchez and Jason Vega, residents, spoke in support of Warner Theater and preserving its interior and mentioned they heard that a Forever 21 was moving into the building.
2. David Sanchez, resident, also spoke in support of Warner Theater and recommended opening the vacant casino in the city to help bring in revenue.
3. Rodolfo Cruz, resident, would like to see improvements to the Rugby Plaza to bring in new businesses in the city.
4. Sandra Orozco, resident of Maywood, spoke in regards to the conduct of Council at the meetings, thanked Council Members Gomez and Amezquita for their support at the Lions Club Turkey Day, requested to reserve a space for the disabled in the Council Chambers and spoke in support of the Warner Theater.
5. Elba Romo, resident, commented on placement of Public Comment on the agenda, public records request, meetings not on the city's website and sound not being audible, agenda and reports not on the website, trash cans being distributed and franchise fees.
6. Linda Caraballo, commented on the agenda items, letter regarding trash cans, monies used by city, and elections.

City Attorney Biretta reiterated on the policies and procedures during public comment.

7. Leticia Martinez, Huntington Park Chamber of Commerce, thanked Council and staff for their support to the Huntington Park Chamber of Commerce Annual Holiday Parade and announced their Annual Business Christmas Mixer on December 9, 2014 at Leonardo's
8. George Franco, resident, commented on the audio system, Immigration Day and feels it should be mandatory for candidates running for office live in the city 5 years.

STAFF RESPONSE

Planning Manager Fontanez responded to the comment regarding the Warner Theater and Forever 21. He stated that there is no Forever 21 coming into town and they do not own the building. That currently the theater is no longer able to continue and that this zone is being proposed for commercial use but the theaters interior will be maintained.

STAFF RESPONSE (continued)

Interim City Clerk Schwartz responded to the comments regarding the audio and streaming of the meetings and public records request. Stating that the issues with the audio and streaming of the meetings are currently being worked on and anyone wishing to process a public records request may do so by either downloading the form from the city's website, walking-in, email or by phone.

Interim City Manager Morales in response to the franchise fees he stated that the payment for this fee will be paid next week.

At 7:22 p.m. Mayor Perez recessed to closed session

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

1. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1) –
Public Employee Employment and Appointment
Name of Position Under Consideration: Interim City Manager

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 (a) –
Conference with Labor Negotiator Regarding Unrepresented Employee –
Title of Position Subject to Negotiation: Interim City Manager
City's Designated Representative(s) for Negotiations: Interim City Manager
Julio Morales and City Attorney Isabel Birrueta
2. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 (a) –
Conference with Labor Negotiator regarding Unrepresented Employee
Agency designated representatives: City Attorney Isabel Birrueta
Title of Position Subject to Negotiation: Interim City Manager
3. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) -
Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation [One (1) potential
matter]
4. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 (a) –
Conference with Labor Negotiator regarding Unrepresented Employee
Agency designated representatives: Interim City Manager Julio Morales and
City Attorney Isabel Birrueta
Title of Position Subject to Negotiation: Interim Finance Director
5. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6(a) –
Conference with Labor Negotiator Regarding Represented Employees

City's Designated Representative(s) for Negotiations: Julio Morales, Interim City Manager
Employee Organization: General Employees Association, Non Represented, Police Management Association, Police Officer's Association

CLOSED SESSION (continued)

6. Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(2) and 54956.9(e)(2) – Conference with Legal Counsel to Discuss Matter Involving Potential Litigation and/or Significant Exposure to Litigation – [One (1) potential matter]

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

At 8:45 p.m. Mayor reconvened to open session. All Council Members present (Council Member Gomez ABSENT).

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

City Attorney Birrueta announced that direction was given no action taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NOES: Council Member(s): None

ABSENT: Council Member(s): Gomez

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1. Approved Regular City Council Meeting Minutes held Monday, November 17, 2014

FINANCE

2. Approved Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants dated December 1, 2014

POLICE

3. Approved amendment to the agreement with Rice/Englander & Associates for legislative support services and authorized the Interim City Manager to execute the amendment.

CONSENT CALENDAR (continued)

PARKS AND RECREATION

4. Adopted Resolution No. 2014-62, Approving the Application for Grant Funds from the State of California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery under its Tire-Derived Product Grant Program for the Resurfacing of the Salt Lake Park Playground.

PUBLIC WORKS

5. Authorized the Interim City Manager to execute a First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Los Angeles Gateway Region Integrated Regional Water Management Joint Powers Authority and the cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Maywood, Vernon, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for administration and cost sharing to prepare and implement a Watershed Management Program (WMP) and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program (CIMP) as required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit Order No. R4-2012-0175 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4 Permit).
6. Authorized and Approved the Following:
 1. Authorized hiring four part-time Public Works employees to provide steam cleaning, vacuuming, and bus shelter maintenance services on Pacific Blvd;
 2. Approved United Pacific Waste to provide sidewalk trash receptacle collection services on Pacific Blvd;
 3. Approved Nationwide Environmental Services to provide catch basin cleaning services;
 4. Authorized the Interim City Manager to execute the amendments to the UPW and Nationwide contracts to provide trash collection and catch basin maintenance services; and
 5. Authorized purchase of 10 Big Belly trash and recycling containers using AB 939 monies not-to-exceed \$25,000.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

REGULAR AGENDA

PARKS AND RECREATION

Item 7 moved to before PUBLIC COMMENT.

REGULAR AGENDA (continued)

PARKS AND RECREATION

8. Use of Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Funds to Lease & Purchase Zero-Emission Vehicles

Interim City Manager Morales presented the staff report.

Motion was made by Council Member Hernandez to authorize the use of AQMD funds to lease and purchase four Zero-Emission Vehicles, seconded by Council Member Amezcuita. One motion, passed by the following vote:

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

NOES: Council Member(s): None

ABSENT: Council Member(s): Gomez

9. Approve Use of Public Art Funds for Additional Holiday Decorations

Interim City Manager Morales presented the staff report noting that this item had been before Council at the previous council meeting. He stated staff had installed all purchased decorations that had been previously approved and feels there is an opportunity to enhance the holiday ambiance on Pacific and is requesting to purchase additional decorations using City Art Funds.

Motion was made by Council Member Hernandez to approve use of funding from City Art Fund for purchase of additional holiday decorations for Pacific Blvd, seconded by Council Member Amezcuita. One motion, passed by the following vote:

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

NOES: Council Member(s): None

ABSENT: Council Member(s): Gomez

REGULAR AGENDA (continued)

CITY MANAGER

10. Consideration of Approval of Appointment of Interim City Manager Candidate and Related Ratification and Final Action to Approve Employment Agreement for Interim City Manager Pursuant to Government Code Section 53262

Interim City Manager Morales presented the staff report.

City Attorney Birrueta suggested due to rules related to retired persons to delete paragraph 4, page 6 relating to the use of a city owned vehicle and the rest of the provisions to remain the same.

Perspective Interim City Manager Mr. Powell introduced himself.

Motion was made by Council Member Hernandez to approve the employment agreement with Donald R. Powell for Interim City Manager and authorize the Mayor to execute the amendment, seconded by Council Member Amezquita. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

NOES: Council Member(s): None

ABSENT: Council Member(s): Gomez

ABSTAIN: Council Member(s): Vice Mayor Macias

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS (Information only)

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Council Member Amezquita – thanked all those in attendance and welcomed the new Interim City Manager.

Council Member Hernandez – thanked all those who participated with the holiday parade, El Gavilan for donating chocolates to a few of the local schools and thanked staff.

Council Member Gomez - Absent

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

Vice Mayor Macias - thanked all those in attendance, staff, and addressed why she abstained on her vote for the Interim City Manager stating she was in support of the other candidate. She would like information to go to the public regarding the proposed new street parking program. Interim City Manager Morales stated information will be disseminated in various ways.

Mayor Perez – acknowledged the success of the holiday parade and hoped everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:05 pm Mayor Perez adjourned the meeting to the next Regular Meeting of the City of Huntington Park City Council on Monday, December 15, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna G. Schwartz, CMC
Interim City Clerk