

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Huntington Park City Council
Monday, April 20, 2015

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Huntington, California was called to order at 6:01 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2015, in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 6550 Miles Avenue, Huntington Park, California; Mayor Karina Macias presiding.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Karina Macias; Vice Mayor Graciela Ortiz and Council Members, Valentin Palos Amezcua, Jhonny Pineda and Marilyn Sanabria. Other City Officials and employees: John Ornelas, Interim City Manager, Arnold Alvarez-Glasman, City Attorney, Jorge Cisneros, Chief of Police, Josette Espinosa, Director of Parks and Recreation, Jan Mazyck, Interim Finance Director, Manuel Acosta, Economic Development Manager, Michael Ackerman, City Engineer, and Donna Schwartz, City Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Ortiz.

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Mayor Macias.

PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council welcomed new City Attorney Arnold Alvarez-Glasman.

Council presented a proclamation "Designating the Year 2015 to Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915" to Mr. Jack Hadjinian, Mayor, City of Montebello.

Council presented a proclamation proclaiming "April as Autism Awareness Month" to Ms. Gloria Rodriguez, representative of Parents of Exceptional Kids and thanked her for her community involvement.

Mike Montgomery representing VFW Troops, provided information on the Veterans Day Resource Fair and invited the public to attend the Troops in Transition event on Saturday, May 2, 2015, 10 am -3 pm, Salt Lake Park, Huntington Park, California.

PUBLIC COMMENT

City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman asked Mayor Macias if he could make mention to the public at the next meeting that it would be more appropriate to take conversations outside the chamber so as not to be a distraction during the council meetings. Mayor concurred.

1. Nick Ioannidis, resident, announced that the next day is his 48th Anniversary as a U.S. Citizen and requested pictures of the Council for his business.

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

2. Lulu Fonseca, resident, spoke in regards to the removal of the COMBI and commented on the service of the new trash haulers.
3. Sandra Orozco, Maywood resident, commented on the new city attorney, recognized events she'll be attending in memory of veterans and being raised by her father.
4. Melissa Lizarraga, Teacher at Huntington Park High School, thanked Council for recognizing her students and public works for meeting and conversing with the students.
5. Xochiti Munllo, representative from Assembly member Miguel Santiago's Office, presented the new Council with certificates from Assembly member Miguel Santiago's Office congratulating them on their new installation.
6. Francisco Rivera, resident, thanked the City for sweeping Pacific Boulevard and would like to see the sidewalks be pressure washed, feels the City deserves better and asked that code enforcement do something about the banners and signs that are not in regulation.
7. Rodolfo Cruz, resident, commented on the Public Financing Authority, contracts that are being given to certain contractors with no bids, appointments to various organizations and Council Member Amezcuita being appointed to one, suggested Council walk through the City to see all the bulky items being left in the streets, noted that at the park here at City Hall there are people doing drugs and there are young kids around, and mentioned why he was speaking in Spanish so that other Spanish speaking people can understand his support of helping the City.
8. Betty Davis-Gonzalez, Linda Esperanza Marquez High School, spoke in support of Council, acknowledged the importance of their positions and invited the public to attend a Mother's Day event at the High School on May 9th 2015, from 11 am to 4 pm to support students athletic costs.
10. Ivan, resident, voiced his concern with vehicles speeding and accidents on the 100 block of California Avenue and asked if signs can be put up and/or a motor bike to give out citations, commented on a hotdog vendor on Saturn and Miles noting it's a violation, also spoke in regards to the litter on Pacific Boulevard and suggested signs be put up and cite those who litter.
11. Roberto Cavalles, South East Los Angeles Community Organizer for Communities for a Better Environment and resident of Huntington Park, spoke in regards to the I710 Corridor Advisory Committee. He commented on the

projected increase on the I710 by the traffic made by those delivering to the ports.

12. Rosa Rodriguez, Senior Volunteer, spoke in regards to the COMBI being removed from the City and spoke in support of keeping it in the City.

STAFF RESPONSE

Interim City Manager Ornelas responded to the comment of the COMBI being removed. Mr. Ornelas stated that the COMBI is not being removed that the City received a termination notice from the Oldtimers Foundation and that the City is working on obtaining another provider so that there is no interruption in service.

Mayor Macias reiterated that the City is currently working on obtaining another service provider.

Interim City Manager Ornelas responded to the comment regarding pressure washing the sidewalks. Mr. Ornelas stated that the City is making a lot of progress and has additional part-time staff dedicated to cleaning Pacific Boulevard. Mr. Ornelas concluded with responding to the comment regarding trash pickup and stated that the City is working on a regular schedule to stay on top of things.

Chief of Police Cisneros updated Council on the marijuana dispensaries stating that numerous dispensaries have opened up illegally, 13 out of 14 have been closed. Mr. Cisneros responded to the comment regarding code enforcement stating there are two individuals working over 1000 cases but remain transparent and are open to ride alongs. Mr. Cisneros stated he is aware of the speeding on California Avenue but that it is a Traffic Authority issue as well as Engineering when it comes to signs or traffic lights and that the Police department is solely to enforce the laws. Mr. Cisneros responded to the comment regarding drugs in the park and stated that those who see anything must call the Police department they cannot cite anyone if they do not see anything and that there is an ordinance in place with times that parks must be closed. He noted funds that the City will be receiving for projects such as the Empowerment and Discipline program for our juniors at risk, as well as realignment funds.

Mayor Macias asked if the City Engineer has been notified. Chief Cisneros stated that the City Engineer is aware.

Council Member Amezcuita asked Chief Cisneros if someone can walk through the parks. Chief Cisneros stated yes.

Mayor Macias asked if there was an update to the illegal dumping. Interim City Manager Ornelas stated that staff is currently forming a working group so that they can come up with some options for the Council to consider. He noted this is part of the service United Pacific Waste (UPW) provides and that there are other matters to consider and will bring more information before Council at a later date. Mayor Macias thanked Public Works for being the first responders and reiterated that this matter needs to be addressed.

Council Member Amezquita agrees with illegal dumping being an issue and feels more of the responsibility falls on the trash hauler.

Interim City Manager Ornelas noted that as part of the provisions in the UPW contract is that they respond within 24 hours and that the issues surrounding illegal dumping are being addressed.

STAFF RESPONSE (continued)

Interim City Manager Ornelas responded to the comment regarding contracts. He stated any records or contracts are available to the public they just need to process a public records request through the City Clerk's Office.

Mayor Macias responded to the comment regarding the Public Financing Authority stating that there has only been Minutes approved at the meetings and at some time the public can be educated at what the Public Financing Authority does.

At 7:33 p.m. City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman recessed to closed session.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4)
Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation: [Three (3) potential matters]

At 8:13 p.m. Mayor Macias reconvened to open session. All Council Members present.

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman announced that all three items listed under Closed Session item 1 were discussed, direction given no action taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Council Member Sanabria motioned to approve consent calendar items, seconded by Vice Mayor Ortiz. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Amezquita, Pineda, Sanabria, Vice Mayor Ortiz
and Mayor Macias.

NOES: Council Member(s): None

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1. Approved Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held Monday, April 6, 2015

FINANCE

2. Approved Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants dated April 20, 2015

CITY MANAGER

3. Approved Second Amendment to Agreement with Sea Hawk Surveillance for Equipment and Installation Services and authorized Interim City Manager to execute the amendment.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4. **Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2015/16 – 2019/20 Consolidated Plan, Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2015/16 Annual Action Plan and Draft Citizen Participation Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships Act (HOME) Program Federal Funds**

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Receive and file Draft Fiscal Year 2015/16-2019/20 Consolidated Plan, Draft Fiscal Year 2015/16 Annual Action Plan, and Draft Citizen Participation Plan.

Interim City Manager Ornelas presented the item and introduced Economic Development Manager Manuel Acosta who gave an overview of the Consolidated and Annual Action Plan. Mr. Acosta explained the Consolidated Plan which is a 5-year plan: identifies community needs, proposes use of federal resources, key goals of HUD grant programs, development of consolidated plan involving needs survey, stakeholder's workshop and survey, public hearings, 30-day public review of the draft plan and a public hearing for adoption on May 4. Mr. Acosta went on to explain the Annual Plan being a 1-year plan: serves as HUD application for CDBG and HOME funds, addresses community priorities, proposes use of federal resources and concluded with the various CDBG programs for fiscal year 2015-16.

Council Member Amezcua asked if CDBG funds can be used towards public restrooms. Staff stated yes if it meets the infrastructure improvements.

Council Member Pineda asked if CDBG funds can be used to maintain these public restroom. Staff stated no, ongoing maintenance is not eligible. Mr. Pineda questioned the \$100,000 request for funds for the soccer field lighting asking if the request for these funds were annually. Staff stated it is a one-time request.

Council Member Amezcua stated the City of Vernon has a community fund and that they paid a share of the soccer field lighting, if we were to ask them for \$100,000 then we can use these funds towards youth programs.

Economic Development Manager Acosta stated that the allocation of funds can be changed at any time but if funds are not being used they can be reallocated.

Parks & Recreation Director Espinosa stated that part of the agreement made to City of Vernon was to engrave a name and that no additional funds can be requested from the City of Vernon at this time.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM 4 (continued)

Council Member Sanabria suggested using the funds from the South East Churches and allocating an additional \$2,000 to Oldtimers Foundation so they can provide senior food services and the Library. Mr. Acosta explained that we do not fund Oldtimer's services that these funds are for the Parks & Recreation Senior Program. Parks & Recreation Director Espinosa stated that Parks & Recreation have been doing the Senior program for several years, the request for funding will be used for their trips, bingo, dances and provide lunches.

Council Member Pineda commented on South East Churches and their meal services. Mr. Acosta stated that South East Churches provide emergency meals it does reach out to a lot of Seniors as well it does meet our needs for homeless and special needs and addresses one of our tasks that the City can't do.

Council Member Sanabria asked if it is a requirement to fund the parks and recreation programs. Mr. Acosta stated it is not required to give to a certain organization but to not spend beyond 15% and the program has to be a public service. Ms. Sanabria questioned if it is a certain amount that we have to allocate. Mr. Acosta stated no it is the priorities and the budget.

Vice Mayor Ortiz questioned what organizations have submitted applications, in her line of work she provides information on the Oldtimer's Foundation and the Salvation Army. Mr. Acosta stated it is not a requirement to open up the process as RFPs. The City chose to fund the City's programs, the funds that are not funded are the emergency services and the Library program which is also an afterschool program. Some of the programs were duplicated programs so the City chose to consolidate the programs.

Mayor Macias wishes the allocations to be revisited and agrees with Vice Mayor Ortiz and Council Member Sanabria of allocating funds to the Oldtimer's Foundation, the Salvation Army and the Library since they do provide a service to the Seniors. Mr. Acosta stated that the Salvation Army chose not to take the funds due to the reporting requirements they have to provide to the City which is a HUD requirement.

Interim City Manager Ornelas noted that the Oldtimers Foundation does get funding from the county for their senior program. The City can look at other providers for the seniors meal program and suggested Council direct Staff to look at other providers.

Mayor Macias motioned to receive and file and directed staff to provide Council with a list of emergency food programs. Council concurred.

5. Update on Pacific Boulevard Pedestrian Improvement Projects - Phase I Implementation Plan

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM 5 (continued)

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Receive and file.

Interim City Manager Ornelas presented the item explaining that if approved tonight, staff will be proceeding with some of the improvements and additional updates will be coming before Council at a future date. Mr. Ornelas then introduced Economic Development Manager Acosta and Public Works Director Michael Ackerman who provided a PowerPoint on an update on the Pacific Boulevard Improvements Project-Phase I. Mr. Ackerman went over the outreach process, phase I implementation plan which included streetscape design concept, future street tree concept, proposed understory, big belly station configuration and proposed locations, clean management console along with, decals, wraps and messaging, adorned full body wraps. Mr. Ackerman showed proposed signage, pedestrian and bus shelter lighting, phase I project budget and additional implementation outreach and concluded with what the next steps are going to be with regards to the final design, construction documents and bidding and negotiations.

Council Member Amezquita asked if the improvements are consistent with the overall concept of the final product and to add public restrooms as part of the revitalization project. Mr. Acosta stated yes. Mr. Amezquita noted that the previous consultant recommended applying for COG funds to incorporate additional improvements.

Interim City Manager Ornelas mentioned that as the project moves forward we will seek additional funding.

Council Member Amezquita motioned to receive and file. Council concurred.

FINANCE

6. Presentation of Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14 Audit

Interim City Manager Ornelas presented the item.

Roger Martinez and Peggy McBride Consultants with Vasquez & Company provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Audit. Ms. McBride explained the auditor's responsibilities, audit emphasis on areas that are

focused on such as cash and cash equivalents, receivables and related allowance for doubtful accounts, capital assets, long-term debt, expenditures/payroll and revenues. Ms. McBride went over financial highlights i.e. general fund, enterprise funds, internal service funds, overall observations and comments, management comments, other considerations and required communications to those charged with governance.

This item was a presentation ONLY.

REGULAR AGENDA (continued)

7. Adopt Resolution to Approve the Amended Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 City Budget

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Waive further reading and adopt Resolution 2015-16, Amending the Annual Budget for FY 2014-15; and
2. Authorize Interim City Manager to implement the approved amendments.

Interim City Manager Ornelas introduced the item and Interim Finance Director Mazyck presented the staff report providing information with regards to the FY 2014-15 budget explaining the revenue and expenditures, efforts of balancing the budget and developing good practices. Informing Council that the excessive cost over revenues at the end of 8 months is approximately \$4.3 million versus the \$2.4 million we anticipated at the beginning of this year, we believe it is a result of timing differences, revenues versus expenditures. We anticipate closing this FY year with significantly less than what we originally projected. There were unanticipated legal costs, contractual costs, police matters higher than expected and termination of the street sweeping contract. She concluded with speaking in support of staff's recommendation to approve the request of additional appropriations.

Interim City Manager Ornelas spoke in regards to the termination of the street sweeping contract stating that if Council wants more information staff can provide it.

Council Member Amezcua stated it was more for cost savings. Mayor Macias concurred.

Interim Finance Director Mazyck touched on the City's rating stating that Standard & Poor's reaffirmed the City's credit rating to a triple B and from stable to positive.

Motion: Council Member Sanabria motioned to adopt Resolution 2015-16, Amending the Annual Budget for FY 2014-15 and authorized Interim City Manager to implement the approved amendments, seconded by Council Member Amezcua. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Amezquita, Pineda, Sanabria, Vice Mayor Ortiz
and Mayor Macias.

NOES: Council Member(s): None

REGULAR AGENDA (continued)

PARKS AND RECREATION

8. Approve Use of Salt Lake Park for 2015 Telemundo Sports Experience Event and Approval of Agreement with Estrella Communications, Inc. to Produce the Event

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Review and approve the Special Event Application for use of Salt Lake Park for the 2015 Telemundo Sports Experience event;
2. Approve agreement with Estrella Communications, Inc. to produce the 2015 Telemundo Sports Experience event at Salt Lake Park; and
3. Authorize Interim City Manager to execute agreement.

Interim City Manager Ornelas introduced the item and Parks and Recreation Director Espinosa presented the staff report and announced that Mr. Richard Vasquez of Telemundo was in attendance to answer any questions. Mr. Vasquez introduced himself, spoke in regards to Telemundo supporting good health, thanked Ms. Espinosa and staff for all their support and spoke in favor of staff's recommendations.

Council Member Pineda spoke in support of staff's recommendation.

Motion: Council Member Pineda motioned to approve the Special Event Application for use of Salt Lake Park for the 2015 Telemundo Sports Experience event, approved agreement with Estrella Communications, Inc. to produce the 2015 Telemundo Sports Experience event at Salt Lake Park, and authorized the Interim City Manager to execute the agreement, seconded by Council Member Sanabria. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Amezquita, Pineda, Sanabria, Vice Mayor Ortiz
and Mayor Macias.

NOES: Council Member(s): None

CITY MANAGER

9. Oldtimers Foundation Transportation Services - Authorization to Negotiate Transfer of Services

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Authorize the Interim City Manager to identify a transportation service provider, negotiate an interim transportation agreement and execute the agreement to

provide public transportation services consistent with the services provided by the Oldtimers Foundation.

Interim City Manager Ornelas presented the staff report and noted the letter received from the Oldtimers Foundation notifying the City of the termination of service and noting the recommendations by staff to authorize Interim City Manager to identify a transportation service provider and negotiate an interim transportation agreement with a new provider.

Motion: Council Member Sanabria motion to authorize the Interim City Manager to identify a transportation service provider, negotiate an interim transportation agreement and execute the agreement to provide public transportation services consistent with the services provided by the Oldtimers Foundation, seconded by Council Member Pineda. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Amezcua, Pineda, Sanabria, Vice Mayor Ortiz and Mayor Macias.

NOES: Council Member(s): None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS (Information only)

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Council Member Valentin Palos Amezcua – spoke in regards to cost savings using the RFP process, future improvements and implementation and acknowledged the new City Attorney. Mr. Amezcua commented on various commission and committees a City can create that can participate in City business and gave his condolences to Mr. Barba

Council Member Jhonny Pineda

Council Member Marilyn Sanabria – thanked those who attended the meeting and participated with comments and questions, thanked City staff for all their hard work,

acknowledged the presentations and that Council is working hard to move the City forward.

Vice Mayor Graciela Ortiz – thanked City staff for all their hard work and encouraged the community to continue to ask Council questions.

Mayor Karina Macias – thanked those who attended the meeting and their participation, thanked City staff for all their hard work and spoke in regards to creating a Youth Commission and directed staff to look into creating said commission and bring back to Council at a later date. Commented on decisions made by the new Council and reassured the residents that the Council considers each decision carefully and does not take them lightly and gave her condolences to Mr. Barba.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:50 p.m. Mayor Macias adjourned the meeting in memory of Maria E Ochoa, longtime resident of Huntington Park and mother of Ricardo Barba a long time employee for Severn Trent and resident of Huntington Park, to a Regular Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2015, at 6:00 P.M. Mr. Barba introduced himself and spoke highly of his mother.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna G. Schwartz, CMC
City Clerk