

Final Minutes Approved March 15, 2016  
Regular Meeting of the  
City of Huntington Park City Council  
Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Sergeant at Arms read the Rules of Decorum.

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Huntington Park, California was called to order at 6:04 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, in the Council Chambers 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 Amezcuita, Jhonny Pineda, and Marilyn Sanabria. CITY OFFICIALS/STAFF: Edgar Cisneros City Manager; Arnold Alvarez-Glasman; Cosme Lozano, Chief of Police; Josette Espinosa, Director of Parks and Recreation; Jan Mazyck, Interim Finance Director; Manuel Acosta, Economic Development Manager; Michael Ackerman, City Engineer, Christina Dixon, Staff Analyst, Public Works and Donna Schwartz, City Clerk.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brianna Romero, age 10, Miles Elementary School.

**INVOCATION**

The invocation was led by Mayor Macias.

**PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Council presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" to Brianna Romero for leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Francisco Torres, spoke in opposition to the marijuana dispensaries and noted oaths taken by Council.
2. Roberto Cabrales, spoke in regards to agenda item 14 specific to the amendments to the medical marijuana ordinances, feels it can be regulated for those people who use it for medical reasons and keeping it away from schools. Mr. Cabrales stated he would work with the Health and Education Commission, feels it can bring in revenue as long as it's regulated and closed with speaking in support of the item.
3. Arthur Schaper, read California election code sections, noted appointments to various commissions, actions by Council, appointment of undocumented immigrants, and remarked recall.

At 6:15 p.m. Mayor Macias called for a RECESS

At 6:22 p.m. Mayor Macias RECONVENED the meeting with all Council Members present.

4. Sergio Palos, spoke in opposition to item 14, feels the revenue is dirty money and doesn't want it in the city.
5. Francisco Rivera, commented on vendors on Pacific Boulevard who are grilling on the sidewalks and noted he has contacted the County. Mr. Rivera thanked the City for procuring Bennett Landscaping and for the City doing pressure washing on the sidewalks stating they are doing an awesome job and thanked various associations and Council Member Amezcuita for their support to the community.

6. Gloria Rodriguez, likes to see positive changes in the community and spoke in support of item 14, feels it would bring revenue to the city and mentioned she had spoken with the Mayor and Chief of Police regarding the ordinances.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)**

7. Maria Acosta, Middleton Street School, thanked the Chief of Police and the Mayor for coming out to the school and explaining what the City is doing regarding the marijuana dispensaries.
8. Laura Herrera, spoke in regards to the Metro Transit contract commenting on the amount, lease and maintenance of vehicles, ridership program and asked Council to reconsider program. Ms. Herrera voiced concern with Metro leasing on city property and security of city equipment and informed the city that there is no shade at the bus stop on Florence Avenue and California Street.
9. Magaly Zapien, commented on item 14, read reference material regarding marijuana, spoke in support of having the dispensaries in the city, feels with the revenue it can be given back to the community.
10. Rodolfo Cruz, opposed to the marijuana dispensaries, commented on Costco coming into town and asked that the small businesses be considered and hopes Council will make things right.
11. Linda Caraballo, commented on recall, Council actions, serving process, contracts that have been awarded, Tow contract and fees being increased, and commented on the City Attorney's role.
12. Betty Retama, spoke in opposition to Council.
13. Arles Benavidas and Members of the South East Community Alliance, spoke in regards to substance abuse prevention and encouraged the public to attend a meeting in Huntington Park on March 9, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the Care First Office located at 5946 Pacific Boulevard.
14. Raul Rodriguez Jr., commented on council unlawfully willing to be served, his rights being violated and many Americans, mentioned he informed staff, and noted a newspaper article regarding laws being violated.
15. Dr. Robert Newman, spoke on item 14, read from the bible, asked that the two undocumented immigrants be removed from the commissions, remarked recall and asked that papers be received.
16. DeAnn D'Lean, We the People Rising and America First Latinos, commented on the tile of item 14, feels Brown Act was violated, spoke in opposition of marijuana dispensaries in the city, asked that recall papers be received and spoke in opposition to Council.
17. Wes Parker, noted Pledge of Allegiance, commented on federal laws, appointment of undocumented immigrants, corruption in Mexico, held up a sign, papers being served, rights being violated, and spoke in opposition to Council.

At 7:03 p.m. Council Member Pineda left the Council Chambers.

18. Robin Hvidston, opposed to marijuana dispensaries, asked that recall papers be received, read an article regarding Texas officials, noted FBI investigation regarding H.P. Tow, acknowledged Council member Amezcuita, and handed in an article.

At 7:07 p.m. Council Member Pineda reentered the Council Chambers.

19. Janet West, spoke in regards to the complete streets plan and feels it will effect low income people and recommends grant monies be used in the community.

20. Ric Loya, opposed to item 14 and voiced concern with requirements of applicants, authorization, how many users and surrounding cities that have opposed having dispensaries in their city. He recommends enforcement and regulation.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)**

21. Matthew Kaplan, Attorney for Huntington Park Tow Service, spoke in regards to Council action to terminate contract, posting of notice and agenda, and investigation by FBI.
22. Valentin Amezquita, thanked all in attendance, remarked on marijuana item, read a quote by the Pope, noted statistics regarding marijuana and feels it's a political mistake, commented on Civil Rights being for everyone and immigration.
23. Stella Stephens, left copy of laws on the table, spoke in opposition to Council, and City Attorney, remarked violation, read government codes, and mentioned papers left on table.

At 7:28 p.m. Vice Mayor Ortiz left the Council Chambers.

24. Sandra Orozco, stated papers are being served and read documents.
25. George Franco, commented on the Pledge of Allegiance, respect and oaths being taken and followed

### **STAFF RESPONSE**

City Manager Cisneros responded to the comment regarding illegal vending on Pacific Boulevard stating that the City has code enforcement and PD focused on this issue and continue to enforce, in regards to Metro Transit, the lease is new and will add revenue for the City and that there are various contractors that also lease from the City. Mr. Cisneros added with regards to security of city documents/equipment the city takes every effort and precaution to maintain security. In response to bus shelters, he stated that these are part of enhancement projects provided by Prop C funds and with regard to people being removed, he stated if the public does not conduct themselves in a proper and respectful manner they can be removed and can view the meeting from the overflow room.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:37 p.m. City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman recessed to closed session.

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1))  
Case Name: The Cities of Duarte and Huntington Park vs. State Water Resources Control Board; The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, and Does 1 through 100, inclusive. Case No. BS156303
2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1)
  - a. City of Huntington Park vs. Practical Health Center et al  
LASC Case # VC064349
  - b. City of Huntington Park vs. Olive Ridge, Inc et al  
LASC Case # VC064633
  - c. City of Huntington Park vs. Huntington Park Caregivers et al  
LASC Case # VC064634
  - d. City of Huntington Park vs. New Era Treatment Center  
LASC Case #VC064635

At 8:02 p.m. Mayor Macias reconvened to open session. All Council Members present.

### **CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT**

City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman announced for closed session item 1 direction given to communicate with special counsel to seek dismissal, unanimous decision by Council. For Item 2 (a-d) direction was provided to City's Prosecutor to resolve these cases, unanimous decision by Council.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Council Member Amezcuita requested to add to his public comment in the minutes of February 2, 2016.

City Manager Cisneros reminded Council that public comment is not restated verbatim in the minutes.

**Motion:** Vice Mayor Ortiz moved to approve consent calendar items, seconded by Mayor Macias. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Amezcuita, Pineda, Sanabria, Vice Mayor  
Ortiz and Mayor Macias  
NOES: Council Member(s): None

### **OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK**

1. Approved Minute(s) of the following City Council Meeting(s):  
1-1 Regular City Council Meeting held Tuesday, February 2, 2016

### **FINANCE**

2. Approved Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants dated February 16, 2016

### **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

*Mayor requested Item 4 be heard first.*

### **CITY MANAGER**

3. **Reconsideration of City Council Action Taken December 23, 2015, Relative to the Termination of HP Tow and Related Actions**

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. For the reasons set forth below, rescind the actions taken by the City Council at its Special City Council meeting dated December 23, 2015, relative to the termination of the HP Tow contract and agreements for service with the City of Huntington Park;
2. Approve termination of agreement(s) with HP Tow consistent with the requirements of the existing agreements between the City and HP Tow and/or applicable law;
3. Authorize the City Manager and/or Chief of Police to issue a Notice of Termination to HP Tow; and
4. Authorize the City Manager and Chief of Police to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Towing and Vehicle Storage Services.

## **REGULAR AGENDA (continued)**

### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

#### **4. Approval of 10 Park Projects to Submit for Los Angeles County Parks Needs Assessment**

**Motion:** Council Member Sanabria motioned to approve 10 park projects identified via a community engagement meeting and held in relation to Los Angeles County's Countywide Comprehensive Park and Recreation Needs Assessment and authorize staff to submit the identified 10 park projects as the final prioritized list of park projects for the City of Huntington Park, to be submitted to Los Angeles County's Department of Parks and Recreation, seconded by Council Member Pineda. Motion passed unanimously by one motion.

#### **5. Approve Award of Contractor for 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Display**

**Motion:** Council Member Pineda motioned to approve award of contract to Pyro Engineering to provide pyrotechnic services for the City of Huntington Park's 2016 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, seconded by Council Member Sanabria. Motion passed unanimously by one motion.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **6. Approve Resolution Authorizing Submittal of Application for Beverage Container Recycling City/County Payment Program**

**Motion:** Council Member Sanabria motion to adopt Resolution No. 2016-05, Authorizing Submittal of Application for Beverage Container City/County Payment Programs and Related Authorizations to CalRecycle and designate the City Manager as Signature Authority to execute all documents necessary to implement and secure payment, seconded by Vice Mayor Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously by one motion.

At 8:20 p.m. Vice Mayor Ortiz left the Council Chambers.

#### **7. Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the City of Huntington Park and the Water Replenishment District of Southern California Regarding Reimbursement for Safe Drinking Water Program for Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Program Services**

**Motion:** Council Member Sanabria motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding with the Water Replenishment District as a participant in the recently launched Safe Drinking Water Program, Disadvantaged Communities Outreach Program and authorize the City Manager to execute the MOU, seconded by Council Member Pineda. Motion passed 4-0-0 by one motion (*Vice Mayor Ortiz did not vote she had not returned to the Council Chambers*).

#### **8. Huntington Park Express Fixed Route Transit Services – Request Authorization to Amend the Assignment of Services Agreement**

**Motion:** Council Member Pineda motioned to authorize the City Manager to amend the assignment of agreement with Metro Transit, the current transportation service provider, execute the agreement to provide public transportation services consistent with the scope of services prescribed in the Amendment to the Assignment, the Assignment, Amendments and Agreement, ratify and affirm lease with Metro Transit Services for rent of space at the Public Works Yard located at 6900 Bissell Street, Huntington Park and authorize the Interim Finance Director to appropriate an additional \$145,000 budget to cover costs for the remainder of FY 15/16, seconded by Mayor Macias. Motion passed 3-1 by the following vote: (*Council Member Amezcua voted NO, Vice Mayor Ortiz did not vote she had not returned to the Council Chambers*).

ROLL CALL:

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)**

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

At 8:42 p.m. Vice Mayor Ortiz reentered the Council Chambers.

**9. Approve Award of Contract for Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) Services**

Mayor Macias requested to amend contract with no automatic renewal.

**Motion:** Council Member Pineda motioned to approve award of contract services agreement with Honeywell Building Solutions for a base contract amount \$68,876.96 annually with a maximum of two 1-year extensions of term with amendment to contract to include no automatic renewal, authorize City Manager to execute the agreement and encumber the remaining portion of the annual contract amount for FY 2015-2016 for the payment of Honeywell, 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

**10. Select and Approve Award of Contract for Industrial/Commercial Facilities Control Program Including Inspections for Commercial/Industrial Illegal Connection and Discharges for Stormwater**

**Motion:** Council Member Sanabria motioned to approve staff's recommendation to award contract services agreement to CWE for a base contract amount annually with a one year term commencing March 1, 2016 and ending February 28, 2017 and maximum of five one (1) year extensions of term and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, seconded by Council Member Amezquita. 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

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**11. Approval of Resolution for the City of Huntington Park Complete Streets, Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan**

**Motion:** Council Member Sanabria motioned to adopt Resolution 2016-06, Adopting the City of Huntington Park Complete Streets, Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, seconded by Council Member Pineda. Motion passed unanimously by one motion.

**12. Approve Activity in Public Places Permit for a Street Procession Conducted by Iglesia Sagrada Familia on March 25, 2016 (S16-01)**

**Motion:** Council Member Sanabria motioned to approve an Activity in Public Places Permit request by Iglesia Sagrada Familia (Applicant) to conduct a street procession along Rugby Avenue, Clarendon Avenue, Middleton Street, and Zoe Avenue on March 25, 2016 (S16-01) subject to the "Departmental Conditions of Approval" contained

herein, seconded by Council Member Pineda. Motion passed unanimously by one motion.

### **REGULAR AGENDA (continued)**

#### **13. Approve Activity in Public Places Permit for the Chamber of Commerce's annual "Carnaval Primavera" Downtown Street Festival (S16-02)**

**Motion:** Council Member Sanabria motioned to approve, **pending, full payment of past due events, submittal of signatures to City Manager by March 15, 2016 and Chamber to cover all cost with no waiver of fees**, an Activity in Public Places Permit request from The Greater Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce to conduct the annual "Carnaval Primavera" along Pacific Boulevard, between Gage Avenue and Slauson Avenue, on April 1 through April 3, 2016 and 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

At this time Regular Agenda Item 3 was heard.

### **CITY MANAGER**

#### **3. Reconsideration of City Council Action Taken December 23, 2015, Relative to the Termination of HP Tow and Related Actions**

Council took each recommendation under separate consideration.

**Motion:** Council Member Sanabria motioned for the reasons set forth below, rescind the actions taken by the City Council at its Special City Council meeting dated December 23, 2015, relative to the termination of the HP Tow contract and agreements for service with the City of Huntington Park, seconded by Vice Mayor Ortiz, Motion passed 4-1 by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

**Motion:** Council Member Sanabria motioned to approve termination of agreement(s) with HP Tow consistent with the requirements of the existing agreements between the City and HP Tow and/or applicable law, seconded by Vice Mayor Ortiz. Motion passed 4-1 by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

**Motion:** Council Member Sanabria motioned to authorize the City Manager and/or Chief of Police to issue a Notice of Termination to HP Tow, seconded by Vice Mayor Ortiz. Motion passed 4-1 by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEM 3 (continued)**

**Motion:** Council Member Sanabria motioned to authorize the City Manager and Chief of Police to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Towing and Vehicle Storage Services, seconded by Vice Mayor Ortiz. Motion passed the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Amezquita, Pineda, Sanabria, Vice Mayor  
Ortiz and Mayor Macias  
NOES: Council Member(s): None

**END OF REGULAR AGENDA**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**CITY MANAGER**

14. **Ordinances Amending 1) Title 9, Chapter 3, Article 23, 2) Section 9-4.302, 3) Title 4, Chapter 7, Article 19, and 4) Title 3, Chapter 1, by Adding Article 24 of the Huntington Park Municipal Code Related to Medical Marijuana Cultivation Establishments, Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and Marijuana Delivery**

Mayor Macias opened up the item for public comment.

**Public Comment**

1. Ricardo Barba, spoke in support of bringing in the medical marijuana dispensaries that they are revenue generating businesses and could benefit the community. He gave statistics and noted they would be available for those who use it for medicinal purposes.
2. Laura Herrera, spoke in opposition to the medical marijuana dispensaries, noted she had previously, as a Planning Commissioner, voted no to bringing in more businesses that promote selling of alcohol and cigarettes. She closed with speaking in support of the city attending the RECON conference in Las Vegas in order to bring businesses/revenue to the community.
3. Sandra Orozco, spoke in opposition to the medical marijuana dispensaries noting other cities that have voted against it, asked Council to do the right thing and announced she would be contacting staff regarding a proclamation for March MS awareness month.
4. Arles Benavides, supports bringing awareness to the prevention and harm of marijuana, gave statistics, ask to consider the facts, to be a role model for the youth and is opposed to the medical marijuana dispensaries.
5. Jessica Iniguez, also supports awareness and is opposed to opening medical marijuana dispensaries.

Mayor Macias closed public comment.

**Motion:** Council Member Sanabria motioned to approve first reading, waive further reading, and introduce Ordinance No. 2016-945 amending Title 9, Chapter 3, Article 23, and Section 9-4.302, approve first reading, waive further reading and introduce Ordinance No. 2016-946 amending Title 4, Chapter 7, Article 19, and Title 3, Chapter 1, by adding Article 24, of the Huntington Park Municipal Code related to Medical Marijuana Cultivation establishments and Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and schedule

the adoption of both Ordinance No. 2016-945 and Ordinance No. 2016-946, as described above, for the

**PUBLIC HEARING ITEM 14 (continued)**

March 15, 2016 City Council meeting, seconded by Vice Mayor Ortiz. Motion passed 4-1 by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS** (Information only)

Council requested to bring back at a future date the concession stand located at Robert Keller Park.

Vice Mayor Ortiz asked staff to look into the crosswalk lights at Gage and Regent and Miles and Clarendon.

Council Member Sanabria asked staff to look into the turn signals at Salt Lake and Florence and.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS** - None

**COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

Council Member Valentin Palos Amezquita, commented on the Metro Transit contract regarding policies versus data and suggested doing a study, voiced his concern with regard to the medical marijuana dispensaries and being readily available to the youth and possibly lowering surrounding property values. Mr. Amezquita commented on remarks regarding racism, diversity, civil rights and asked that people be allowed to voice their opinions, and quoted the Pope. He closed by thanking all those who attended, staff and colleagues.

Council Member Jhonny Pineda, informed City Manager he is ready with his appointment to the Historic Commission, thanked staff for all their support, asked staff to look for different grants, feels grants will help move the city forward. Mr. Pineda commented on Council Member Amezquita quoting the Pope and agrees for all to behave and in a good manner, live a good life and keep moving forward.

Council Member Marilyn Sanabria, thanked those who attended tonight's meeting, acknowledged her commitment to the community, thanked staff for all their support and closed by thanking staff and colleagues for all their input and wished everyone a good night.

Vice Mayor Graciela Ortiz, acknowledged Council representing the community, despite assumptions from outsiders. Ms. Ortiz thanked staff for all their support with regards to the agenda for staying late and thanked City Attorney and his Associates, City Manager for his due diligence and wished everyone a good night.

Mayor Karina Macias, thanked everyone for attending, noted that the medical marijuana item was a good debate, thanked staff for all their support, thanked City Attorney and City Manager, advised those watching the meeting to be careful look beyond the attacks and see that Council supports bringing in businesses and thinking outside the box, noted she met with parents regarding the clarification of the medical marijuana dispensaries, understands those who use it for medical conditions and ask that these locations not be near schools that the decision to approve this item was not taken lightly and adding that a lot of staff time went into preparing the information. Ms. Macias closed by commenting on others being racist that come into the city and are against undocumented residents and that these views will not affect the business of the city.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:38 p.m. Mayor Macias adjourned the meeting in memory of Maria Barron Mendez, mother of Enrique Mendez, Code Enforcement Supervisor and in memory of Gigi Bilodeau, mother of Claude Bilodeau, Public Works Superintendent to a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Donna G. Schwartz, CMC, City Clerk