

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Huntington Park City Council
Monday, November 17, 2014

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Huntington Park, California was called to order at 6:10 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 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, Valentin Palos Amezcuita and Mario Gomez. Other City Officials and employees: Danny Bueno, Assistant to the City Manager, Isabel Birrueta, City Attorney, Jorge Cisneros, Chief of Police, Josette Espinosa, Director of Parks and Recreation, Annie Ruiz, Acting Finance Director, Housing and Community Development Manager and Donna Schwartz, Interim City Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jose Alcaraz, 5th grade student from AMLA School.

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Mayor Perez.

PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recognition of Council's "Immigrant of the Year" were as follows:

- ❖ Council Member Gomez recognized his wife Mrs. Estella Gomez
- ❖ Council Member Amezcuita recognized Mr. Rodolfo Cruz
- ❖ Council Member Hernandez recognized Ms. Martha Duarte
- ❖ Vice Mayor Macias recognized Mr. Diego Sepulveda
- ❖ Mayor Perez recognized Mrs. Elise Lopez

At 6:45 p.m. Mayor Perez called for a **RECESS**, Council concurred.

At 7:00 p.m. Mayor Perez **RECONVENED** the meeting back into open session with all Council Members present.

PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

Christina Dixon Staff Analysis, Public Works Department and Cristina Basurto, representative of Tree People, presented a PowerPoint on the Tree People's Annual Tree Program

Council presented Certificates of Recognition to Winners of the Huntington Park Library's Bookmark Contest:

Alejandro Basulto, Grade 2
Noah Grey, Grade 3
Judith Garcia, Grade 6

Council presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following:

Gloria Enciso and Francisco Gonzalez of "Northgate Markets"
Esmelinda Vaquero of "Dos Toros Market"
Francisco Alvarez of "Superior Grocers"

PUBLIC COMMENT

City Attorney Birrueta announced to the public the rules for public comment by citing government code section 54954.3.

1. Balle Machuca, resident, commended and thanked Council on their efforts in addressing the parking issue in the City.
2. Andy Molina, resident, stated that the Cosecha Harvest Ball Event on November 11, 2014 was a success and thanked Council and Chief of Police for attending. He acknowledge the support of Huntington Park Chamber of Commerce and that Southeast Churches and Chamber's Coordinating Council (subcommittee) will be distributing turkeys Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at the Community Center and invited Council to attend.
3. Antonio Padilla, resident, voiced concern regarding a road block that was in the area of his home last week.
4. Sandra Orozco, resident of Maywood, spoke in regards to the Veteran's Day ceremony and receiving a flag presented to her in memory of her father. She also spoke in support of Nick the Greek acknowledging he is the founder of Immigrants Day.
5. Lety Martinez, Huntington Park Chamber of Commerce, thanked Chief of Police for his attendance at the "Meet the Chief" meet and greet. She announced the Chamber's 64th Annual Huntington Park Fabulous Holiday Christmas Lane Parade on Saturday, November 22nd at 6 p.m. and invited all families to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

6. Betty Retama, resident, noted the Mayor's absence from an event held by Mr. Ioannidis. She commented on the lights on Pacific Boulevard staying on during the day and all night.

City Attorney Birrueta reiterated the rules for public comment.

7. Nick Ioannidis, resident, thanked council for recognizing him as the founder of "Immigrant of the year." He announced he received recognition for "Father of the Nation" from the United Nation and mentioned his support of making the city better.

8. Pedro Aguilar, resident, voiced concern with speeding cars on Santa Ana Street.

9. Alex Reynoso, resident, spoke in regards to the City moving forward and funds allocated to new city signs, holiday lights, businesses closing, and support of community programs.

10. Mary Alice Sedillo, resident, thanked Chief Cisneros for meeting with the public noting it was a success and spoke in support of Alex Reynoso and his involvement in the community.

11. Richard Santillan, resident, mentioned he had moved two years ago because of the level of crime in the past and now that he has returned he has noticed crime has been down and noted the support he received from Alex Reynoso with regards to his non-profit organization.

12. Francisco, Rivera, resident, concerned with illegal posting of flyers in the city and presented flyers he had taken down and gave to Mr. Bueno the Assistant to the City Manager.

13. Rodolfo, Cruz, resident, Thanked Council for being recognized for "Immigrant of the Year," spoke in support of Nick Ioannidis, the need for more public safety in the city and the high rent to old timers on Rugby.

14. Maximino Correa, resident of Maywood, voiced concern with residents receiving parking tickets at the school on Corona while dropping off their children.

Chief of Police Cisneros stated that the Los Angeles Unified School District has their own parking enforcement officers etc.....*audio went out during the next few minutes*. He encouraged the public to look closely at the ticket to what agency gave them the ticket.

STAFF RESPONSE

Police Chief Cisneros responded to the following:

Comment regarding road block – Chief Cisneros explained that the road block was due to police activity during that time.

Comment regarding more public safety – Chief Cisneros explained that 64% of personnel are attached to patrol services another 16% deal with gangs and narcotics.

Comment regarding crime – Chief Cisneros stated that the City of Huntington Park works well with the neighboring cities police and sheriff departments.

Assistant to the City Manager Bueno responded to the following:

Comment regarding the funds and issue of lights on Pacific Boulevard – Mr. Bueno explained that the funds to purchase the lights were restricted funds and that the lights are not on during the day only at night, the lights are LED lights and are highly energy efficient and that the city has seen less than a 5 % increase in electric cost.

Comment regarding fund for new city signs – Mr. Bueno explained that the funds to purchase the new city signs were also restricted funds.

Mayor Perez responded to the following:

Comment regarding her absence at an event – Mayor Perez explained that her work schedule only allows her to attend events after 5:00 p.m. the event mentioned was before 5:00 p.m. and that she has used vacation time to attend the local schools to visit the kids for special programs.

Council Member Amezcuita asked staff to clarify the comment regarding high rent to old timers. Housing and Community Development Manager Acosta explained the State funding and requirements.

At this point council discussed at length the housing program requirements with regards to rent allocation and housing.

Housing and Community Development Manager Acosta explained the process and requirements.

City Attorney again reiterated the rules during public comment noting that during this time comments should be about city business, items on the agenda and items within the city's jurisdiction that it is not a forum to attack individual Council Members but to address the Council as a whole nor to discuss political candidates. She stated that these rules are mandated by government codes and the city's municipal code but that Council can so choose to change the Muni Code if they wish.

At 8:28 p.m. Mayor Perez recessed to closed session

CLOSED SESSION

1. 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)

2. 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]
3. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1) –
Public Employee Employment and Appointment
Name of Position Under Consideration: Interim City Manager

At 9:05 p.m. Mayor reconvened to open session. All Council Members present.

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

City Attorney Birrueta announced that direction was given 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 Hernandez. 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

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1. Approved Minutes of the following City Council Meetings:

- 1-1 Regular City Council Meeting held Monday, October 20, 2014; and
- 1-2 Regular City Council Meeting held Monday, November 3, 2014

FINANCE

2. Approved Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants dated November 17, 2014

PUBLIC WORKS

3. Authorize the Interim City Manager to execute an agreement with the Gateway Water Management Authority to receive a 2014 Integrated Regional Water Management Drought grant (IRWM) in the amount of \$132,684 for the Miles Avenue Well Site Nitrate Blending Project.

CITY MANAGER

4. Adopted the following Resolutions Regarding Paying and Reporting the Value of Employer Paid Member Contributions for Non-Represented Employees and Police Management Association:
 1. Adopted Resolution No. 2014-56, Electing to Implement Government Code Section 20636(c)(4) Pursuant to 20691, Paying and Reporting the Value of Employer Payment of Member Contributions with Respect to the Police Management Association;
 2. Adopted Resolution No. 2014-57, Electing to Implement Government Code Section 20636(c)(4) Pursuant to 20691, Paying and Reporting the Value of Employer Payment of Member Contributions with Respect to the Police Management Association and Repealing Resolution No. 2014-56;
 3. Adopted Resolution No. 2014-58, Electing to Implement Government Code Section 20636(c)(4) Pursuant to 20691, Paying and Reporting the Value of Employer Payment of Member Contributions with Respect to the Police Management Association and Repealing Resolution No. 2014-57;
 4. Adopted Resolution No. 2014-59, Electing to Implement Government Code Section 20636(c)(4) Pursuant to 20691, Paying and Reporting the Value of Employer Payment of Member Contributions with Respect to the Non Represented Unit;
 5. Adopted Resolution No. 2014-60, Electing to Implement Government Code Section 20636(c)(4) Pursuant to 20691, Paying and Reporting the Value of Employer Payment of Member Contributions with Respect to the Non Represented Unit and Repealing Resolution No. 2014-59; and
 6. Adopted Resolution No. 2014-61, Electing to Implement Government Code Section 20636(c)(4) Pursuant to 20691, Paying and Reporting the Value of Employer Payment of Member Contributions with Respect to the Non Represented Unit and Repealing Resolution No. 2014-60.
5. Authorized Use of \$5,000 of Art in Public Places Funds to Support Holiday Store Front Display Contest along Pacific Boulevard

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS (Information only)

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Council Member Valentin Palos Amezquita, invited the public to attend the Chamber's Annual Holiday Parade and encouraged shopping while in attendance. Mr. Amezquita stated that previous attorneys have allowed the public to speak freely even if its speaking of an individual council member and feels that during public comment the public should have the right to discuss anything even mentioning support of those who are very involved with the community and would like to review the City's Municipal Code.

City Attorney Birrueta stated that speaking on city jurisdiction items is from government code and that this is across the board with all cities. The item of not speaking of an individual council member comes from the City of Huntington Park's Municipal Code each City is different but as a City Attorney for Huntington Park I am enforcing what is written in the City's Code but the City is free to change anything in their Municipal Code. Comments regarding campaigning has not been tested by the courts consensus of attorney's across the state is it should be limited to city business but some City's do allow the public to speak on anything for risk of violating first rights amendments but other cities stick to what is according to the government code.

Council Member Gomez noted that others make comments about others supporting the community but others invite Council to events.

Mayor Perez stated that council allows the public to speak about their support in the community but to campaign is something that should be done in a forum and feels it shouldn't be done during a council meeting

Council Member Mario Gomez, also noted that some City's hold forums for prospective Candidates to allow questions and answers from the public but feels it shouldn't be done at the council meetings. He thanked the public for attending tonight's Council meeting.

Vice Mayor Karina Macias, thanked the public for attending tonight's Council meeting would like the public to know that there is no fee during the Chamber of Commerce "Meet the Chief" program.

Police Chief Cisneros stated he knows nothing about donations with regards to the "Meet the Chief" program.

Mayor Peres requested staff look into the donations being asked for.

Council Member Ofelia Hernandez, also thanked the public for attending tonight's meeting and acknowledged those who were awarded "Immigrant of the Year" and staff for all their support.

Mayor Rosa E. Perez, thanked the public for attending tonight's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:20 pm Mayor Perez adjourned the meeting to the next Regular Meeting of the City of Huntington Park City Council on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna G. Schwartz, CMC
Interim City Clerk