

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

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Huntington Park, California was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 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 Amezcuita, Jhonny Pineda and Marilyn Sanabria. Other City Officials and employees: John Ornelas, Interim City Manager, Edgar Cisneros, Assistant City Manager, Noel Tapia, Assistant City Attorney, Cosme Lozano, Chief of Police, Josette Espinosa, Director of Parks and Recreation, Annie Ruiz, Finance Manager, Michael Ackerman, City Engineer and Donna Schwartz, City Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alex Rabago, 11 years old, South Gate Middle School.

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Mayor Macias.

PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council presented a "Certificate of Recognition" to Alex Rabago for leading the pledge.

Council presented a "Certificate of Recognition" Presented to Ms. Annette Leija for her Recognition by Assembly Member Santiago for being selected as the 53rd District "Veteran of the Year" at the State Capitol's 8th Annual Veterans Recognition Luncheon

Council presented a "Certificate of Recognition" to Ms. Aurora Guerrero a Chicana filmmaker in the filming of her Movie "Mosquita y Mari" in the City of Huntington Park.

Council presented a "Certificate of Recognition" to Cruzita's Deli & Café for graciously hosting the screening of the Movie "Mosquita y Mari."

Council presented a "Certificate of Recognition" to Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) for their collaboration (Particularly their Youth Program) in the film "Mosquita y Mari."

Council presented a "Certificate of Recognition" to the Lead Actresses Fenessa Pineda and Venecia Troncoso for their participation in the Movie "Mosquita y Mari."

Sandi Linares-Plimpton, Conservation Manager of Central Basin Municipal Water District presented a PowerPoint on the Districts Water Conservation Programs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Assistant City Attorney Tapia brief the public on the Rules of Decorum.

1. SECO, spoke in regards to responsible beverage service.
2. Gloria Rodriguez, parent, Aspire Pacific Academy High School, thanked Council for all their support and presented an award to Vice Mayor Ortiz and Council Member Sanabria for their support to their Senior Gala.
3. Cristina Basurto, Tree People, announced Saturday, July 25, 2015 a tree caring event along Gage Boulevard.

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

4. Lorena Gonzalez, Let's Walk/Run Together, spoke in support of her event and invited the public to participate in the 3rd Annual "Let's Walk/Run Together" event on Saturday August 22, 2015 at Salt Lake Park from 8 to 12 p.m. and thanked Parks & Recreation Director Espinosa for all her support and use of park.
5. Linda Caraballo, Downey resident, commented on Rules of Decorum, Brown Act, future elections and acknowledged the Interim Chief of Police.
6. Melissa Rosales, Small Business Commission, acknowledged the new Interim Chief of Police. She thanked the City for looking into facility use fee waiver policy and recommended that permits be overseen by some kind of committee. She voiced concern with constant sidewalk sales during events and the events put on by the Chamber. Ms. Rosales submitted a petition with regards to the sidewalk sales.
7. Claude Bilodeau, spoke in regards to the current transportation transition noting it was a smooth transition, vehicle maintenance and the new transportation provider.
8. Jeff Failing, VP of Mexico Sister Cities Association, would like to see the City of Huntington Park reignite the relationship with Sister Cities Associating and requested to meet with council to discuss.
9. Betty Retama, resident, commented on current council and previous promises by previous candidates.
10. Rodolfo Cruz, resident, commented on the Brown Act, council decisions, illegal dumping and illegal tax.
11. Sandra Orozco, Maywood resident, commented on the Brown Act, read an article regarding Council and an article regarding Uber and ADA requirements.
12. Leticia Cervantes, resident, voiced concern with regards to her efforts and status on obtaining her handicap parking permit.

STAFF RESPONSE

Mayor Macias in response to the handicap parking permit. Interim City Manager Ornelas stated he would follow-up on the status.

Mayor Macias asked staff to follow-up with Mr. Failing regarding Sister Cities.

Mayor Macias asked about the status of illegal dumping. Interim City Manager Ornelas stated that staff is working on a task force and will be bringing some options back to Council.

Council Member Amezquita asked Assistant City Attorney Tapia to comment on the Brown Act. Assistant City Attorney Tapia stated that when the City is having presentations people clap in support but during public comment and there are divergent views and people clap from both sides it slows down the efficiency of the meeting and is available to discuss with any member of the public if they have any questions or concerns. Mr. Amezquita feels since it is at the discretion of the council he would like people to have the freedom to express how they feel.

Mayor Macias stated it is dully noted and reiterated the Assistant City Attorney's comments.

At 7:11 p.m. Assistant City Attorney Tapia recessed to closed session.

CLOSED SESSION

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Government Code Section 54956.9 paragraph (4) of subdivision (d)
Significant exposure to litigation - [two potential matters]
2. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT - Government Code Section 54957
Title: Chief of Police

At 8:227p.m. Mayor Macias reconvened the meeting with all Council Members present.

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Assistant City Attorney Tapia announced Council discussed closed session items 1 and 2, direction given no action taken and that closed session Item 2 is part of agenda Item 5 to be considered at that time.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Macias requested in reference to item 3 to change number of years of the contract from three to two and an option of a two year extension. Mayor Macias also pulled Item 5 to be discussed under Regular Agenda.

Motion: Vice Mayor Ortiz motioned to approve consent calendar items, with the exception of Item 5 and with a change to Item 3 from a three year contract to a two year contract, 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

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1. Approved Minutes of the following City Council Meetings:
 - 1-1 Regular City Council Meeting held Monday, June 15, 2015

FINANCE

2. Approved Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants dated July 20, 2015
3. Approved contract number FIN 16-01 with The Pun Group (Pun) for Financial Auditing Services for an initial period of two (2) years covering the financial audits for the City’s Fiscal Years (FY) 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, in an amount not to exceed \$206,040, with two (2) one-year options for FY 2017-18 and 2018-19 and authorized the Interim City Manager to execute the contract.

CITY MANAGER

4. Approved termination of Contract with Alvaka Networks for Services Related to Information Technology Support for the City of Huntington Park Police Department and authorized the Interim City Manager to issue a Notice of Termination to Alvaka Networks.
5. **Consideration of Appointment of Chief of Police and Related Ratification and Final Action to Approve Employment Agreement for Chief of Police (Pursuant to Government Code Section 53262)**

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Approve employment agreement with Cosme Lozano to serve as Chief of Police; and
2. Authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the employment agreement.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

At this time Council discussed consent calendar Item 5.

Council Member Amezcuita questioned Item 5, if the candidate meets all the requirements. Interim City Manager Ornelas stated yes. Mr. Amezcuita stated he would be voting no, in one year it might be a little different.

Motion: Council Member Sanabria motioned to approve employment agreement with Cosme Lozano to serve as Chief of Police and authorized the Interim City Manager to execute the employment agreement, seconded by Vice Mayor Ortiz. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC HEARING

FINANCE

6. Approve Resolution and Annual Report for the City of Huntington Park Street lighting, Parks and Landscaping Special Tax District Fiscal (FY) Ending June 30, 2016

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Conduct a public hearing;
2. Take public testimony; and
3. Adopt Resolution No. 2015-25, Establishing and Ordering the Levy and Collection of the Annual Special Tax for the City of Huntington Park Street Lighting, Parks and Landscaping Special Tax District for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Interim City Manager Ornelas presented the item.

Mayor Macias opened the item for public comment.

Public Comment – None

Mayor Macias closed public comment.

Motion: Council Member Sanabria motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2015-25, Establishing and Ordering the Levy and Collection of the Annual Special Tax for the City of Huntington Park Street Lighting, Parks and Landscaping Special Tax District for Fiscal Year 2015-2016, seconded by Vice Mayor Ortiz. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

7. Approve Resolution Authorizing Collection of Delinquent Rubbish Charges Pursuant to Section 6-2.112 of the City of Huntington Park's Municipal Code (172.54 Refuse Collection Fees)

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Conduct a public hearing;
2. Take public testimony; and
3. Adopt Resolution No 2015-26, Authorizing and Directing the County Assessor to Include Delinquent Refuse Collections Fees as a Special Assessment to be Collected at the Same Time and in the Same Manner as County Taxes (172.54 Refuse Collection Fees).

Interim City Manager Ornelas presented the item.

Mayor Macias opened the item for public comment.

Public Comment – None

Mayor Macias closed public comment.

Mayor Macias noted Council Member Amezquita is on the list can he vote. Assistant City Attorney recommended he recuse himself from the vote.

Motion: Council Member Sanabria motioned to adopt Resolution No 2015-26, Authorizing and Directing the County Assessor to Include Delinquent Refuse Collections Fees as a Special Assessment to be Collected at the Same Time and in the Same Manner as County Taxes (172.54 Refuse Collection Fees), seconded by Vice Mayor Ortiz. Motion passed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

NOES: Council Member(s): None

ABSTAINED: Council Member(s): Amezquita

8. Approve Resolution Authorizing Collection of Delinquent Rubbish Charges Pursuant to Section 6-2.112 of the City of Huntington Park’s Municipal Code (172.54 Waste Management Fee)

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Conduct a public hearing;
2. Take public testimony; and
3. Adopt Resolution No. 2015-27, Authorizing and Directing the County Assessor to Include Delinquent Waste Management Fees as a Special Assessment to be Collected at the Same Time and in the Same Manner as County Taxes (172.52 Waste Management Fee).

Interim City Manager Ornelas presented the item.

Mayor Macias opened the item for public comment.

Public Comment – None

Mayor Macias closed public comment.

Motion: Council Member Sanabria motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2015-27, Authorizing and Directing the County Assessor to Include Delinquent Waste Management Fees as a Special Assessment to be Collected at the Same Time and in the Same Manner as County Taxes (172.52 Waste Management Fee), 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

REGULAR AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

9. Planning Commission Appointment

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Appoint one additional member to the Planning Commission.

Mayor Macias appointed Amy Zubieta to the Planning Commission. Council concurred.

Council Member Amezquita questioned the policy with regards to who can appoint.

Interim City Manager stated yes each Council Member can appointment but within 60 days if no appointment then Mayor has the power to appoint.

Assistant City Attorney Tapia reiterated Resolution 2015-19.

Mayor Macias noted the policy and the application submitted by Ms. Zubieta.

CITY MANAGER

10. Discussion on Moving City Council Meetings from Mondays to Tuesdays

- DISCUSSION ONLY -

Interim City Manager Ornelas presented the item. No action taken discussion only.

PUBLIC WORKS

11. Approve Agreement with Santa Fe Building Maintenance for Janitorial Services

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Approve the agreement with Santa Fe Building Maintenance for Janitorial Services for an amount not exceed \$160,763.52 per year plus special events (not to exceed \$200 per event) and supplies (cost of supplies to be reimbursed by City estimated at \$50,000); and
2. Authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the agreement.

Interim City Manager Ornelas presented the item.

Council Member Sanabria stated she liked the RFP and what it entailed.

Motion: Council Member Sanabria motioned to approve the agreement with Santa Fe Building Maintenance for Janitorial Services for an amount not exceed \$160,763.52 per year plus special events (not to exceed \$200 per event) and supplies (cost of supplies to be reimbursed by City estimated at \$50,000) and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the agreement, 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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS (Information only)

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Council Member Valentin Palos Amezquita - commented on transparency with regards to the Council, delinquent charges with regards to bill collection and recommended the City collect instead of the new hauler for cost savings. Congratulated and welcomed new Chief of Police Lozano.

Council Member Jhonny Pineda - spoke in support of new Council, thanked those who attended the meeting and congratulated Chief of Police Lozano.

Council Member Marilyn Sanabria – acknowledge the importance of the Police Department, thanked the organization “Tree People” for attending and invited the public to attend their event and encouraged the public to contact Council for any concerns.

Vice Mayor Graciela Ortiz – welcomed new Chief of Police Lozano, thanked her colleagues for attending community events, thanked staff for all their support and also encouraged the public to contact Council for any concerns.

Mayor Karina Macias – welcomed public feedback, thanked her colleagues for attending community events, congratulated the new Chief of Police, thanked “Tree People” for attending, thanked staff for all their support and acknowledged her colleagues dedication and commitment to the City.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:05 p.m. Mayor Macias adjourned the meeting to a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, August 3, 2015, at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna G. Schwartz, CMC, City Clerk