

Final Minutes Approved June 7, 2016

Regular Meeting of the
City of Huntington Park City Council
Tuesday, May 17, 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 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 6550 Miles Avenue, Huntington Park, California; Mayor Graciela Ortiz presiding.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council Members Valentin Palos Amezquita, Jhonny Pineda (entered at 6:05 p.m.), Karina Macias, Vice Mayor Marilyn Sanabria and Mayor Graciela Ortiz.
CITY OFFICIALS/STAFF: Edgar Cisneros City Manager; Arnold Alvarez-Glasman, City Attorney; Cosme Lozano, Chief of Police; Josette Espinosa, Director of Parks and Recreation; Jan Mazyck, Interim Finance Director; Manuel Acosta, Economic Development Manager; Michael Ackerman, Acting Public Works Director/City Engineer, Martha Castillo, Human Resources Director and Donna Schwartz, City Clerk.

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Mayor Ortiz.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Sanabria.

PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Rodolfo Cruz, commented on audit and monies for tree trimming, bonds owed, trash in the city, not enough police patrolling in the city, noted a lot of homeless in the streets, drug trafficking, residents pay taxes and asked Council to do something good.
2. Sandra Orozco, spoke in opposition to marijuana dispensaries, acknowledged We the People Rising, made remarks towards the City Manager and the City Attorney, commented on drugs sold in the city, city being in the news, Brown Act being violated, FBI, DA, and noted Bell scandal.
3. Betty Retama, commented on a handicap issue that occurred in the parking lot of Mr. Ioannidis property, issues with bicycle riders in the city, undocumented immigrants being appointed, spoke in opposition to council, remarked city being run by Mexican mafia.
4. Arthur Schaper, We the People Rising, commented on the city allowing illegal elements, appointments of the two undocumented immigrants, regular agenda item 3, remarked FBI investigating ties to HP Tow, arrest from DEA or FBI. Mr. Schaper spoke in opposition to the marijuana dispensaries, city being in debt, Maywood bankrupt and closed with speaking in opposition to Council.
5. Sonia Luz Chavez, President, Huntington Park Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of a medical marijuana dispensary applicant.
6. Ivan Meza, mentioned people speeding on California Avenue, requested traffic control, acknowledged animal control for doing a great job and commented on bulky items being picked up.
7. Alma Rosa, resident of Rugby Plaza, spoke in regards to issues that have happened at Rugby Plaza and asked Council to do something.
8. Jessica Iniguez, South East Community Alliance, spoke in support of prevention and awareness of the sale of alcohol to youth and would like to schedule a meeting with the City Manager.

9. Gerardo Sandoval, spoke in support of Tara Enterprises.
10. Joe & Jennifer Machuca, Green Earth Medical Collective, spoke in support of their application.
11. Michael Chernis, Attorney, representing clients of medical marijuana dispensaries, voiced concerns by his clients with the transparency of the application process.
12. Zachary Pitts, Tara Enterprises, spoke in support of his application.
13. Gene Gonzalez, California Patients Alliance, spoke in support of his application.
14. Nick Ioannidis, spoke on matters that he has experienced in the city and noted an issue regarding handicap parking that occurred in the parking lot of his business.
15. Valentin Amezquita, commented on the handicap parking issue made by Mr. Ioannidis and asked staff to look into it and asked that Mr. Ioannidis be provided with the outcome. Mr. Amezquita spoke in opposition to the medical marijuana dispensaries opening in the city, and asked to get rid of red curbs in order to provide more parking.

STAFF RESPONSE

Acting Public Works Director/City Engineer Michael Ackerman gave an update to the comment made by Ivan Meza. Mr. Ackerman stated these concerns are currently being worked on, with regard to bulky and illegally dumped items Mr. Ackerman provided a web link, phone number and a phone application that residents can use to make reports regarding these items.

Mayor Ortiz stated that a meeting is scheduled with her and the City Manager with regards to acknowledging animal control. Ms. Ortiz stated she will meet with Jessica Iniguez of South East Community Alliance and requested Chief Lozano to follow-up with Ms. Alma Rosa regarding Rugby Plaza.

Council Member Pineda requested staff meet with Ms. Alma Rosa to inform her that the city does not own the Rugby Plaza Apartments.

Council Member Amezquita requested that personnel visit the Rugby Plaza Apartments. City Manager stated that previously code enforcement has done periodic inspections with regards to concerns that have been made but will have them revisit. Mr. Amezquita stated he has received numerous complaints regarding red curbs. City Manager stated the red curbs are done so that vehicles don't obstruct driveways however, if there are specific streets Council would like reviewed, this can be reviewed by Traffic Authority. Mr. Amezquita would like this put on a future agenda to discuss.

Chief of Police Lozano explained the handicap issue comment made by Mr. Ioannidis. Chief Lozano stated that once someone is parked in a handicap space whether on private property, and has the required placard, the police cannot remove the person that at this point it is between the driver and the owner of the property.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:57 p.m. City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman recessed to closed session.

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
(Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2)) – One matter
2. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR - Regarding Represented Employees
(Government Code Section 54957.6(a))
City's Designated Representative(s) for Negotiations: Edgar Cisneros, City Manager

Employee Organization: Police Officers Association

At 7:48 p.m. Mayor Ortiz reconvened to open session. All Council Members present.

Mayor Ortiz called 1st warning on Mr. Arthur Schaper for being out of order.

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

City Attorney Arnold Alvarez-Glasman announced closed session Items 1 and 2 were discussed by Council. For items 1 and 2, direction was given, no action taken, nothing to report.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Vice Mayor Sanabria motioned to approve consent calendar, seconded by Mayor Ortiz. Motion passed, (Amezquita NO on item 2) by the following vote:

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1. Approve Minute(s) of the following City Council Meeting(s):

- 1-1 Continued from the May 3, 2016, Regular City Council Meeting - Regular City Council Meeting held Tuesday, April 19, 2016

ROLL CALL:

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

FINANCE

2. Approve Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants dated May 17, 2016

ROLL CALL:

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

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

3. Medical Marijuana Business Permit (MMBP) Evaluation and Awarding of Permit(s)

Mayor Ortiz explained the process of Council considering the MMBP applications, stating each Council Member may nominate up to five (5) applicants for the interview process followed by interviewing those applicants that received at least two (2) nominations from City Council Members, deliberation and award of up to three (3) MMBPs.

Nominations:

Council Member Amezquita – no nominations and noted he voted against the ordinance approving the dispensaries.

Council Member Macias – 16-05, 16-11, 16-02, 16-03 and 16-04.

Council Member Pineda – 16-10, 16-12, 16-01, 16-11 and 16-23.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM 3 (Continued)

Vice Mayor Sanabria – 16-18, 16-05, 16-07, 16-04 and 16-02.

Mayor Ortiz – 16-05, 16-16, 16-07, 16-02 and 16-04.

MMBP applications to be interviewed:

- 16-02 – Goodness for Life
- 16-04 – United Health Care Center
- 16-05 – Natural Compassionate Center
- 16-07 – Green Earth Medical
- 16-11 – Theraleaf Relief

Mayor Ortiz called for a RECESS at 8:04 p.m.
Mayor Ortiz RECONVENED the meeting at 8:23 p.m. with all Council Members present.

Order of Interviews:

- 16-11 – Theraleaf Relief
- 16-04 – United Health Care Center
- 16-07 – Green Earth Medical
- 16-02 – Goodness for Life
- 16-05 – Natural Compassionate Center

Mayor Ortiz called for a RECESS at 9:38 p.m.
Mayor Ortiz RECONVENED the meeting at 9:47 p.m. with all Council Members present.

MOTIONS:

Vice Mayor Sanabria nominated 16-05 – Natural Compassionate Center, seconded by Mayor Ortiz. Motion passed 3-1-1 by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

Mayor Ortiz nominated 16-04 – United Health Care Center, seconded by Council Member Macias. Motion passed 3-2 by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

Council Member Pineda nominated 16-11 – Theraleaf Relief, seconded by Vice Mayor Sanabria. Motion **FAILED** 2-3 by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

Council Member Macias nominated 16-02 – Goodness for Life, seconded by Vice Mayor Sanabria. Motion passed 4-1 by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

REGULAR AGENDA (Continued)

FINANCE

4. Continued from the May 3, 2016, Regular City Council Meeting - Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with Sunflower Systems for the Provision of a City-Wide Inventory Relating to the City's Capital Assets

Motion: Mayor Ortiz moved to approve entering into an agreement with Sunflower Systems for the provision of a City-wide physical inventory of the City's capital assets and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, seconded by Vice Mayor Sanabria. Motion passed 5-0 by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

END OF REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

5. **Zoning Ordinance Amendment; Conditional Use Permit, and Development Permit Case No. 2016-07 – Zoning Ordinance Amendment, Conditional Use Permit, and Development Permit for 6121-6125 Pacific Boulevard**

Motion: Vice Mayor Sanabria motioned to continue item to the June 7, 2016 City Council meeting, seconded by Council Member Macias. Motion passed 5-0 by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS (Information only)

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Council Member Valentin Palos Amezcuita - stated he has been against marijuana dispensaries for various reasons, requested staff look into what the City of Los Angeles has in place regarding homeless and city assisting homeowners with bringing unauthorized residential structures up to code to make them available to low income people. Mr. Amezcuita would like to bring back to the Traffic Authority the issue of parking and red curbs in residential areas. Mr. Valentin Amezcuita also commented on the description used in the minutes which is undocumented immigrants and states that they are "illegal" immigrants and feels that the city should just call them what they are "illegal." Also announced he was unable to attend the CicLAvia event due to a family emergency.

Council Member Karina Macias - thanked staff for all their support in the preparation of the medical marijuana applications, feels the decision is a step forward financially and for those individuals who use medical marijuana for medicinal purposes for various illnesses and feels it's unfortunate that Council Member Amezcuita didn't participate in the process, that there was a lot to learn and it brought in businesses, she acknowledged staff's efforts with the CicLAvia event and spoke in opposition to Council Member Amezcuita's comment regarding "illegal" immigrants, spoke in support of immigration and asked that the goals and objectives come back to Council for review.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS (Continued)

Council Member Jhonny Pineda – acknowledged Parks and Recreation Director Espinosa and her staff for all their support with the CicLAvia event, commented on immigration and the remark by Council Member Amezcuita suggesting those who are opposed to unauthorized immigrants should be advocating at a legislative level instead of at the local level. Mr. Pineda suggested Council Member Amezcuita be careful with what he says because he represents the community, Council Member Pineda noted calls he's received regarding the City of Maywood Festival and the traffic impact it has on the city, requested staff look into what can be done next time so there's no impacts to the residents and wished everyone a good night.

Vice Mayor Marilyn Sanabria – feels Council Member Amezcuita attends more conferences than City events, noted her attendance at the CicLAvia event, acknowledging that it was a success, spoke in opposition to Council Member Amezcuita's remark regarding immigrants and asked that he be more mindful. Ms. Sanabria thanked staff for all their support with the event, looks forward to moving the City forward and wish everyone a good night.

Mayor Graciela Ortiz – thanked Chief of Police and officers for all their involvement with the community, thanked staff, city attorneys and planning department for their support with the medical marijuana dispensary application process, thanked staff and police department for their support with the CicLAvia event, invited the public to attend a Health Fair event at Marquez High School on Saturday, May 21, 2016, spoke in opposition to the comment regarding immigrants feels council represents everyone, and thanked her colleagues Vice Mayor Sanabria, Council Members Pineda and Macias for attending the city events.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:34 p.m. Mayor Ortiz adjourned the City of Huntington Park City Council in memory of Benjamin Garcia father of Teresa Garcia, Budget Analyst, to an adjourned Budget Workshop on Friday, May 20, 2016, at 5:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna G. Schwartz, CMC, City Clerk