

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Huntington Park held Tuesday, September 4, 2012.

Following the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the meeting was called to order in the Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Molina. Present: Council Member Mario Gomez, Vice Mayor Elba Guerrero, Council Member Rosa E. Perez, and Mayor Andy Molina; Absent: Council Member Ofelia Hernandez.

Council Member Perez read the following statement: "It is unfortunate that individuals with a specific agenda have misconstrued my comments during a recent City Council meeting to advance their personal agenda. During my remarks in response to a resident's comments to local water rates I used the term 'Americano' to denote those individuals who were in power when the first contracts were signed. For those in the know 'Americanos' is a term sometimes used by Spanish speaking individuals to refer to individuals of Anglo decent or non-Hispanic living in the United States. It was in no way meant to be used to delineate individuals who are American by birth or naturalization from those who are immigrants. In retrospect, I should have used another term to describe the earlier Council Members who were not of Hispanic descent. If I have offended anyone by the term 'Americano' I apologize and will look to choose my words to describe non-Hispanics more carefully in the future. For the record, I am a proud American citizen by choice, I was naturalized in 1976. I love this country and the opportunities that they have offered me and my family and my constituents. Thank you."

Jessica Perez, Recreation Supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Department, displayed a PowerPoint presentation to highlight the activities and programs developed to address obesity crisis in our community. Maya Oubre, representing Alliance for a Healthier Generation, briefed City Council of her work in the Parks and Recreation Department over the last year and informed City Council that Alliance for a Healthier Generation has partnered with the Southeast Rio Vista Family YMCA and Woodcraft Rangers in efforts to eliminate childhood obesity and create awareness in the community. Sonia Ramirez, Recreation Coordinator, informed City Council that the Parks and Recreation Department has formed partnerships with Alliance for a Healthier Generation and the Network for a Healthier California to promote physical activity and healthy nutritional education for the community. Ms. Ramirez also informed City Council that the Parks and Recreation Department offers free breakfast, snack, and lunch programs that enhance their efforts to fight obesity in the community. Christopher Bogle, Parks and Recreation Assistant, informed City Council of his experience and the success of the Parks and Recreation Department's "Fit for Fun Summer Day Camp". Ms. Perez informed City Council that Huntington Park is a leader amongst neighboring southeast cities for having successful youth sports programs and stated that they will be having a healthy eating raffle at the end of the season and will also be offering cooking classes for parents. Ms. Perez also informed City Council of the adult sports programs and physical fitness classes offered by the Parks and Recreation Department and stated that they have also partnered with AstraZEneca and Planned Parenthood to offer free senior nutrition and fitness classes on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Salt Lake Park Community Center.

Mayor Molina introduced René Bobadilla as the new City Manager for the City of Huntington Park and welcomed him to the City.

Mayor Molina opened oral communications, indicating that this was the time for anyone in the audience to address the City Council on any matter of City business.

Edgar Gordillo, longtime resident of the City of Huntington Park, addressed his concerns to City Council regarding the deteriorating condition of the recreational facilities and encouraged City Council to walk through the City to see what improvements are needed. Mr. Gordillo also addressed his concern with the City increasing taxes in this low-income community, demanded transparency and to know the salaries of all City officials.

Corinna addressed City Council regarding residents' concerns at the last City Council meeting and stressed the importance of improving the City and the future of the community through democracy. Corinna urged City Council to find better solutions to important issues that the City is facing without financially impacting the community.

Antonio Padilla addressed City Council to follow up on the proposed water rate increase and asked if it had been approved to increase the water rate. Desi Alvarez informed Mr. Padilla that the proposed water rate increase was approved.

Henry Garcia informed City Council that residents have stated many of their concerns, including the condition of the parks, the proposed water rate increase, and City Council salaries, but they do not offer solutions. Mr. Garcia stated that the community should be more proactive and help the City find solutions to their concerns and find revenue generating ideas. Mr. Garcia congratulated City Council and said that they are doing a good job.

Valentin Amezcua commended Parks and Recreation Department staff for bringing in

funding for the parks and informed City Council that if the City was managing their revenues better, the pool at the park would be in use. Mr. Amezcuita asked City Council to consider a discount for low-income individuals and senior citizens like other cities have implemented prior to a water rate increase. Mr. Amezcuita informed City Council that he has looked into the City's lack of parking issue particularly on Seville and Zoe Avenues by the post office and there is no parking available therefore residents continue to receive parking tickets as a result of this problem. Mr. Amezcuita asked City Council to look into removing the parking meters or erecting a parking structure.

Cecilia Rubalcava addressed her concern to City Council regarding the amount that the City pays the City Attorney, especially while the City suffers from a budget deficit and does not have funds for infrastructures, and is proposing a water rate increase. Ms. Rubalcava stated that the people want full disclosure of the City Attorney legal invoices and billing statements and requested transparency and accountability.

Balle Dario Machuca addressed his concern to City Council regarding on ongoing matter he has previously addressed regarding the lack of parking in the City. Mr. Machuca informed City Council that he continues to receive parking citations and informed City Council that he has attended meetings with the Chief of Police and the Traffic Authority and they have overlooked that the signage time limit contradicts the green curb parking time limit.

Enrique Murillo addressed his concerns to City Council regarding the lack of police response to criminal activity in the area and expressed his displeasure with the Chief of Police and the City Attorney.

A gentleman addressed his concerns with statements made at the last City Council meeting informing the community of the amount the City pays to the City Attorney especially while proposing to increase the water rates to low-income residents and asked City Council how safe the City of Huntington Park is because he often sees helicopters.

Marilyn commended residents that were present at the last City Council meeting for asking questions and getting involved and requested that future agendas be prepared to address the problems in the City and to find solutions to the issues.

Nick Ioannidis informed City Council that October 28th is National Immigrants Day and that individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds and religions are recognized nationally on that day. Mr. Ioannidis stated that he has an economic injury due to an outstanding loan he has had with the City since approximately 1983 and stated that he was asked to pay the City \$10,000 to settle his debt.

Mayor Molina called for any other oral communications, and hearing none, declared oral communications closed.

Motion by Guerrero, seconded by Perez, to approve the Consent Calendar, carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Members Hernandez, Perez, and Mayor Molina; Noes: None; Absent: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Approve the reading by title of all ordinances and resolutions. Said titles which appear on the public agenda shall be determined to have been read by title and further reading waived.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Approve Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants dated September 4, 2012.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Interim Director of Community Development Wong requested approval of First Amendment to Agreement between the City of Huntington Park and Caroline Promotions, Inc. for the Services Relating to the Huntington Park Business Improvement Districts Children's Fair and Three Kings Event scheduled for one (1) additional day to include January 5 and 6, 2013. Erica Frausto, Business Improvement District (BID) Manager and Carolina Jovenich, representing Caroline Promotions, Inc., briefed City Council regarding the activities scheduled

at the events and the purpose and benefits of extending the Children's Fair and Three Kings Event for an additional day. **Following a discussion and there being no objection, Mayor Molina directed staff to continue outreach to the merchants on Pacific Boulevard regarding this event and report back to City Council at the next City Council meeting on September 17, 2012.**

Interim Director of Community Development Wong requested approval of an Activity in Public Places Permit requested by The Greater Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce to conduct the "Sabor de Mexico Lindo" Downtown Festival along Pacific Boulevard between Randolph Street and Florence Avenue October 5 through 7, 2012; and approval to operate a beer garden at said event on October 6, 2012 between 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., subject to approval from all applicable City departments and local public agencies, including the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC). Don Brabant, President and Leticia Martinez, Interim Executive Director/CEO of the Greater Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce, briefed City Council regarding the proposed event and informed City Council that in addition to the event, they are proposing to have a beer garden on October 6, 2012 and requested approval. Motion by Gomez, seconded by Perez, to **approve the Activity in Public Places Permit requested by The Greater Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce to conduct the "Sabor de Mexico Lindo" Downtown Festival along Pacific Boulevard between Randolph Street and Florence Avenue October 5 through 7, 2012; and approval to operate a beer garden at said event on October 6, 2012 between 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., subject to approval from all applicable City departments and local public agencies, including the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC); and subject to the applicant agreeing to pay the entirety of the invoice of total actual cost as determined by the Finance Department within 45 days of receiving the invoice**, carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Member Perez, and Mayor Molina; Noes: None; Absent: Council Member Hernandez. City Council expressed interest in a survey of how affected merchants feel about street closures in the Downtown Area.

Interim Director of Community Development Wong requested approval of a recommendation by the Business Improvement District (BID) Advisory Board to reappoint Jorge Alonzo and appoint Victoria Jamreovit Miranda, Dr. Ana Michel and Vladimir Montes to the BID Advisory Board. Motion by Gomez, seconded by Guerrero, to **approve a recommendation by the BID Advisory Board to reappoint Jorge Alonzo and appoint Victoria Jamreovit Miranda and Vladimir Montes to the BID Advisory Board for a three-year term expiring September 4, 2015; and appoint Dr. Ana Michel to the BID Advisory Board to fill an unexpired term ending June 1, 2013**, carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Member Perez, and Mayor Molina; Noes: None; Absent: Council Member Hernandez.

Director of Parks and Recreation Espinosa requested approval of a Cooperative Agreement between the City of Huntington Park and the City of Vernon for the Salt Lake Park Renovation Project. Motion by Gomez, seconded by Guerrero, to **approve a Cooperative Agreement between the City of Huntington Park and the City of Vernon for the Salt Lake Park Renovation Project**, carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Member Perez, and Mayor Molina; Noes: None; Absent: Council Member Hernandez.

Chief of Police Cisneros requested approval of a Speed Trailers Vehicle Joint Use Agreement between Area "E" Agencies and authorize the Chief of Police to execute the necessary documents. Motion by Guerrero, seconded by Perez, to **approve a Speed Trailers Vehicle Joint Use Agreement between Area "E" Agencies and authorize the Chief of Police to execute the necessary documents**, carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Member Perez, and Mayor Molina; Noes: None; Absent: Council Member Hernandez.

Chief of Police Cisneros requested approval to purchase five (5) mobile digital computers (MDCs) for police vehicles in the amount of \$11,440.71 from the 2009 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) fund. Motion by Gomez, seconded by Perez, to **approve the purchase of five (5) MDCs for police vehicles in the amount of \$11,440.71 from the 2009 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG fund**, carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Member Perez, and Mayor Molina; Noes: None; Absent: Council Member Hernandez.

Chief of Police Cisneros requested approval to purchase ten (10) dual-band portable radios from Day Wireless Communications for an amount of \$70,000 through the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP). Motion by Gomez, seconded by Guerrero, to **approve the purchase of ten (10) dual-band portable radios from Day Wireless Communications for an amount of \$70,000 through the SHSGP**, carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Member Perez, and Mayor Molina;

Noes: None; Absent: Council Member Hernandez.

Chief of Police Cisneros requested approval of an Agreement between the City of Huntington Park and Dapeer, Rosenblit & Litvak, LLP for City Prosecutor Services. Motion by Guerrero, seconded by Perez, to **approve an Agreement between the City of Huntington Park and Dapeer, Rosenblit & Litvak, LLP for City Prosecutor Services**, carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Member Perez, and Mayor Molina; Noes: None; Absent: Council Member Hernandez.

Interim Director of Public Works Quintero requested approval to retain Propertyroom.com to auction surplus equipment and vehicles; and that proceeds of the sale of the 2000 Chevrolet Tahoe be returned to the asset forfeiture account as required by state federal guidelines. Motion by Guerrero, seconded by Gomez, to **retain Propertyroom.com to auction surplus equipment and vehicles; and that proceeds of the sale of the 2000 Chevrolet Tahoe be returned to the asset forfeiture account as required by state federal guidelines**, carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Member Perez, and Mayor Molina; Noes: None; Absent: Council Member Hernandez.

Interim Director of Public Works Quintero requested approval of Amendment Number One to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Gateway Cities Council of Governments and the City of Huntington Park regarding the Administration and Cost Sharing of the Coordinated Monitoring Plan for the Los Angeles River and Tributaries Metals Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Motion by Guerrero, seconded by Gomez, to **approve the Amendment Number One to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Gateway Cities Council of Governments and the City of Huntington Park regarding the Administration and Cost Sharing of the Coordinated Monitoring Plan for the Los Angeles River and TMDL**, carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Member Perez, and Mayor Molina; Noes: None; Absent: Council Member Hernandez.

ORDINANCE NO. 900-NS. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK AMENDING TITLE 6, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 2 OF THE HUNTINGTON PARK MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING THE **FREQUENCY OF METER READING FOR THE WATER SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK** was read by title. Motion by Gomez, seconded by Guerrero, that reading in full of Ordinance No. 900-NS for second reading be waived, and that Ordinance No. 900-NS be approved for second reading and adopted, carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Member Perez, and Mayor Molina; Noes: None; Absent: Council Member Hernandez.

Mayor Molina declared the meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m., in memory of Dean Hickman, longtime resident of the City of Huntington Park and recipient of the Older Americans Recognition Day Award in 2006; and Virginia Vidal, longtime resident of the City of Huntington Park and former member of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) of Huntington Park.

Andy Molina, Mayor

Rosanna M. Ramirez, City Clerk