

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Huntington Park held Monday, October 1, 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.

City Attorney Leal requested the City Council resolve into a **closed session** for CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION, Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to California Government Code Subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9: (1). Mayor Molina declared the meeting resolved into closed session to be held immediately in the adjoining conference room at 6:01 p.m.

Following the closed session, the meeting was called to order in the Council Chambers at 6:20 p.m. Present: Council Member Mario Gomez, Vice Mayor Elba Guerrero, Council Member Rosa E. Perez, and Mayor Andy Molina; Absent: Council Member Ofelia Hernandez.

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.

Balle Dario Machuca informed City Council that he has been addressing the lack of parking issue in the City for over a year and thanked City Manager Bobadilla for meeting with residents of the Seville Avenue area recently to address this issue. Mr. Machuca also informed City Council that there will be another neighborhood meeting next week to address the lack of parking issue in the City and stated that residents in this area are still receiving parking citations. Mr. Machuca addressed his concerns with a zumba class that is offered nearby because it takes more parking away from residents. Mr. Machuca asked City Council to make good decisions, especially when their decisions affect the community. Mr. Machuca stated that people are upset, they want change in City government, and want to recall certain members of the City Council.

City Attorney Leal reminded the public that pursuant to the Brown Act, no action may be taken on a matter unless it is listed on the agenda and that the City Council may direct staff to investigate and/or schedule matters for consideration at a future City Council meeting.

Edgar Gordillo addressed his concern to City Council regarding their approval of a request from The Greater Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce to have an event on Pacific Boulevard and stated that the City should not pay for City services related to these types of events, except for the Christmas parade. Mr. Gordillo informed City Council that businesses on Pacific Boulevard are affected and even vandalized as a result of various events, including sporting events. Mr. Gordillo also addressed his concerns to City Council regarding the amount of dogs per household and dog waste along Florence Avenue and Santa Ana Street. Mr. Gordillo encouraged City Council to pass better laws for the benefit of the residents in the City.

Jerry Torres addressed City Council to request that they consider a moratorium or reversing the decision of the Planning Commission on Planning Commission Case No. 1959-CUP, in which they granted permission to operate a recycling facility on Slauson Avenue. Mr. Torres stated that the proposed recycling facility would be a nuisance to the residents in the area due to the potential increase in traffic, vandalism, trash and abandoned shopping carts in the area. Mr. Torres informed City Council that due to the amount of schools nearby and potential trailers entering and exiting the proposed recycling facility, it will increase the vehicle traffic in the area. Mr. Torres stated the employees to the proposed recycling facility will take street parking away from residents and addressed his concern with the recycling facility owner's commitment to maintain the cleanliness and aesthetics of this facility.

Marilyn Sanabria addressed her concern to City Council with their decision to allow the filming of a television show on Pacific Boulevard and their lack of consideration to the local economy and residents in the City. Ms. Sanabria informed City Council that because of the filming on Pacific Boulevard, businesses did not generate sales tax revenues that would have gone to the City and business owners have suffered significant financial loss, especially when rents are high on Pacific Boulevard. Ms. Sanabria stated that many of the working class residents were inconvenienced because they were forced to walk longer distances in order to take public transportation to go to work. Ms. Sanabria also informed City Council that many of the employees of the businesses on Pacific Boulevard who are also residents were financially affected because businesses had to close early due to the lack of business and stated that this event did not promote the City or the businesses in the City. Ms. Sanabria also stated that there are still unanswered questions from the residents in regards to the high salary of the City

Attorney and asked City Council to look at the City's budget critically and make better decisions to benefit the community.

Esperanza Rodriguez, longtime resident and business owner in the City, addressed her concern to City Council on behalf of many business owners on Pacific Boulevard regarding the financial impact to businesses as a result of an event that recently took place on Pacific Boulevard. Ms. Rodriguez stated that City Council needs to be transparent and serve the businesses and the residents of the community. Ms. Rodriguez informed City Council that businesses were not informed of the proposed event and were affected financially. Ms. Rodriguez stated that businesses no longer want to pay membership to the Business Improvement District (BID) because they feel that the BID is not helping businesses in the City. Ms. Rodriguez stated that she has a long history in the City and asked City Council to better promote businesses and give back to the business community in the City.

A business owner addressed his concern to City Council regarding the lack of communication from the City to the business community regarding matters that affect them and asked City Council to take them into consideration especially because they pay taxes and help support the City financially.

Victoria Miranda, Franchisee for 7-Eleven on Pacific Boulevard and Clarendon Avenue, informed City Council that she selected Huntington Park to open her business approximately two (2) years ago because the City offered opportunity for growth. Ms. Miranda also informed City Council that Iguanas Entertainment, Inc. told businesses that their proposed filming event would bring approximately 500 to 1000 people per filming day of the television show "Caso Cerrado" on Pacific Boulevard. Ms. Miranda informed City Council that she ordered extra food in anticipation of meeting the needs of such a large group of people. Ms. Miranda informed City Council that the 7-Eleven store and their booth had a low turnout in clientele therefore resulted in financial loss of at least \$1500 plus \$375 in labor. Ms. Miranda stated that although the City had good intentions in bringing in this event, the event failed.

Business owner of Dino's Chicken and Burgers located on Pacific Boulevard informed City Council that he was wrongfully promised significant amount of business and promotion in exchange for his cooperation during a recent filming event. This business owner also informed City Council that he was told that the event staff and attendees would support his business during the event so he ordered extra amount of product and scheduled staff accordingly but instead he experienced a decrease in business, a loss of product and employee hours worked. The business owner stated that this event put a financial burden on businesses and damaged their reputation with the other local businesses. He asked why the City allowed outside catering services to provide free food during the event when local businesses are capable of providing this service and asked what kind of protection is offered to the local businesses affected according to the contract between the City and the event coordinator of this event. The business owner stated that this event has caused local business, staff and families a great deal of stress and economic burden and stated that his financial loss is approximately over \$20,000. He asked the City to remedy his loss by settling this matter as soon as possible without incurring legal fees and stated that he will wait for a response from the City.

Valentin Amezcuita addressed his concern to City Council regarding the filming of Caso Cerrado event that took place on Pacific Boulevard. Mr. Amezcuita stated that the City should look at all the impacts, including economic, when making any decisions and asked the City Attorney to better advise City staff and City Council to prevent these types of events to be placed on the City Council agenda. Mr. Amezcuita asked City Council to consider removing the parking meters along Pacific Boulevard to attract more customers to shop thus increase sales tax revenues. Mr. Amezcuita stated that in regards to the lack of parking issue, the City should not just enforce the law but rectify discrepancies with the contradicting signage regarding parking time limits and hopes that someone follows up on the lack of parking issue. Mr. Amezcuita asked if Desi Alvarez has done research regarding a request for staff to follow up on a proposed water rate discount and stated that the City of Downey has lower water rates because most of their water supply comes from their water wells as opposed to outsourcing water. Mr. Amezcuita commended City Manager Bobadilla for meeting with a resident regarding the lack of parking issue and stated that he hopes he is able to accomplish what he has planned to help the community.

Agatha Morales, business owner on Pacific Boulevard between Clarendon Avenue and Randolph Street, addressed her concerns with a recent filming event on Pacific Boulevard. Ms. Morales asked why the event only took place in certain blocks instead of all along Pacific Boulevard and stated that the time of actual filming was only a few hours a day. Ms. Morales stated that many people complained about having to walk a long distance to take public transportation because of the street closure. Ms. Morales informed City Council that because of her loss in sales revenues, she does not have enough money to pay the rent for her business and asked City Council to consider reimbursing the affected businesses for their loss of

revenues.

Nick Ioannidis invited City Council to attend the National Immigrants Day on October 28, 2012 and questioned what kind of support they give to the National Immigrants Day celebration in Huntington Park. 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. Mr. Ioannidis informed City Council that he almost got his license revoked recently and had to pay \$469; and questioned what kind of improvement City Council is making in the City.

Berenice Hernandez, business owner on Pacific Boulevard, stated that she was informed that this is the proper forum for businesses to address their concerns regarding the filming event that took place on Pacific Boulevard. Ms. Hernandez addressed her concern with City Council's decision to have an event without taking the potentially affected businesses into consideration and stated that she does not have enough money to pay the rent for her business. Ms. Hernandez stated that she hopes that City Council approves compensation for the businesses who have suffered a financial loss due to this event.

Jose Rodolfo Ballejo asked City Council if they consider their post with the City a hobby and asked them to visit senior citizen homes and listen to the business community. Mr. Ballejo asked if City Council does not have the education or experience to solve issues and handle a City like Huntington Park. Mr. Ballejo addressed his concern to City Council regarding traffic near Malabar Street and Seville Avenue due to events in the City and pollution as a result of the 4th of July event. Mr. Ballejo stated that City Council needs to earn the votes of the community and asked them to be good leaders to the community.

Karina addressed City Council in support of the merchants in the community affected by the City Council's decision to close a portion of Pacific Boulevard for 10 days for an event without any prior investigation if it would benefit the businesses and residents in the City. Karina stated that although City Council approved this event with good intentions, their actions have cost the businesses and they deserve to be reimbursed. Karina stated that City Council allowed a show that uses Latino stereotypes to be showed and taped in the City and that all the Members of the City Council voted in favor. Karina stated that she is a resident and community activist fighting against corruption and wrongful actions by government in other countries. Karina stated that business owners and residents deserve answers to the questions and issues they address because they all contribute to the City.

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

City Manager Bobadilla read the following statement: "The City's engagement with Iguanas Entertainment for filming of Telemundo's Caso Cerrado was approved in the hopes of promoting the City of Huntington Park at a national level. It is not unusual for a City to close a major street for film production and or even a special event. In this instance, we followed our permit process as set forth in our municipal code. While we understand some merchants may have been impacted over the 10 day permit period, it was never the intent of the City to create an adverse situation for our business partners. We want to emphatically dispel any rumors you may have heard that the City 'made thousands of dollars' from this event. Any revenue from this event is restricted to cost recovery of permit fees and personnel costs for services which were rendered and amounted to approximately \$33,000. While the City is sympathetic to your situation we are not in a position to reimburse vendors for this kind of impact. Merchants wishing to pursue compensation can submit a claim with the City. Any submitted claim will be forwarded to our insurance carrier and they will advise us on how to proceed".

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Approve minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held Monday, September 17, 2012.

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 October 1, 2012.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Approve the Grant Year 2011 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Subrecipient Agreement between the County of Los Angeles and the City of Huntington Park; and authorize the Police Department to purchase an Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) Camera System upgrade and installation from PIPS Technology for an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the 2011 HSGP fund.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

City Manager Bobadilla presented a request from Council Member Gomez for discussion and/or action regarding the sale of alcohol at convenience stores in the City of Huntington Park. **Following a brief discussion, Mayor Molina directed staff to research the feasibility of amending the Huntington Park Municipal Code to change certain policies and procedures regarding the sale of alcohol at convenience stores in the City of Huntington Park and report back to City Council by December 2012.**

City Manager Bobadilla presented a contract between the City of Huntington Park and Leal & Trejo for City Attorney Services for the City of Huntington Park. City Manager Bobadilla announced that this item has been continued to the next City Council meeting.

Director of Parks and Recreation Espinosa requested approval of the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Huntington Park and the City of Vernon for the Salt Lake Park Renovation Project. Motion by Guerrero, seconded by Gomez, to **approve the 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.

Director of Parks and Recreation Espinosa requested approval of the Agreement for Landscape Architectural Services by and between the City of Huntington Park and Lawrence R. Moss & Associates, Inc. for the Salt Lake Park Renovation Project. Motion by Guerrero, seconded by Perez, to **approve the Agreement for Landscape Architectural Services by and between the City of Huntington Park and Lawrence R. Moss & Associates, Inc. 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.

Director of Parks and Recreation Espinosa requested approval of a recommendation by the Parks Arts Recreation and Culture (PARC) Commission to appoint Jhonny Pineda Gomez to the PARC Commission. Jhonny Pineda briefed City Council on his educational and professional background and stated that he has returned from Sacramento to serve the City again. Motion by Guerrero, seconded by Perez, to **approve a recommendation by the Parks Arts Recreation and Culture (PARC) Commission to appoint Jhonny Pineda Gomez to the PARC Commission to fill an unexpired term ending October 18, 2013**, carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Member Perez, and Mayor Molina; Noes: None; Absent: Council Member Hernandez.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-47. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK **APPROVING THE LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT** was presented. Motion by Guerrero, seconded by Perez, to adopt Resolution No. 2012-47, carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Member Perez, and Mayor Molina; Noes: None; Absent: Council Member Hernandez.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-48. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK, CALIFORNIA, **APPROVING AND ADOPTING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GENERAL EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NOS. 2008-487, 2008-56 AND 2010-54** was presented. Motion by Gomez, seconded by Guerrero, to adopt Resolution No. 2012-48,

carried as follows: Ayes: Council Member Gomez, Vice Mayor Guerrero, Council Member Perez, and Mayor Molina; Noes: None; Absent: Council Member Hernandez.

City Attorney Leal reported out that in closed session for CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION, Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to California Government Code Subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9: (1), a report was given by the City Manager and legal counsel, no formal action was taken.

Mayor Molina declared the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m., in memory of Javier S. Romo, father of Elba Guerrero, Vice Mayor for the City of Huntington Park.

Andy Molina, Mayor

Rosanna M. Ramirez, City Clerk