

**MINUTES**  
**HUNTINGTON PARK CITY COUNCIL**  
**A Special Meeting held in the City Council Chambers,**  
**6550 Miles Avenue, Huntington Park, California**  
**Wednesday – July 23, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Perez called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Council Member Gomez.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Member Valentin Palos Amezcuita  
Council Member Mario Gomez  
Council Member Ofelia Hernandez  
Vice Mayor Karina Macias  
Mayor Rosa E. Perez

Mayor Perez read the process to be followed by the presenters later in the meeting as well as the interview and selection process. She deferred to staff for a brief report.

Assistant to the City Manager, Danny Bueno provided a PowerPoint presentation addressing the RFP timeline and the interview and selection process. He presented an example of the voting tabulation to be followed at the end of the hauler presentations.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (CLOSED SESSION ITEMS ONLY)**

Mayor Perez invited public comments for Closed Session items.

Linda Caraballo stated that the public is unable to comment on Closed Session items as the topics are not fully described in the agenda. She commented on the need for the City Clerk to report out from Closed Session after the City Council reconvenes to Open Session.

Seeing and hearing no others wishing to address Council, Mayor Perez closed public comments for Closed Session items.

Interim City Manager Morales announced that City Council will recess into Closed Session at this time (6:30 p.m.) to discuss the item listed under the Closed Session agenda.

**CLOSED SESSION**

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION,  
Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code paragraph (2) or (3) of  
subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: (1)

City Council reconvened at 6:46 p.m. with all Council Members present.

Interim City Attorney Ann Levin reported that City Council met in Closed Session and that no reportable action was taken.

**END OF CLOSED SESSION**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Perez opened public comments, indicating that this was the time for anyone in the audience to address the City Council on any matter of City business.

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Rodolfo Cruz commented on various problems with potential haulers and urged the City to choose wisely, as the City is hurting.

Ricardo Gastelum expressed concerns that the City owes a lot of money and asked that City Council support the City and its residents. He noted that some of the haulers that have submitted proposals have failed performing in other cities and that they are not approaching the City in a transparent manner. He presented copies of newspaper articles questioning the performance of various haulers.

Edgar Gordilla hoped that the hauler chosen is good, honorable and reliable and does not exploit its workers and City contracts. He noted that many are large companies with questionable customer service records and opined that a smaller firm should be allowed the opportunity to serve the City since they tend to work harder and treat their employees well. Additionally, he urged Council to ensure that recycling be controlled so that the City is not listed as one of the dirtier cities in the area.

Elba Romo commented on the ranking of the haulers by cost but noted that when rates are considered, it tells a different story. She addressed the various sectors in the City and added there are only three (3) companies that do not increase rates for one of the sectors and consistently offer lower rates including UPW, Athens and Waste and Recycling Services. The others may be offering a low rate in one area but would be offset by another rate in another sector. She noted that the goal of the process is to improve service and lower rates.

Interim City Manager Morales noted that the RFP allows for rebalancing all the rate structures and Laith Ezzet, Sr. Vice President, HF&H, the City's consultant, confirmed same.

Linda Caraballo commented on the large amount of money involved in the contract. She reported that Waste Management contributed to the campaigns of various Council Members and hoped that other companies will be evaluated fairly and equitably. She noted that a jury ruled against Valley Vista in the amount of \$21 million for alleged disability discrimination and wrongful termination. She added they were supposed to disclose that, but did not. She commented negatively on UPW noting that they failed to pay a \$1 million franchise fee to the City of El Monte and lost their contract. She addressed innuendos between the Mayor and the owner of UPW and opined that the Mayor should abstain herself from this matter to avoid a conflict of interest. She expressed her trust of Elba and her company and asked that Council consider what she is saying.

Erika Santillan commented positively on the Republic Services vehicles, services and drivers. She spoke in support of Republic Services as the City hauler.

Cynthia Lindaverde expressed pride in the City but felt that more work needs to be done. She opined that big companies are not in tune with the City in terms of meeting residents' needs and addressed the importance of good customer service. She suggested that Council choose a small business and spoke against hiring a "corporate culture". She believed that choosing a smaller company, the company will care for the City and its residents; will hire locally and will provide better customer service.

Ana Rosa Peña commented positively regarding the City and stated that the previous speakers know what they are talking about and know what is done right and what is done wrong. She suggested that Council choose a small business as the City's hauler adding that everyone needs a chance. She believed that the City should choose a company with competitive rates and that will provide good rates. The City should choose the lowest bidder in doing what is right for the City and not pay favors in granting the contract.

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Edgar Cervantes, a driver for Athens, commented positively on the company and its service noting that it is very professional. He opined it is time for the City to give Athens an opportunity to serve.

Seeing and hearing no others wishing to address Council, Mayor Perez closed public comments.

**DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEM**

**Presentations by haulers that submitted Solid Waste Handling Services in response to the City's Solid Waste Handling Services Request for Proposals and Council selection of haulers to invite back for interviews.**

Interim City Manager Morales presented results of a customer service survey and addressed categories assessed including customer service, program implementation and working with the City. He reported that all proposals are posted online as well as the customer service survey. He addressed transparency in the process and stated that no matter what, residents will win. He commented on the integrity of the process, decreased rates and increased franchise fees and noted that the City has done a great job in decreasing costs for residents and increasing City revenues.

Gary Clifford, Athens, introduced the team and noted that the company prides itself on customer service and that the company is family-owned. He reported that all calls are answered live and addressed commitment to the City, long-term disposal rates, transitioning and community outreach and education. Additionally, he noted their offer of a "City Stewardship Grant" of \$500,000.

Discussion followed regarding opening a local working office in the community, employment opportunities for residents and guaranteeing rates for the term of the contract.

Dean Ruffridge, CR&R Environmental Services, introduced his colleague and presented details of their proposal to the City. He provided a history of the company and addressed their infrastructure, organic waste capabilities, diversion rates, the company's financial solvency, transitioning and enhancements including street-sweeping services. He noted that rates are reduced by a minimum of 15% and addressed franchise fees, recycling, other options proposed.

Judy Gregory, NASA, introduced the team and commented on the unique qualities about the company that sets it apart from others. She commented on the company's growth over the last fifty (50) years and noted that it will be a community partner. Ms. Gregory provided highlights of their residential and commercial programs, community involvement, awards and key proposal elements.

Sam Peña and Elizabeth Martinez, Republic Services Consolidated Disposal, commended the City for the transparent process and commented on the proposals submitted. He addressed changes in the waste disposal system, rising diversion goals and sustainable rates. Additionally, he commented on opening a local office in cooperation with the Huntington Park Chamber of Commerce and noted that Republic has an exclusive contract with LAUSD and is a local company.

Laith Ezzet, Sr. Vice President, HF&H, the City's consultant, noted that the RFP required that all proposals to open a local office.

Michael Kandilian, United Pacific Waste (UPW), provided information on the company noting that it is a local company, based in the City of Pico Rivera, and family-owned. He addressed transitioning and proposal highlights in terms of cost-competitiveness, rate reduction for refurbished carts, diversion plans, and equipment, a comparison with the top three (3) companies, access to management, community outreach, enhancements, customer service and local hiring.

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Mark Blackburn, President and Owner of Universal Waste Systems (UWS), provided a history of the company and addressed their service, transfer station, organic compost facility, goals of their proposal, savings over the life of the contract, recycling rates, transitioning and increased franchise fees for the City. He addressed diversion and highlighted qualities that make them different from other proposers.

**RECESS/RECONVENE**

Mayor Perez called for a recess at 8:09 p.m. The assembly reconvened at 8:24 p.m. with all Members, present.

David Perez, Valley Vista, provided information on the company and pointed out its strengths. He commented on the process and noted they want to be part of the community. He addressed their rates, pride in their employees, customer service, processing for high diversion, and franchise revenue to the City over the term of the contract and a summary of their proposal.

It was noted that the RFP requires a local office but not a local yard.

Janine Hamner, Waste Management, thanked the City for the opportunity to present and for the process. She introduced her team and noted they are the City's current provider. She reported that they have heard the community and are therefore, proposing lowering residential rates by 31%. She addressed community involvement, local hiring, and securing grants for the City and business development and noted that they are the only hauler that is a member of the Huntington Park Chamber of Commerce. She added that the Chamber Board submitted a letter in support of Waste Management and addressed the importance of recycling. In addition, she provided information on recognitions and awards and the company's partnership with the City.

It was noted that Waste Resources, Inc., (WRI) is not present and was therefore, removed from consideration.

Elba Romo, Waste and Recycling Services (WRS), provided information regarding the company and a summary of their proposal. She addressed rates, diversion, financial stability, enhancements, customer service and environmental stewardship. Additionally, she submitted letters of recommendation from present customers.

**RECESS/RECONVENE**

Mayor Perez called for a recess at 8:51 p.m. The assembly reconvened at 9:00 p.m. with all Members, present.

Interim City Manager Morales presented the results of the first round of tallying. There was a tie; therefore, it was necessary to go through another round of tallying.

**RECESS/RECONVENE**

Mayor Perez called for a recess at 9:02 p.m. The assembly reconvened at 9:08 p.m. with all Members, present.

Interim City Manager Morales presented the results of the second round of tallying and listed the haulers chosen for the next round of presentations and interviews. These include Athens, CR&R, NASA, UWS and WRS. He added that the information will be posted on the City's website and that a selection will be made on July 28, 2014, with final approval on August 4, 2014.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Huntington Park City Council, Mayor Perez adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

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NEXT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, JULY 28, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

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Rosa E. Perez, Mayor

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Yesenia Gomez, Acting Jr. Deputy City Clerk