

Final Minutes Approved March 15, 2016
Special Meeting of the
City of Huntington Park City Council
Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Sergeant at Arms read the Rules of Decorum.

The special meeting of the City Council of the City of Huntington Park, California was called to order at 5:02 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, in the Council Chambers 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. 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, City Engineer; Martha Castillo, Human Resources Director and Donna Schwartz, City Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Ortiz.

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Mayor Macias.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Betty Davis Gonzalez, gave well wishes to outgoing Mayor Macias.
2. Robin Hvidston, Betty Retama, Arthur Schaper, Betty Robinson, Raymond Herrera, DeAnn D'Lean, Dr. Robert Newman, expressed their disagreement and opposition of council and the proposed re-organization and strongly supported the appointment of Council Member Amezcuita as the new Mayor.
3. Julia Juarez, representative from Senator Lara's Office, presented outgoing Mayor Macias with a certificate of recognition.
4. Robert Evans, voiced concern that lead poison may be coming from one of the surrounding cities.
5. Denise Barlage, voiced concern with an incident that happened at Gage and Bissell, the heavy traffic and asked the city to look into putting in traffic lights at this intersection.
6. Renee Rowland, Music Educator, thanked outgoing Mayor Macias for all her support and involvement with the students at Huntington Park Elementary School and her personal involvement with the citizens of Huntington Park.

Mayor Macias thanked everyone who attended, acknowledged her family for supporting her, acknowledged all the mentors throughout her life, thanked the community for all their support, her colleagues, commented on rumors regarding council stating they have been proactive and continue to be proactive for the community with a commitment to improve the lives of everyone in the city with being present, learning, asking questions, providing time to community as well as the administration, noting that decisions are not taken lightly, wants the best for the community, feels inviting people to meetings that are racist to the council meeting and twist facts, disrespect community to include undocumented community, disrespect staff, city attorney, those in the audience, more damage is done with the behavior that provides negativity and twisted facts absolutely holds no merit, there should be no room for this behavior what should be remembered are those being represented in this community no matter what or who they are, noted a resolution that was previously approved and that she supported to ask President Obama to stop deportation of undocumented youth. Ms. Macias stated she stands by

her beliefs, the community for all they represent the American dream we hold so dear, reassuring that this council does hold the first amendment very important that those outside the city who attend the meetings are racist, represent a great danger as dangerous as Donald Trump to democracy danger to acceptance to peace and every part to our communities we are better than them and will rise above this. Ms. Macias noted challenges that have been faced with the city and have been worked through, looks forward with working to move city forward, support the new roles the new Mayor and New Vice Mayor will take, thanked all her colleagues for their support, takes a village to raise a city, proud of the platform we stand on stability provided and projects to look forward to, continuance of a new era among the governing body, hope that people focus beyond the lies but what is being done and continues to be done and closed with thanking everyone.

REORGANIZATION

Annually City Council shall choose one of its members to serve as Mayor and one to serve as Vice Mayor for a one-year term.

Mayor Macias opened nominations for Mayor.

Council Member Sanabria nominated Vice Mayor Ortiz, seconded by Mayor Macias. By a 4-1 vote, Vice Mayor Ortiz became Mayor by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

Newly-elected Mayor Ortiz called for nominations for Vice Mayor.

Mayor Ortiz nominated Council Member Sanabria, seconded by Council Member Macias. By a 4-1 vote, Council Member Sanabria became Vice Mayor by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

Presentation of Oath of Office to newly elected Mayor Ortiz, given by Planning Commissioner Efren Martinez.

Presentations by the following to outgoing Mayor Macias:

David Juarez, representative from Assembly Member Santiago's Office.

Elizabeth Acantar, representative from Supervisor Hilda Solis' Office.

Michael Oropeza, representative from Los Angeles County Assessor's Office, Jeffery Prang.

Angel Morales, President of Federacion Veracruzana

Robert Cabrales, and Aracely Barbosa, Community for a Better Environment.

Dr. Donald Singleton, High School Teacher

Mr. John Chaikittirattana, Linda Marquez High School, HPIAM Principal

Eddie De La Riva, former Mayor of Maywood.

Representatives from Linda Marquez School Key Club

Francisca Mendoza Garcia, Founder of International Public Relations and of Federacion de Oaxaca Otomi Dominguez Mendez, (Director of Sports), La Marqueza Marcos

Altamirano, (LGBT Oaxaca), Epifanio Garcia, (Community Director), Socorro Manzano (Gastronomia Oaxaca)

Comments by Council Members

Council Member Amezquita, mentioned where he is from, stated laws need to be obeyed no matter where anyone is from, commented on an issue that happened in Oaxaca Mexico, commented on laws, freedom, constitution, stated he is for comprehensive immigration reform, remarked on a comment that was made saying he is racist noting that he is not, noted others that are not racist, need border patrol since there is not enough jobs here, noted he works full time and that other council members do not, therefore he doesn't have the time to attend a lot of the city events, he noted previously a challenge he made to his colleagues that he sealed his W2 in an envelope and asked that they turn theirs into the City Clerk so that the address shows they reside in the city and feels other council members did not live in the city while running for council, spoke about his education and previous employment and skills relevant enough to run the city, previous times he ran for council and used he's own money, loves this town and wants to see it move forward in the right way, mentioned the RFP process, cost savings to the city and his concerns of how the process was done previously, thanking those who attended, noting why he wasn't taking photos with council tonight, commented again on freedom, order, constitution, obeying the laws and corruption. He closed with thanking all and quoted Pope about forgiving.

Council Member Pineda, congratulated the New Mayor and New Vice Mayor, addressed his appointments stating it will be his decision on whether his appointments will remain commissioners and that it was him and not his colleagues, noted his commitment while running for council to create opportunities for everyone to assure that every resident in Huntington Park has opportunities to be successful in the future that this is his goal. Mr. Pineda commented on Council Member Amezquita's comment with regard to the Pope and forgiveness stating he should follow it noting he always goes against council, asked to stop fighting at the dais and that the end goal is for the residents. Noted he supports immigration reform, he did his research and no laws were broken, encouraged those to do research and closed thanking everyone in attendance and looks forward in continuing to work with his colleagues.

Council Member Macias, thanked everyone who recognized her, reiterated her comment regarding those individuals from outside the city are racist, a microcosm, that Donald Trump and these individuals are dangerous, noted she had the privilege of visiting the south and understanding the civil rights movement and speaking to John Lewis himself, hopes that Council Member Amezquita will try and work with Council, acknowledged both Mayor Ortiz and Vice Mayor Sanabria for their support to the residents and students in the community. Ms. Macias stated Council does have full-time jobs and with her full-time job she was still able to make city events. Ms. Macias closed by thanking all staff and all they do.

Vice Mayor Sanabria, stated it is a time for celebration even with negativity in the room, acknowledged those in attendance who recognized outgoing Mayor Macias, she commented on Council Member Amezquita's comments stating she will not take the time to respond noting she was elected by the community and will listen to those who voted for her. She thanked most of her colleagues for voting for her as the new Vice Mayor and thanked Council Member Macias for acknowledging her efforts and commitment to the community. Ms. Sanabria noted she possess the skills to continue to move the city forward and make it better. She acknowledged her family for their support and stated she will stay committed to moving the city forward and thanked all those who attended.

Mayor Ortiz, thanked the majority of her colleagues for having the faith in her for taking on the new role as Mayor, acknowledged all those in the audience who have supported and mentored her through the years, acknowledged her mother for her support and guidance, acknowledged the community as a whole the residents, educators, those who provide services on a daily basis Police and staff. Ms. Ortiz noted her priority is everyone in the city. She commented on those outside the city that attend the meetings and remark recall are racist and full of hate and do not participate in the daily lives of the resident and the city, they make up lies and noted for the record she only has one aunt and may she rest in peace therefore does not serve on any commission. Ms. Ortiz went

on to state she is here for the residents, born in the city, lived in the city her entire life, very proud of the city, noting it is a hard working community and lets continue to move the city forward.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:49 p.m. Mayor Ortiz adjourned the City of Huntington Park City Council to a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna G. Schwartz, CMC, City Clerk