

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the
City of Huntington Park City Council
Tuesday, September 20, 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 6:04 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2016, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 6550 Miles Avenue, Huntington Park, California; Mayor Graciela Ortiz presiding.

PRESENT: Council Member(s): Valentin Palos Amezcuita, Jhonny Pineda, Karina Macias, Vice Mayor Marilyn Sanabria and Mayor Graciela Ortiz. CITY OFFICIALS/STAFF: Edgar Cisneros City Manager; Noel Tapia, Assistant City Attorney; Cosme Lozano, Chief of Police; Josette Espinosa, Director of Parks and Recreation; Jan Mazyck, Interim Finance Director; Manuel Acosta, Economic Development Manager and Donna Schwartz, City Clerk. ABSENT: Michael Ackerman, Acting Public Works Director/City Engineer, and Martha Castillo, Human Resources Director.

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Mayor Ortiz.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Abiel Mendoza, Miles Elementary School.

PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" to Abiel Mendoza for leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council presented a "Certificate of Recognition" to Retiring Senior Officer Steve Castro for His Outstanding Service to the City of Huntington Park Police Department and the City of Huntington Park Community.

City Manager Cisneros announced staff requested agenda item #7 be continued to the next regular City Council Meeting of October 4, 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Berenice Rodriguez, Ingenium School, spoke in support of charter schools and is opposed to the moratorium.
2. Aurora Hernandez, parent of a student attending Ingenium School, also spoke in support of charter schools and opposed to the moratorium
3. Jaime De La Torre, Kipp Comienza, spoke in opposition to the temporary moratorium.
4. Alejandro Muñoz, Prepa Tech High School, spoke in opposition to the moratorium and asked that it be lifted.
5. Leticia Bernal, spoke in support of the charter schools asked that they not be closed.

Mayor Ortiz stated the charter schools are not being closed and asked Assistant City Attorney Noel Tapia to clarify the temporary moratorium.

Assistant City Attorney Noel Tapia explained that a zoning code regulates uses throughout the city, to place certain uses with compatible uses that are of the most benefit to the residents. Mr. Tapia clarified that the moratorium is an urgency ordinance that is a temporary prohibition on a certain use for a 45 day period. In order to enact this type of ordinance the city has to make certain findings that there are certain impacts

related to certain uses that the city is experiencing so the ordinance allows the city to study the impact of that use and to consider how to regulate that use in such a way to make it compatible with the city's existing uses and create optimum efficiencies for the quality of life for their residents. The current temporary moratorium is to study charter schools and to review what types of changes the city wants to make to the zoning code, it is not a ban on existing uses or a permanent regulation but to allow the city to study a specific use to see if there is a better way to regulate that use.

6. Eva Rodriguez, spoke in support of charter schools and in opposition to the moratorium.
7. Maria Pinedo, Alliance Public Charter School, spoke in support of charter schools and opposed to the moratorium.
8. Xavier Reyes, Alta Public Schools, spoke in support of charter schools and asked to stop the moratorium.
9. Bertha Olmedo, parent to students who attend Kipp Comienza, spoke in support of charter schools.
10. Nina Trujillo Jimenez, Kipp Comienza, spoke in support of charter schools and in opposition to the moratorium and feels a solution can be found with regard to traffic.
11. Maria Silva, parent to student who attend charter schools, spoke in support of charter schools, wants choices and asked to stop the moratorium.
12. Yeni Villalba, Kipp Comienza, asked to stop the moratorium, pointed out all schools have traffic and asked for support so our children can go to better schools.
13. Tessy Garcia, Prepa Tech Middle/High School, spoke in support of charter schools.
14. Claudia Santes, Prepa Tech, spoke in support of charter schools, feels the schools are safe and asked to help with community safety and charter schools.
15. Arcevia Lopez, Academia Moderna, spoke in support of charter schools.
16. Josie Estrada, Academia Moderna, spoke in support of charter schools and hopes to build more schools.
17. Ebony Wheaton, California Charter Schools Association, spoke in support of charter schools and urged the council not to extend the moratorium.
18. Martha Mariano, parent of students who attend Academia Moderna, spoke in support of charter schools and asked to stop the moratorium.
19. Marisol Lopez, spoke in support of charter schools and asked that council stop the moratorium.
20. Brenda Lopez, Magnolia Science Academy 8, spoke in support of charter schools, quoted Benito Juarez, asked to listen to the community, opposed to the moratorium and asked to look for solutions.
21. Antonio Padilla, upset with the destruction of sidewalks in the city, noted he has walked through the city and sees nothing wrong with the existing sidewalks and supports marijuana dispensaries.
22. Maria Salas, Prepa Tech Middle School, spoke in support of charter schools and education for the kids.
23. Elva Carreon, spoke in support of charter schools.

24. Joan Lias, spoke in opposition to the protestors that attend the council meetings and speak about the two commissioners, she feels they shouldn't have been appointed, and that there are qualified people in Huntington Park but are not interested and are more concerned with city services, she noted she has called regarding the repainting of the parking stalls and nothing has been done and also feels the streets should not have been resurfaced, hopes that the dialysis center is still under consideration and wishes more residents attended the meetings.

Mayor Ortiz asked staff to obtain Ms. Lias' information regarding the parking stalls.

25. Henry Garcia, commented on parking being an issue in the city, worried about residents not using their driveways and suggested city should charge for parking like other cities, commented on charter schools vs. public schools, and doesn't blame council for anything.
26. Rodolfo Cruz, voiced concern with communication with the residents, commented on the effect the project on Pacific Boulevard has on the businesses, an incident that occurred regarding a person shooting a bb gun in the park and kids not able to attend school, commented on poor decision by the new council, and not enough Dial-A-Ride vehicles.
27. Arthur Schaper, We the People Rising, spoke in opposition to the following: marijuana dispensaries, temporary moratorium, and appointment of the two "illegals." He feels Amezcuita should be Mayor, he feels offended when there are remarks regarding racism, spoke in opposition to council and decisions being made, and commented on charter schools.
28. Valentin Amezcuita, thanked all for coming, clarified that he voted against marijuana dispensaries and the moratorium, and spoke in support of the charter schools and the good education it provides to the kids.
29. Margaret Fuentes, noted her kids attend a charter school and spoke in support of the schools.

STAFF RESPONSE

Mayor Ortiz asked staff to respond to Mr. Padilla's comment regarding the sidewalks on Pacific Boulevard noting that it is a beautification project paid by grant funds and not city funds. City Manager Edgar Cisneros explained that there are grant funds being used for aesthetic improvements and functionality as well, storm water drainage, increased lighting and making the sidewalks more ADA accessible. Mr. Cisneros also responded to other comments regarding vehicles being purchased for the Dial-A-Ride service stating no vehicles were purchased by the City for the Dial-A-Ride program that the vehicles were bought by the contractor. In response to the comment regarding the person shooting a bb gun. Mr. Cisneros stated this person was caught and arrested and that staff will follow-up to Ms. Lias' concern regarding the repainting of parking stalls.

Mayor Ortiz explained the reason for the moratorium stating it had went before the Planning Commission. Explaining just the same way parents have a choice, the city also has the right to have a choice on where schools go in the community to make sure there are no mistakes or issues that will affect the resident's quality of life. Currently there are three schools, one charter and two LAUSD which are within a block of each other which makes it difficult for the residents who live in the community. Mayor Ortiz stated that the Chief of Police and the task force are trying to make as many adjustments as they can that the schools and the city including Council are working together having meetings each month. She thanked staff and the police for trying to make the quality of life the best possible for the residents. Mayor Ortiz noted that buildings are being purchased for charter schools before the location is approved by the city and unfortunately some locations are not safe for the kids or other projects are already in place in the area. Mayor Ortiz stated parents have a choice of 20 schools in the City of Huntington Park and that LAUSD schools are taking kids from the LA area on permits to attend schools in Huntington Park but the city needs revenue and that there are request for different types of businesses but the city has no place to put them but that staff is trying to find

locations where to put schools and what locations to put businesses and where the next major department store can be to bring in revenue and shopping to establish the city economically. Mayor Ortiz notes that the moratorium isn't to prevent parents an opportunity to educate their children that the Council and City has supported every project that the charter and LAUSD schools have proposed that she is all for education but the city needs to figure out where to put additional schools, adding that all the schools are doing well and that all the LAUSD schools have the space to house double the amount of the population of children in the City of Huntington Park and many of the children at the schools do not live in the city and the city has to make decisions that are going to help the residents that live in the City of Huntington Park.

Council Member Amezcua commented on the funds used for the improvements on Pacific Boulevard coming from grant monies and a portion from the city. City Manager Edgar Cisneros stated that funds are also used for other upgrades, aesthetics as well as to enhance lighting for pedestrians to feel safe, adding drought tolerant plants and in addition, new parking pay stations. Council Member Amezcua reiterated his comment from last meeting, placing plywood in those places where there is dirt for the safety of the residents.

Council Member Macias supports the Mayor's comments regarding the schools, but the city is tasked with difficult decisions to see where another school can be placed and decisions on where to place businesses and asked for patience and understanding.

Assistant City Attorney Noel Tapia again explained that the zoning code is to improve the quality of life for the residents and to get compatible uses to make sure all the different uses in the area can coexist and there's also the public safety issue where there is an area where three schools operate, one being a charter school working under a conditional use permit pointing out they are having a significant problem with traffic during the pickup and drop off times, so the concern is the area not being clear in case of an emergency, so the moratorium is a temporary prohibition to allow the city to consider restrictions regarding traffic and how to deal with the issue in the area along with safety and that the moratorium is not to close the charter schools.

At 7:54 p.m. Mayor Ortiz called for a RECESS.

At 8:07 p.m. Mayor Ortiz RECONVENED the meeting with all Council Members present.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Council Member Macias motioned to approve consent calendar items, seconded by Council Member Pineda. Motion passed 5-0 by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

NOES: Council Member(s): None

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

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

1-1 Regular City Council Meeting held Tuesday, September 6, 2016.

HUMAN RESOURCES

2. Adopted Resolution No. 2016-39, Repealing Resolution No. 2009-103 and adopting New Class Specifications for the Position of Director of Public Works, adopted Resolution No. 2016-40, Repealing Resolution No. 2009-71, and adopting New Class Specifications for the Position of Director of Community Development, and adopted Resolution No. 2016-41, adopting New Class Specifications for the Position of Director of Human Resources

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

REGULAR AGENDA

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

3. Los Angeles County Elections Division – Information Re: Voter Outreach
- DISCUSSION ONLY -
4. **Approve Resolutions Pertaining to the City of Huntington Park’s General Municipal Election to be held Tuesday, March 7, 2017**

Edgar Cisneros, City Manager presented the item.

Motion: Vice Mayor Sanabria motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2016-42, Calling a General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, for the Election of Certain Officers and Requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles to Consolidate the Election with any and all Elections also called to be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, adopt Resolution No. 2016-43, Adopting Regulations for Candidates for Elective Office Pertaining to Candidate Statements Submitted to the Voters at an Election to be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, and adopt Resolution No. 2016-44, Providing for the Conduct of a Special Runoff Election for Elective Offices in the Event of a Tie Vote at any Municipal Election, seconded by Mayor Ortiz Motion passed 5-0 by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

CITY MANAGER

5. **Approve Proclamation Recognizing Hall of Fame Broadcaster Vin Scully, Declaration of September 23rd as “Vin Scully Day” in the City of Huntington Park**

Edgar Cisneros, City Manager presented the item.

Motion: Council Member Macias motioned to approve proclamation recognizing Hall of Fame Broadcaster Vin Scully, and approve the declaration of September 23rd as Vin Scully Day, seconded by Vice Mayor Sanabria. Motion passed 5-0 by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

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

FINANCE

6. Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016 Update/Review
- DISCUSSION ONLY -

PUBLIC WORKS

Item continued to the next regular City Council Meeting of October 4, 2016.

7. Approve First Amendment to Contract with Bennett Landcare for Landscaping Maintenance Services

RECOMMENDATION OF ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Approve first amendment to contract with Bennett Landcare for the Landscaping Maintenance Services contract;
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute such agreement; and
3. Approve budget appropriation of \$162,810 for account #111-8095-431.56-60 and \$2,186 for account #231-8010-415.56-41.

END OF REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

8. Adoption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Manuel Acosta, Economic Development Manager, presented the item.

Mayor Ortiz opened the item up for public comment, there being none, closed public comment.

Motion: Vice Mayor Sanabria motioned to adopt the Fiscal Year 2015-016 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and authorize the City Manager to transmit this report to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by September 30, 2016, 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, feels issues that the charter schools are experiencing should have been addressed during the process, thanked everyone and wished everyone a good night.

Council Member Karina Macias, thanked staff for all their support, acknowledged the finance department winning a trophy at the employee appreciation picnic and thanked those who attended, announced that Proyecto Vecindad is having a voter outreach in front of Cruzita's on Saturday, thanked her colleagues and wished everyone a good night.

Council Member Jhonny Pineda, nothing to report.

Vice Mayor Marilyn Sanabria, noted that the fence that was mentioned during last City Council Meeting, public comment portion, has been fixed, thanked those who attended the employee appreciation picnic as well as thanking four of her colleagues who donated towards the picnic, and wished everyone a good night.

Mayor Graciela Ortiz, thanked staff for all their support, acknowledged the employee appreciation picnic noting how much council appreciates staff, reminded residents about the sign-up for girls' softball, announced a City wide clean-up on Saturday at Aspire School, and thanked everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:11p.m. Mayor Ortiz adjourned the City of Huntington Park City Council to a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna G. Schwartz, CMC, City Clerk