

MINUTES

Agenda - Regular Meeting of the Sierra Madre City Council,
Successor Agency and Public Finance Authority
Tuesday, October 11, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024

* Closed session immediately following the conclusion of the Council meeting. City Clerk, Melinda Carrillo, read the roll, noting that all City Council members were present.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

Present: Gene Goss, Mayor, Rachele Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Members, Denise Delmar, John Capoccia and John Harabedian.

Absent: None

Also Present: Elaine Aguilar, City Manager
Teresa Highsmith, City Attorney
Vincent Gonzalez, Director of Planning and Community Preservation
Larry Giannone, Safety Director and Police Chief
Marcie Medina, Finance Director
Steve Heydorff, Fire Chief
James Carlson, Management Analyst
Bruce Inman, Director of Public Works
Joe Ortiz, Captain, Sierra Madre Police Department
Mike Amerio, City Treasurer
Melinda Carrillo, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION/INSPIRATION:

Council Member, Denise Delmar, led the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with a summary of our Guiding Principles which we developed for the General Plan. Council Member Delmar would like us to keep these principles in mind as we move forward in selecting new leadership.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED:

Moved: Council Member John Harabedian

Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Rachele Arizmendi

Ayes: Mayor Gene Goss, Mayor Pro Tem Rachele Arizmendi, Council Members John Capoccia, John Harabedian and Denise Delmar

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2016:

Moved: Council Member John Capoccia

Seconded: Council Member Denise Delmar

Ayes: Mayor Gene Goss, Mayor Pro Tem Rachele Arizmendi, Council Members John Capoccia, John Harabedian and Denise Delmar

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2016:

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Rachele Arizmendi

Seconded: Council Member John Capoccia

Ayes: Mayor Gene Goss, Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi, Council Members John Capoccia, John Harabedian and Denise Delmar

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

- 1) Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi, commended the Fire Department for their Fire Safety Community event. It was a great turn out. Congratulations to Taylor's Market for their 50-year anniversary. It was an amazing turn out where more than 950 hamburgers and hotdogs were given out. Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi was saddened by the loss of Mr. Edward "Ruiz" Kaladjian from the Shoe Repair Shop in town and recognized his service to the community. Mayor Pro Tem attended the League of California Cities Conference and highlighted that at the State level they are considering to perhaps include sewer as water due to the many issues on how to pay for it. Lastly, Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi asked Police Chief Giannone to please share what happened yesterday with the bear attack and to share any updates.
- 2) Council Member John Capoccia, noted he attended the League of California Cities Conference and as the voting delegate was able to vote on the one resolution presented on consent calendar. It was a resolution supporting vision zero regarding zero deaths and safety. The resolution did pass. It was a very good conference.
- 3) Council Member Harabedian had nothing to report.
- 4) Council Member Delmar attended the League of California Cities Conference and attended many sessions on budget and finance in order to make sure we are doing everything we can to capitalize on our limited income. She attended a session on active shootings in the city and a few days later the Palm Springs shooting occurred which is a reminder to stay vigilant about our surroundings, and stay safe, and report anything suspicious.
- 5) Mayor Goss, reported he also attended the League of Cities Conference, and added that on Thursday, he attended a very useful session about the California economy. Mayor Goss also attended Taylor's Market 50-Year Anniversary celebration and was honored to be there with Mr. and Mrs. Taylor. The Mayor shared an anecdote in regards to the owner of the Shoe Repair Shop, Mr. Kaladjian or "Ruiz", while picking up shoes for his wife. The Mayor commented that Ruiz was very old-school, he is a great loss to our community.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

- Duncan McGillivray, Commander for VFW 3208: Invited the Council and the public to attend the Sierra Madre Post Office dedication on November 1st. Introduced former Commander Dave Loera to give more details about the upcoming event.
- Dave Loera, California 4th District Commander: Thankful to City Council for submitting the recommendation for the post office dedication to Congresswoman Judy Chu where it was signed from the California State level to the Senate to the President. The Sierra Madre Post Office will be dedicated to Louis Van Ursel, a decorated war veteran with more than 26 medals after World War 1 and a medal of honor, on November 1, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. City Council and Sierra Madre residents are all invited to attend.
- Caroline Brown, volunteer for The California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Presented *Bear Aware* a program developed to educate residents about minimizing bear contact with our food when in the outdoors and with garbage cans at our homes. The Department of Fish and Wildlife has a slogan that says, "Every fed bear is a dead bear." Mrs. Brown stated that it is our responsibility to be more aware, that is, *Bear Aware*.
- Liz DeKam: Would like Sierra Madre City Council to consider and agendize her proposal to allow four companion animals per household, instead of the three pets that is the limit now. She would like to adopt a rescue dog for her youngest dog, and since her two oldest dogs may possible pass anytime due to their old age.

* City Manager, Elaine Aguilar, answered Ms. DeKam by stating that L.A. County does allow for more pets, and therefore, the city may make an exception for such a request right now at the meeting. Ms. DeKam's request was, by general consensus, granted this evening.

- Gary Hood: In 1972, Sierra Madre was designated as A Wildlife Sanctuary City. Mr. Hood would like to do a study to see what we can do for our animals and be updated regarding animal safety and our safety. Mr. Hood recommended a flashlight with a zapper that is legal which he has given to his neighbors in the past to scare the bears away.
- Barabara Lee Cline: Is not in agreement with euthanizing the bear that attacked the hiker, if the bear is found.
- Chief Giannone: Gave the public the account on the bear attack that occurred around lunch time on Monday, October 10th at Bailey Canyon in Sierra Madre. A 52-year old local man was about 3 miles up the trail when he saw a bear and started to back away when a second bigger bear came from the side and attacked him. The bear knocked him down and the victim tried to fight the animal off but the bear suddenly backed away and was gone. The local resident ran down the trail and 911 was called when his neighbor saw him approaching his home. The victim had multiple cuts to his head, torso, and legs. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital. Chief Giannone asked Lieutenant Wall to give an update as jurisdiction is with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Forest Service.
- Lieutenant Wall, Department of Fish and Wildlife: Updated the Council and provided more information regarding the incident and policy. He noted that the Chief gave a perfect account of the incident. Lieutenant Wall further noted that State policy states that when a bear commits an unprovoked attack on a human, the Department of Fish and Wildlife should respond and take the offending animal. It is not an automatic death sentence for the animal. Lieutenant Wall stated that we must investigate further and gather all the facts whether it was a provoked or unprovoked attack, and with DNA evidence collected from the scene, determine the gender of the bear. This process should not take more than two weeks.

Mayor Goss closed public comment.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:

* Elaine Aguilar, City Manager, gave the following report under the Consent Calendar.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 16-61 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS

Recommendation that the City Council approve Resolution 16-61 for approval of payment of City Warrants in aggregate amount of \$480,665.52; Library warrants in the aggregate amount of \$5,408.31, and payroll transfer in the aggregate amount of \$298,590.89 for fiscal year ending June 2016 and June 2017.

- b) TREASURER'S REPORT – QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 2016

Recommendation that the City Council receive and file.

- c) RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A DEED RESTRICTION ON CITY HALL PROPERTY

Recommendation that the City Council approve a deed restriction on the Civic Center property, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the deed restriction on behalf of the City and direct staff to record said deed restriction with the County Clerk-Recorder.

d) DECLARATION OF CITY OWNED MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUSED

Recommendation that the City Council declare the miscellaneous property as “Surplus” and authorize City staff to work with the Friends of the Library to secure an auction house to have the surplus miscellaneous property auctioned off.

e) REPLACEMENT OF AEDS IN PUBLIC FACILITIES

Recommendation that the City Council approve the purchase of nine AEDs; to include six replacement units, as well as the addition of 3 units to City facilities in which an AED is not currently available and approval of the appropriations of \$11,722 from General Fund Reserves.

* After discussion, general consensus by Council was to amend item e, and therefore, keeping it flexible as to how it is written and authorize the purchase of one more AED if it is needed.

f) RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR THE EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT OF THE WATER MAIN IN NORTH MICHILLINDA AVENUE

Recommendation that the City Council approve the Notice of Completion for the project and direct staff to file the Notice of Completion with the Los Angeles County Clerk.

g) RESOLUTION 16-62 AFFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER JOHN CAPOCCIA TO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

Recommendation that the City Council approve Resolution 16-62 affirming the appointment of Council Member John Capoccia for a four-year term to the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

h) SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 1382 REGARDING CITY MANAGER RESIDENCY

Recommendation that the City Council introduce and approve for second reading by title only, and waive further reading, Ordinance 1382, removing the residency requirement for the City Manager position.

i) AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS ON BEHALF OF PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY AND SUCCESSOR AGENCY

Recommendation that the City Council approve the payment of \$1,020,419.47 for the demands paid by the City on behalf of the Public Finance Authority and City Successor Agency.

Mayor Goss opened for public comment.

- Caroline Brown: Regarding item e, there is training available. In our meetings, we are trained to use an AED.

Mayor Goss closed public comment.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR WITH THE AMENDMENT MADE TO ITEM E*:

Moved: Council Member Denise Delmar

Seconded: Council Member John Harabedian

Ayes: Mayor Gene Goss, Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi, Council Members John Capoccia, John Harabedian and Denise Delmar

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

2. COMMUNITY INPUT - CITY MANAGER RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Recommendation that the City Council receive input regarding the appointment of a new City Manager.

* City Manager, Elaine Aguilar introduced Bobby C. Peckham, President of Peckham & McKenney, Inc., the recruitment firm hired to recruit the new City Manager. Elaine Aguilar excused herself from the meeting for the evening. Ms. Peckham noted that as we look for the candidates for the next City Manager, we want to understand the community culture and the organization. We want to understand what you are looking for in your next City Manager and what are some of the issues and challenges you will be facing in the coming years that the new manager can immediately work on. Ms. Peckham wants the community to express their desires in what they want in their next City Manager.

Mayor Goss opened for public input.

- Barbara Lee Cline: What are the pros and cons of City Manager versus City Administrator in terms of cost savings?
- Gary Hood: Noted that decisions have been made in the past, and even with good leadership, which accumulated debt for our City. He would like to see someone who has experience with accounting and how to keep costs down. He wants to have someone who will advocate preserving our small community and will find some solutions to our water problems which are very serious.
- Caroline Brown: Will you be having a written format for input so that our community is better represented and other residents of Sierra Madre can partake, and therefore, creating a better representation of the whole community. We need someone with experience with the complexities that a manager might have had in a somewhat larger city than ours.
- Emmitt McGuire: With the vast experience our current City Manager has, we should turn to Elaine Aguilar and ask for her suggestions of what the qualities of the next City Manager should be.
- Mike Amerio: Would like a City Manager that is community based, someone who lives closer to the community but not necessarily in Sierra Madre. The job requires many hours and late nights, and therefore, the closer he/she is to the community, the more involved he/she would be in the day-to-day activities of the city. It would help bring more good will to the city.

Mayor Goss closed public input.

* Ms. Peckham answered the residents and stated that this is a City Manager position and cost savings is of concern, however, this is big job and you are hopefully looking for someone who is an A candidate and not a B candidate. She understands that *preserve* Sierra Madre is important to the residents and Council. She will definitely reach out to Elaine for more input. Ms. Peckham will provide her email and make it accessible to the residents and welcomes the community to reach out to her and provide further input anytime during the recruitment process. Council Member Capoccia asked Ms. Peckham to please explain the difference between a City Manager

and City Administrator. Ms. Peckham explained that typically a City Manager appoints and evaluates all department heads and staff; Council appoints City Manager and often the City Attorney and City Clerk. With a City Administrator, the Council has the right and opportunity to evaluate department heads and to make more decisions. Therefore, the City Council is more involved in the day to day operation of the city, added Council Member Capoccia, who agrees with having a City Manager in Sierra Madre since it was changed from City Administrator years ago.

Mayor Goss opened for follow-up public input.

- Barbara Lee Cline: Last City Administrator we had was about 14 years ago. City Administrator also checks with Council about City finances. We will be facing the UUT tax concern again in 2018. I also think that we should get Elaine Aguilar's input since she has been the City Manager here for many years and understands the position first hand.
- Gary Hood: Suggest perhaps to search for someone who has retired already preferably from a small community and would like to take the position of City Manager and may save the City money.

Mayor Goss closed public input.

ITEMS PLACED FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Council Member Capoccia would like to place on a future agenda a nomination for the recent open seat on the Water Quality Authority. It is a two-step process with a resolution to place a nomination, then as Council, vote on a recommendation for the seat nomination. Council Member Cappocia would like to place on a future agenda a resolution in support of Measure M which is also endorsed by nearby cities and by Mr. Antonovich.

COUNCIL RECESSED OPEN MEETING TO CLOSED SESSION AT 7:52 p.m.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION:


City Attorney, Highsmith, reported the Council met in closed session to discuss the recruitment and potential appointment of the position of City Manager. Direction was provided to the City Attorney and recruiter regarding the process; no action was taken.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:17 p.m.



Gene Goss, Mayor

Minutes taken and typed by:



Melinda Carrillo
City Clerk