

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

February 9, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Patel called the Regular Meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers of La Palma City Hall, 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

CLOSED SESSION

CS-1. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Government Code Section 54957

Position Title: City Manager

CS-2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Consideration of whether to initiate litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4): (1 case)

Mayor Patel recessed to Closed Session at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Patel reconvened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m. and asked for a report out of Closed Session.

City Attorney Thind announced that there were no reportable actions out of Closed Session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Pro Tem Steggell

INVOCATION: Pastor Matthew Agosto, City Church

ROLL CALL: Council and Commission Members

Council Members present: Council Member Baker, Council Member Goodman, Mayor Patel, Mayor Pro Tem Steggell, and Council Member Waldman

Council Members absent: None

City Officials present: Conal McNamara, City Manager
Ajit Thind, City Attorney
Mike Belknap, Community Services Director
Ryan Hallett-Hinton, Assistant to the City Manager
Scott Hutter, Planning Manager
Terry Kim, Police Chief
Kimberly Kenney, City Clerk

PRESENTATIONS

1. Howard Kummerman, Executive Director of Cypress College Foundation, presented the 46th Virtual Annual Americana Awards and reminded everyone that it's a reunion year.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Scott Do, District Representative to Senator Newman, introduced himself and noted that he looks forward to working with members of the City Council.

Christopher Aguilera, former Field Representative for Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva announced his promotion and relocation to Sacramento; thanked Staff for the years of working with him on projects; and introduced Joe Pak who will be the City's new liaison taking his place.

Joe Pak, Field Representative for Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, introduced himself as Chris Aguilar's replacement - the City's new liaison.

City Clerk Kenney announced that the City Clerk's office has received Oral Comments via email as follows:

Jonathan Hawes, former El Monte City Clerk, wished to address the City Council regarding his endeavors to expose former El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero, for his embezzlement from the El Monte Promise Foundation Scholarship Fund, and asked for La Palma City Council support to call out the criminal actions.

RECESS THE CITY COUNCIL AND CONVENE AS THE CITY OF LA PALMA AS SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE DISSOLVED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AT 7:12 P.M.

City Clerk Kenney stated, "The City Council will now recess and convene as the Successor Agency to the Dissolved Community Development Commission of the City of La Palma. Members of the La Palma City Council receive no compensation or stipend as a result of convening or participating in either the Successor Agency or otherwise as serving as members of the Successor Agency."

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Successor Agency Minutes

Minutes of the January 19, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Successor Agency.

B. Successor Agency Register of Demands

Resolution SA 2021-02 approving the Register of Demands for February 2, 2021.

C. Successor Agency 2nd Quarter Cash and Investment Report, Fiscal Year 2020-21, as of December 31, 2020

Receive and file the Cash and Investment Report for the second quarter of fiscal year 2020-21.

Mayor Pro Tem Steggell made a motion to approve Consent Calendar Items A, B, and C.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Waldman and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Council Member Baker, Council Member Goodman, Mayor Patel, Mayor Pro Tem Steggell, and Council Member Waldman

NOES: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None Scheduled.

REGULAR ITEMS

None Scheduled.

ADJOURN THE CITY OF LA PALMA AS SUCCESSOR AGENCY AND RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL AT 7:14 P.M.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Waive the Reading of All Ordinances

Waive the reading of all Ordinances in their entirety and read by title only.
2. Approval of Council Minutes

Minutes of the January 19, 2021, Regular Meeting of the City Council.
3. Approval of Register of Demands

Resolution No. 2020-04 approving the Register of Demands for February 2, 2021.
4. City of La Palma Second Quarter Cash and Investment Report, Fiscal Year 2020-21, as of December 31, 2020

Receive and file the Cash and Investment Report for the second quarter of fiscal year 2020-21.
5. Second Quarter Operating Report, Fiscal Year 2020-21

Receive and file the Second Quarter Operating Report, Fiscal Year 2020-21.
6. Award of Contract to Infrastructure Engineers, Inc., to Conduct and Prepare America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Risk and Resilience Assessments and Emergency Response Plans

Award a Professional Services Contract to Infrastructure Engineers, Inc., to conduct and prepare America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Risk and Resilience Assessments and Emergency Response Plans for La Palma, in an amount not to exceed \$48,300.
8. COVID-19 Update/Implications for Upcoming City Events

Receive and file the report.

Council Member Goodman made a motion to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 through 6 and Item 8.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Baker and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Council Member Baker, Council Member Goodman,
Mayor Patel, Mayor Pro Tem Steggell, and Council
Member Waldman

NOES: None

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

7. Sponsorship for 2021 Cypress College Foundation Americana Awards, and Authorizing the Distribution of Tickets to Attend the Virtual Event

Mayor Pro Tem Steggell requested to have the item pulled to discuss foregoing the sponsorship this year due to the financial impact of COVID-19 to the City's revenue; and supports the purchase of a single seat as the City's donation this year.

Discussion ensued regarding support for the ticket donation to go to the Mayor as the City's representative.

Approve the sponsorship amount for the 2021 Cypress College Foundation Americana Awards and adopt a Resolution approving Sponsorship of the event and authorizing the distribution of tickets to attend the virtual event.

Mayor Pro Tem Steggell made a motion to approve the Sponsorship for 2021 Cypress College Foundation Americana Awards, and Authorizing the Distribution of One Ticket for the Mayor to Attend the Virtual Event.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Waldman and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Council Member Baker, Council Member Goodman,
Mayor Patel, Mayor Pro Tem Steggell, and Council
Member Waldman

NOES: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None Scheduled.

REGULAR ITEMS

9. Appointments to Development and Circulation Committee (DCC)

City Clerk Kenney gave the Staff Report.

Sergio Alvarez, Henry Lee, and Greg Sambrano thanked the City Council for the opportunity to serve the La Palma Community.

Re-appoint Rodi Almendralo and appoint Sergio Alvarez, Henry Lee, and Greg Sambrano to the Development and Circulation Committee (DCC) with four-year terms expiring December 31, 2024.

Council Member Waldman made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Rodi Almendralo and appoint Sergio Alvarez, Henry Lee, and Greg Sambrano to the Development and Circulation Committee (DCC), all with four-year terms expiring on December 31, 2024.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Goodman and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Council Member Baker, Council Member Goodman, Mayor Patel, Mayor Pro Tem Steggell, and Council Member Waldman

NOES: None

10. Adoption of 2021 City Council Goals

City Manager McNamara gave a brief overview of the City Council's Strategic Planning & Goal Setting Session and a summary of the 2021 City Council Goals.

a) Receive & File "Consolidated 2019-20 Goals Completed" in Attachment 1

By consensus, the City Council received and filed Attachment 1

b) Approve "2021 Goals for Consideration" in Attachment 2

Mayor Patel opened up the floor to discussion and consensus on the direction for the City Council's 2021 Goals:

1. Review of municipal parking standards for new/existing Development

Discussion ensued regarding the citywide commercial parking deficiencies; conduct a Parking Workshop to review the City's current parking allowances and deficiencies; evaluate adjacent cities parking standards; and complete a full inventory.

2. Post-COVID 19 Signature Event for 2021

Discussion ensued regarding support for an event the community can attend; that Staff will be monitoring the COVID 19 situation closely; that there are no plans to have Concerts in the Park right now; the County's plan to have everyone vaccinated by the 4th of July; create a "Bring Us Back Together" City event on a smaller scale late in the Summer; and take the pre-planned Festival of Nations off the shelf to implement in 2022.

3. Little Free Library book exchange program

Discussion ensued regarding support for the book exchange program; the description of the library book box in Downey; support for the literacy supporting program; review funding mechanisms to build the boxes; options to making a Master Plan including maintenance and management; and returning to the City Council at a future date with results.

4. Code of Conduct for municipal elections

Discussion ensued regarding the need to address and regulate signage in the public right-of-way (ROW); that neighboring cities do not allow signage in the public ROW and support for La Palma to have that position; that the issue came up during up during last year's election and the decision was made to table this to the Goal Setting Session; review the Code of Conduct and analyze what needs to be updated in the City's municipal code; and direction to Staff to conduct a full review of all options and present to the City Council at a future meeting; and appreciation for previous interim City Manager Allan Roeder, who was the facilitator for the Goal Setting Session.

COUNCILMEMBER AB1234 REPORTS, REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES, AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Council Member Baker attended the League of California Cities (LOCC) Virtual New Mayors and Council Members Academy; the Orange County Library Advisory Board (OCLAB) Virtual meeting; the LOCC New Mayors and Council Members Virtual Academy; the LOCC Office of Emergency Services phone call; and the LOCC Parks and Recreation Virtual Roundtable.

Council Member Goodman attended Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva's Breakfast Club; the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) Board of Directors meeting; the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA) Executive Committee meeting; and the LOCC Housing, Community, and Economic Development Policy Committee meeting.

Council Member Waldman had nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Steggell attended the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Board of Directors meeting where she was appointed Co-Chair; the OCFA Human Resources meeting where she was appointed as Chair.

Mayor Patel attended the Orange County Vector Control District (OCVCD) Board meeting; the SMAP (Strategic, Mindful, Athletic, and Passionate) Leadership for Youth Conference; the Federation of Indian Communities of Southern California's celebration of the 72nd Indian Republic Day; the Indian American Community's celebration of the 72nd Indian Republic Day; and would like to thank City Staff for the incredible efforts taken to relocate City Hall to the Community Center.

CITY MANAGER REMARKS

City Manager McNamara echoed the appreciation for the amount of work done by Staff to transition the entire City Hall operation over to the Community Center; that Orange County has two Vaccine Super Pods open currently - one at Disneyland and the other at Soka University with the possibility of a third site; that the County is asking for full time employees from every City to help assist the vaccination process; and that labor negotiations, the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget, and Housing will be future Agenda Items.

Mayor Patel congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Steggell on her appointment as Chairperson to the OCFA Board of Directors.

CITY ATTORNEY REMARKS

City Attorney Thind reported on the status of the Sheriff Barnes litigation; that to address the concerns of the Judge regarding COVID-19, the Sheriff's decision to shift and relocate inmates has resulted in not having to release inmates into the public's general population; and announced that he will be working with the City Clerk on the biannual AB1234 Ethics Training to be scheduled in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Patel adjourned the Regular Meeting of the La Palma City Council in memory of long-time resident, Jerry Lomeli, at 7:50 p.m.

Nitesh P. Patel
Mayor

Attest:

Kimberly Kenney, CMC
City Clerk