



CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL
SUCCESSOR AGENCY AND
PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

City of Sierra Madre City Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

As part of the City of Sierra Madre's COVID-19 Transmission Mitigation Efforts, this City Council Meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom.

The meeting was (1) streamed live on the City's Website at www.cityofsierramadre.com, (2) streamed live on Foothills Media website at <http://www.foothillsmedia.org/sierramadre>, and (3) broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum).

The public was provided with the opportunity to make comments (1) calling in during the meeting to provide their comments and (2) emailing their comments by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting to PublicComment@cityofsierramadre.com.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. in memory of former Mayor George Maurer. Acting City Clerk Laura Aguilar called the roll.

Present: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst

Staff Present: Gabe Engeland, City Manager
Miguel Hernandez, Assistant City Manager
Aleks Giragosian, City Attorney
Laura Aguilar, Acting City Clerk/Administrative Services Manager
Henry Amos, Police Captain
Rodrick Armalin, Police Chief
Brent Bartlett, Fire Chief
James Carlson, Management Analyst
Chris Cimino, Director of Public Works
Vincent Gonzalez, Planning and Community Preservation Director
Hillary Guirola-Leon, Finance Director
Sophia Kownatzki, Management Analyst
Clare Lin, Associate Planner
Oscar Milan, IT Manager
Jen Peterson, Administrative Analyst
Jose Reynoso, Director of Utility Services
Rebecca Silva-Barrón, Community Services Manager

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INSPIRATION

Council Member Kriebs led the Pledge of Allegiance and spoke of the Lunar New Year, and optimism given the increasing vaccinations and lower Covid-19 case numbers.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Arizmendi asked for approval of the agenda.

Council Member Kriebs moved to approve the agenda.

Council Member Parkhurst seconded the motion.

Acting City Clerk Aguilar called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the motion.

Ayes: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss, and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to approve the agenda as presented was passed by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL FOR READING RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Mayor Arizmendi asked for a motion to read resolutions and ordinances by title only and waive further reading.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss moved to approve reading resolutions and ordinances by title only and waive further reading.

Council Member Garcia seconded the motion.

Acting City Clerk Aguilar called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the motion.

Ayes: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss, and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to approve reading resolutions and ordinances by title only and waive further reading was passed by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Arizmendi asked for approval of the minutes of the Council meeting of February 9, 2021.

Council Member Parkhurst requested that on page 6, the word "depended" be changed to "dependent", and insert the word "he" in the second discussion. He also requested that in the second paragraph of page 7, the word "that" be struck.

Council Member Parkhurst moved to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of February 9, 2021 as amended.

Council Member Kriebs seconded the motion.

Acting City Clerk Aguilar called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the motion.

Ayes: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss, and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of February 9, 2021 as amended was passed by a unanimous vote.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Kelly Kriebs

Council Member Kriebs announced that the Mt. Wilson Trail Race will take place this fall.

Council Member Robert Parkhurst

Council Member Parkhurst spoke of attending the Planning Commission meeting, where they updated Chapter 17 of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code to comply with State law.

Council Member Parkhurst stated that he attended a virtual reception of the Clean Power Alliance where they gave a presentation on the sites and sources of energy.

He also shared that he had taken his Mother in Law to Dodger Stadium for her second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, and reminded residents that while the rates of infection are dropping, that this will be a long haul and to please remember to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Council Member Edward Garcia

Council Member Garcia spoke about the February 22, 2021 Community Services Commission meeting. He shared that Sierra Madre Little League had requested and were granted permission to conduct their Opening Day Parade, with the route going down Sierra Madre Boulevard. He stated that the parade organizers will provide for social distancing safety measures. He asked that the public not attend, unless they live on Sierra Madre Boulevard and can view the parade from their front yard.

Council Member Garcia spoke about the Kersting Ct. refurbishment project and shared that he had dinner in Kersting Ct. on Saturday night, and that all the businesses were full and there was parking available. Council Member Garcia shared that the Mount Wilson Trail Race is planned for fall of 2021, and will resume its regular schedule of Memorial Day weekend in 2022.

Council Member Garcia announced that the Huck Finn Fishing Derby has been cancelled this year, due to a bacteria affecting the trout supply, and that any kind of a camp out would be a bad idea in light of the pandemic. He shared that the Community Services team is planning a different type of event, in the style of last year's Halloween Happenings.

Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss

Mayor Pro Tem Goss had nothing to report.

Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi

Mayor Arizmendi announced the February 14th passing of three time Mayor and twelve year City Council member George Maurer at the age of 90 years old. She shared that he had been a pillar of the Sierra Madre community, where he volunteered with the VFW, Kiwanis, the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department and emergency services. She shared that the City had honored his contributions by naming an award after him; the George Maurer Lifetime Service Award.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Arizmendi opened the meeting for public comment on items not on the agenda.

Call-In comment on items not on the agenda was made as follows:

David Gordon
President of the Sierra Madre Playhouse
Mr. Gordon shared upcoming events at the Playhouse.

No public comments on items not on the agenda were received by email.

Mayor Arizmendi closed public comment on items not on the agenda.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:

CONSENT

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

Acting City Clerk Aguilar gave the following reports under the Consent Calendar:

1. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-12 APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS

It is recommended that the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre does hereby approve payment of City Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$298,159.51; Sierra Madre Library Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$11,661.16; and Payroll Transfer in the aggregate amount of \$427,931.85; for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

2. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT TO DEVELOP THE AMERICA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT RISK AND RESILIENCE ASSESSMENTS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

It is recommended that the City Council award the professional services agreement to develop the America's Water Infrastructure Act Risk and Resilience Assessments and Emergency Response Plans to SA Associates for a not-to-exceed fee of \$36,000.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT - QTR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

It is recommended that the City Council receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the cash and investment portfolio for quarter ending September 30, 2020.

Mayor Arizmendi asked if any Council Members had questions on any of the Consent Items.

Council Member Garcia noted a discrepancy on the Resolution number on item #1 on the Consent Calendar. Acting City Clerk Aguilar acknowledged and stated that staff would make that correction.

Council Member Parkhurst noted on Consent Item #2 that in Section 3.5 of the agreement, that the commencement date is February 23, 2021 at 12:00 A.M. He inquired if the date should be February 24, 2021 at 12:00 A.M., and deferred to the City Attorney if there were any reason not to make that change. City Attorney Giragosian stated that the change could and would be made.

Mayor Arizmendi opened public comment on the Consent Calendar items.

No e-mail comments were received or call-in comments were made on the Consent Calendar.

Mayor Arizmendi closed public comment on the Consent Calendar and requested a motion.

Council Member Kriebs made a motion to approve Consent Items as amended.

Council Member Garcia seconded the motion.

Acting City Clerk Aguilar called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the motion.

Ayes: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss, and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to approve Consent Items as amended was passed by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

2021-2029 HOUSING ELEMENT – SITES INVENTORY

It is recommended that the City Council open a Public Hearing and provide staff with direction.

Director Gonzalez introduced Karen Warner, of Karen Warner & Associates and Assistant Planner Lin to deliver the presentation.

Council Member Garcia inquired about Site D at Bethany Church, as it relates to Measure V. Director Gonzalez clarified that while the frontage of the parcel is on Baldwin, the entire site is outside of Measure V.

Council Member Parkhurst thanked the previous Council for their work on this item. He inquired if it were possible to include both proposed options in the EIR, in case the HCD does not approve of the initial submittal. Ms. Warner confirmed that that could be done.

Mayor Arizmendi inquired if there was any concern about using religious facilities. Ms. Warner stated that many things have changed since the idea was originally raised, and that the City of Pasadena is using this methodology. She also referred to pertinent laws which had not been passed and another which had passed which relaxed the parking requirements.

Council Member Kriebs inquired how much of this plan is dependent on buy-in from the land owners. Ms. Warner stated that while it is best to have buy-in, it is not required. She stated that it is only required to show that the existing use is not an impediment. Council Member Kriebs asked if there had been any consideration given to including the lots adjacent to the Post Office site in Option B. Both Mr. Warner and Director Gonzalez explained that the sites are too small and are therefore substandard.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss asked about the likelihood that any of the proposed sites will be built out. Ms. Warner stated that since the last cycle the City had added 80 units. She felt that the pace of development in town is modest and does not anticipate a dramatic change.

Council Member Parkhurst inquired if the vote in 2022 fails, what would happen next? Ms. Warner explained the process, stating that the City has three years to implement any re-zoning. She stated that if the vote fails then the City will have to come up with another plan. Council Member Kriebs asked if the process would have to start all over again, and Ms. Warner stated that she does not have any experience with that scenario.

Council Member Garcia inquired of the possibility of a Measure V type vote in the next election. Ms. Warner stated that it will happen eventually, and that growth control measures cannot over rule. Ms. Warner acknowledged that at some point in time that the City will run out of room, and shared that other cities are looking towards commercial areas to meet housing needs.

Mayor Arizmendi opened Public Comment and invited members of the Public to call in, meanwhile opened the item for discussion by the Council.

Mayor Arizmendi stated that initially, she was in favor of Option A, as she did not want the City to have to hold a special election, however there are two items which are swaying her towards Option B: the number of Accessory Dwelling Units and the Affordable Housing Overlay. She found it encouraging that the churches are entertaining the idea. Mayor Arizmendi felt that it is a different time than when Measure V was enacted, and that she is now leaning towards Option B.

Council Member Garcia inquired about the history and methodology of Option A. Mayor Arizmendi stated that previously the churches did not participate and that times have changed.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss is in agreement with Option A, and is not afraid to take this matter to the voters, which feels respectful to him. He feels that the City is between a rock and a hard place, and that if we are required to increase density, that it should be in the downtown and not in a church parking lot, surrounded by single family residential properties, regardless of church buy-in. Mayor Pro Tem Goss stated that he is leaning toward Option A.

Council Member Kriebs expressed concern about the lack of comment from the public, stating she does not have a good sense of where they stand. She agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Goss that density should remain in the downtown, although it pushes density in areas we don't want. She also expressed concern that residents need to be able to visualize what exactly they are voting on.

Director Gonzalez spoke about the outreach that had been done, stating that the Zoom meeting had an attendance of 25 people and that had yielded good polling. Ms. Warner stated that 25 people is a good response for a City the size of Sierra Madre. She added that the information has been provided in detail on the City website, and acknowledged that it is difficult to get the public interested in policy issues.

Public Comment

Mary Radford

Woodland Dr.

Ms. Radford inquired about the definition of "low income".

Discussion

Council Member Parkhurst acknowledged that this is a tough decision. He expressed concern about the size of the church lands. He agreed with Council Member Kriebs that it is difficult to get on board without a visual, and that this is all still very theoretical. Council Member Parkhurst suggesting looking at the Manufacturing Zone where there are many large lots with a lot of potential. He stated that he would like to push for both options in the EIR to accurately gauge the impact. He stated that he is inclined towards Option B, but needs to prepare for any eventualities.

Council Member Kriebs referred to Mayor Arizmendi's concern about the timing of the election and asked if there were any meaningful risk about HCD accepting the City's proposal. Mayor Arizmendi clarified that she is not opposed to a vote, but does not want to trigger a special election, as it would be costly to the City. Ms. Warner clarified the timeline, stating that the City would get feedback within sixty days of submittal, and that there is a good chance that refinements would be made. She stated that the City would receive any feedback before the election deadline in October.

Council Member Garcia expressed concern that the outreach results were not representative of the community at large. He also acknowledged that any future RHNA numbers would impact eight years in the future, and that Measure V is twenty years old. Council Member Garcia expressed concern about the impact on the downtown of Site 1. He stated that he is in favor of Sites 3 and 5. He expressed desire to keep residential units within residential neighborhoods, but knows that eventually, the City will have to have a discussion about downtown. He stated that he is leaning towards option B

Mayor Arizmendi clarified that if the City enacts Option B and counts the number of ADU's that we will meet our target. Ms. Warner confirmed that.

Action: Mayor Arizmendi made the motion to direct staff to move forward with Option B. Council Member Parkhurst seconded.

Acting City Clerk Aguilar called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the motion.

Ayes: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst
Noes: Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss
Absent: None
Abstain: None

The motion to direct staff to move forward with Option B was passed by a 4:1 vote.

DISCUSSION

1. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-11 ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 20-21 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS AND APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNTS PROJECTED

It is recommended that the City Council approve the budget adjustments to the Fiscal Year 20-21 budget.

Finance Director Guirola-Leon delivered the agenda report and Power Point presentation.

The Council collectively discussed the expense and cost offset of the Bobcat Fire incident.

Public Comment

None.

Discussion

Council Member Parkhurst pointed out that there is a net increase in all funds, and that the City had been able to purchase a Fire Engine, refurbish Kersting Ct., endure the pandemic with no furloughs, and the worst wildfire in recent memory. He thanked the previous Council for putting the City in a good position financially.

Action: Council Member Garcia moved to approve City Council Resolution 21-11 adopting Fiscal Year 20/21 budget adjustments and appropriating the amounts projected. Council Member Kriebs seconded.

Acting City Clerk Aguilar called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the motion.

Ayes: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss, and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to approve City Council Resolution 21-11 was passed by a unanimous vote.

2. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-10 APPROVING THE TRANSFER AND SALE OF WATER FROM THE CITY'S CYCLIC WATER RESERVES IN THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN TO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

It is recommended that the City Council approve Resolution 21-10 and the sale and transfer of 2,970.74 acre-feet of water from the City of Sierra Madre's Main San Gabriel Basin Cyclic Storage

account to the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (District) for a sale price of \$2,376,592.00, as outline in the term sheet.

Utilities Director Reynoso delivered the agenda report. San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Director Miles Prince noted that there were some revisions made to the agreement per the City Council request, and that the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Board worked with staff on finalizing language that satisfied both parties.

Council Member Parkhurst inquired if this purchase agreement was Utility Director Reynoso's idea. Utility Director Reynoso stated that the idea came from a discussion with the Water District General Manager. Council Member Parkhurst commended all those involved.

Council Member Kriebs spoke in support of this agreement.

Action: Council Member Kriebs moved to approve City Council Resolution 21-10 approving the transfer and sale of water from the City's cyclic water reserves. Council Member Parkhurst seconded.

Acting City Clerk Aguilar called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the motion.

Ayes: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss, and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to approve City Council Resolution 21-10 was passed by a unanimous vote.

NEW ITEMS PLACED FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

Mayor Arizmendi asked the Council Members if there are any new items for future meeting agendas. Council Member Parkhurst requested a report on the work being done by the California Conservation Corps.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Arizmendi asked for a moment of silence in honor of former Mayor George Maurer, and adjourned the meeting in his honor at 6:18 P.M.

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 6:18 P.M. to a Regular Meeting to be held on March 9, 2021.

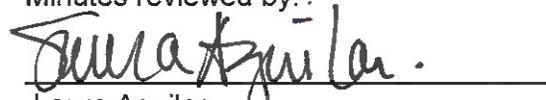


Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:

Jennifer Peterson
Administrative Analyst

Minutes reviewed by: .



Laura Aguilar
Acting City Clerk