



CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 5:30 pm

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

Pursuant to the July 16, 2021 Los Angeles County Public Health Officer's Order, everyone in Council Chambers must wear a mask covering their mouth and nose at all times.

As part of the City of Sierra Madre's COVID-19 transmission mitigation efforts, the City Council meeting was streamed live on the City's website at www.cityofsierramadre.com, on Foothills Media website at <http://www.foothillsmedia.org/sierramadre> and broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum).

The Brown Act provides the public with an opportunity to make public comments at any public meeting. Public comment was also made by e-mail to PublicComment@CityofSierraMadre.com by 3:00PM on the day of the meeting. Emails were acknowledged at the Council meeting and filed into public record.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of a City Council meeting is to conduct City business. Members of the public that behave in a manner that interrupts or obstructs the Council's ability to conduct City business may be asked to leave the meeting. Any and all demonstrations which disrupt, interrupt, or obstruct the Council's ability to conduct City business are prohibited. No signs, posters or other large objects shall be brought into the Council Chambers or other meeting place if doing so would disrupt, disturb or otherwise impede the orderly course of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Arizmendi called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. City Clerk Aguilar called the roll.

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Jose Reynoso, Interim City Manager
Miguel Hernandez, Assistant City Manager
Aleks Giragosian, City Attorney
Laura Aguilar, City Clerk/Administrative Services Manager
Hillary Guirola-Leon, Finance Director
Satnam Rait, Senior Accountant
Henry Amos, Police Captain
Brent Bartlett, Fire Chief
Chris Cimino, Public Works Director
Stephen McGee, Interim Utility Services Director
Vincent Gonzalez, Director of Community and Preservation
Clare Lin, Senior Planner
Lori Garza, Library Analyst
Rebecca Silva-Barron, Community Services Manager
Oscar Millan, Director of Information Technology

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INSPIRATION

Council Member Garcia led the Pledge of Allegiance and reflected on Hispanic Heritage Month; recognizing the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Arizmendi asked for changes to the agenda or a motion to approve as presented.

Council Member Parkhurst made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Council Member Garcia seconded the motion.

Mayor Arizmendi called for a vote of the Council to approve the agenda.

Ayes: Mayor Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Goss, and Council Members Garcia, Kriebs, and Parkhurst
Noes: None.
Absent: None.
Abstain: None.

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

APPROVAL FOR READING RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Vote of the City Council to read all Ordinances and Resolutions by title only and waive the reading in full.

Mayor Arizmendi asked for a motion.

A motion to approve the reading of resolutions and ordinances was made by Council Member Kriebs.

The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Goss.

Mayor Arizmendi called for a vote of the Council.

Ayes: Mayor Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Goss, and Council Members Garcia, Kriebs, and Parkhurst
Noes: None.
Absent: None.
Abstain: None.

The motion to approve the reading of all Ordinances and Resolutions by title only, and waive the reading in full, was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Arizmendi asked for a motion or suggested changes to meeting minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 12, 2021. Council Member Kriebs submitted changes via e-mail to add "Council Member Kriebs requested that in performing its collection services, Sequoia Financial Services be instructed to inform customers of COVID-related bill payment resources"; and to include in the minutes that City Attorney Giragosian explained the benefits of the development agreement in Discussion item 1.

Council Member Garcia moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 12, 2021 as amended.

Council Member Parkhurst seconded the motion.

Mayor Arizmendi called for a vote of the Council.

Ayes: Mayor Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Goss, and Council Members Garcia, Kriebs, and Parkhurst
Noes: None.
Absent: None.
Abstain: None.

The motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 12, 2021 was approved as amended.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Kriebs: Announced the Winter Festival on November 27, 2021. Additionally, Council Member Kriebs offered her congratulations to Finance Director Guirola-Leon for placing first in her age category in the Mt. Wilson Trail Race.

Council Member Garcia: Expressed his thanks to the Community Services Department, the Mt. Wilson Trail Race Committee, and all the people that contributed to the success of this year's race. The next race is scheduled for May 2022. Additionally, Council Member Garcia acknowledged City Attorney Giragosian, who also ran the Mt. Wilson Trail Race.

Council Member Parkhurst: Attended a meeting of the Clean Power Alliance. The Board held a tour and ribbon cutting of a 100 MW solar facility paired with 50 MW of battery energy on October 15 in Victorville. He also attended a meeting of the Planning Commission. The Commission discussed updates under State Bills 8, 9, and 10.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss: Attended a meeting of the Library Board of Trustees. Library usage is up. The Board provided updates on the building upgrades. Mayor Pro Tem Goss thanked Lori Garza for filling the role of Interim City Librarian. Additionally, he offered appreciation for Library Board Chair Gallagher for leading the meeting.

Mayor Arizmendi: Acknowledged all the work that went into organizing the Mt. Wilson Trail Race and thanked all the organizers. Mayor also acknowledged Ralph West for running his 49th Mt. Wilson Trail Race.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Council will listen to the public on any item on the agenda. In addition, the Council will devote time for public comment on items not on the agenda. Addressing the City Council from the audience is not permitted; all comments addressing the Council must be made from the podium. Only public comment made from the podium will be recognized by the City Council and entered into public record.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Persons wishing to speak on any item on the agenda will be called during the comment period at the time the agenda item is brought forward. Persons wishing to speak on closed session items have a choice of doing so either immediately prior to the closed session or at the time for comments on items at the open session.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Time shall be devoted to provide public comments for items not on the agenda. Under the Brown Act, Council is prohibited from taking action on items not on the agenda, but the matter may be referred to staff or to a subsequent meeting.

COMMENTS

1. Any person wishing to provide public comment on matters not on the agenda, or during the comment period for items on the agenda is asked to complete a comment card. Please include your name and address. Each speaker will be limited to up to three continuous minutes, which may not be delegated or deferred.
2. The City provides a podium for public comment. Comments addressed to the Council shall occur during the appropriate time on the agenda and should not be construed as an opportunity for dialogue. Each speaker will be limited to three continuous minutes, which may not be delegated or deferred.

PRESENTATION

Presentation by California Senator Anthony Portantino on current State legislation.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Arizmendi opened the meeting for Public Comment on items not on the agenda.

Katrina Hitz-Tough, 658 Orange Drive: Spoke about water leaks and road disrepair in the Upper Canyon

Nancy Beckham, 337 N. Lima Street: Provided exhibits related to the proposed development at the Monastery and shared her concerns to the potential development, including traffic.

Jim D. Loving, 635 Fairview Avenue: Shared his concerns with the proposed development at the Monastery.

Alex Arrieta, 645 Edgeview : Had concerns regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report related to the Monastery.

Tom Arndt: requested an update on his proposal for upgrades to the crosswalk in front of the Post Office.

David Gordon, Sierra Madre Playhouse: Announced performance times for the upcoming Monsters versus Aliens playing on October 30, 2021.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Arizmendi asked City Clerk Aguilar if any public comment had been submitted via e-mail. City Clerk Aguilar responded that eleven e-mails were received by City staff:

Catherine Adde: thanked out-going Police CSO Lou Oronoz for his service to the City and support of the Neighborhood Watch Program. Additionally, Ms. Adde asked the City to prioritize and coordinate work with the Gas Company on road repairs and gas lines in the Upper Canyon.

Coriena Baer: Asked the City to prioritize and coordinate work with the Gas Company on road repairs and gas lines in the Upper Canyon.

Susan Hoskins: Asked the City to prioritize and coordinate work with the Gas Company on road repairs and gas lines in the Upper Canyon.

Robert Nobel: asked the City to prioritize and coordinate work with the Gas Company on road repairs and gas lines in the Upper Canyon.

Janet Manalo: Asked in regards to the cottage at Alverno and the plans to build a structure on the corner of Wilson and Grandview. Ms. Manalo asked what would happen to the elderly couple currently living in the cottage.

Dr. Mary Doyle: asked for an update to the consideration of an ordinance banning smoking in multi-unit housing.

Colette Monell: following-up on the implementation of an ordinance that prohibits smoking in multi-unit complexes.

Mary Monohan: followed up on the issue of second hand smoke in multi-unit housing.

Shelby Moser: shared her concerns with the "Housing Project".

Steve Hogren: shared his concerns about opening up the monastery land for new housing.

Susan Willis: is opposed to development at the monastery.

At the conclusion of the acknowledgment of e-mails, Mayor Arizmendi asked City Clerk Aguilar to report on the Consent Calendar.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-62 APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS**
It is recommended that the City Council approve payment of City Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$447,770.99; Sierra Madre Library Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$2,751.96; and Payroll Transfer in the aggregate amount of \$441,393.80; for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.
- b) **CONSIDERATION OF CANCELLATION OF THE NOVEMBER 23, 2021 AND DECEMBER 28, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**
It is recommended that the City Council approve the cancellation of the regular City Council meetings of November 23, 2021 and December 28, 2021 and direct staff to pay all necessary expenses during that time.
- c) **CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR WATER TREATMENT GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON (GAC) REPLACEMENT**
It is recommended that City Council award a contract in the amount of \$151,200.00 to Carbon Activated Corporation for the replacement of virgin carbon in the lead GAC treatment vessels to be completed in November of 2021.
- d) **DISSOLUTION OF THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE SIERRA MADRE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
It is recommended that the City Council receive and file a report regarding the dissolution of the Successor Agency to the Sierra Madre Community Redevelopment Agency.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment.

Seeing no one come forward, Mayor Arizmendi asked if any e-mails had been received. City Clerk Aguilar advised that no e-mails had been received.

The Mayor brought the matter back to the Council for a motion to approve.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss made a motion to approve Consent Items a-d.

Council Member Parkhurst seconded the motion.

Mayor Arizmendi called for a vote of the Council.

Ayes: Mayor Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Goss, and Council Members Garcia, Kriebs, and Parkhurst
Noes: None
Absent: None

The motion to approve Consent Items a-d was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-59: ADOPTION OF THE 2021-2029 HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE, INCLUDING LAND USE, SAFETY, AND CIRCULATION ELEMENTS UPDATE; GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 21-03 AND; CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-60: CERTIFICATION OF THE SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

It is recommended that the City Council approve the General Plan Amendment 21-03 to adopt the 2021-2029 Housing Element Update, including updates to the Land Use, Safety, and Circulation Elements; certify the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report, and direct Staff to continue to develop zoning ordinances and zone change for the residential high density and religious housing overlay sites.

Senior Planner Clare Lin and Consultant Karen Warner gave the report.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment.

Susan Newhauser, 491 Grove: Has concerns with the SEIR and advised that a portion of the SEIR was missing on the City website. The SEIR goes from II-65 to IV-1. Section III is missing.

Deb Sheridan, Valle Vista: Asked that the Council avoid amending the General Plan from Objective Hz7: Avoid expanding development into undeveloped areas in very high fire severity zones to avoid construction of new development on land currently unimproved and surrounded by vacant open space in very high fire severity zones.

Maria Karafilis, 642 Fairview: opposes the SEIR as it currently stands; feels that it poses a fire danger. Also expressed concerns with negative transportation impacts.

Tricia Searcy, 734 Fairview: Expressed concerns with the General Plan update and also with the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report as it relates to the proposed development project at the Monastery.

Nancy Beckham, 337 N. Lima Street: Expressed concerns with public safety and land use in the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Arizmendi asked if any e-mails had been received. City Clerk Aguilar advised that one e-mail had been received.

Kathy Watson: asked why Bethany Church was still included in the Housing Element Religious Housing Overlay Zone.

The Mayor brought the matter back to the Council for discussion.

Council Member Parkhurst asked City Attorney Giragosian to explain the ramifications to the City if the submission deadline was missed. City Attorney Giragosian provided the various types of penalties and sanctions that could be brought against the City if the Housing Element was not sent to the State.

Giragosian also advised that the deadline for submission had already passed and that the City had entered in a 90-day grace period.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss asked about the impacts that SB9 would have on housing inventory in the City.

Council Member Garcia asked about the Religious Overlay Zone.

The Council continued to discuss the matter and decided to continue the Public Hearing to the next City Council meeting on November 9.

8:08 pm Mayor Arizmendi adjourned to a brief recess.

8:15 pm Mayor Arizmendi reconvened the meeting.

DISCUSSION

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 1447, ADDING SECTION 8.14 ORGANIC WASTE DISPOSAL REDUCTION AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW SB 1383 AND CONSIDERATION OF FORMING AN AD-HOC CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR UPDATE OF SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING PROGRAMS

It is recommended that the City Council introduce with first reading Ordinance 1447 adding Chapter 8.14 to the Sierra Madre Municipal Code relating to mandatory organic waste disposal reduction, and that the City Council consider the formulation of an Ad-Hoc Committee consisting of no more than two Councilmembers to work with staff to update the City's solid waste and recycling programs and pursue a potential amendment to the franchise agreement with Athens Services.

This item was presented by representatives from Athens Services; Ed Chen, Director of Government Affairs, and Christian Warner, Vice-President of Government Affairs.

City Attorney Giragosian presented on Ordinance 1447.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment.

Seeing no one come forward, Mayor Arizmendi asked if any e-mails had been received. City Clerk Aguilar advised that no emails had been received.

The Mayor brought the matter back to the Council for discussion and a motion.

Mayor Arizmendi made a motion to approve Ordinance 1447 and the formulation of an Ad-Hoc Committee Councilmembers including Council Members Kriebs and Parkhurst to work with staff to update the City's solid waste and recycling programs and pursue a potential amendment to the franchise agreement with Athens Services.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss seconded the motion.

Mayor Arizmendi called for a vote of the Council.

Ayes: Mayor Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Goss, and Council Members Garcia, Kriebs, and Parkhurst
Noes: None
Absent: None

The motion to was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

FUTURE ITEMS:

Mayor Arizmendi asked if any Council Member wished to add any items for future meetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss asked for an update on crosswalks in the City.

Council Member Parkhurst asked for an update on second-hand smoke in multi-unit housing as well as an update on a wildlife watch program.

ADJOURNMENT:

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 9:10 p.m. to a Regular Meeting to be held on November 9, 2021.



Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:



Laura Aguilar, City Clerk