



CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL
SUCCESSOR AGENCY AND
PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 - 6:30 pm

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Denise Delmar called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. City Clerk Sue Spears called the roll.

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Gabe Engeland, City Manager
Teresa Highsmith, City Attorney
Laura Aguilar, Assistant City Clerk
James Carlson, Management Analyst
Chris Cimino, Director of Public Works
Vincent Gonzalez, Planning & Community Preservation Director
Miguel Hernandez, Human Resources Manager
Kurt Norwood, Interim Fire Chief
Joe Ortiz, Police Chief
Christine Smart, Library Services Manager
Sue Spears, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION/INSPIRATION:

Council Member Arizmendi led the Pledge of Allegiance, wished everyone a Happy New Year, and read a quote by Benjamin Franklin, "*Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.*"

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED:

Mayor Delmar asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Harabedian moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Council Member Capoccia seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Noes: None

The motion to approve the agenda as presented was passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Delmar asked for the approval of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 11, 2018.

Council Member Capoccia moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 11, 2018 as presented.

Council Member Goss seconded the motion to approve.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None
Abstain: Council Member Rachelle Arizmendi

The motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 11, 2018 as presented was passed with four (4) yes votes and one (1) abstain.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

- A. Council Member John Capoccia (1) spoke about the recent passing of Tim Osti, a prominent Sierra Madre resident who touched so many people in town, (2) announced that the 2019 Sierra Madre Rose Float won yet another award, (3) recognized the Rose Float Committee and the volunteers who make the mechanics of the float work, and (4) encouraged people to support the Sierra Madre Playhouse as an outstanding treasure of Sierra Madre.
- B. Council Member Gene Goss (1) expressed congratulations and thanks to the amazing Sierra Madre Rose Float Committee, volunteers, and princesses and (2) commented that the Sierra Madre Rose Float is a source of civic pride that we treasure.
- C. Council Member Rachelle Arizmendi commented about the numerous community events that take place during the holidays that make Sierra Madre so special.
- D. Mayor Pro Tem John Harabedian concurred with the previous comments.
- E. Mayor Denise Delmar (1) expressed condolences to the Osti Family for their loss, (2) said that our hearts go out to the family, (3) announced that services will be held on January 19, 2019, and (4) reported that she was praised as the "Most Prominent Mayor" at her work Management Council Meeting because of the award winning 2019 Sierra Madre.

PRESENTATION – PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF SIERRA MADRE SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Mayor Delmar read a proclamation from the Sierra Madre City Council in recognition of Sierra Madre School Choice Week (January 20-26, 2019). No one from Sierra Madre School was present to accept the proclamation. Mayor Delmar said that the proclamation would be sent to the school.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

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

- David Gordon, Sierra Madre Playhouse, said that (1) attendance at the Sierra Madre Playhouse is generally 1/3 Sierra Madre residents and 2/3 from outside the city, (2) many Sierra Madre residents are not aware that the Sierra Madre Playhouse has offered professional theater since 2012, and (3) the Sierra Madre Playhouse has an exciting season coming up and encourages people to attend.

Mayor Delmar asked if anyone else would like to come forward to speak on items not on the agenda. Seeing no one come forward, Mayor Delmar closed Public Comment.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:

1. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

- a) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 19-01 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS – Recommendation that the City Council approve Resolution 19-01 for approval of payment of City warrants in aggregate amount of \$334,131.76; Library warrants in the aggregate amount of \$10,908.14, and payroll transfer in the aggregate amount of \$653,838.39 for the fiscal year ending June 2019.
- b) CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 19-03 ACCEPTING MTA GRANT FUNDS FOR A PROPOSED BICYCLE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - Recommendation that the City Council accept grant Transportation Development Act Funds for a joint project with the City of Arcadia for a proposed Bicycle Facilities Improvement Project.

Mayor Delmar pulled Consent Item 1b from discussion at this time and asked if any Member of the Council had questions on Consent Item 1a. Council Members did not ask any questions.

Mayor Delmar opened the meeting for Public Comment on the Consent Item 1a. Seeing no one, Mayor Delmar closed Public Comment and brought the matter back to the Council for discussion. No additional discussion occurred.

Mayor Pro Tem Harabedian made a motion to approve Consent Items 1a as presented.

Council Member Arizmendi seconded the motion for approval.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to approve Consent Calendar Items 1a as presented was passed unanimously.

Mayor Delmar asked if any Member of the Council had questions on Consent Item 1b.

Mayor Pro Tem Harabedian asked a question about how the proposed Class III Bike Lane on Sierra Madre Blvd. (between Lima Ave. and Baldwin Ave.) would work with the bike lane and the parked cars. Public Works Director Cimino (1) displayed a map graphic of the proposed Sierra Madre Class III and Class II Bike Lanes and explained that the bike lanes are to notify drivers that they need to share the road with bicyclists, (2) explained that Sierra Madre Blvd. (between Lima Ave. and Baldwin Ave.) is not wide enough to accommodate an individual bike lane and that is why a Class III Bike Lane is allowed there, (3) the bike lane stencil will be off-set toward the parking lane, instead of the middle of the lane, (4) Sierra Madre Blvd. (between Michillinda Ave. and Lima Ave.) will have an individual bike lane that will run alongside the parked vehicles (8 ft. for parked vehicles, 3 ft. for the bike lane, and 10 ft. for the driving lane).

In response to a question by Mayor Delmar, Director Cimino said that the Class III Bike Lane is to notify both the drivers and bicyclists that they need to share the lane.

In response to a question by Council Member Capoccia, Director Cimino (1) confirmed bicyclists are allowed to use public streets, regardless of the existence of a bike lane, and said that (2) per the CA Vehicle Code, bicyclists are required to ride as close to the parked cars as it is safe (3) motorists are to allow three (3) feet when passing a bicyclist, and (4) bicyclists are supposed to ride in single file and not side by side, except when passing one another or need to move due a parked car or a car turning right.

In response to a question by Council Member Arizmendi, Director Cimino confirmed (1) that the proposed bike lanes does not reduce any driving lanes and (2) per CA Vehicle Code, bicyclists are not to ride side by side, except when passing one another or avoiding a hazard.

Council Member Goss observed that many bicyclists riding through Sierra Madre on Saturdays ride side by side and asked about enforcement. Public Works Director Cimino said that enforcement is the responsibility of the Sierra Made Police Department. Council Member Goss commented that the bike lanes may alert or make it more obvious to the bicyclists that they need to ride single file.

Director Cimino reported that Orange Grove Avenue will have a Class III bike lane.

In response to a question by Mayor Delmar, Director Cimino confirmed that the grant and resulting bike lanes are part of an agreement that Sierra Madre entered into with the City of Arcadia in 2015.

Mayor Delmar opened the meeting for Public Comment on the Consent Item 1b.

- Dee Alcorn, Sierra Madre, (1) questioned the intent of the bike lanes, (2) asked about the criteria, and (3) asked about how the bike lanes will affect safety and enforcement.
- Pat Alcorn, Sierra Madre, (1) referenced the City's General Plan and asserted that the bike lanes concept was rejected, (2) expressed concern regarding the bike lanes and parking in Downtown Sierra Madre, (3) questioned whether any traffic studies had been conducted regarding the bike lanes, and (4) asked if this is a safety issue for Sierra Madre.

Mayor Delmar Mayor Delmar asked if anyone else would like to come forward to speak on this item. Seeing no one, Mayor Delmar closed Public Comment and brought the matter back to the Council for discussion.

In response to a question by Council Member Arizmendi, Director Cimino said (1) that stencil for the Class III bike lane could be moved more toward the center, (2) it is Staff's recommendation to have it closer to the parked cars, (3) the real purpose is to notify motorists and bicyclists that they are sharing the road, and (4) Arcadia did conduct a traffic study as part of the grant application.

In response to a question by Mayor Delmar, Director Cimino said that few streets in Sierra Madre will have the bike lanes and that the purpose is to connect the bike lanes that exist in Pasadena and Arcadia, which lead to the Metro.

Discussion occurred and there was consensus that the bike lanes will make it more user friendly for the bicyclists, reduce the "free for all" that seems to occur with the bicyclists on the weekends, this is a worthwhile project, Sierra Madre should honor its previous commitment to Arcadia, and the impact will not be that significant.

Council Member Capocchiai made a motion to approve Consent Items 1b as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Harabedian seconded the motion for approval.

Ayes: Mayor Denise Delmar, Mayor Pro Tem John Harabedian, and Council Members Rachelle Arizmendi, John Capocchia, and Gene Goss
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

The motion to approve Consent Calendar Items 1b as presented was passed unanimously.

2. PUBLIC HEARING - CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 1408 AMENDING TITLE 10 ("VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC") CHAPTER 10.12 ("ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT"), SECTION 10.12.030 ("RESERVED"), TO READ "SHARED MOBILITY DEVICES," PROHIBITING SHARED MOBILITY DEVICES AND BUSINESSES - Recommendation that the City Council conduct a Public Hearing and direct the City Attorney to introduce and read, by title only, and waive further reading, Ordinance 1408: an Ordinance of the City Council amending Title 10, Chapter 10.12, Section 10.12.030 prohibiting shared mobility devices and businesses.

PUBLIC HERING - CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 19-02 ESTABLISHING IMPOUND FEES PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE 1408 – Recommendation that the City Council conduct a Public Hearing and direct the City Attorney to introduce and give first reading by title only, waving further reading in full, to the following resolution entitled: Resolution 19-02: A Resolution of the City Council establishing an impound fee as contemplated by Ordinance 1408.

Mayor Delmar opened the issues for Public Hearing and City Clerk Spears read the Public Hearing items.

Planning & Community Preservation Director Gonzalez gave a report on these items, that included a PowerPoint presentation, "Shared Mobility Device – First Reading of Ordinance 1408," that included the definition of a "shared mobility device" as consisting of electric scooters and motorized or non-motorized bicycles, offered for use by a private entity to members of the public and accessed via on-demand portal, whether smartphone application, membership card, or similar method. He that that Staff is recommending that the City Council take the following actions:

- a. Direct the City Attorney to introduce and give first reading by title only, waving further reading in full, to the following ordinance entitled:

Ordinance 1408: An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre, California, amending Title 10 Chapter 10.12, Section 10.12.030 prohibiting shared mobility devices and businesses.

- b. Direct the City Attorney to introduce and give first reading by title only, waving further reading in full, to the following resolution entitled.

Resolution 19-02: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre, California, establishing an impound fee as contemplated by Ordinance 1408.

Mayor Delmar asked if any Member of the Council had questions on these items.

In response to a question by Council Member Capoccia, Director Gonzalez said that only Alhambra, Pasadena, Manhattan Beach, and West Hollywood have enacted specific ordinances regarding “shared mobility devices”, but that other cities are considering taking similar actions.

In response to a question by Mayor Pro Tem Harabedian, Director Gonzalez said that (1) a resident’s use of a “shared mobility device” would not be a violation under the proposed ordinance, as it is a private vehicle and not offered as part of a business, (2) using a “Bird” or “Lime” company scooter would be a violation, and (3) the intent of the ordinance is not to focus on the user, but to cite (impound the abandoned vehicles).

City Attorney Highsmith clarified that the ordinance does not criminalize the use of the device, but to abandon the device is a violation of the ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Harabedian asked what the City expects companies to do if patrons abandon their devices in Sierra Madre. City Manager Engeland reported that the affected companies have been contacted and they have encouraged the City to impound any abandoned devices and said that they will respond to pick them up only after the City has impounded 100 of the devices.

Mayor Delmar said that this is a Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to come forward to comment on these items. Seeing no one, Mayor Delmar closed Public Comment and brought the matter back to the Council for discussion.

Discussion occurred and there was consensus that what is being proposed (1) serves a purpose, (2) is a reasonable approach to the problem of the “shared mobility devices” being abandoned around town, (3) it does not penalize people, and (4) it penalizes the affected companies.

Mayor Pro Tem Harabedian made a motion to approve Ordinance 1408 as written.

Council Member Arizmendi seconded the motion for approval.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to approve Ordinance 1408 was passed unanimously.

Council Member Capoccia made a motion to approve Resolution 19-02 as written.

Mayor Pro Tem Harabedian seconded the motion for approval.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to approve Resolution 19-02 was passed unanimously.

City Attorney Highsmith read Resolution 19-02 and Ordinance 1408.

3. DISCUSSION - CONSIDERATION OF LETTER TO CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION REGARDING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON FEES – Recommendation that the City Council approve a letter to the CPUC regarding payments to SCE for the recovery of costs related to purchases of energy during the 2018 summer heatwave.

Management Analyst Carlson reported on this item, with the recommendation that the City Council approve the draft letter to the Public Utilities Commission opposing the request by Southern California Edison (Edison) that Clean Power Alliance customers collectively pay nearly \$1 billion dollars to cover costs of electricity purchased during the 2018 summer heat wave. He introduced Matthew Langer, Chief Operating Officer, Clean Power Alliance, as a resource to answer any Council Member questions regarding this item.

As was noted in Management Analyst Carlson’s report, in October 2017, the Sierra Madre City Council adopted Ordinance No., 1393, formally joining the Joint Powers Authority, which is now named the Clean Power Alliance. Sierra Madre is now aligned with 31 other cities and the Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura to purchase wholesale renewable energy on the current competitive open

marked. The energy will continue to be distributed by Edison and billing and customer service will also remain with Edison. Mayor Pro Tem Harabedian serves on the Board of Directors for the Clean Power Alliance, as well as an Energy Subcommittee.

Mayor Delmar asked if any Member of the Council had questions on this item.

In response to council member questions, Mr. Langer said the following: (1) the Brown Power Overcollection is estimated to be \$80M going in the other direction, but it would affect different customers differently, (2) it would be fair if money is collected from customers who underpaid, then money should be refunded to customers who overpaid, (3) the PUC, in 2017 and throughout 2018, conducted proceedings to evaluate exit fees across the state for all CCAs and all direct access customers, (4) that culminated in a decision in October 2018 that the fees were calculated to make them more market based, although some changes are to occur in 2019, (5) what Edison is proposing in this \$1 billion under collection was never addressed anywhere in those proceedings, (6) Edison filed to collect these monies in September 2018, after the PUC decision had already been made, (7) there were price fights in the power market this summer (2018) and Edison had not planned for that properly, (8) Edison is asserting that they have a right to collect from 2018 customers after they leave to the Clean Power Alliance in 2019, (9) the issue is really a procedural one, as this was not set up upfront and came up from left field, (10) the financial impact to the Clean Power Alliance is that the CPA will be okay, in that it will launch to 900,000 customers beginning in February 2019 and the last nonresidential customers in May 2019, (11) it would be helpful if those exit fees were not being charged to its customers, (12) CPA will still be able to offer the discounts it promised, slowly building reserves, and growing financially, (13) Edison is recovering the costs from those customers who remain with Edison via a rate increase, (14) for customers who exit Edison, the exit fee would show as a line item on the Edison bill.

Mayor Delmar opened the meeting for Public Comment on this item.

- Robert Parkhurst, Sierra Madre, Clean Power Alliance Community Advisory Committee member, said that he (1) worked with Management Analyst Carlson in drafting the letter and (2) supports approval of the letter to the California PUC.
- Dee Alcorn, Sierra Madre, said that (1) there is a gross lack of communication to the community regarding the rates, (2) residents do not know what this is all about, and (3) it needs to be made clear regarding what people are paying for electricity.

Mayor Delmar asked if anyone else would like to come forward to speak on this item. Seeing no one, Mayor Delmar closed Public Comment and brought the matter back to the Council for discussion.

Council Members concurred with supporting the letter to the California PUC.

Mayor Pro Tem Harabedian made a motion to approve the letter to the California PUC as amended today.

Council Member Capoccia seconded the motion for approval.

Ayes: Mayor Denise Delmar, Mayor Pro Tem John Harabedian, and Council Members Rachelle Arizmendi, John Capoccia, and Gene Goss
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

The motion to approve the letter to the California PUC as amended today was passed unanimously.

Mayor Delmar made a request to City Manager Engeland to have a future agenda item to review these issues to the Sierra Madre community and answer any questions that residents may have.

4. DISCUSSION – CONSIDERATION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION AND NON-BONDING TERM SHEET FOR PROVISION OF FIRE RESPONSE SERVICES FROM THE CITY OF ARCADIA - Recommendation that the City Council approve the Term Sheet with the City of Arcadia; approve the reorganization of the Sierra Madre Fire Department; Direct City staff to work with the City of Arcadia to finalize an agreement; and implement the reorganization upon final approval of the Agreement with the City of Arcadia.

City Manager Engeland reported on this item, with the recommendation that the City Council act as follows below. The related Staff Report to the City Council (dated 1-8-2019) - "Fire Department

Reorganization and Non-Binding Term Sheet for Provision of Fire Response Services from the City of Arcadia” states, in part, “If the Fire Suppression Services Agreement is approved, Sierra Madre residents will receive an improved public safety response for Fire, at a lower annual cost, with additional reduction in long-term obligations, such as PERS retirement costs and workers compensation insurance premiums”.

a. Approve the Term Sheet with the City of Arcadia, a summary of which follows:

- Fire Response - The City of Arcadia Fire Department would provide fire suppression and related response to all areas within the municipal boundaries of the City of Sierra Madre. The municipal boundaries of the City of Sierra Madre would be included in unified response for all members of the Verdugo System and Fire response times to service calls in the City of Sierra Madre would be within accepted response times in the Verdugo System. In addition to fire suppression services, an Engine from the Arcadia Fire Department would be dispatched as an additional resource on all emergency medical service (EMS) call in the City of Sierra Madre.
- Emergency Medical and Ambulance Transport Services - The City of Sierra Madre would maintain and continue to provide all emergency medical and ambulance transport services within the municipal boundaries of the City of Sierra Madre. Ambulance response would continue to be provided by the City of Sierra Madre out of the Sierra Madre Fire and Ambulance Headquarters. Ambulance response times would not be impacted by any proposed agreement.
- Fire Prevention Services - The City of Sierra Madre would continue to provide all Fire prevention services to the residents of Sierra Madre. These services include, but are not limited to: fire inspections, business inspections, brush inspections and clearance, Fire Marshall duties, and plan checks.
- Emergency Management - Administrative and financial oversight of all emergency situations within Sierra Madre’s municipal boundaries, including the emergency operations center (EOC), would remain the sole responsibility of the City of Sierra Madre.
- Cost - The cost anticipated for Fire response services in Year 1 payable by the City of Sierra Madre to the City of Arcadia is not-to-exceed \$800,000.
- Maintenance of Quality - Fire suppression, fire prevention, emergency medical and ambulance transport services, emergency response times, and emergency management services within the City of Arcadia’s municipal boundaries would either be maintained at their current levels or enhanced by this arrangement. This would include the assurance that the City of Arcadia’s “Class One” Fire Department status would be maintained.

b. Approve the reorganization of the Sierra Madre Fire Department as follows:

- Create - One (1) new position - “Fire and EMS Department Head”.
- Create - One (1) new position and fill if needed - “Full-Time Medic”.
- Retain - Six (6) “Fire-Medic” positions.
- Retain - Existing “Part-Time Medic” positions.
- Eliminate - One (1) “Fire Chief” position (current position is vacant).
- Eliminate - Three (3) “Fire Captain” positions (current positions – none vacant).
- Eliminate - Three (3) “Fire Engineer” positions (current positions – one filled & two vacant).
- Eliminate - all “Fire Engineer (part-time positions)” positions.
- Eliminate - all “Firefighter (part-time positions)” positions.

c. Direct City staff to work with the City of Arcadia to finalize an agreement.

d. Implement the reorganization upon final approval of the Agreement with the City of Arcadia.

Mayor Delmar asked if any Member of the Council had questions on this item.

In response to a question from Council Member Goss regarding the impact to Sierra Madre should there be a major emergency affecting Sierra Madre, Arcadia, and Pasadena, City Manager

Engeland responded that this plan entitles Sierra Madre to automatic aid provided through the Verdugo System, making Sierra Madre safer, not less safe. He said that, currently, (1) Sierra Madre not entitled to automatic aid, (2) mutual aid must be requested after the SMFD responds to the fire scene and makes the determination that the fire is beyond its capacity to respond, (3) those agencies can either provide or deny the requested aid, and (4) the current system of mutual aid is not sufficient to enable Sierra Madre to respond to a major catastrophe.

In response to a question by Mayor Pro Tem Harabedian regarding Sierra Madre's responsibility in managing emergencies through its EOC, City Manager Engeland stated that the Term Sheet refers to Sierra Madre assuming the liability and the cost. In addition, he said that (1) the Verdugo System has upwards of 45 engines and 13 trucks that it can dispatch, (2) as part of automatic aid unified response, Sierra Madre would have access to that equipment as necessary, and (3) currently, as Sierra Madre has only mutual aid, there is no guarantee that assistance will come, particularly at a time when there is a major emergency.

In response to a question by Council Member Capoccia regarding how fire dispatch works in a major emergency situation, Fire Chief Norwood described the situation that occurred during the 2011 Wind Storms in which each agency was responsible for its own jurisdiction as follows: Verdugo (Area C) reached out to the County of Los Angeles (Region 1) who reached out to agencies that were not impacted by the emergency to respond (such as Torrance, Long Beach, South Bay, etc., including bringing in engines from outside Los Angeles County). Furthermore, he said that the response could come from agencies in Southern California and, if necessary, agencies throughout California. City Manager Engeland added that such a situation would be mass mutual aid, not automatic aid.

Mayor Delmar asked for assurance that Sierra Madre would be treated fairly and the same as Arcadia or Pasadena (fires break out simultaneously on the border of Sierra Madre and Pasadena and another one on the border of Sierra Madre and Arcadia), City Manager Engeland said that, under the Verdugo System (with automatic aid), the first fire that is called in will have response from the agency with the closest available engine and the second fire called in will have response from the agency with the closest available engine (dispatch is done in the order that the calls are received). He added that, currently with mutual aid and simultaneous fire in Sierra Madre, there is no guarantee that assistance will be provided from another agency.

In response to a question from Council Member Arizmendi regarding the coordination of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Chief Norwood explained that (1) the EOC is unique to each agency and it is activated based on the type of emergency, which includes situations other than fires and (2) Sierra Madre would be responsible for its own EOC, whether it has its own fire suppression capabilities, or it is contracted out.

Mayor Delmar opened the meeting for Public Comment on this item.

- Mark Duson, Sierra Madre Fire Department member, said that (1) this proposal will eliminate support for medical calls, (2) Council needs to consider the loss of a fire engine, (3) the plan needs to be thought through, and (4) he asked if there is a cost benefit to the City.
- Kristine Lowe, Sierra Madre, said that (1) she supports this proposal, (2) there will be a quicker response time, as there is automatic dispatch from the closest available unit, as currently the City has to wait for approval, (3) this increases the number of trained personnel responding, and (4) the cost efficiency is a benefit to residents.
- Carol Canterbury, Sierra Madre, said that (1) she questioned why this is happening so fast and (2) this plan needs more community input.
- Gene Torncello, Sierra Madre, said that (1) this is happening too fast and not with a lot of community discussion and (2) this is being done in a vacuum.
- Alan Hodge, Sierra Madre Paramedic, said that (1) Council needs to consider that City of Arcadia is suffering from a deficit and is looking at ways to cut the budget, (2) auto-aide benefits some cities more than others, (3) Sierra Madre is not centrally located, (4) he never heard of a fire department that does not have a fire engine.
- Laura Leduc, Sierra Madre Police Department, said that (1) the Sierra Madre Police Department responds on a lot of medical calls and (2) if SMPD is on a medical call and a hot call requiring the SMPD comes through, there may be a delay.

- Charlie Guillen, Sierra Madre, said that (1) he had a kitchen fire and thanked the SMFD and SMPD for their response and (2) the SMFD is a big part of this community.
- Tom Denison, Sierra Madre, said that (1) he is glad that Council is taking steps to address the solvency of the city, (2) asked whether there were other options considered, (3) asked about the financial impact and savings in Years 2, 3, 4, & 5, (4) asked about the guarantees being made as part of this agreement, and (5) questioned why this decision is made.

Mayor Delmar asked if anyone else would like to come forward to speak on this item. Seeing no one come forward, Mayor Delmar closed Public Comment.

Seeing no one, Mayor Delmar closed Public Comment and brought the matter back to the Council for discussion.

Mayor Delmar asked City Manager Engeland to respond to some of the issues raised during Public Comment as follows:

- This is not a new conversation, as public discussions on this issue began about 1 ½ years ago, including several styles and types of fire response.
- Why this is moving so fast? - Today is for Council to approve a non-binding term sheet for fire response services from Arcadia so this is not approving a contract that is set in stone. A MOU will come back to Council for review and discussion, with a lot of notice and public discussion, and will include more detailed answers to some of the questions being asked.
- Do we understand all the options and why is this the decision? – Sierra Madre has essentially two options: (1) keep our own in-house fire service or (2) contract with Arcadia for fire response service, keeping all other components in-house. The goal is to end the city's mutual aid agreements and move toward with an automatic aid agreement. We have heard very clearly from the cities that we have mutual aid with is that their residents and taxpayers are not interested in subsidizing Sierra Madre's fire response services any longer. Even when Sierra Madre moved to have all of their SMFD paid, Sierra Madre was not approved to get automatic aid by the Verdugo system, as the other cities do not have to agree to it. Only by being serviced by Arcadia for fire suppression services, can Sierra Madre be guaranteed automatic aid.
- What happens if Arcadia has a budget crisis? – The contingency on that is to leave a long exit ramp (a situation cannot occur such that response is provided by Arcadia one day and not the next), with multiple years for Arcadia to wind down their response services and Sierra Madre to bring its response services back up.
- Difference between mutual aid and auto aid – Mutual aid (which Sierra Madre currently has) (1) a fire call comes in, (2) SMFD responds, (3) SMFD assesses the situation and determines that additional fire resources are necessary, (4) SMFD calls one of the cities with which we have mutual aid and requests their assistance, (5) historically they have been good about providing that assistance, but they are not obligated to provide any assistance, and (6) while Sierra Madre has not been charged for mutual aid in the past, the practice of not charging for mutual aid may be ending. Under automatic aid (1) when a call comes in for fire response, Sierra Madre gets the full response dispatched automatically and immediately, starting with the closest available station and then bringing in other additional resources as needed. In talking about response time, the most important response time metric is the secondary response, i.e. how quickly do we get our second unit on scene, what type of apparatus is coming with that secondary response, and how long does it take to dispatch it. With automatic aid, all of those things improve dramatically.
- Medial Aid Response Time – Half of Sierra Madre is closer to Arcadia's Station 107 than to the Sierra Madre Fire Station, so there are many areas in Sierra Madre where the response from Station 107 that will exceed the current Sierra Madre engine response.

Chief Norwood clarified that (1) Sierra Madre does not currently have any signed mutual aid agreements with any of the Area C cities, (2) until the Area C cities (Verdugo, Glendale, and Pasadena) approve it, Sierra Madre does not have automatic aid, (3) the major benefit of contracting with Arcadia is, by virtue of them expanding their jurisdiction, Arcadia has automatic aid. He recommended that the Council explore contracting fire services with Arcadia, while continuing to move forward with staffing a full time fire department. Chief Norwood also expressed that Sierra Madre needs to have automatic aid for fire response services and Sierra Madre is more likely to get

it by contracting with Arcadia. He said that the response time on the second engine will improve solely based on automatic aid, in that second unit is dispatched at the same time as the first unit so they are leaving the station at the same time and are in route. Chief Norwood asserted that the quicker response time for the second/third unit positively impacts public safety. Response times for Rescue Ambulance (RA) calls will improve for at least half of Sierra Madre.

City Manager Engeland said that this not about the personnel that we have or the job that they do. It is about the Verdugo System saying that Sierra Madre is not going to be a part of mutual response and automatic aid, which has been a goal from the Council for over 10 years. It has been a decade that Sierra Madre has been trying to get automatic aid and this agreement is a path-line to surviving in a connected system with 13 other cities that Sierra Madre is currently not a part of.

Mayor Delmar stated that (1) the Council has shown a dedication to the SMFD in getting it staffed to a level in which Sierra Madre could possibly get automatic aid, (2) automatic aid is not going to be possible from what she is hearing, and (3) she still wants to move in that direction until the City does something else.

City Attorney Highsmith explained that a decision made tonight to reorganize the Sierra Madre Fire Department would not be implemented until the Council approves the MOU. City Manager Engeland added that this issue has not been brought to the City Council of Arcadia.

Discussion occurred and there was consensus among the Council to support the move to continue to explore this and move forward to approve the Term Sheet, approve the reorganization of the SMFD pursuant to the Term Sheet, etc. Council member comments included the following: (1) the only prudent decision is to continue to explore this possibility with Arcadia to ensure that Sierra Madre gets automatic aid, which is important, (2) the Council is looking out for the safety of the community and this makes us safer, for both fire and medical call response, (3) other cities have been assisting Sierra Madre basically for free and there may be a time when that does not happen anymore, (4) the SMFD is a historical institution in this town that is well respected, but times have changed, (5) public safety and the provision of services is vital, (6) the financial impact is not the most important factor in making this decision, it is to make our community safer, (7) wildfires are the new normal in California and we have to take steps to put public safety first, (8) we cannot just live in a little bubble by ourselves, we need others to assist us, and (7) this is a mutual benefit to Sierra Madre and Arcadia that will make both cities safer.

Council Member Arizmendi made a motion to (1) approve the Term Sheet with the City of Arcadia, (2) approve the reorganization of the Sierra Madre Fire Department, (3) direct City staff to work with the City of Arcadia to finalize an agreement, and (4) implement the reorganization upon final approval of the Agreement with the City of Arcadia.

Council Member Capoccia seconded Council Member Arizmendi's motion.

Ayes: Mayor Denise Delmar, Mayor Pro Tem John Harabedian, and Council Members Rachelle Arizmendi, John Capoccia, and Gene Goss
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

The motion to (1) approve the Term Sheet with the City of Arcadia, (2) approve the reorganization of the Sierra Madre Fire Department, (3) direct City staff to work with the City of Arcadia to finalize an agreement, and (4) implement the reorganization upon final approval of the Agreement with the City of Arcadia was passed unanimously.

NEW ITEMS PLACED FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

Mayor Delmar asked the members of the City Council if there are any new items for future meeting agendas.

Mayor Pro Tem Harabedian requested that a discussion at a future meeting take place regarding methods to connect people with the Gold Line. City Manager Engeland commented that Staff is currently working on that and will bring it forward at an upcoming meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Delmar asked for a motion to adjourn.

Council Member Capoccia made a motion to adjourn the meeting in memory of Tim Osti.

The motion to adjourn was seconded by Council Member Goss.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously.

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING WAS ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF TIM OSTI at 8:46 p.m. to a Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, in the Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers.



Denise Delmar
Denise Delmar, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:



Sue Spears
Sue Spears, City Clerk