



CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL
SUCCESSOR AGENCY AND
PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 - 6:30 pm

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

DUE TO THE PANDEMIC AND CA GOVERNOR'S STAY AT HOME ORDER, THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND CITY CLERK CALLED IN FOR THE MEETING.

THE PUBLIC WAS PROVIDED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE MEETING LIVE ON CHANNEL 3 OR ON THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE'S WEBSITE AT www.CityofSierraMadre.com

THE PUBLIC WAS PROVIDED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY EXPRESS THEIR OPINION DURING PUBLIC COMMENT BY CALLING 1-(800) 309-1256 USING PIN CODE 728873 DURING THE MEETING, SENDING A TEXT TO (626) 355-6214, OR BY EMAIL TO: PublicComment@cityofsierramadre.com

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor John Capoccia called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. City Clerk Sue Spears called the roll.

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Gabe Engeland, City Manager
Aleks Giragosian, Deputy City Attorney
Laura Aguilar, Assistant City Clerk/Administrative Services Manager
Vincent Gonzalez, Director of Planning & Community Preservation
Sue Spears, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Goss led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION – MARCH 24, 2020

Deputy City Attorney Giragosian reported that there was no report at this time because the Closed Session scheduled for today has been continued to Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

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

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

Council Member Harabedian seconded the motion.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Capoccia asked for the approval of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 10, 2020, and the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of March 17, 2020.

Mayor Capoccia stated that he had spoken with City Clerk Spears regarding a change to the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 3-10-20. There were no other changes noted for either of the City Council meeting minutes.

Mayor Capoccia moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 10, 2020, as amended and the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of March 17, 2020, as presented.

Council Member Goss seconded the motion.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 10, 2020, as amended and the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of March 17, 2020, as presented was passed by a unanimous vote.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor John Capoccia (1) thanked the public for watching and participating in the meeting remotely, (2) apologized for any inconvenience this has caused, and (3) expressed that the City Council is very interested in feedback from the public and wants to hear their suggestions.

Mayor Pro Tem Rachele Arizmendi (1) requested that residents to be patient when communicating with City Council Members about their concerns/questions and (2) expressed that City Staff are being extremely responsive in responding to resident/business requests/inquiries.

Council Member Gene Goss did not make a report.

Council Member John Harabedian did not make a report.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Louise Arteaga, relative of a resident of 51 Esparanza Ave., called in and expressed concern regarding evictions by the new owners of 51 Esparanza Ave. and requested that the City Council consider reviewing Ordinance 7352.
- Gary Hood, Sierra Madre, sent an Email expressing appreciation for the actions taken by City Staff related to disaster preparedness and recognized Sierra Madre resident Bob Spears for his contributions toward this effort.

Mayor Capoccia asked if anyone else would like to submit commits of items not on the agenda. No one else called in or submitted additional comments and Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- (a) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 20-13 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS – Recommendation that the City Council approve Resolution 20-13 for approval of payment of City warrants in the aggregate amount of \$188,059.98; Sierra Madre Library warrants in the aggregate amount of \$7,311.45; and payroll transfer in the aggregate amount of \$407,043.59; for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Mayor Capoccia asked if any Council Members had questions on Consent Item 1a. No questions were asked.

Mayor Capoccia opened the meeting for Public Comment on Consent Item 1a. Mayor Capoccia waited and no one called in or submitted any comments. As a result, Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment and brought the matter back to the City Council for a motion.

Council Member Harabedian made a motion to approve Consent Item 1a as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi seconded the motion.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to approve Consent Item 1a as presented was passed by a unanimous vote.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING - FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1427 AMENDING TITLE 17, CHAPTERS 17.08-DEFINITIONS, 17.36-COMMERCIAL ZONE, 17.60-VARIANCES AND DISCRETIONARY PERMITS, OF THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE AND RELATED ZONING CODE PROVISIONS**

Mayor Capoccia opened this item for Public Hearing.

Mayor Capoccia asked that the Public Hearing be closed and moved to a future date uncertain so that the issue can be sent back to the Planning Commission before being brought back to the City Council for consideration.

Mayor Capoccia opened this item for Public Comment. Mayor Capoccia waited and there was no one calling in or submitting any comments. As a result, Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment and brought the matter back to the City Council for a motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi made a motion to move the matter to a future date uncertain.

Council Member Goss seconded the motion.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to move the matter to a future date uncertain was passed by a unanimous vote.

3. **DISCUSSION - REGULATIONS REQUIRING RETROFIT OF UNREINFORCED MASONRY BUILDINGS**

Planning Director Gonzalez reported on this item that included a PowerPoint, titled " Regulations Requiring Retrofit of Unreinforced Masonry Buildings". The recommendation was that the City Council direct Staff to amend Title 15-Building and Construction of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code and to prepare a draft unreinforced masonry (URM) building ordinance and establish a risk reduction program.

Mayor Capoccia asked if any Council Members had questions on this item. Planning Director Gonzalez and James Guerra, Contract Building Inspector from Willdan Services, responded to City Council Member questions.

Mayor Capoccia opened this item for Public Comment.

- Bob Spears, Sierra Madre, sent an Email about the purpose of the CA law requiring cities to inventory their unreinforced masonry buildings and to develop a plan to mitigate the damage done and losses caused by future earthquakes and urged the City Council to pass such an ordinance.

Mayor Capoccia asked if there was anyone else would like to speak on this item. Mayor Capoccia waited and no one called in or submitted additional comments. As a result, Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment and brought the matter back to the City Council for discussion.

City Council discussion occurred and there was consensus to direct staff to amend Title 15-Building and Construction of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code and to prepare a draft unreinforced masonry

(URM) building ordinance, establish a risk reduction program, and bring it back to the City Council for consideration.

City Council Member comments included the following: (1) this is long overdue, especially considering earthquakes and the risks involved, (2) it is important that we move forward on this, and (3) it is necessary to proceed in updating the Municipal Code, but there may be a need to be flexible on the timeline, given the current circumstances.

4. DISCUSSION - CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULATIONS AND PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 CRISIS ON RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS

City Manager Engeland reported on this item with the recommendation that the City Council adopt Resolution 20-14 to protect residential and commercial tenants in Sierra Madre from eviction; extend the term of entitlements which are set to expire; provide guidance for attendance at religious gatherings; and provide guidance for private gatherings. As noted in the report, Resolution 20-14 is aligned with and complies with the CA Governor's Executive Order dated 3-19-20 and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health Order of the Health Officer dated 3-21-20 titled "Safer at Home Order for Control of Covid-19".

Mayor Capoccia asked if any Council Members had questions on this item. City Manager Engeland and Deputy City Attorney Giragosian responded to City Council Member questions.

Mayor Capoccia opened this item for Public Comment. Mayor Capoccia waited and there was no one calling or submitting any comments. As a result, Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment and brought the matter back to the City Council for discussion.

City Council discussion occurred and there was consensus to approve Resolution 20-14 as presented.

Council Member Goss made a motion to approve Resolution 20-14 as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi seconded the motion.

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

The motion to approve to approve Resolution 20-14 as presented was passed by a unanimous vote.

NEW ITEMS PLACED FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

Mayor Capoccia asked the Council Members if there are any new items for future meeting agendas. No news items were requested.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Capoccia asked for a motion to adjourn.

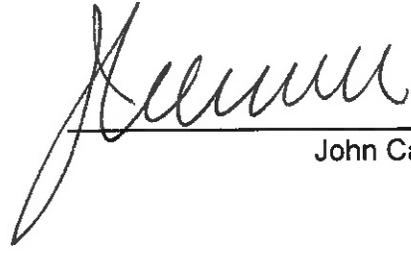
Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Goss.

Ayes: Mayor John Capoccia, Mayor Pro Tem Rachele Arizmendi, and Council Members Gene Goss and John Harabedian
Noes: None
Absent: None

The motion to adjourn was passed by a unanimous vote.

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 24, 2020 WAS ADJOURNED at 7:25 p.m. to a Regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, in the Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers.



John Capoccia, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:

Sue Spears, City Clerk

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