



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

Tuesday, November 9, 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 3:00 PM 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 Rachelle 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
Rod Armalin, Police Chief
Brent Bartlett, Fire Chief
Chris Cimino, Public Works Director
Stephen McGee, Interim Utility Services Director
Vincent Gonzalez, Director of Planning and Community Preservation
Clare Lin, Senior Planner
Lori Garza, Interim Librarian
Rebecca Silva-Barron, Community Services Manager
Oscar Millan, Director of Information Technology
James Carlson, Management Analyst
Nathalia Flores, Fire Department Administrative Aide

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INSPIRATION

Council Member Kriebs led the Pledge of Allegiance and spoke of the season of gratitude. Council Member Kriebs shared a list of people and things for which she is most grateful.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

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

Mayor Pro Tem Goss made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Council Member Kriebs 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 a 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 Ordinances and Resolutions was made by Council Member Parkhurst.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Garcia.

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 the meeting minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 26, 2021. Council Member Parkhurst submitted changes via e-mail to amend:

- Page 3 – Under my report to Council, could you please change the second sentence to “The Board held a tour and ribbon cutting of a 100 MW solar facility paired with 50 MW of battery energy storage on October 15 in Victorville, CA.”
- Page 7 – For Kathy Watson, should the sentence read “asked why” rather than “asked by”?
- Page 8 – Under Future Items, could you change “wildlife” to “the Wildlife Watch program.”?

Mayor Pro Tem Goss moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 26, 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 26, 2021, was approved as amended.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Goss: Announced that the hiring process for the City Manager recruitment has concluded. The announcement was first made at the Mayor's State of the City Address on Saturday. The City Council has appointed Jose Reynoso.

Council Member Parkhurst: Had no updates to report.

Council Member Kriebs: Had no updates to report.

Council Member Garcia: Had no updates to report but did say that he is looking forward to the upcoming CalPERS meeting to decide on the discount rate.

Mayor Arizmendi: Mentioned Saturday's State of the City Address and advised it would be available in a few days on Government Channel 3. Mayor Arizmendi also announced that the City received a budget award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation to Mother Moo Creamery in recognition of their 10th Anniversary, presented by Council Member Parkhurst.

Presentation on the City's Fiber Master Plan by Information Technology Manager Millan

Presentation on the Statewide Drought Emergency by Interim Director of Utility Services McGee

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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.

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

Rich Proctor, Sierra Madre Library Board of Trustees: Spoke about the book selection for One Book One City; the Midnight Library by Matt Haig

Deb Sheridan, Valle Vista: Asked about the "No Trespassing" signs at One Carter.

Tricia Searcy: Shared her concerns with receiving a response to her requests for public records.

Lynne Collmann: Stated that the SEIR process for public seemed rushed and not inclusive. Additionally, she stated that there was too much focus on the deadline and not the substance and would appreciate alternatives that allow for two-way communication.

David Gordon, Sierra Madre Playhouse: announced the upcoming showing of *It's a Wonderful Life* and a series of silent film comedies at the Playhouse.

Alex Arrieta, 645 Edgeview: Attended the Planning Commission meeting last week and is concerned about the consultants that spoke about traffic on Sunnyside.

Nancy Beckham, Lima: stated her concerns with street width.

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 two e-mails were received by City staff:

Lou Losorelli: disagreed with the consultant that presented traffic impacts at the Planning Commission meeting.

Gary Hood: urged the City Council to use the budget surplus to defend and preserve the community.

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

- a) **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-65 APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS**
It is recommended that the City Council approve payment of City Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$394,727.88; Sierra Madre Library Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$4,723.91; and Payroll Transfer in the aggregate amount of \$408,384.65; for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.
- b) **AB 1600 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE ACTIVITY**
Staff recommends that the City Council receive and file the annual AB 1600 Compliance Report for Fiscal Year 2020-21 in accordance with California Government Code 66006.
- c) **TREASURERS REPORT – QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 2021**
It is recommended that the City Council receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the cash and investment portfolio for the quarter ending June 30, 2021.
- d) **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-62 ADOPTING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE AND POLICE ASSOCIATION AND RESOLUTION 21-63 AMENDING THE CLASSIFICATION PLAN AND SALARY MATRIX FOR THE POLICE ASSOCIATION**
It is recommended that the City Council approve Resolution 21-62 adopting the Police Association (PA) Memorandum of Understanding; and Resolution 21-63 amending the Classification Plan and Salary Matrix in order to implement the negotiated cost of living adjustments for full-time employees covered under the Police Association.
- e) **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 1447 ADDING SECTION 8.14 “ORGANIC WASTE DISPOSAL REDUCTION” TO THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO MANDATORY COMMERCIAL AND MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING.**
It is recommended that the City Council introduce for second reading, by title only, and adopt Ordinance 1447 adding section 8.14 “Organic Waste Disposal Reduction” to the Sierra Madre Municipal Code.
- f) **CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT SEGMENT 4 TO, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500,000.00 TO BIG BEN INC.**
It is recommended that the City Council award a construction contract in an amount of \$2,500,000 for the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Water Main Replacement Project Segment 4 to Big Ben Inc.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment.

Katrina Hitz-Tough, 658 Orange Dr.: regarding agenda item 1F thanked the Council for listening to the residents in the Canyon and providing assistance with road repairs.

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 discussion or a motion to approve.

Council Member Kriebs made a motion to approve Consent Items a-f.

Council Member Garcia 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-f was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

6:41 pm – At this time Mayor Arizmendi called for a brief break. The City Council reconvened at 6:46.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-59 APPROVING GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 21-03 TO ADOPT THE 2021-2029 HOUSING ELEMENT, LAND USE CATEGORIES RH-20 (RESIDENTIAL HIGH DENSITY AT 20-24 DWELLING UNITS/ACRE), RH-30 (RESIDENTIAL HIGH DENSITY AT 30-34 DWELLING UNITS/ACRE), AND RHO (RELIGIOUS HOUSING OVERLAY), AND UPDATES TO THE LAND USE ELEMENT, SAFETY ELEMENT, AND CIRCULATION ELEMENT AND;**

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-60: CERTIFYING THE FINAL SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR GENERAL PLAN UPDATE TO THE 2021-2029 HOUSING ELEMENT, LAND USE ELEMENT, SAFETY ELEMENT AND CIRCULATION ELEMENT UPDATE, ADOPT FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

It is recommended that the City Council adopt Resolution 21-59 approving the General Plan Amendment 21-03 to adopt the 2021-2029 Housing Element Update, including updates to the Land Use, Safety, and Circulation Elements; and

Adopt Resolution 21-60 certifying 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.

Nancy Beckham, 337 N. Lima Street: Expressed concerns with the SEIR.

Susan Neuhausen, 491 Grove: Has concerns with the SEIR.

Deb Sheridan, Valle Vista: Expressed concern with a General Plan that is being considered for modification. Stated that the Consultant's recommended changes are not relevant to RHNA and asked that the change be removed.

Scott Oliver, Carter Ave: Believes the traffic study is inadequate

Tricia Searcy, 734 Fairview: Expressed concerns with the response she received from the City regarding her comments to the SEIR.

Alex Arrieta, 645 Edgeview: Expressed concerns with the process related to the SEIR.

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

Shelby Moser: opposes the approval of the SEIR

Barbara Vellturo: asked questions about the SEIR and expressed concerns.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Goss made a motion to approve Resolutions 21-59 and 21-60 approving the General Plan Amendment 21-03 to adopt the 2021-2029 Housing Element Update, including updates to the Land Use, Safety, and Circulation Elements; and certifying 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.

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 was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

DISCUSSION

1. CONSIDERATION OF CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 21-64 APPROVING ACCEPTANCE OF SMFD FIRE HAZARD AND FUEL REDUCTION GRANT FUNDS

It is recommended that the City Council adopt Resolution 21-64, approving the acceptance of a Fire Hazard and Fuel Reduction Grant awarded by Cal-Fire and CA Climate Investments.

Fire Department Administrative Aide Flores gave the report.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment.

Seeing no one come forward, Mayor Arizmendi brought the matter back to the Council for discussion and a motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss made a motion to approve Resolution 21-64 approving the acceptance of a Fire Hazard and Fuel Reduction Grant awarded by Cal-Fire and CA Climate Investments.

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 was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

2. CONSIDERATION OF CHANGE ORDER FOR THE SIERRA MADRE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT

It is recommended that the City Council direct Interim City Manager Reynoso to sign the Second Amendment to Solar Power Purchase Agreement with REC Solar Commercial Corporation.

Management Analyst Carlson gave the report.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment.

Seeing no one come forward, Mayor Arizmendi brought the matter back to the Council for discussion and a motion.

Council Member Parkhurst made a motion to authorize Interim City Manager Reynoso to sign the Second Amendment to Solar Power Purchase Agreement with REC Solar Commercial Corporation.

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 approve was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

3. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT: DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED EXPENDITURE PLAN

It is recommended that the City Council provide staff with direction.

Finance Director Guirola-Leon gave the report.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment.

David Gordon, Sierra Madre Playhouse: Asked the Council to consider the Playhouse in its deliberations.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Arizmendi brought the matter back to the Council for discussion and a motion.

The City Council directed staff to return to the next Council meeting with objectives and application process for non-profit organizations as well as a plan for separate payment to essential workers that served during the allowable period.

4. GENERAL FUND RESERVES OVERVIEW

It is recommended that the City Council provide staff with direction.

Finance Director Guirola-Leon gave the report.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment.

De Alcorn, Grandview: suggested that funds be used for the City's water system.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Arizmendi brought the matter back to the Council for discussion.

FUTURE ITEMS:

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

Council Member Kriebs asked for a status update regarding the SMFD Fire Hazard and Fuel Reduction Grant funds.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss requested a presentation on the Library building status.

ADJOURNMENT:

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 9:17 p.m. to a Regular Meeting to be held on December 14, 2021.



Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:



Laura Aguilar, City Clerk