



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

Tuesday, December 14, 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 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
David Gacad, Fire Captain
Chris Cimino, Public Works Director
Stephen McGee, Interim Utility Services Director
Vincent Gonzalez, Director of Community and 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 Parkhurst led the Pledge of Allegiance and spoke of the revitalization of Kersting Court. Afterwards Council Member Parkhurst and members of the City Council visited Lizzy Trail Inn and Richardson House. Council Member Parkhurst remarked on the rich history of the City, including the Red Car Line. The first Red Car arrived in Sierra Madre on January 2, 1906 and the last Red Car departed on December 28, 1950.

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 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 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.

REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Arizmendi asked City Attorney Giragosian to report out from the Closed Session.

City Attorney Giragosian announced that the City Council met in Closed Session to discuss two agenda items.

The first item was a conference with legal counsel to discuss existing litigation; CETT Investment Corporation versus the City of Sierra Madre. There was no reportable action taken.

The second item was a public employee appointment; the office of City Manager. No reportable action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Arizmendi asked for a motion or suggested changes to meeting minutes of the Regular Council meeting of November 9, 2021.

Council Member Kriebs moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of November 9, 2021 as presented.

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 November 9, 2021 was approved as presented.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Parkhurst: Reported that he attended a meeting of the Clean Power Alliance. Effective March 1, 2022, electricity rates will decrease 6%, becoming the least expensive electricity available to our residents.

Council Member Parkhurst also attended a meeting of the Planning Commission.

Council Member Garcia: Reported that he attended the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Economic Summit. The main topic was housing, housing affordability, housing costs, and transportation.

Council Member Garcia also attended the convening of the Mayors of the County of Los Angeles, at the request of Mayor Arizmendi. Of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County, approximately 20 representatives attended the meeting. Topics of discussion included Covid vaccinations and rates of infection.

Council Member Kriebs: Attended the grand re-opening of Kersting Court. It was good to see City staff, various commissioners, and board members attend the event as well.

Council Member Kriebs also attended the Senior Community Commission meeting. She reported that senior programming is back to almost pre-pandemic form. The Seniors held a concert last Friday in the park.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss: Attended the grand re-opening of Kersting Court. Afterwards, the Sierra Madre Historical Society gave the Council a tour of the Richardson House and Lizzy's Trail Inn.

Mayor Arizmendi: Announced that the City's new fire engine is almost ready. The current fire engine is almost 20 years old.

Mayor Arizmendi also announced that Wi-Fi is now available to the public at Kersting Court, similar to Memorial Park.

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.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association: Mayor Arizmendi invited representatives from the Rose Float Association to come forward. Seeing no one come forward, Mayor Arizmendi moved on to the next presentation.

Presentation by the Sierra Madre Community Foundation Fletcher Fund Foundation for Mt. Wilson Trailhead Gate Project. Mayor Arizmendi invited Commissioner Bob Spears and Former City Clerk Sue Spears to the podium. The pair presented the City with a ceremonial check in the amount of \$23,000 as a donation to the City for costs related to the installation of the new Mt. Wilson Trailhead Gate Project.

Presentation of proclamation in recognition of United Against Hate Week. Mayor Arizmendi spoke of the importance of recognizing United Against Hate Week November 14, 2021 – November 20, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

Leslie Ziff, Sierra Madre Library Board of Trustees: Announced the upcoming One Book One City programs at the Sierra Madre Library. The featured book is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig.

Mrs. Ziff also announced a second Open House at Lizzy Trail Inn and Richardson House and invited the public to attend both the City's historical museums.

Sharon Pevsner, Sierra Madre Community Foundation: Announced the upcoming Whiskey and Wine event to raise funds for the Community Foundation. The event will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2022, tickets are \$75.00 to be paid in advance.

David Gordon, Sierra Madre Playhouse: Offered his thanks and appreciation to Mayor Arizmendi on her last night as Mayor of Sierra Madre.

Kaitlyn Holm, 305 Ramona: Urged the City Council to consider measures to protect the Wistaria Vine at 505 Hermosa.

Nathalia Flores, Sierra Madre Fire Department: Announced the Santa Meet and Greet as well as the upcoming holiday parade and photos with Santa. Additionally, a Christmas toy drive is currently underway.

Tom Arnt: Asked for an update on his proposal for crosswalks.

Mayor Arizmendi asked City Clerk Aguilar if any e-mails had been submitted for public comment. City Clerk Aguilar advised that no e-mails were received, for any item on the agenda.

Arizmendi asked City Clerk Aguilar to report on the Consent Calendar.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:

CONSENT

City Clerk Aguilar gave the following reports:

- a) **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-67 APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS**
It is recommended that the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre does hereby ratify payment of City Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$262,998.66; Sierra Madre Library Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$4,023.73; and Payroll Transfer in the aggregate amount of \$443,477.04 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.
- b) **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-69 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 \$319,821.38; Sierra Madre Library Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$5,495.54; and Payroll Transfer in the aggregate amount of \$820,768.23; for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.
- c) **CONSIDERATION OF SECOND AMENDMENT TO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE RELATED TO ONE CARTER (STONEGATE) LITIGATION**
It is recommended that the City Council approve the Second Amendment to Settlement Agreement and Release related to the One Carter (Stonegate) litigation.

d) ACCEPTANCE OF ANONYMOUS DONATION TO THE SIERRA MADRE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

It is recommended that the City Council ratify City staff's acceptance of the \$200,000 anonymous donation by minute order.

Mayor Arizmendi asked if the City Council had any questions on any Consent item.

Council Member Kriebs asked City Attorney Giragosian for an update on Consent Item 1C.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment.

Police Chief Armalin and Fire Captain Gacad.: regarding agenda item 1D thanked the donor for their generous donation to the Police and Fire Departments.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Arizmendi 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-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.

At this time Mayor Arizmendi noted that the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association arrived to the meeting. Mayor Arizmendi called them forward to make their presentation. The Royal Court was introduced: Princess' Julia Pevsner, Alex Bielanski, and Abby Pejsa.

DISCUSSION

1. CONSIDERATION OF CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 21-68 AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET TO RECEIVE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FIRST TRANCHE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,290,958 AND APPROPRIATE \$308,000 OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS FOR USE ON ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

It is recommended that the City Council adopt Resolution 21-68 amending the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget to receive American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) first tranche in the amount of \$1,290,958 and approve appropriations in the amount of \$120,000 for non-profit grants and \$188,000 for premium pay to eligible essential workers.

Finance Director Guirola-Leon gave the report.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment.

David Gordon, Sierra Madre Playhouse: Expressed his disappointment in staff's recommendation to only offer \$30,000 to the non-profits and asked the Council to consider removing arbitrary limits to grant funds available to the local non-profit organizations in Sierra Madre.

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

Mayor Arizmendi and Council Member Kriebs proposed increasing the amount of grant funds allocated for non-profit grants. Additionally, allowing organizations that applied for funds in the first round to re-apply for additional funds in the second round.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss made a motion to increase the allocation of grant funds allocated for non-profit organizations to \$200,000 with a \$50,000 threshold per organization, and the understanding that each organization must provide justification for each application submitted.

And to grant a one-time pay to essential City employees as follows: \$2,500 to members of the Police Department and Fire Department, respectively, and \$2,000 to all other qualified City employees, including the Interim City Manager.

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 was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

2. CONSIDERATION OF CITY MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR JOSE REYNOSO

It is recommended that the City Council consider the employment agreement for Jose Reynoso as City Manager for the City of Sierra Madre.

City Attorney Giragosian gave the report.

City Attorney Giragosian announced amendments to the contract that were approved by Mr. Reynoso. Specifically, section 11, strike the first sentence of the third paragraph that begins "during the first 30 days of employment". Additionally, the sentence that reads "six months after employee service" should be changed to "one year after employee service" with regards to the annual evaluation.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment.

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

Council Member Garcia made a motion to approve the employment agreement, with amendments, to appoint Jose Reynoso as City Manager.

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.

3. PRESENTATION TO MAYOR PRO TEMPORE GENE GOSS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE

Mayor Arizmendi presented Mayor Pro Tem Goss with a gavel plaque and thanked him for his service to the City.

4. PRESENTATION TO MAYOR RACHELLE ARIZMENDI FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE

Mayor Pro Tem Goss presented Mayor Arizmendi with a gavel plaque and thanked her for her service to the City.

Certificates of Recognition were also presented to Mayor Arizmendi by Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office, Congresswoman Judy Chu's Office, State Senator Anthony Portantino's Office, and Assembly Member Chris Holden's Office. Representatives from the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce presented the Mayor with a flower arrangement and thanked her for her service.

5. SELECTION OF MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEMPORE FOR DECEMBER 14, 2021 TO DECEMBER 13, 2022

Mayor Arizmendi made a motion to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss as the new mayor and Council Member Edward Garcia as Mayor Pro Tem.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Kriebs.

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 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.

The Oath of Office for Mayor Goss and Mayor Pro Tem Garcia was heard and certified by City Clerk Aguilar.

FUTURE ITEMS:

Council Member Parkhurst asked for a report to explore protections for the Wistaria Vine.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Kriebs made a motion to adjourn.
The motion to adjourn was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Garcia.

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 7:37 p.m. to a Regular Meeting to be held on January 11, 2022.



Gene Goss, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:



Laura Aguilar, City Clerk