



CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING (JOINT) WITH
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL
SUCCESSOR AGENCY AND
PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 - 6:30 pm

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

As part of the City of Sierra Madre's COVID-19 Transmission Mitigation Efforts,
this City Council Meeting was conducted via Zoom.

The meeting was streamed live on the City's Website at www.cityofsierramadre.com and
broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum).

The public was provided with the opportunity to make comments by (1) emailing
comments to PublicComment@cityofsierramadre.com by 6:00 p.m. on the
day of the meeting or (2) calling into the meeting to provide their comments.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

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

Present (Trustees): Chair Richard Procter, Vice Chair Rodney Spears, and Trustees Patricia Hall (joined the meeting at 6:33 p.m.), Shannon King, and Barry Ziff

Absent: None

Also Present: Gabe Engeland, City Manager
Aleks Giragosian, Deputy City Attorney
Laura Aguilar, Assistant City Clerk/Administrative Services Manager
James Carlson, Management Analyst
Chris Cimino, Public Works Director
Christian Delgado, Senior Network Administrator
Lori Garza, Management Analyst
Vincent Gonzalez, Planning and Community Preservation Director
Miguel Hernandez, Assistant City Manager
Oscar Milan, IT Manager
Christine Smart, City Librarian
Sue Spears, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INSPIRATION

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi led the Pledge of Allegiance and expressed words of gratitude to all of the fire agencies that responded to assist Sierra Madre during the Bobcat Fire, with special thanks to the SM Staff, SMFD, and SMPD.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Capoccia asked for approval of the agenda.

Council Member Goss moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Council Member Harabedian seconded the motion.

City Clerk Spears called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the meeting agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Capoccia asked for approval of the Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting of September 8, 2020 and the Minutes of the Emergency City Council Meeting of September 13, 2020.

Council Member Harabedian moved to approve the Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting of September 8, 2020 as presented and the Minutes of the Emergency City Council Meeting of September 13, 2020 as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi seconded the motion.

City Clerk Spears called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the minutes.

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 approve the Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting of September 8, 2020 as presented and the Minutes of the Emergency City Council Meeting of September 13, 2020 as presented was passed by a unanimous vote.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor John Capoccia commented that (1) he was blown away by the work of the SMFD and SMPD and (2) he was proud that the City has its own FD and PD.

Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi did not make a report.

Council Member Gene Goss (1) expressed gratitude for all those who kept us safe and (2) reported that he attended the SM Kiwanis City Council Candidates Forum, with quality candidates for SM City Council

Council Member John Harabedian commended City Manager Engeland, Staff, and first responders for their impressive work, was proud of the outcome, and it was a good process to see.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 20-63 APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS – Recommendation that the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre approves payment of City Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$399,363.17; Sierra Madre Library Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$392.85; and Payroll Transfer in the aggregate amount of \$382,482.24; for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.
- b) LETTER TO ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE REOPENING OF SIERRA MADRE'S BREWERIES AND BARS – Recommendation that the City Council sign the letter to State legislators regarding the reopening of breweries and bars establishments.
- c) NOVEMBER ELECTION VOTING OPTIONS – Recommendation that the City Council receive and file.

Mayor Capoccia asked if any Council Members had questions on any of the Consent Items 1a – 1c. There were no Council Member questions.

Mayor Capoccia opened the meeting for Public Comment on items not on the agenda and the Consent Items. There were no call-in comments on items not on the agenda or the Consent Items. There were no Email comments on the consent items. Email comments on items not on the agenda were read by Mayor Capoccia and filed as part of Public Record as follows:

- Chloe Martinez, Sierra Madre – urged a no vote on Propostion 16.
- Elizabeth Mason, Sierra Madre – urged the City Council to oppose Proposition 16.
- Deb Sheridan, Sierra Madre – (1) asked that the City Council send a letter to the Postmaster General prohibiting Post Office interference in the November 2020 election, (2) urged the City Council to notify residents of their voting options, (3) announced the second City Council Candidates Forum on Saturday, and (4) urged the City Council to send a letter to elected representatives about reopening breweries.

No call-in or other Email comments were received. Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment on items not on the agenda and the Consent Items and brought the matter back to the City Council for a motion on the Consent Items.

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi made a motion to approve Consent Items 1a – 1c as presented.

Council Member Harabedian seconded the motion.

City Clerk Spears called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on Consent Items 1a – 1c.

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 Consent Items 1a – 1c as presented was passed by a unanimous vote.

2. DISCUSSION - FUTURE OF THE LIBRARY BUILDING

City Librarian Smart reported on this item with the recommendation that the City Council discuss with the Library Board of Trustees options for the Library building and provide direction to Staff. On 6-23-20, the City Council formally requested that the Library Board of Trustees present their intention for the Library building and adjacent lot. At a Special Meeting on 8-26-20, the Library Trustees discussed several options regarding the Library, but did not come to consensus at that meeting.

The options considered by the Library Board of Trustees are as follows:

Alternative #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raze the current building and construct a new building. • Recent design is estimated to cost \$17 Million. • Would require a 40-year bond and an annual parcel tax of \$236. • Vote could take place at any future regularly scheduled municipal election, after receipt of sufficient ballot signatures of Sierra Madre residents to qualify.
Alternative #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair and expand the current building, including improving the vacant lot. • Estimate to repair and expand the current building and improve the vacant lot, is \$5 Million +/-. • Annual tax would be \$50 per parcen +/-. • Vote could take place at any future regularly scheduled municipal election, after receipt of sufficient ballot signatures of Sierra Madre residents to qualify.
Alternative #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair the current building and improve the adjacent vacant lot. • Estimate is \$2.5 Million - \$3.5 Million +/-. • Library Board of Trustees would need to plan for budget appropriations annually over 2 -6 years +/-. • An increase in property taxes is not needed for this option. • Additional fundraising through private organizations may be needed.

Alternative #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair the current building. • Estimate is \$1.2 Million - \$2.0 Million +/- , including all ADA, electrical, seismic, wiring, and other deficiencies. • Library Board of Trustees would need to plan for budget appropriations annually over 2 -3 years +/-. • An increase in property taxes is not needed for this option.
Alternative #5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide other direction not listed as an alternative.

Mayor Capoccia asked if any Library Trustees or City Council members had questions on this item. City Manager Engeland and City Librarian Smart responded to questions.

Deputy Attorney Giragosian reported that, due to a Court Decision in 6/20, a special tax can be passed by a simple majority vote for initiatives that are locally (citizens) initiated, instead of the previous 2/3 vote requirement.

Mayor Capoccia opened Public Comment on this item. Call-in comments were received as follows:

- Toni Buckner, Sierra Madre – commented that (1) Sierra Madre needs a new Library building as an investment in our community and (2) the vacant lot should be kept for the Library.
- Rob Stockly, Sierra Madre – recommended that the City Council not make any decisions without the ability to seek input and explore a citizen’s initiative campaign for the Library building.

Email comments on this item were read by Mayor Capoccia and filed as part of Public Record as follows:

- Julia Brady, Sierra Madre – expressed (1) support for getting signatures to get a new Library on the 2022 ballot and (2) that the community is able to invest in the Library.
- Tom Brady, Sierra Madre – said that the citizens of Sierra Madre want a new library to replace the current 1950 structure and not a patch work of repairs.
- Darryl & Martha Troedson, Sierra Madre – requested that the City Council support a new library, by building upon the work done by the Trustees, Friends, and Foundation, and concerned citizens to gather signatures for a petition on the 2022 ballot.

No other call-in or Email comments were received. Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment this item and brought the matter back to the Library Trustees and City Council for discussion.

Discussion among the Library Trustees took place and there was consensus to (1) have a citizen’s initiative for a parcel tax for new Library building on the ballot in 2022 or 2024, (2) determine what repairs must take place to make the Library building safe for Staff and residents, (3) develop outdoor space at the Library, and (4) keep the back lot as integrated space for the Library and as a community asset.

Discussion among the City Council took place and there was ultimately consensus to (1) address the safety and ADA issues with the Library building, given that a citizen’s initiative is anticipated in 2022, keep the back lot for use at the library, and (3) provide for temporary outdoor programming at the Library during the Pandemic. Staff was provided with direction accordingly.

8:27 p.m. – Mayor Capoccia called for a meeting recess.

8:34 p.m. – Mayor Capoccia reconvened the meeting.

3. DISCUSSION – CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1433 LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

City Librarian Smart reported on this item with the recommendation that the City Council consider and introduce for first reading of Ordinance No. 1433 amending Chapter 2.16 (Library Board of Trustees) of Title 2 (Administration and Personnel) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code to conform to the State Municipal Libraries Law. Over the years, the Library Board of Trustees has been operating more similarly to an advisory board and this ordinance is necessary to clarify the role of the organization.

Mayor Capoccia asked if any of the Library Trustees or Council Members had questions on this item. No questions were asked by the Library Trustees or the City Council.

Mayor Capoccia opened this item for Public Comment. No Email or call-in comments were received. Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment on this item and brought the matter back to the Library Trustees and City Council for discussion.

Discussion took place and there was consensus to approve Ordinance No. 1433 as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi made a motion to approve and introduce for first reading Ordinance No. 1433 amending Chapter 2.16 (Library Board of Trustees) of Title 2 (Administration and Personnel) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code to conform to the State Municipal Libraries Law.

Council Member Goss seconded the motion.

City Clerk Spears called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on 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 approve and introduce for first reading Ordinance No. 1433 amending Chapter 2.16 (Library Board of Trustees) of Title 2 (Administration and Personnel) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code to conform to the State Municipal Libraries Law was passed by a unanimous vote.

4. DISCUSSION – DAY TRUST FUNDS

City Librarian Smart reported on this item regarding the \$750,000 donation (currently valued at \$752,594.45) made by the Estate of Robert A. Day and Robert S. Day to the Sierra Madre Public Library. As part of the Sierra Madre Public Library's Gift and Memorial Account, the donated funds are currently invested in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF), which is interest bearing, and invested in accordance with all applicable local and State laws.

Deputy City Attorney Giragosian clarified that, because the donation was made to the Sierra Madre Public Library, the funds, even if disbursed to an outside organization for use and investment, cannot be invested in any manner inconsistent with the laws and codes that govern Sierra Madre municipal investments. While the Library Board of Trustees was seeking ways to earn a greater return on the donation investment, this was determined that transferring the funds to the SM Library Foundation would not earn a greater return.

Mayor Capoccia asked if any of the Library Trustees or Council Members had questions on this item. Deputy Attorney Giragosian and City Manager Engeland responded to the questions.

Mayor Capoccia opened this item for Public Comment. There were no call-in comments received on this item. An Email comment on this item were read by City Clerk Spears and filed as part of Public Record as follows:

- Rob Stockly, Sierra Madre – recommended that the full amount of the Day Trust Funds be moved from the Library Gift and Memorial Fund to a newly to be established separate, restricted account (within the City), similar to an endowment fund, from which the Day Trust directed \$25,000 annual disbursement to support and enhance library programs can be made.

There were no call-in or other Email comments received. Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment on this item and brought the matter back to the Library Trustees and City Council for discussion.

Discussion among the Library Trustees and City Council took place and there was consensus that (1) the issue of moving the Day Trust Funds to an outside organization with the goal of earning a greater return was a moot point and (2) there is not a valid reason to move the money from the City to an outside organization.

The Library Board of Trustees agreed to discuss the establishment of an endowment fund at a future meeting of the Library Board of Trustees and make a recommendation to the City Council.

NEW ITEMS PLACED FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

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

City Manager Engeland reported that both City Council meetings in October will be conducted outdoors in Memorial Park.

Mayor Capoccia thanked the Library Board of Trustees for their participation and input at the meeting.

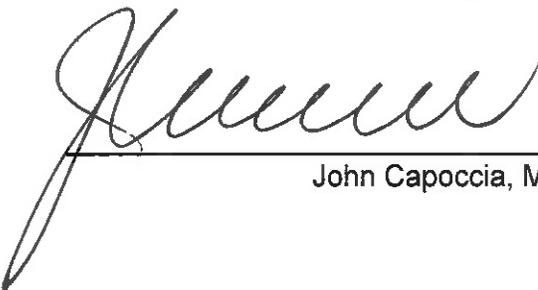
ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Capoccia asked for a motion to adjourn.

Council Member Goss made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

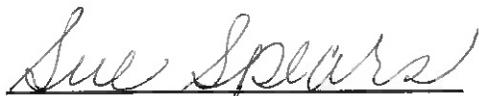
The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi.

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 9:08 p.m. to a Regular Meeting to be held on October 13, 2020.



John Capoccia, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:



Sue Spears, City Clerk