



CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL, SUCCESSOR AGENCY, AND
PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 - 6:30 pm

Memorial Park Bandshell
222 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, CA 91024

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND CA GOVERNOR'S STAY AT HOME ORDER,
THE 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) by attending the meeting at the Bandshell in Memorial Park and
providing their comment in person.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor John Capoccia called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Assistant City Clerk Laura Aguilar called the roll.

Present: Mayor John Capoccia, Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle 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
Rodrick Armalin, Police Chief
Henry Amos, Police Captain
Brent Bartlett, Interim Fire Chief
Chris Cimino, Public Works Director
Jose Reynoso, Utility Services Director
Vincent Gonzalez, Planning and Community Preservation Director
Clare Lin, Assistant Planner
Oscar Millan, IT Manager
Christian Delgado, Senior Network Administrator
James Carlson, Management Analyst
Rebecca Silva-Barrón, Community Services Manager
Lawren Heinz, Recreation Coordinator
Tevin Voong, Administrative Aide/Communications Specialist

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INSPIRATION

Council Member Gene Goss the Pledge of Allegiance and remarked on signs that things are getting better, the return of some normalcy, a light at the end of the tunnel. The list is not an exhaustive list but here are a few: in-person meeting of the City Council after half a year, sounds of children playing in the playground, hoisting of mugs in our brewery, and lack of smoke in the air.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Capoccia asked for approval of the agenda.

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

Council Member Harabedian seconded the motion.

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

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 September 22, 2020.

Council Member Harabedian moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 22, 2020, as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi seconded the motion to approve the Minutes as presented.

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

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 September 22, 2020, as presented, was passed by a unanimous vote.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member John Harabedian had nothing to report.

Council Member Gene Goss had nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Rachele Arizmendi reported that 11-year-old Jordan Ramirez walked over the weekend from Sierra Madre Police Department to Arcadia Police Department. Jordan is visiting all the police departments in a tour to thank officers for their service. Jordan made history last year by becoming the youngest person ever to run marathons on all seven continents. His plan is to tour every law enforcement agency in the San Gabriel Valley.

Mayor John Capoccia had nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Capoccia opened the meeting for Public Comment on items not on the agenda. No Public Comment on items not on the agenda was received via Email.

Julie Brady: October 18 - October 24 is National Friends of the Library Week. Sierra Madre Friends of the Library supports the Sierra Madre Public Library, by supplementing the budget with \$55,000 through events such as the Annual Art Faire, Wine and Tasting Cuisine, and monthly book sales. Become a member of the Friends of the Library.

Deb Sheridan, Valle Vista: Spoke about voter suppression. She gave her thanks for putting Resolution 20-66 in support of the USPS and advocacy for our local post office to remain open on tonight's agenda.

She continued by saying "I am speaking before you tonight because we are facing a real danger on November 3. During the debate with former Vice President Biden, President Trump actually called out to the white supremacists "to stand by and stand back" if he is not re-elected, and that he won't leave

office. We have heard similar rhetoric for four years, and can no longer ignore it. In other parts of the country men with guns are showing up outside polling places to misrepresent themselves in order to intimidate voters. The plot to kidnap Michigan's Governor Whitmore and take over the State House nearly became a reality. Also, my sister lives in a suburb of Chicago, similar to Sierra Madre. Her weekly paper published a special edition about voter suppression and what to do about it.

Now the Republican party has put up phony drop-in ballot boxes in L.A. and Orange Counties. They have been ordered to cease and desist. It is a felony.

I learned how to hide under my desk as a child because of the Russian threat, I lived through Vietnam. Tonight I am truly scared. I am urging you and our Sierra Madre Police Department to have a plan in place for in-person voting from October 31 to November 3. We sometimes think we live in a bubble in Sierra Madre, but we don't. It can happen here. Thank you for protecting our freedom, and our right to vote."

David Gordon, Fairview Avenue: Spoke about a City Council candidate forum hosted by Preserve Sierra Madre. The video is available on their website for viewing.

De Alcorn, Grandview Avenue: Offered Kudos to the City for working around COVID. Appreciates the outdoor dining and the City's thoughtfulness.

Carol Canterbury, Victoria Lane: Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce is working on trying to do something for the holidays that will be proper and respectful.

Also asked if the City will re-open the hiking trails to Orchard Camp and Bailey Canyon.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment on items not on the agenda.

PRESENTATION – CITY OF SIERRA MADRE WEBSITE UPDATES

City Communication Specialist Tevin Voong presented the Council with an update to the City's website and new features.

Specialist Voong presented the upcoming changes to the City's website. The City's website recently underwent a refresh that included changes to fonts, colors, pictures, and formatting. The changes are intended to make the website more user friendly and visually appealing.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

Assistant City Clerk Aguilar gave the following reports under the Consent Calendar:

- a) CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 20-66 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 \$198,898.81; Sierra Madre Library Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$6,243.07; and Payroll Transfer in the aggregate amount of \$449,192.47; for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.
- b) CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 20-64 IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AND ADVOCACY FOR THE LOCAL POST OFFICE TO REMAIN OPEN - It is recommended that the City Council adopt Resolution 20-64 as proposed by Council Member John Harabedian
- c) AUTHORIZATION TO SPEND UP TO \$25,000 in GENERAL FUNDS FOR THE THIRD ROUND OF THE COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM AND SIERRA MADRE CARES INITIATIVE EXPENSES - It is recommended that the City Council authorize expenditures not to exceed \$25,000 in General Funds for the third round of the Covid-19 Small Business Grant Program and Sierra Madre Cares Initiative expenses.
- d) AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT RECEIPT OF A CAL OES TYPE VI ENGINE - It is recommended that the City Council accept receipt of a new Cal OES Type VI Engine, and approve an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 in the current year budget, bringing the Cal OES Type VI Engine, and other SMFD apparatus, to current Sierra Madre Fire Department operating standards.

- e) CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF JOHN CAPOCCIA TO SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES - It is recommended that the City Council appoint John Capoccia to a four-year term, representing Sierra Madre on the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District Board, effective January 1, 2021.

Mayor Capoccia asked if any Council Members had questions on any of the Consent Items.

Mayor Capoccia asked about the Type VI Engine. Interim Chief Bartlett responded.

Council Member Harabedian requested that if approved, Resolution 20-64 be sent to State and Federal Representatives.

Council Member Goss remarked that Mayor Capoccia's term on the Council was ending soon and asked if he was sure that he wanted to serve another term on SGV Mosquito and Vector Control.

Mayor Capoccia responded that once his term is complete he will have more time to devote to the Board.

Mayor Capoccia opened Public Comment on the Consent Items.

Deb Sheridan, Valle Vista: Thanked the Council for putting Resolution 20-64 on the agenda and urged them to approve the Resolution.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment on the Consent Items and brought the matter back to the City Council for a motion.

Council Member Harabedian made a motion to approve the Consent Items as presented.

Council Member Goss seconded the motion for approval.

Assistant City Clerk Aguilar called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the Consent Items.

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 all Consent Items was passed by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. 2021-2029 HOUSING ELEMENT – SITES INVENTORY - It is recommended that the City Council open a Public Hearing, discuss and provide staff with direction.

Assistant Planner Clare Lin gave the report

Mayor Capoccia asked if any Council Members had questions on this item.

Mayor Capoccia opened this item for Public Comment. Public comment was received from:

De Alcorn, Grandview Avenue
David Gordon, Fairview Avenue
Pat Alcorn, Grandview Avenue
Andy Bencosme

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Capoccia closed the Public Hearing and brought the matter back to the City Council for discussion. The Council discussed inventory recommendations and directed staff to move forward with Option #1: proceed with the public engagement process designating the combination of Multi-Family Residential High Density opportunity sites R3-H (20 du/acre) and R3-H (30 du/acre) including Measure V properties (requiring a public vote); and consideration of an affordable housing overlay zone on religious real properties

2. ORDINANCE 1431 AMENDING CHAPTER 17.08 (DEFINITIONS), SECTION 17.20.015 (DEFINITIONS), CHAPTER 17.36 (COMMERCIAL), CHAPTER 17.60 (VARIANCES AND DISCRETIONARY PERMITS) OF TITLE 17 (ZONING) OF THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE, AND APPROVING RESOLUTION 20-62 (COMMERCIAL ZONE USES LIST) - It is recommended that the City Council open a Public Hearing, read Ordinance 1431 for first reading, by title only, review the recommendation from the Planning Commission and provide direction to staff.

Planning Director Vincent Gonzalez gave the report.

Mayor Capoccia opened the Public Hearing on this item.

Assistant City Clerk Aguilar advised the Council that the City had received two e-mails on this matter from:

John Hutt
Gina Frierman-Hunt.

Mayor Capoccia asked anyone wishing to provide public comment to come forward.

Public comment was received from:
Robert Parkhurst, Grandview Avenue
Tom Denison, Planning Commission Chair

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment on this item and brought the matter back to the City Council for discussion.

City Council discussion occurred and there was consensus to direct staff to strike all Design Review and bring back a discussion for design guidelines and first reading at the next meeting.

NEW ITEMS PLACED FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

Mayor Capoccia asked the Council Members if there are any new items for future meeting agendas. Mayor Capoccia asked for review of the Leaf Blower Ordinance, street sweeping, and an update on the trails.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Capoccia asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

The motion to adjourn was seconded by Council Member Goss.

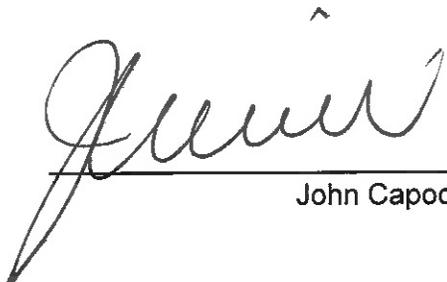
Ayes: Mayor John Capoccia, Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi, and Council Members Gene Goss and John Harabedian

Noes: None

Absent: None

The motion to adjourn was passed by a unanimous vote.

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 9:00 p.m. to a Regular Meeting to be held on October 27, 2020.



John Capoccia, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:



Laura Aguilar, Assistant City Clerk