



CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL
SUCCESSOR AGENCY AND
PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

City of Sierra Madre City 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 virtually via Zoom.

The meeting was (1) streamed live on the City's Website at www.cityofsierramadre.com, (2) streamed live on Foothills Media website at <http://www.foothillsmedia.org/sierramadre>, and (3) broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum).

The public was provided with the opportunity to make comments (1) calling in during the meeting to provide their comments and (2) emailing their comments by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting to PublicComment@cityofsierramadre.com.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi called the meeting to order at 4:01 P.M. Acting City Clerk Laura Aguilar called the roll.

Present: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst

Staff Present: Gabe Engeland, City Manager
Aleks Giragosian, City Attorney
Laura Aguilar, Acting City Clerk/Administrative Services Manager
Rodrick Armalin, Police Chief
Brent Bartlett, Fire Chief
James Carlson, Management Analyst
Chris Cimino, Director of Public Works
Vincent Gonzalez, Planning and Community Preservation Director
Hillary Guirola-Leon, Finance Director
Miguel Hernandez, Assistant City Manager
Sophia Kownatzki, Management Analyst
Oscar Milan, IT Manager
Jen Peterson, Administrative Analyst
Jose Reynoso, Director of Utility Services
Christine Smart, City Librarian
Rebecca Silva-Barrón, Community Services Manager

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INSPIRATION

Council Member Garcia led the Pledge of Allegiance and spoke of his optimism about the pandemic, with more vaccine centers opening and many options to schedule an appointment.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

City Manager Engeland offered two points of clarification on the agenda:

1. An additional item which will appear on all agendas going forward regarding approval for reading resolutions and ordinances.
2. On Discussion Item 2, there had been a minor change to the proposed contract, therefore the item would be for the Council's discussion this evening, and would return on February 23, 2021 for Council action.

Mayor Arizmendi asked for approval of the agenda as amended.

Council Member Parkhurst moved to approve the agenda as amended.

Council Member Kriebs seconded the motion.

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

Ayes: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss, and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

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

APPROVAL FOR READING RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Mayor Arizmendi asked for a motion to read resolutions and ordinances by title only and waive further reading.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss moved to approve reading resolutions and ordinances by title only and waive further reading.

Council Member Garcia seconded the motion.

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

Ayes: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss, and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

The motion to approve reading resolutions and ordinances by title only and waive further reading was passed by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Arizmendi asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of January 26, 2021.

Council Member Kriebs had the following corrections:

- Discussion item 2 – SMIP Implementation: “rater” shall be corrected to read “rate”.
- Discussion item 2 – SMIP Implementation: Council Member Garcia’s comment shall be corrected to read “what would become of the agreement if other cities did not approve.”
- Appointment to Library Board of Trustees: Appointee name to be corrected to “Laura Palmer”.

Council Member Kriebs moved to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of January 26, 2021 as amended.

Council Member Parkhurst seconded the motion.

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

Ayes: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss, and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

The motion to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of January 26, 2021 as amended was passed by a unanimous vote.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Edward Garcia

Council Member Garcia spoke about the Community Services Commission, saying that while he did not attend their meeting, he spoke with Chair Sullivan. He shared that they had had two presentations from Eagle Scouts on civic improvement projects and a presentation from the President of the YMCA on the pool opening. He also noted that the Sierra Madre Little League had held tryouts and that attendance has grown. He stated that the teams are set and ready to move forward.

Council Member Kelly Kriebs

Council Member Kriebs spoke as the liaison of the Senior Commission, sharing that there had been a major push of the nutrition program during the pandemic. She stated that she also met with the Chamber of Commerce where they discussed ways to improve local business and replace cancelled events.

Council Member Robert Parkhurst

Council Member Parkhurst spoke as the liaison to the Planning Commission, who considered revisions to the Unreinforced Masonry Municipal Code at their last meeting, and the revisions will come before the Council on February 23, 2021.

Council Member Parkhurst spoke of attending the Board of Directors meeting of the Clean Power Alliance, sharing that they continue to buy renewable energy and be in good fiscal health.

Council Member Parkhurst noted that there are currently 433 Covid-19 cases in Sierra Madre, and that the City is trending in the right direction. He encouraged the residents to wear double masks, and continue to practice social distancing.

Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss

Mayor Pro Tem Goss shared that he had attended the Library Board of Trustees meeting where the board voted unanimously to place the renovation, reinvention and expansion of the library on the November 2022 ballot.

Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi

Mayor Arizmendi announced that the Kersting Ct. refresh project has begun. She also shared that she enjoyed the Library's History of the Mt. Wilson Trail Race event. Mayor Arizmendi wished the Civic Club a happy 77th birthday. She also announced that the City Council is planning to return to outdoor meetings in the park, with all safety precautions in place.

Mayor Arizmendi introduced City Manager Engeland to share some exciting news about our Finance Department. City Manager Engeland invited Finance Director Guirola-Leon to make the announcement. Finance Director Guirola-Leon shared that the City has been recognized for the third year for the CAFR report, and also received a Budget Award for the first time. Finance Director Guirola-Leon thanked her staff, the Executive team and the City Council for their support.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Arizmendi opened the meeting for public comment on items not on the agenda.

Christine Smart

Ms. Smart announce that door hangers had been distributed regarding Library Services and the One Book One City program. She also announced the upcoming scavenger event to be held on Saturday February 14, 2021.

Ms, Smart announced an event in partnership with the Sierra Madre playhouse presenting a virtual reading of the short story "Back Porch" by Chris Offutt.

Acting City Clerk Aguilar read the public comments submitted by email:

Jonathan Hawes

Wade Bonds

Auge Martin

Deb Sheridan

Mayor Arizmendi closed public comment on items not on the agenda.

PRESENTATION

- 1.) Presentation from San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water Board Director Miles Prince on management, operations, and water supply conditions.
- 2.) City Manager update on impacts of Covid-19 to the City of Sierra Madre.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:

CONSENT

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

a) CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-09 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 \$180,195.82; Sierra Madre Library Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$2,260.00; and Payroll Transfer in the aggregate amount of \$374,941.25; for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

b) UPDATE OF THE SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOMMENDATION FOR THE LIBRARY BUILDING

It is recommended that the City Council receive and file this report.

Mayor Arizmendi asked if any Council Members had questions on any of the Consent Items. Council Members did not have any questions.

Mayor Arizmendi opened public comment on the Consent Calendar items. Acting City Clerk Aguilar read the public comments submitted by email:
Julia Brady – regarding the Library Board of Trustees.

Mayor Arizmendi closed public comment on the Consent Calendar and requested a motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss made a motion to approve Consent Items as presented. Council Member Parkhurst seconded the motion.

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

Ayes: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss, and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

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

Mayor Arizmendi requested a motion to hear Discussion Agenda Item 2 first, as Mr. Prince remained in the meeting to address any questions.

Council Member Parkhurst moved to amend the agenda such that Discussion Item 2 would be heard first.

Council Member Garcia seconded the motion.

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

Ayes: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss, and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

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

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DISCUSSION

1. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-10 APPROVING THE TRANSFER AND SALE OF WATER FROM THE CITY'S CYCLIC WATER RESERVES IN THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN TO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

It is recommended that the City Council approve Resolution 21-10 and the sale and transfer of 2,970.74 acre-feet of water from the City of Sierra Madre's Main San Gabriel Basin Cyclic Storage account to the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (District) for a sale price of \$2,376,592, as outlined in the term sheet

Utilities Service Director Reynoso thanked Mr. Prince for his presentation and for remaining on the meeting to answer any questions. Utilities Service Director Reynoso detailed the changes to the terms of the agreement and the purchase price. He then delivered his agenda report to the Council.

Discussion

Council Member Garcia asked Utilities Service Director Reynoso to explain cyclical storage, and the optimum amount to have, and when the City will be able to begin repurchasing. Utilities Service Director Reynoso explained cyclical storage, and the history of purchases and the City's history of importing water. He stated that the opportunity to purchase water depends on surplus and storage limitations, but is not a set number.

Council Member Kriebs inquired about the contract definition of surplus and the likelihood of reaching surplus level. Utilities Service Director Reynoso stated that it would require 65% or greater to create surplus, which would be expected after one or two years of good rain. Council Member Kriebs stated that she expected that in surplus years, the price might be lower. She suggested a change in the contract to reflect the prevailing market rate. Utilities Service Director Reynoso explained that the cost of water is depended on other outside factors, such as the energy required to import the water, and has not seen nor did he anticipate any large jump in price. Mr. Prince added that the price for purchase to the city is not subject to variables, and is therefore very stable. He stated that the volatility of the price to purchase water is the district's concern. Mr. Prince added that the City has an advantage because of the Joint Well Agreement already in place.

Council Member Garcia felt that the acquisition of water would be an asset and inquired about the possibility of selling and repurchasing the water. Utilities Service Director Reynoso stated that any water purchase by Sierra Madre must be used by Sierra Madre.

Mayor Arizmendi stated that this would be an item on the February 23, 2021 agenda for further discussion and that the Council will consider the resolution at that time.

2. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND POTENTIAL LOBBYING CONTRACTS

City Manager Engeland delivered the agenda report.

Council Member Parkhurst added that the logic behind requesting that this item was in light of the recent wildfires, that we have a rare opportunity to partner with other Cities to get some financial assistance with brush clearance or abatement.

Mayor Arizmendi stated that this item is for discussion and then provide direction to staff. She felt that it is an important issue and that collaborations has worked well in the past. She inquired if other cities, perhaps foothill cities or rural cities in Central California. She volunteered to see inquire at the League of California cities and at the Council of Governments to see if there is interest. Mayor Arizmendi felt that this does not make sense as a stand-alone item, in light of recent financial impacts such as Covid.

Council Member Garcia stated that he is not familiar with fire resources, but felt that a consortium is the way to go. He inquired about the Council's purview, procedurally. City Manager Engeland stated that this is a discussion about engaging a lobbyist either alone or in partner with another entity or entities.

Council Member Parkhurst stated that he has had a couple of discussions with other cities, and inquired if Staff was aware of any one doing this at the National Level. City Manager Engeland stated that he is not aware of any lobbying at the Federal Level. Mayor Pro Tem Goss commended Council Member Parkhurst for bringing this to Council, and stated that the City should be focused on this. He stated that he would be interested in partnering with other agencies. He suggested speaking with the Department of Forestry to explore options, but felt that going alone would be unwise at this time.

Council Member Kriebs felt that State and Federal intertwine and that the new administration would be willing to hear from municipalities in California on this issue.

Council Member Parkhurst stated that he would be happy to work with the Mayor and Staff on this. Mayor Arizmendi suggested reaching out to Fire Chief Bartlett. City Manager Engeland stated he will ask Fire Chief Bartlett to reach out to Verdugo for research as well.

Public Comment

Vic Aguilar

Mr. Aguilar spoke about the availability of water, with the continued and worsening drought. He suggested a three-fold approach: 1) Conservation, 2) Incentivizing water efficient landscapes, and discouraging lawns, 3) water storage and recapturing runoff.

Mayor Arizmendi closed Public Comment

Mayor Arizmendi stated that she will work with Council Member Parkhurst and report back to Council. She also directed staff to research as directed in the discussion.

NEW ITEMS PLACED FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

Mayor Arizmendi asked the Council Members if there are any new items for future meeting agendas. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Arizmendi adjourned the meeting at 6:34 P.M.

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 6:34 P.M. to a Regular Meeting to be held on February 23, 2021.



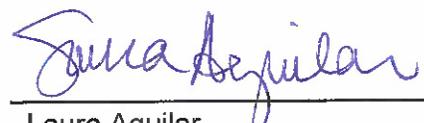
Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:

Minutes reviewed by:



Jennifer Peterson
Administrative Analyst



Laura Aguilar
Acting City Clerk