



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

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL  
SUCCESSOR AGENCY AND  
PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

**Tuesday, July 27, 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](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com), on Foothills Media website at <http://www.foothillsmmedia.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](mailto:PublicComment@CityofSierraMadre.com) by 3:00PM on the day of the meeting. Emails were acknowledged at the Council meeting and filed into public record.

**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  
Rodrick Armalin, Chief of Police  
Chris Cimino, Public Works Director  
Vincent Gonzalez, Director of Community and Preservation  
Clare Lin, Senior Planner  
Joshua Wolf, Associate Planner  
James Carlson, Management Analyst  
Christine Smart, City Librarian  
Rebecca Silva-Barron, Community Services Manager  
Sophia Kownatzki, Management Analyst

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INSPIRATION**

Council Member Kriebs led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and after spoke of July as National Independent Retailer's Month, encouraging everyone to visit and support the local businesses. Council Member Kriebs discussed the Local Economic Multiplier Effect and the differences between buying locally versus at a chain store.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Mayor Arizmendi asked for approval of the agenda.

Council Member Garcia made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Council Member Parkhurst 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 Kriebs.

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 meeting minutes of the Regular Council meeting of July 13, 2021.

Council Member Parkhurst moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of July 13, 2021 as presented.

Council Member Kriebs 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 July 13, 2021, was approved as presented.

### **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Arizmendi: Made a statement regarding one of the parade float entries in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Mayor Arizmendi stated that she personally received a number of complaints about a specific entry and was made aware that several complaints were made at City Hall about the same parade entry. Mayor Arizmendi explained that the parade is led and driven by a volunteer committee. Entries are not submitted to the City for approval or disapproval. As Mayor, she recognizes how the entry could be viewed as inflammatory and offensive, especially for a family event. The float is not a representation of the City's consent nor is it a representation of Sierra Madre's community values. Mayor Arizmendi offered a personal apology to the insensitive nature of the entry.

Mayor Arizmendi announced the August 7<sup>th</sup> Too Toxic To Trash event at the Race Track.

Council Member Garcia: provided an update on the historic standings of the Sierra Madre 10U Girls Softball Team and the Sierra Madre 13-U Pony Baseball All Star Team.

Also, he attended the Community Services Commission meeting and announced that Karen Rowinsky is the new Chair of the Commission.

He also addressed the burden that MTA has imposed on some of the residents by eliminating services through town.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss: had nothing to report.

Council Member Parkhurst: attended the last Planning Commission meeting where they discussed a development on Carter.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

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

Shirley Moore: Spoke in opposition to the Monastery development project.

Pat Alcorn, Grandview: spoke on behalf of Preserve Sierra Madre in opposition to SB9 and SB10.

Declan Floyd, Senator Portantino's Office: Introduced himself as the newest representative from the Senator's Office, replacing Vickere Murphy.

Calvin Kenny, 248 Grove Street: Opposes building houses in a fire zone.

Teri Vessella, 460 N. Sunnyside Avenue: Spoke in opposition to the Monastery development project.

David Beach, 471 Auburn Avenue: Spoke in opposition to the Monastery development project.

Dan Golden, 278 E. Alegria: Spoke in opposition to the Monastery development project.

Jie Ding, 430 N. Mountain Trail: Spoke in opposition to the Monastery development project.

Thomas Padilla, 158 E. Grandview: Spoke in opposition to the Monastery development project.

Nancy Beckham, 337 N. Lima Street: Spoke in opposition to the Monastery development project.

Joyce Kenyon, 220 N. Mountain Trail: Concerned with how re-zoning to R-3 will affect her property values.

Alex Arrieta, 645 Edgeview Drive: Spoke in opposition to the Monastery development project.

Gary Hood, 465 N. Baldwin Avenue: Concerned with SB330, SB9, and SB10 and how it will negatively affect Sierra Madre and take away citizen rights.

Tricia Searsey: had concerns with the Housing Element.

#### **Hand-written correspondence from:**

Elvin and Darlene Beyer, 710 Ramona Ave: In opposition to the Monastery development project.

#### **Emails were received from:**

K. Stephens, 717 W. Grandview: complained about construction at Alverno High School.

Sabrina Chan: offered thanks for all the services offered by the Sierra Madre Library during the pandemic.

Henry Leung: In opposition to the Monastery development project.

Siobhan Murphy-Boyd: In opposition to the Monastery development project.

Tanya Miller: provided thanks for the Sierra Madre Library during the pandemic and the benefits that her family received from the virtual programming.

Steven Moser: In opposition to the Monastery development project.

E-mail unsigned, no name provided: In opposition to the Monastery development project.

Randy Boyd: In opposition to the Monastery development project.

Deborah Ross: In opposition to the Monastery development project.

Joyce Kenyon: submitted e-mail and provided verbal public comment regarding R-3 zone changes.

The e-mails and correspondence were acknowledged into record by City Clerk Aguilar and filed as public record.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Arizmendi closed public comment on items not on the agenda.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

City staff update on the 2021 Housing Element. Presentation made by Director of Planning and Community Preservation Vincent Gonzalez.

City staff update on the status of the Meadows at Bailey Canyon Project. Presentation made by City Attorney Giragosian.

### **AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

- a) **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-49 APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS**  
It is recommended that the City Council approve payment of City Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$280,543.13; Sierra Madre Library Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$4,471.33; and Payroll Transfer in the aggregate amount of \$413,531.80; for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 and 2022.
  
- b) **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR THE KERSTING COURT REFRESH PROJECT NO. CS71901.**  
It is recommended that the City Council approve the Notice of Completion for the project and direct staff to file the Notice with the L.A. County Clerk's Office.  
  
Furthermore, it is recommended that the City Council appropriates \$27,003.95 from the General Fund to cover overrun costs from the project.
  
- c) **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #1 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT IN AN AMOUNT OF \$84,404.00**  
It is recommended that the City Council approve Change Order #1 to the construction contract to COPP Contracting Company in an amount not to exceed \$84,404.00 for the additional work at on the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Street Improvement Project.  
  
It is also recommended that the City Council to increase the water fund capital project by \$24,288 to make repairs caused by water leaks in the streets.
  
- d) **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 1445 AMENDING CHAPTER 17.32 (R-P RESIDENTIAL-PROFESSIONAL ZONE) OF TITLE 17 (ZONING) OF THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE**  
It is recommended that the City Council conduct a second reading of Ordinance No. 1445, amending Chapter 17.32 (R-P Residential-Professional Zone).
  
- e) **CONSIDERATION OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31, 2021**  
It is recommended that the City Council receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the cash and investment portfolio for quarter ending March 31, 2021.
  
- f) **CONSIDERATION OF CITY OF SIERRA MADRE BUDGET BOOK FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022**  
It is recommended that the City Council receive and file the Budget Book for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

**g) APPROVAL OF BLANKET PURCHASE ORDERS OVER \$45,000 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022**

It is recommended that the City Council approve the issuance of Blanket Purchase Orders over \$45,000 for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

**h) CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-48 AMENDING THE CITY'S CLASSIFICATION PLAN AND SALARY MATRIX FOR CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION AND SIERRA MADRE PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION POSITIONS**

It is recommended that the City Council approve Resolution 21-48, Amending the Classification Plan and Salary Matrix for the following classifications: Classified Employees Association (CEA) and Sierra Madre Professional Firefighters Association (SMPFA).

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment. 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. Hearing no questions from the Council, Mayor Arizmendi called for a motion to approve.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss made a motion to approve Consent Items a-h.

Council Member Kriebs 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 Consent Items a-h was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER RESOLUTION 21-47, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2020 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DIRECTING THE FILING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN; AND RESOLUTION 21-45 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE 2020 WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN AND DIRECTING THE FILING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt City Council Resolution 21-47, adopting the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, and directing the filing of the implementation of the plan; and,

It is recommended that the City Council adopt City Council Resolution 21-45, adopting the 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan and directing the filing and implementation of the plan; and,

It is recommended that the City Council authorize staff to file the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan with the State of California Water Resources Control Board

This report was given by Interim Utility Services Director Stephen McGee and Stan Chen and Jeff Helsey of Stetson.

Mayor Arizmendi continued this Hearing from the July 13, 2021 Council meeting and requested comment from the public.

De Alcorn, Grandview: RHNA numbers require a certain number of new homes. How will this affect water conservation?

Seeing no one else from the public come forward to the podium, Mayor Arizmendi closed public comment and brought the matter back to the City Council for discussion.

Mayor Arizmendi asked for a motion to approve Resolutions 21-47 and 21-45 and to authorize City staff to file the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan with the State.

Council Member Kriebs made a motion to approve.

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  
Abstain: None

The motion to approve Resolutions 21-47 and 21-45 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## DISCUSSION

- DISCUSSION REGARDING GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 21-01 AND ZONE CHANGE 21-01 TO CORRECT THE LAND USE DESIGNATION OF UNIQUE PARCELS IN THE AMENDED 2015 GENERAL PLAN LAND USE MAP TO MATCH THE EXISTING USE OR EXISTING LIMITATIONS ON SUCH PARCELS; AND CONSIDERATION OF ZONE CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THE LAST AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL PLAN LAND USE MAP, AND A ZONE CHANGE TO MAKE THE ZONING DESIGNATION OF UNIQUE PARCELS CONSISTENT WITH THE GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATION AS PROPOSED, AS REQUIRED BY LAW**

It is recommended that the City Council receive and file information regarding the 2015 General Plan Update and the inconsistencies resulting from it.

Planning and Community Preservation Director Gonzalez gave the report.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment.

De Alcorn, Grandview: People should be more concerned about SB9 and SB10 than 42 houses being built.

Jim Watson, 150 S. Baldwin: concerned with 151 identified properties that will be re-zoned from R3 to R2.

Kathy Watson, 150 S. Baldwin: opposed to approval of re-zoning from R3 to R2.

Charles Carrillo: asked why the zoning changes were proposed.

Eric Lin, 182 S. Baldwin: opposed to approval of re-zoning from R3 to R2.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Arizmendi asked if any e-mails had been received. City Clerk Aguilar advised that 7 emails had been received from:

Maggie Ellis: concerned that changing from R3 to R2 would restrict rebuilding opportunities in the event of a natural disaster such as fire or earthquake.

Stephen and Carol Rountree: object to the decision to downgrade their property from R3 to R2.

Barbara Velluro: provided a statement on changes to the Housing Element.

Leslie McCall: opposed zoning changes

Marla Shawn Black: opposes the zoning changes.

Samantha Smith: concerned about a letter received regarding zoning and resolutions.

Jason Soda: opposes the zoning changes.

Jim and Kathy Watson: read their e-mail in person during public comment.

The Mayor brought the matter back to the Council for discussion. Council collectively asked questions regarding the proposed changes and Director Gonzalez responded.

The report provided by staff was for informational purposes and no action was required by the City Council.

**2. UPDATE ON SIERRA MADRE FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION AND HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT**

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

Fire Captain Rich Snyder gave the report.

Each Member of the City Council provided feedback on the project.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment. Seeing no one come forward, Mayor Arizmendi closed public comment and brought the matter back to the City Council for further discussion.

The report provided by staff was for informational purposes and no action was required by the City Council.

**3. 2021 LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT**

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

City Librarian Smart gave the report.

Each Member of the City Council provided feedback.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment.

Ann Palmer, 622 W. Alegria: Spoke in support of the Library.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Arizmendi closed public comment and brought the matter back to the City Council for further discussion.

The report provided by staff was for informational purposes and no action was required by the City Council.

**FUTURE ITEMS:**

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

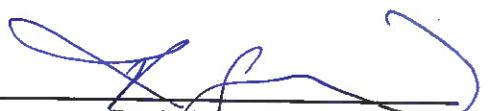
Council Member Garcia asked to explore options for bridging the gap left by MTA's change in services.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss asked for discussion on the policies of Los Angeles County District Attorney Gascon.

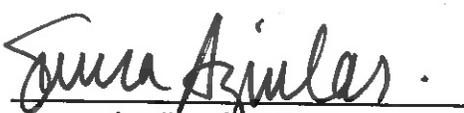
Council Member Parkhurst requested to keep informed on legislation in Sacramento.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 8:58 p.m. to a Regular Meeting to be held on September 14, 2021.

  
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Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Aguilar, City Clerk