



La Mesa City Council

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date: April 8, 2025, 6:00 pm
Location: City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue
La Mesa, California

Present: Mayor Mark Arapostathis
Vice Mayor Patricia N. Dillard
Councilmember Lauren Cazares
Councilmember Laura Lothian
Councilmember Genevieve Suzuki

Staff: City Manager Greg Humora
Assistant City Manager Amanda Lee
City Attorney Glenn Sabine
City Clerk Megan Wiegelman

1. CALL TO ORDER

The City Council minutes are prepared and ordered to correspond to the City Council Agenda. Agenda Items can be taken out of order during the meeting.

The Agenda Items were considered in the order presented.

Mayor Arapostathis called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1.1 INVOCATION - COUNCILMEMBER CAZARES

1.2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

There were no comments.

3. COMMUNITY BULLETIN REPORTS

The Mayor, Council and staff made announcements and reported on various events taking place in the City. No action was taken.

4. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Consent Calendar Item 11.6 was deleted from the agenda.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY POWER PRESENTATION ON 2025 RATES, POWER PROCUREMENT, AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Lee Friedman, Senior Manager Strategic Partnerships, San Diego Community Power ("SDCP"), provided a PowerPoint presentation on SDCP's efforts to deliver cleaner, renewable energy at competitive rates while maintaining local control. The presentation highlighted service plans ranging from 45% to 100% renewable energy, community programs such as solar battery savings and energy efficiency grants, and specific impacts in La Mesa, including funding for EV charging infrastructure and e-bike incentives. Mr. Friedman also discussed upcoming initiatives, including the launch of the San Diego Regional Energy Network to support energy efficiency and workforce development programs.

Council questions and comments ensued.

5.2 PRESENTATION OF THE LA MESA BOULEVARD COMPLETE STREETS PLAN, SEGMENT 2

Engineering Project Manager Kinnard provided a PowerPoint presentation on the La Mesa Boulevard Complete Streets Plan, Segment 2. The presentation covered the project overview, timeline, and key concepts, which included alignment with the Climate Action Plan, reducing exposure times for pedestrians and cyclists, balancing transportation modes, promoting equitable access, and maintaining or adding parking where feasible. Community outreach efforts, including surveys and public workshops, identified concerns related to speeding, parking challenges, and pedestrian safety. Engineering Project Manager Kinnard also reviewed existing conditions in the project area, proposed roadway configurations, anticipated mode-share changes following improvements, and outlined the next steps for project implementation.

Council questions and comments ensued.

5.3 PROCLAIMING APRIL 25, 2025 AS ARBOR DAY

Mayor Arapostathis read and presented the proclamation designating April 19, 2025, as Arbor Day to Environmental Sustainability Manager Ego. *(Note: The agenda incorrectly listed the date as April 25, 2025.)*

Environmental Sustainability Manager Ego extended an invitation to the community to attend the City of La Mesa's Earth Day event on Saturday, April 19, 2025.

5.4 PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS ART, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY MONTH

Mayor Arapostathis read and presented the proclamation declaring April as Art, Culture, and Creativity Month to Misty Thompson, the newly appointed Director of Community Services.

Director of Community Services Thompson expressed her enthusiasm for collaborating with artists throughout the City.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)

Barbie Wheeler spoke on her concerns about a house on Bellflower Drive.

Brenda Hammond spoke out against exploiting homeless individuals for religious, financial, or political gain, and also commented on her new haircut.

Brenda Leek spoke about the Flag Day Parade scheduled for June 14, 2025, and the Taste of La Mesa event scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2025.

7. CONFLICT DISCLOSURES

There were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

8. BOARD AND COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

8.1 INTERVIEW OF APPLICANTS FOR THE UNSCHEDULED VACANCY ON THE MOBILITY COMMISSION

City Clerk Wiegelman briefly explained the interview process.

The following applicants spoke regarding their qualifications and interest in being appointed:

Philip Cavello

Emma McClees

City Clerk Wiegelman said the appointment would be made at the April 22, 2025, City Council meeting.

Following the interviews, no action was taken.

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

9.1 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE LA MESA COMMUNITY PARKING COMMISSION

Mayor Arapostathis nominated Jacqueline Bougie for appointment to the La Mesa Community Parking Commission.

Resolution No. 2025-029

Moved By Mayor Arapostathis

Seconded By Councilmember Cazares

Approve the appointment of Jacqueline Bougie to the La Mesa Community Parking Commission as the general population representative, and adopt Resolution confirming the appointment.

For (5): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Dillard, Councilmember Cazares, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Suzuki

Approved (5 to 0)

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments on Consent Calendar items.

11. CONSENT CALENDAR

(Items 11.1 through 11.7)

Councilmember Lothian announced she would no longer be traveling to Sacramento to attend the California for the Arts Summit and Arts Advocacy Day (Item 11.3).

Councilmember Cazares asked a question and made comments on Item 11.4.

City Manager Humora responded to Councilmember Cazares' question regarding Item 11.4.

Moved By Mayor Arapostathis

Seconded By Vice Mayor Dillard

Approve Consent Calendar Items 11.1 through 11.7, except for Item 11.6.

For (5): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Dillard, Councilmember Cazares, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Suzuki

Approved (5 to 0)

11.1 APPROVAL OF MOTION TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE TEXT OF ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS AT THIS MEETING

Approve.

11.2 APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

Approve.

11.3 APPROVAL FOR VICE MAYOR DILLARD AND COUNCILMEMBER LOTHIAN TO ATTEND THE CALIFORNIA FOR THE ARTS SUMMIT AND ARTS ADVOCACY DAY IN SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, FROM APRIL 22 THROUGH APRIL 23, 2025

Approve.

11.4 RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT WITH PARTNER INSIGHTS, LLC FOR INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD

Resolution No. 2025-030

Adopt Resolution.

11.5 RESOLUTION AWARDING A TASK ORDER TO CHAMBERS GROUP, INC. FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOR THE INDUSTRIAL AREA ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Resolution No. 2025-031

Adopt Resolution.

11.7 GRANT APPLICATION FOR LA MESA BOULEVARD COMPLETE STREETS GATEWAY ROUNDABOUT

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SANDAG) SMART GROWTH INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO FUND THE LA MESA BOULEVARD COMPLETE STREETS GATEWAY ROUNDABOUT, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT

Resolution No. 2025-032

Adopt Resolution.

11.6 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE 2023 PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA MESA AND THE SAN DIEGO BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL AND SIGNATORY CRAFT UNIONS

This Item was deleted from the agenda.

12. COUNCIL INITIATED

12.1 CONSIDERATION OF CHANGING THE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION AND THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION - MAYOR ARAPOSTATHIS AND COUNCILMEMBER SUZUKI

Mayor Arapostathis and Councilmember Suzuki explained the purpose for changing the name of the Department of Community Services to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Moved By Mayor Arapostathis

Seconded By Councilmember Suzuki

Direct staff to: (1) draft the necessary amendments to the La Mesa Municipal Code to rename the Department of Community Services back to the Department of Parks and Recreation, update the names of all associated commissions accordingly, and return to the City Council within 90 days with a draft ordinance for consideration; (2) update all position titles currently associated with the Department of Community Services to reflect the Department of Parks and Recreation; and (3) conduct outreach to inform employees, residents, and stakeholders of the transition and provide information about the changes.

For (5): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Dillard, Councilmember Cazares, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Suzuki

Approved (5 to 0)

13. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

The Mayor and Council reported on various outside boards, commissions and committee meetings they attended. No action was taken.

14. AB 1234 REPORTS (GC 53232.3 (d))

There were no reports.

15. CITY ATTORNEY REMARKS

There were no remarks.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Arapostathis adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

City Clerk