



## La Mesa City Council and La Mesa Public Financing Authority

### Meeting Minutes

Date: April 22, 2025, 6:00 p.m.  
Location: City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue  
La Mesa, California

Present: Mayor Mark Arapostathis  
Councilmember Lauren Cazares  
Councilmember Laura Lothian  
Councilmember Genevieve Suzuki

Absent: Vice Mayor Patricia N. Dillard

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

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#### 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, with the exception of the proclamation declaring May 2025 as Jewish American Heritage Month, which was presented before the 2025 City of La Mesa Community Opinion Survey.

Mayor Arapostathis called the meeting to order at 6:00 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**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

### **5. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **5.1 2025 CITY OF LA MESA COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY**

Assistant to the City Manager Dedmon summarized the history of the Community Opinion Survey and introduced Dr. Timothy McLarney, President of True North Research, who presented the findings of the 2025 Community Opinion Survey. The survey utilized a stratified random sample of 1,110 adult residents, with a margin of error of  $\pm 2.9\%$ , and reflected demographic alignment with census data. Key findings highlighted high satisfaction with overall quality of life and city services, with significant improvements in 23 performance areas and no declines. Priority areas for improvement include addressing homelessness, affordable housing, street maintenance, walkability, and neighborhood police patrols.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Jack Shu shared his comments and perspectives on the survey results.

#### **5.2 PRESENTATION ON THE PLANNING PHASE OF THE LA MESA BIKE AND SIDEWALK CONNECTIONS PROJECT**

Engineering Project Manager Cubberley presented an update on the La Mesa Bike and Sidewalk Connections Planning Study. The \$180,000 grant-funded project focuses on identifying and planning improvements to close gaps in the city's bike and pedestrian networks, aligning with the City's Climate Action Plan, Vision Zero, and other strategic goals. Seven project locations were evaluated, with recommended alternatives identified through concept planning and community outreach. Next steps include finalizing a prioritized list of projects and identifying potential grant opportunities for future design and construction phases.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Jack Shu spoke in support of the La Mesa Bike and Sidewalk Connections projects and inquired about potential funding sources to advance the proposed improvements.

Dianne Osterling recommended that the City avoid financial commitments reliant on government subsidies and shared her comments on the Community Opinion Survey results.

**5.3 PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH**

Mayor Arapostathis read and presented the proclamation proclaiming the month of April as Volunteer Appreciation Month to Police Chief Sweeney, and Retired Senior Patrol Volunteers Mike Boatright, Neil Butler, and Paul Hitchcock.

**5.4 PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY AS WATER SAFETY MONTH**

Mayor Arapostathis read the proclamation proclaiming the month of May as Water Safety Month.

**5.5 PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY AS BIKE MONTH**

Mayor Arapostathis read and presented the proclamation proclaiming the month of May as Bike Month to Environmental Sustainability Manager Ego.

**5.6 PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY 2025 AS JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

Councilmember Cazares read and presented the proclamation declaring May 2025 as Jewish American Heritage Month to Andrea Beth Damsky. Ms. Damsky expressed her gratitude to the City Council for recognizing and honoring Jewish American heritage with the proclamation.

Robert Hicks, Associate Regional Director for the Anti-Defamation League San Diego, thanked the City Council for recognizing and celebrating the Jewish community.

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

James Hardin expressed interest in replacing invasive plants in a small section of a La Mesa park with native species, offered to submit a proposal detailing the benefits, and stated he had all the necessary resources to complete the project without using City resources and was requesting permission to proceed.

**7. CONFLICT DISCLOSURES**

There were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

**8. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

**8.1 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE MOBILITY COMMISSION**

Mayor Arapostathis nominated Philip Cavallo for appointment to the Mobility Commission.

**Resolution No. 2025-033**

**Moved by** Mayor Arapostathis

**Seconded by** Councilmember Cazares

Approve the appointment of Philip Cavello to the Mobility Commission, and adopt the Resolution confirming the appointment.

Yes (4): Mayor Arapostathis, Councilmember Cazares, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Suzuki

Absent (1): Vice Mayor Dillard

**Approved (4 to 0)**

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT CALENDAR**

Jack Shu spoke on Item 10.3 and 10.6.

Dianne Osterling spoke on Items 10.3, 10.6, 10.7, 11.1, and 11.2

AJ Estrada spoke on Item 10.4.

Susan Richardson submitted a comment on Item 10.6.

**10. CONSENT CALENDAR**

(Items 10.1 through 10.7)

\*If a public hearing item is part of the Consent Calendar, the public hearing shall be deemed held if the item is not removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion and possible action (Items 10.6 and 10.7).

**Moved by** Mayor Arapostathis

**Seconded by** Councilmember Suzuki

Approve Consent Calendar Items 10.1 through 10.7.

Yes (4): Mayor Arapostathis, Councilmember Cazares, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Suzuki

Absent (1): Vice Mayor Dillard

**Approved (4 to 0)**

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

Approve.

**10.2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025**

Approve.

**10.3 SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS ("SANDAG") SMART GROWTH INCENTIVE PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE SANDAG SMART GROWTH INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO FUND PHASE 2 OF THE DOWNTOWN VILLAGE SPECIFIC PLAN UPDATE, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT**

**Resolution No. 2025-034**

Adopt Resolution.

**10.4 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE 2023 PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT ("PLA") BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA MESA AND THE SAN DIEGO BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL AND SIGNATORY CRAFT UNIONS ("TRADES COUNCIL AND UNIONS")**

**Resolution No. 2025-035**

Adopt Resolution.

**10.5 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NO. 5 FOR THE BOULEVARD DRIVE STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BID NO. 24-16, TO SC VALLEY ENGINEERING, INC.**

**Resolution No. 2025-036**

Adopt Resolution.

**10.6 \*QUIMBY ACT PARKLAND DEDICATION IN-LIEU FEE AND PARK ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENT IMPACT FEE**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FINDINGS FOR THE QUIMBY ACT PARKLAND DEDICATION IN-LIEU FEE AND PARK ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENT IMPACT FEE AS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 66000 ET SEQ. AND**

**APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR PROJECTS AS OUTLINED IN THE  
PARKS MASTER PLAN**

**Moved by** Mayor Arapostathis

**Seconded by** Councilmember Suzuki

Close the hearing.

Yes (4): Mayor Arapostathis, Councilmember Cazares, Councilmember  
Lothian, and Councilmember Suzuki

Absent (1): Vice Mayor Dillard

**Approved (4 to 0)**

**Resolution No. 2025-037**

Adopt Resolution.

**10.7 \*SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS ("SANDAG")  
ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT TO THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION  
CONGESTION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ("RTCIP") DEVELOPMENT  
IMPACT FEE**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SANDAG ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT TO  
THE RTCIP DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE TO COMPLY WITH THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF SANDAG COMMISSION ORDINANCE 04-01 AND  
TRANSNET EXTENSION ORDINANCE AND EXPENDITURE PLAN**

**Resolution No. 2025-038**

Adopt Resolution.

**11. CONSENT CALENDAR - CITY COUNCIL AND PUBLIC FINANCING  
AUTHORITY**

(Items 11.1 through 11.2)

**Moved by** Mayor Arapostathis

**Seconded by** Councilmember Cazares

Approve Consent Calendar Items 11.1 through 11.2.

Yes (4): Mayor Arapostathis, Councilmember Cazares, Councilmember Lothian,  
and Councilmember Suzuki

Absent (1): Vice Mayor Dillard

**Approved (4 to 0)**

**11.1 ACCEPTANCE OF THE SINGLE AUDIT OF FEDERALLY ASSISTED GRANT PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

Approve.

**11.2 ACCEPTANCE OF BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE CITY OF LA MESA FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

Approve.

**12. ORDINANCE: FIRST READING**

**12.1 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MESA ADOPTING A FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES MAP AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Fire Chief Koch introduced Fire Marshal Ken King who provided a presentation on the updated Fire Hazard Severity Zones ("FHSZ"), a state-mandated effort by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ("CAL FIRE") to inform the public of wildfire risk areas. The updated maps classify land into three zones—Moderate, High, and Very High—based on factors such as vegetation, terrain, fire history, and weather conditions. These classifications help guide building codes, property development standards, and defensible space requirements in the Wildland-Urban Interface. Fire Marshal King provided an overview of the updated FHSZ maps and their implications for the City of La Mesa.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Dianne Osterling encouraged all residents to take proactive steps to help mitigate fire risks.

Christopher Glenn submitted a comment about wildfire preparedness and urged the City to strengthen fire prevention, emergency access, and evacuation planning.

**Moved by** Mayor Arapostathis

**Seconded by** Councilmember Cazares

Approve the introduction and first reading of the Ordinance.

Yes (4): Mayor Arapostathis, Councilmember Cazares, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Suzuki

Absent (1): Vice Mayor Dillard

**Approved (4 to 0)**

**13. STAFF REPORT**

**13.1 REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE THE NOTIFICATION PROCESS REQUIRED BY PROPOSITION 218 AND SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR A PROPOSED INCREASE IN EDCO WASTE RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025**

Environmental Sustainability Manager Ego explained the Proposition 218 notification process and timeline and discussed the rate proposal from EDCO.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Aaron Landau highlighted the high quality of EDCO's services and provided an explanation of the proposed rate increase.

**Moved by** Mayor Arapostathis

**Seconded by** Councilmember Cazares

Authorize staff to initiate the notification process required by Proposition 218 and schedule a public hearing for a proposed increase in EDCO waste rates to be effective July 1, 2025.

Yes (4): Mayor Arapostathis, Councilmember Cazares, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Suzuki

Absent (1): Vice Mayor Dillard

**Approved (4 to 0)**

**14. 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.

**15. AB 1234 REPORTS (GC 53232.3 (d))**

There were no reports.

**16. CITY ATTORNEY REMARKS**

There were no remarks.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Arapostathis adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

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City Clerk