



La Mesa City Council

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date: May 27, 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 6:00 p.m.

1.1 INVOCATION - MAYOR ARAPOSTATHIS

1.2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Sabine announced there were no reportable actions.

3. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

There were no comments.

4. COMMUNITY BULLETIN REPORTS

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

5. **ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

6. **PRESENTATIONS**

6.1 **PRESENTATION OF THE SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL AWARDS - MAYOR ARAPOSTATHIS**

Mayor Arapostathis, Chief Sweeney, Lieutenant Higgins and Master Officer Wilson presented the Safety Patrol Awards to:

Jordan Garcia, Rolando Elementary School

Bella Wedge, Lemon Avenue Elementary School

Sterling Santoyo, Northmont Elementary School

6.2 **PROCLAIMING JUNE 2025 AS LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH**

Councilmember Cazares read a proclamation declaring June 2025 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month and invited everyone to attend the 5th Annual Pride Flag Raising at City Hall on June 3, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

6.3 **PROCLAIMING MAY 27, 2025, AS THE LA MESA WOMAN'S CLUB DAY**

Vice Mayor Dillard read and presented the proclamation declaring May 27, 2025, as La Mesa Woman's Club Day to La Mesa Woman's Club Co-Presidents Marsha McDonald and Sandi Phoenix.

La Mesa Woman's Club Co-Presidents Marsha McDonald and Sandi Phoenix shared an overview of the Club's ongoing service to the community and expressed their appreciation to the City Council for recognizing and honoring the Club with the proclamation.

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

Richard Hart thanked the Council for its efforts in addressing fire hazards and homeless encampments in Tungsten Canyon through planned modifications, and gave special recognition to Code Compliance Officer Ellis for their outstanding work.

Tom Villarreal raised concerns about safety and traffic issues throughout the City.

Brenda Hammond encouraged everyone to keep smiling, expressed her gratitude to the Police Department, and shared her excitement for the upcoming Sundays at Six Concerts series.

8. CONFLICT DISCLOSURES

Councilmember Cazares stated that, while she does not have a conflict of interest under Government Code Section 87100, she previously lobbied on Senate Bill 569 and, as a result, would not participate in the discussion or vote on Item 11.1.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

MaryAnn spoke on Item 10.4.

Cindy Maina spoke on Item 10.4.

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 (Item 10.4).

Item 10.4 was considered separately upon the City Attorney's recommendation.

Councilmember Lothian asked Director of Community Development Santos about the differences in the number of permits issued across the various quarters as reported in Item 10.5. Director of Community Development Santos responded to her questions.

Moved By Mayor Arapostathis

Seconded By Councilmember Cazares

Approve Consent Calendar Items 10.1 through 10.7, except for Item 10.4.

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

Approved (5 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 AND THE LA MESA PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY SPECIAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025

Approve.

10.3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

Approve.

10.5 PERMIT AND DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

Receive and file.

10.6 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE LOW BIDDER FOR BID 25-16 AND AWARDING A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE 2025 SLURRY PROJECT TO AMERICAN ASPHALT SOUTH, INC.

Resolution No. 2025-053

Adopt Resolution.

10.7 ACCEPTANCE OF THE CITY OF LA MESA HOUSING ASSET AUDITED FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ADDENDUM TO THE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR JUNE 30, 2023

Receive and file.

10.4 *ORDINANCE REZONING 9407 JERICHO ROAD

SECOND READING AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MESA AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF TITLE 24 OF THE LA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE, REZONING 9407 JERICHO ROAD (APN 486-670-18-00) FROM ZONE R1 (URBAN RESIDENTIAL) TO ZONE R3 (MULTIPLE UNIT RESIDENTIAL)

Moved By Mayor Arapostathis

Seconded By Councilmember Cazares

Close the hearing.

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

Approved (5 to 0)

Ordinance No. 2025-2917

Moved By Mayor Arapostathis

Seconded By Vice Mayor Dillard

Approve the second reading and adoption of the Ordinance.

For (4): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Dillard, Councilmember Cazares, and Councilmember Suzuki

Against (1): Councilmember Lothian

Approved (4 to 1)

11. COUNCIL INITIATED

11.1 CONSIDERATION OF SENDING A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATIVE LEADERS FOR SENATE BILL 569 (BLAKESPEAR) - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION: HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS - COUNCILMEMBER SUZUKI

Domenic Provence, President of La Mesa Firefighters Local 4759, spoke on behalf of the organization in support of the Council's endorsement of Senate Bill 569 and explained the reasons behind their support for the bill.

Councilmember Suzuki provided a brief explanation regarding her request for Council support of Senate Bill 569.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Mairs Ryan submitted a comment in opposition to Council support of Senate Bill 569, warning that it would worsen veteran homelessness by dismantling encampments without offering adequate alternatives or services.

Moved By Councilmember Suzuki

Seconded By Mayor Arapostathis

Direct staff to prepare a letter of support for Senate Bill 569 (Blakespear): Department of Transportation: homeless encampments, authorize the Mayor to sign the letter on behalf of the entire City Council, and direct staff to send the letter to the Governor, the City's legislative representatives, and the bill's authors.

For (4): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Dillard, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Suzuki

Abstain (1): Councilmember Cazares

Approved (4 to 0)

**11.2 CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTING STAFF TO AGENDIZE A
QUARTERLY UPDATE TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM - COUNCILMEMBER LOTHIAN**

Councilmember Lothian recommended quarterly updates to the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program to enhance transparency, improve communication with residents, and ensure more timely inclusion of newly submitted petitions, along with a clearer listing of the specific traffic calming measures requested.

Moved By Councilmember Lothian

Seconded By Councilmember Cazares

Direct staff to update and present the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program ("NTMP") priority list to the City Council on a quarterly basis; add a new column identifying the specific traffic calming measures requested for each street; and include a legend explaining the three phases of the program.

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

Approved (5 to 0)

12. 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.

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

There were no reports.

14. CITY ATTORNEY REMARKS

There were no remarks.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Arapostathis adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

City Clerk