



La Mesa City Council Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date: March 22, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
Location: City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue
La Mesa, California

Present: Mayor Arapostathis
Vice Mayor Shu
Councilmember Baber
Councilmember Lothian
Councilmember Parent

Staff: City Manager Humora
Assistant City Manager Tomaino
City Attorney Sabine
City Clerk Wiegelman

This meeting was conducted utilizing teleconferencing and electronic means consistent with Government Code Section 54953, as amended by Assembly Bill 361, in relation to the COVID-19 State of Emergency and recommended social distancing measures.

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 - MAYOR ARAPOSTATHIS**

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. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 PROCLAIMING APRIL 29, 2022 AS ARBOR DAY

Mayor Arapostathis read the proclamation proclaiming April 29, 2022 as Arbor Day.

4.2 REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY TASK FORCE ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPAND THE LA MESA BRANCH OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY LIBRARY

Library Task Force ("Task Force") Chair David Harris provided a PowerPoint presentation on the recommendations of the Task Force to expand the La Mesa Branch of the San Diego County Library, highlighting the efforts of the Task Force, the discussion of ideas, and the benefits and goals of a Library Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study. Chair Harris stated the Task Force recommended the Council allocate \$30,000 in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget to hire a qualified firm to prepare a Library Facility Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study.

John Schmitz, Friends of the La Mesa Library, submitted a comment in support of the Task Force's recommendation.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Moved by Mayor Arapostathis

Seconded by Vice Mayor Shu

Allocate \$30,000 in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget to hire a qualified consulting firm to prepare a Library Facility Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study and direct staff to begin the process prior to Fiscal Year 2023 if possible.

Yes (5): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, Councilmember Baber, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Parent

Approved (5 to 0)

4.3 PURE WATER SAN DIEGO PRESENTATION

Councilmember Baber provided a brief overview of the Pure Water Program.

Dexter Wilson, Dexter Wilson Engineering, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Pure Water Program ("Program"), highlighting the purpose, two phases, and facilities of the Program, the participating agencies, and the financial impact of the Program on the City of La Mesa.

Following Council questions and comments, no action was taken.

5. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

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

Mayor Arapostathis explained the public comment procedures.

Gene Carpenter spoke regarding the appointment of Councilmembers to outside Boards and Commissions and Vice Mayor Shu's efforts in addressing climate change.

Ursula Koenig spoke regarding the process for opening a business in La Mesa and attracting new and unique businesses to west La Mesa.

7. CONFLICT DISCLOSURES

Councilmember Baber announced he would recuse himself from Item 11.1 because he had a potential conflict of interest under Government Code Section 87100 due to the proximity of his home to Collier Park.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

(Items 8.1 through 8.8)

Moved by Mayor Arapostathis

Seconded by Vice Mayor Shu

Approve Consent Calendar Items 8.1 through 8.8.

Yes (5): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, Councilmember Baber, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Parent

Approved (5 to 0)

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

Approve.

8.2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Approve.

8.3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Approve.

8.4 RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953, AS AMENDED BY ASSEMBLY BILL 361, AND RE-AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUED USE OF VIRTUAL AND/OR HYBRID MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2022 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2022

Resolution No. 2022-020

Adopt Resolution.

8.5 APPROVAL FOR COUNCILMEMBER PARENT TO ATTEND SAN DIEGO REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2022 MISSION TO WASHINGTON D.C. IN WASHINGTON D.C. FROM MARCH 27, 2022 THROUGH MARCH 30, 2022

Approve.

8.6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL PLAN

Approve.

8.7 JESSIE AVENUE DRAINAGE BASIN STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE JESSIE AVENUE DRAINAGE BASIN STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT, IF AWARDED, AND DELEGATING SIGNATURE AUTHORITY TO THE CITY MANAGER, OR DESIGNEE

Resolution No. 2022-021

Adopt Resolution.

8.8 UNIVERSITY AVENUE MEDIANS STORM WATER QUALITY PROJECT PHASE 2

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY FOR THE UNIVERSITY AVENUE MEDIANS STORM WATER QUALITY PROJECT PHASE 2, ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT, IF AWARDED, AND DELEGATING SIGNATURE AUTHORITY TO THE CITY MANAGER, OR DESIGNEE

Resolution No. 2022-022

Adopt Resolution.

9. ORDINANCE: SECOND READING

9.1 SENATE BILL NO. 1383 SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS: ORGANIC WASTE RECOVERY ORDINANCE

CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MESA ADDING A NEW LA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 7.30 MANDATORY ORGANICS RECYCLING AND EDIBLE FOOD RECOVERY; AND, AMENDING CHAPTER 7.20 REFUSE COLLECTION AND CHAPTER 7.22 MANDATORY RECYCLING TO COMPLY WITH SENATE BILL NO. 1383

City Attorney Sabine read the title of the Ordinance.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Ordinance No. 2022-2895

Moved by Councilmember Baber

Seconded by Mayor Arapostathis

(1) Approve the second reading and adoption of the Ordinance; and (2) direct staff to return to Council following the effective date of the Ordinance with an updated administrative citation structure.

Yes (4): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, Councilmember Baber, and Councilmember Parent

Abstain (1): Councilmember Lothian

10. **STAFF REPORTS**

10.1 **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING STAFF TO PROCEED WITH PROPOSITION 218 NOTIFICATION AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO SEWER SERVICE CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2023, 2024 AND 2025**

Acting City Engineer Hashemian provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Proposition 218 process, the basis for the sewer fund analysis, the actual revenues and expenditures of the sewer fund for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021, the estimated and projected revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Years 2022 through 2025, the proposed sewer rate adjustments for Fiscal Years 2023, 2024, and 2025, La Mesa's rates compared to other San Diego County cities, and the Proposition 218 Protest Form.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 2022-023

Moved by Vice Mayor Shu

Seconded by Councilmember Parent

Adopt Resolution authorizing staff to proceed with the notification and public hearing process required by Proposition 218 for proposed adjustments to sewer service charges for Fiscal Years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Yes (5): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, Councilmember Baber, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Parent

Approved (5 to 0)

10.2 **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED PHASE 2 ALLOCATIONS FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS**

Assistant City Manager Tomaino provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Phase 2 allocations for the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funds, highlighting the allocation dates and amounts, the eligibility categories, and the Ad Hoc Subcommittee's priority categories. Assistant City Manager Tomaino reviewed the proposed ARPA Phase 2 expenditures and programs which included the La Mesa Entrepreneurship

Accelerator Program ("LEAP"), additional support for the Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement Program ("HOME"), and support for essential workers.

Council questions and comments ensued.

James Sly, East County Economic Development Council, provided an overview of LEAP.

Rick Wilson, East County Homeless Task Force, submitted a comment in support of allocating \$800,000 in ARPA funds for La Mesa's homeless diversion and support services.

Council questions and comments continued.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Baber to (1) authorize the following Phase 2 allocations of ARPA funds: (a) \$200,000 for COVID-related leave and expenditures; (b) \$800,000 for economic development (LEAP Program); (c) \$800,000, with \$226,372 coming from the Community Development Block Grant, to provide additional support for the HOME Program; and (d) \$300,000 to support essential workers (\$1,000 stipend per employee regardless of vaccination status); and (2) request the ARPA funding Ad Hoc Subcommittee to incorporate in a subsequent allocation of ARPA funds recommendations that support economic development by improving the City's business processes. The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Moved by Councilmember Parent

Seconded by Vice Mayor Shu

(1) Authorize the following Phase 2 allocations of ARPA funds: (a) \$200,000 for COVID-related leave and expenditures; (b) \$800,000 for economic development (LEAP Program); (c) \$800,000, with \$226,372 coming from the Community Development Block Grant, to provide additional support for the HOME Program; and (d) \$300,000 to support essential workers (\$500 stipend per employee and an additional \$500 stipend to employees with a fully-vaccinated status as stipulated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention); and (2) request the ARPA Funding Ad Hoc Subcommittee to incorporate in a subsequent allocation of ARPA funds recommendations that support economic development by improving the City's business processes.

Yes (3): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, and Councilmember Parent

No (2): Councilmember Baber, and Councilmember Lothian

Approved (3 to 2)

11. HEARING

11.1 CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 AND SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS TO FISCAL YEARS 2019-20 AND 2021-22

Notice of the hearing was given in accordance with legal requirements, and the hearing was held on the date and at the time specified in the notice.

Councilmember Baber left the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Mayor Arapostathis opened the hearing for Item 11.1.

Associate Planner Kinnard provided a PowerPoint presentation on the CDBG program, the 2020-2025 Consolidated Planning goals, the amendments to Fiscal Years 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan, and the proposed funding levels and allocation of CDBG program funds for Fiscal Year 2023-2022.

Moved by Mayor Arapostathis

Seconded by Councilmember Parent

Close the hearing.

Yes (4): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Parent

Absent (1): Councilmember Baber

Approved (4 to 0)

Resolution No. 2022-024

Moved by Mayor Arapostathis

Seconded by Councilmember Parent

(1) Adopt Resolution approving a substantial amendment to the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan for the CDBG program to program CDBG Coronavirus (CDBG-CV1 and CDBG-CV3) funds and authorizing

submittal to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"); and (2) reaffirm CDBG program priorities and direct staff to draft and circulate for public review the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 CDBG Action Plan and amended Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Action Plan for HUD-funded activities and return to Council on April 26, 2022, for final review and approval.

Yes (4): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Parent

Absent (1): Councilmember Baber

Approved (4 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 8:11 p.m.

City Clerk