



La Mesa City Council

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date: January 10, 2023, 6:00 pm
Location: City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue
La Mesa, California

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

Staff: City Manager Humora
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 6:00 p.m.

1.1 **INVOCATION - COUNCILMEMBER LOTHIAN**

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 10.6 was deleted from the agenda.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY REPORT

The City's first ever State of the City video was played which highlighted the City's many achievements in 2022 and the completed, ongoing and future projects and initiatives the City had undertaken.

5.2 SWEARING IN OF NEW FIRE CHIEF BENT KOCH

City Clerk Wiegelman administered the Oath of Office to Fire Chief Bent Koch.

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

Barb Lorenz on behalf of the Legacy Coalition, spoke in opposition to Project 2021-40, a mixed-use development at 4757 Palm Avenue.

Wendy Mihalic spoke regarding the hiring of a Communications Manager and Assistant City Manager.

Dianne Osterling spoke regarding government transparency and the processes of the Community Development Department.

Gary Lorenz spoke in opposition to Project 2021-40, a mixed-use development at 4757 Palm Avenue.

Dana Stevens, Executive Director of Community Action Service Advocacy for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods, spoke on prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products in the City.

Ray Abbott spoke regarding the letter Councilmember Parent wrote to Sharp Grossmont Hospital in support of workers deciding for themselves whether to join a union.

Mary Davis spoke regarding the letter Councilmember Parent wrote to Sharp Grossmont Hospital in support of workers deciding for themselves whether to join a union, the City's travel reimbursement policy, and the National Sanctity of Life flag.

Bonnie Baranoff spoke regarding the City's annual point in time count scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2023, from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

7. CONFLICT DISCLOSURES

Councilmember Lothian recused herself for Item 10.9 because she had a potential conflict of interest under Government Code Section 87100 due to the proximity of her office to 4757 Palm Avenue.

8. BOARD AND COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

8.1 INTERVIEW OF APPLICANT FOR AN UNSCHEDULED VACANCY ON THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

City Clerk Wiegelman briefly explained the interview process.

Renee Bareno spoke regarding their qualifications and interest in being appointed to the Arts and Culture Commission.

City Clerk Wiegelman said the appointment would be made at the January 24th City Council meeting.

Following the interview, no action was taken.

8.2 INTERVIEW OF APPLICANTS FOR AN UNSCHEDULED VACANCY ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION

City Clerk Wiegelman briefly explained the interview process. City Clerk Wiegelman stated that Grant Yamada was not able to attend the City Council meeting due to a prior commitment but had provided a written statement expressing their interest in being considered for appointment to the Planning Commission.

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

Blake Baylin

Kathleen Brand

Lauren M. Cazares

Jonathan Frankel

David Harris

David J. Telliard II

City Clerk Wiegelman said the appointment would be made at the January 24th City Council meeting.

Following the interviews, no action was taken.

8.3 ANNUAL INTERVIEW OF APPLICANTS FOR OPENINGS ON THE CITY’S COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD

City Clerk Wiegelman briefly explained the interview process. City Clerk Wiegelman stated Gregg Ward and Caitlin Tiffany were not able to attend the City Council meeting due to prior commitments but had provided written statements expressing their interests in being considered for appointment or reappointment to the Community Police Oversight Board ("CPOB").

The following applicants spoke regarding their qualifications and interest in being appointed or reappointed to the CPOB:

Janet Castanos

Lauren M. Cazares

Christian DeMent

Robert Duff

Linda Hitt

Susan Wayne

City Clerk Wiegelman said the appointments would be made at the January 24th City Council meeting.

Following the interviews, no action was taken.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Dianne Osterling spoke on Consent Calendar Item 10.9.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR

(Items 10.1 through 10.9)

Consent Calendar Item 10.6 was deleted from the agenda.

Mayor Arapostathis pulled Consent Calendar Item 10.9 for separate consideration.

Moved By Vice Mayor Parent
Seconded By Mayor Arapostathis

Approve Consent Calendar Items 10.1 through 10.8, except for Item 10.6.

For (5): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Parent, Councilmember Dillard,
Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Shu

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 HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2022

Approve.

10.3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AND CITY OF LA MESA SUCCESSOR AGENCY SPECIAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022

Approve.

10.4 APPROVAL OF THE 2023 LIST OF PROCLAMATIONS

Approve.

10.5 QUARTERLY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2022

Receive and file.

10.7 RESOLUTIONS APPROVING THE AMENDED CITY OF LA MESA COMPENSATION PLANS

Adopt Resolutions.

a. FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 COMPENSATION PLAN RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE TO THE APPROVED AMENDED CITY OF LA MESA COMPENSATION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 LISTING POSITIONS, SALARY RANGES/BANDS, AND PAY STEPS, INCLUDING REACTIVATING THE CLASSIFICATION FOR FIRE CHIEF AND

ESTABLISHING RELATED SALARY BAND, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET

Resolution No. 2023-001

Adopt Resolution.

- b. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE TO THE APPROVED AMENDED CITY OF LA MESA COMPENSATION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 LISTING POSITIONS, SALARY RANGES/BANDS, AND PAY STEPS, INCLUDING THE CLASSIFICATION AND RELATED SALARY BAND FOR FIRE CHIEF**

Resolution No. 2023-002

Adopt Resolution.

- c. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE TO THE APPROVED AMENDED CITY OF LA MESA COMPENSATION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 LISTING POSITIONS, SALARY RANGES/BANDS, AND PAY STEPS, INCLUDING THE CLASSIFICATION AND RELATED SALARY BAND FOR FIRE CHIEF**

Resolution No. 2023-003

Adopt Resolution.

- 10.8 RESOLUTION AWARDING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO CHEN RYAN ASSOCIATES INC., DBA CR ASSOCIATES FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SERVICES FOR THE LA MESA BOULEVARD COMPLETE STREETS PLAN, SEGMENT 2**

Resolution No. 2023-004

Adopt Resolution.

- 10.6 APPROVAL OF UPDATING THE BANK CONTRACTING OFFICER AND DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE NEW CITY TREASURER**

This item was deleted from the agenda.

10.9 CONTINUANCE OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD'S APPROVAL OF PROJECT 2021-40 (PALM STREET VENTURES LLC)

A PROPOSED MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT AT 4757 PALM AVENUE, APN 494-410-24-00 IN THE CD-D (DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL / URBAN DESIGN OVERLAY ZONE)

Councilmember Lothian left the dais at 7:09 p.m.

Mary Davis spoke in opposition to the ratification of the Design Review Board's approval of Project 2021-40 (Palm Street Ventures LLC).

Lauren Cazares spoke in support of the ratification of the Design Review Board's approval of Project 2021-40 (Palm Street Ventures LLC).

Sandy Cajigas submitted a comment in opposition to the ratification of the Design Review Board's approval of Project 2021-40 (Palm Street Ventures LLC).

Karlene Akers submitted a comment stating their concerns with Project 2021-40 (Palm Street Ventures LLC).

City Attorney Sabine explained that the Council would only be voting on the design of the project, and the other components of the project, such as the entitlement, were already approved by the Planning Commission with no appeal filed during the appeal period.

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Shu to ratify the Design Review Board's approval of Project 2021-40 with the lighter color palette for the building. The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Moved By Councilmember Dillard

Seconded By Vice Mayor Parent

To ratify the Design Review Board's approval of Project 2021-40 with the original darker color palette for the building.

For (4): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Parent, Councilmember Dillard, and Councilmember Shu

Abstain (1): Councilmember Lothian

Approved (4 to 0)

11. **STAFF REPORT**

11.1 **CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTING AND/OR REAPPOINTING COUNCILMEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES, AND TO THE COUNCIL AD HOC AND STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES**

Councilmember Lothian returned to the dais at 7:26 p.m.

Mayor Arapostathis explained the appointment process for the outside boards, commissions, and committees, and the Council ad hoc and standing subcommittees.

Carol Kim, Business Manager of the San Diego Building and Construction Trades Council, spoke in support of the appointment of Mayor Arapostathis as the primary representative, Councilmember Shu as the alternate representative and Councilmember Dillard as the second alternate representative on the San Diego Association of Governments Board of Directors.

Gretchen Newsom on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers ("IBEW") Local 569, spoke on ensuring the City's appointments to regional agencies be representatives with values that do right by La Mesa and the entire region.

Moved By Mayor Arapostathis

Seconded By Councilmember Dillard

Appoint Mayor Arapostathis as the primary representative, Councilmember Shu as the first alternate representative, and Councilmember Dillard as the second alternate representative on the San Diego Association of Governments Board of Directors.

For (5): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Parent, Councilmember Dillard, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Shu

Approved (5 to 0)

Moved By Councilmember Dillard
Seconded By Councilmember Shu

Appoint Councilmember Dillard as the primary representative and Mayor Arapostathis as the alternate representative on the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System Board of Directors.

For (4): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Parent, Councilmember Dillard, and Councilmember Shu

Against (1): Councilmember Lothian

Approved (4 to 1)

Moved By Mayor Arapostathis
Seconded By Councilmember Shu

Appoint: (1) Councilmember Lothian as the primary representative on the East County Economic Development Council; (2) Councilmember Shu as the primary representative and Mayor Arapostathis as the alternate representative on the Harry Griffen Park JPA; (3) Vice Mayor Parent as the primary representative and Councilmember Shu as the alternate representative on the Heartland Communications Facility Authority; (4) Vice Mayor Parent as the primary representative and Councilmember Shu as the alternate representative on the Heartland Fire Training Facility Authority; (5) Mayor Arapostathis as the primary representative and Councilmember Lothian as the alternate representative on the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District/City of La Mesa Joint Steering Committee; (6) Councilmember Lothian as the primary representative on the League of California Cities San Diego County Division; (7) William Baber as the primary representative and Councilmember Shu as the alternate representative on the Metro Wastewater Joint Powers Authority; (8) Vice Mayor Parent as the primary representative on the Mission Trails Regional Task Force; (9) Councilmember Parent as the primary representative and Councilmember Shu as the alternate representative on the San Diego Community Power Board of Directors; and (10) Councilmember Dillard as the primary representative on the Sweetwater River Watershed Advisory Panel.

For (5): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Parent, Councilmember Dillard, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Shu

Approved (5 to 0)

Moved By Mayor Arapostathis

Seconded By Vice Mayor Parent

(1) Establish a standing subcommittee comprising of Councilmember Dillard and Councilmember Lothian for the purpose of acting as a liaison between residents and businesses applying for permits and the department that issues permits; (2) Establish an ad hoc subcommittee comprising of Mayor Arapostathis and Vice Mayor Parent for the purpose of reviewing the Accessory Dwelling Unit policies and process; (3) Establish an ad hoc subcommittee comprising of Vice Mayor Parent and Councilmember Shu for the purpose of reviewing parking related legislation and policies; (4) Appoint: (a) Mayor Arapostathis and Councilmember Shu to the Citizen Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (b) Vice Mayor Parent and Councilmember Shu to the Civic Center Master Plan Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (c) Vice Mayor Parent and Councilmember Lothian to the Review of the Design Review Board Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (d) Vice Mayor Parent and Councilmember Shu to the Housing Affordability Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (e) Vice Mayor Parent and Councilmember Dillard to the Extension of Proposition L Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (f) Mayor Arapostathis and Vice Mayor Parent to the Review of City Streets for Greater Pedestrian Access Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (g) Vice Mayor Parent and Councilmember Lothian to the Business Rebound Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (h) Councilmember Dillard and Councilmember Shu to the Climate Action Plan Updates Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (i) Councilmember Dillard and Councilmember Shu to the Animal Welfare Standing Subcommittee; (j) Mayor Arapostathis and Councilmember Shu to the Audit Standing Subcommittee; (k) Councilmember Dillard and Councilmember Shu to the Future of MacArthur Park Standing Subcommittee; and (l) Councilmember Dillard and Councilmember Lothian to the Downtown Events Standing Subcommittee.

For (5): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Parent, Councilmember Dillard, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Shu

Approved (5 to 0)

12. COUNCIL INITIATED

12.1 CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CITY DONATION OF A TREE IN MEMORY OF DEXTER LEVY - MAYOR ARAPOSTATHIS AND VICE MAYOR PARENT

Mayor Arapostathis and Vice Mayor Parent explained the purpose for requesting a City donation of a tree in memory of Dexter Levy and shared their memories and expressed their gratitude and respect for Dexter Levy.

Anthony McIvor spoke in support of a City donation of a tree in memory of Dexter Levy.

Moved By Mayor Arapostathis

Seconded By Councilmember Shu

Approve a City donation of a tree in memory of Dexter Levy.

For (5): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Parent, Councilmember Dillard, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Shu

Approved (5 to 0)

12.2 CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTING STAFF TO PREPARE OR REVISE A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY, SCHEDULE, AND CHECKLIST FOR WHAT ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN BY WHICH STAFF TO ONBOARD NEW ELECTED OFFICIALS MOVING FORWARD – VICE MAYOR PARENT AND COUNCILMEMBER DILLARD

Vice Mayor Parent and Councilmember Dillard explained the purpose for directing staff to prepare or revise a comprehensive policy, schedule, and checklist for what actions should be taken by which staff to onboard new elected officials moving forward.

Christopher Glenn submitted a comment in support of the item.

Moved By Vice Mayor Parent

Seconded By Councilmember Dillard

To direct staff to prepare or revise a comprehensive policy, schedule, and checklist for what actions should be take by which staff to onboard new elected officials moving forward.

For (5): Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Parent, Councilmember Dillard, Councilmember Lothian, and Councilmember Shu

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 8:06 p.m.

City Clerk