

MINUTES

Agenda - Regular Meeting of the Sierra Madre City Council,
Successor Agency and Public Finance Authority
Tuesday, July 12, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024
and
Council Member Denise Delmar via
teleconference from Fairfield Inn & Suites
555 Skyway Rd., San Carlos, CA 94070

Mayor, Gene Goss, opened the Regular Meeting of the Sierra Madre City Council, Successor Agency and Public Finance Authority at 6:30 p.m. City Clerk, Melinda Carrillo, read the roll, noting that all City Council members were present. No closed meeting took place.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Present: Gene Goss, Mayor, Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Members, Denise Delmar, John Capoccia and John Harabedian.

Absent: None

Also Present: Elaine Aguilar, City Manager
Teresa Highsmith, City Attorney
Vincent Gonzalez, Director of Planning and Community Preservation
Larry Giannone, Safety Director and Police Chief
Marcie Medina, Finance Director
Steve Heydorff, Fire Chief
Elisa Cox, Assistant City Manager
James Carlson, Management Analyst
Bruce Inman, Director of Public Works
Joe Ortiz, Captain, Sierra Madre Police Department
Melinda Carrillo, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION/INSPIRATION

Council Member Harabedian, led the Pledge of Allegiance. In light of the recent devastating shootings, Council Member Harabedian asked those present that know the prayer, *Our Father*, to please pray aloud.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Council Member Harabedian asked to remove Agenda Item 1c regarding awarding a professional services contract to develop a water distribution system model for the city.

Moved: Council Member John Capoccia

Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi

Ayes: Mayor Gene Goss, Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi, Council Members John Capoccia, John Harabedian and Denise Delmar

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 24, 2016

*Minutes are approved, however, Council Members Capoccia, Harabedian and Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi have minor corrections and will get those to City Clerk Carrillo after the meeting.

Moved: Council Member John Harabedian

Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi

Ayes: Mayor Gene Goss, Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi, Council Members John Capoccia, John Harabedian and Denise Delmar

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

- 1) Council Member Delmar is on a business trip and is very pleased with the new phone system. She can hear the meeting more clearly than the last time she was away on business.
- 2) Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi commended the Fourth of July Committee for a job well done. Some emails of concern regarding some parade entries were received and will be reviewed with the Fourth of July Committee.
- 3) Mayor Gene Goss enjoyed riding the parade route this year with his family and added to Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi's words stating that the Fourth of July Parade was fantastic, and the activities the day before and after the parade were fantastic as well.
- 4) Council Members Capoccia and Harabedian had nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Dave Colcher, Sierra Madre Rose Float Association President: Presented the city with a framed photo of this year's Sierra Madre Rose Parade Float. This year's float was awarded the Animation trophy at the Rose Parade. The 2017 float, "Cat's Away", is under construction since March
- Faith Lee: Introduced herself as the field representative for Assemblyman Chris Holden and offered her assistance when needed.
- Paul Hovsepien: Offered a few words of wisdom regarding the shootings the past weeks stating that these occurrences are wearing at the nation's soul and that a change in human hearts would be accomplished through an understanding and practice of empathy.
- Tom Arnt: Added to Mr. Hovsepien input stating that a change in our vocabulary regarding Blacks, Hispanics and Whites. Moreover, he is concerned with the cross walk by the post office on Baldwin Ave. that should be changed to a stop sign. He requested to see the minutes from two years ago when he requested that be done during a city council meeting. Mr. Arnt was given immediate direction by staff about requesting the minutes.
- Lori Gearsbock: Is concerned with the Canary Island Pine trees at Oakcrest starting at Carter. She said these trees are a fire hazard and should be replaced with other trees one by one. She and her husband are very concerned about the potential fire hazard of the dried, brown pine needles.

Mayor Goss closed public comment.

PRESENTATION

- Mayor Goss recognized Elisa Cox, outgoing Assistant City Manager, and presented her with a city plaque and read a proclamation in her honor.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

Elaine Aguilar, City Manager, gave the following report under the Consent Calendar, excluding Item 1c, as per Council Member Harabedian's request.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 16-48 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS

Recommendation that the City Council approve Resolution 16-48 for approval of payment of City Warrants in amount of \$1,410,456.92; Library warrants in the aggregate amount of \$27,267.15, and payroll transfer in the aggregate amount of \$281,226.18 for fiscal year ending June 2016 and 2017.

- b) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 1377, MUNICIPAL CODE TEXT AMENDMENT 16-02 AMENDING TITLE 17, CHAPTER 17.28 – R3 ZONE OF THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE

Recommendation that the City Council introduce and approve for second reading by title only, and waive further reading, Ordinance 1377, and direct the City Attorney to prepare a summary ordinance.

- c) RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO BUCKNAM AND ASSOCIATES AND ID MODELING FOR THE PREPARATION OF A WATER SYSTEM COMPUTERIZED HYDRAULIC MODEL IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$90,120

Recommendation that the City Council award a professional services contract to the team of Bucknam and Associates and ID Modeling to develop a water distribution system model for the City in an amount not to exceed \$90,120, and allocate Water Fund Reserves.

Mayor Goss opened for public comment.

- Barbara Lee Cline: Is disappointed that City Council and Planning Commission decided to remove that nothing over twenty-acres should be developed.

Mayor Goss closed public comment.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED (minus Item 1c)

Moved: Council Member John Harabedian

Seconded: Council Member John Capoccia

Ayes: Mayor Gene Goss, Mayor Pro Tem Rachele Arizmendi, Council Members John Capoccia, John Harabedian and Denise Delmar

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

DISCUSSION OF ITEM 1c

Council Member Harabedian asked why not an RFP regarding the development of a water distribution system model for the city. He also inquired about what year Arcadia did their system and how much did they pay. Director Inman stated that he did indeed consider an RFP and did get other quotes from two other companies and stated the price is very well within reasonable range. A RFP will delay the project by approximately two months. He had no information regarding Arcadia.

Mayor Goss opened for public comment.

- Tom Arnt: Why don't we ask what Arcadia did and follow their plan since they've already done it.
- Barbara Lee Cline: Agrees with an RFP and adds that there are streets in Sierra Madre that don't have fire hydrants.

Mayor Goss closed public comment.

DIRECTION OF ITEM 1c

After council discussion, direction was given to City Manager, Aguilar. City Council concurred that the RFP should be done as soon as possible. Council directed staff to do the RFP, however, Council does not need to see it.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

2. MS4 PERMIT COMPLIANCE

Recommendation that the City Council receive and file.

*Permit update presented by James Carlson, Management Analyst, and with Jason Pereira, Principal of California Water Shed Engineering, CWE. The MS4 Permit Compliance is also known as the storm water permit. Council received and filed.

Mayor Goss opened for public comment.

- Tom Arnt: Are we actually polluting? If we are not polluting, we should not have to participate and that needs to be answered.
- Paul Hovsopian: If it has to do with pollution, we do not have much to pollute.

Mayor Goss closed public comment.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING VACANT PROPERTY MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Recommendation that the City Council direct staff to work with the Planning Commission to develop a vacant property registration program.

*Vincent Gonzalez, Director of Planning & Community Preservation presented.

Mayor Goss opened for public comment.

- Joanna Schilling, 633 W. Alegria Ave.: Mrs. Schilling is grateful that this matter was agendized and still concerned that homes are being bought with no intent to live in those homes.
- Steve Schilling, 633 W. Alegria Ave.: Mr. Schilling is still concerned that the issue brought up and agendized is still not broad enough. Foreign investors continue buying homes and those homes remain vacant.
- Becca Vodnoy ,W. Alegria Ave.: Safety and community are why we moved to this community. We love our community and we want continue to feel safe.
- Joy Painter, 640 W. Alegria Ave.: Mrs. Painter concerned with vacant homes with over grown trees growing across property lines and hoarder houses with mice and rats. Vacant Property Registration Ordinances, VPROs, were developed years ago to specifically combat this problem.
- Bruce Jones, 662 W. Alegria Ave.: 678 W. Alegria has been vacant for four years. Mr. Jones is concerned with fire. He has complaint about 670 W. Alegria and the potential fire hazard due to dry grass and Palm trees in the backyard since 2014. Palm trees catch fire fast. He believes Title 8 has everything to solve this problem. Pasadena had code enforcement volunteers and we can do the same.
- Barbara Lee Cline: Is concerned is safety and vacant homes with pools and the possibility of a child falling in. We need a strong ordinance for a vacant home and heavy fine.
- Bruce Jones, 662 W. Alegria Ave.: Suggested getting county help.

Mayor Goss closed public comment.

City Council discussed and Mayor opened for additional public comment.

- Tom Arnt: We can give the maintenance information to the realtors to give to the buyers.
- Paul Hovsopian: I do not believe the Schillings are being prejudice with their comments. They are simply concerned with their block and our small community.
- Joy Painter: Mrs. Painter stated these issues are happening everywhere in the world.
- Bruce Jones: Reiterated that Palm trees are dangerous and a potential fire hazard.
- Steve Schilling: Mr. Schilling is not being prejudice, simply concerned.

Mayor Goss closed additional public comment.

DIRECTION OF ITEM 3

After City Council discussion, direction was given to City Manager, Aguilar. With majority consensus, staff will go to the Planning Commission to look into a property maintenance inspection program and look at our code section Title 8 on property standards. The language in Title 8 will be made more clear, and therefore, making it easier for code enforcement officers to follow and enforce. After the Planning Commission makes a recommendation and an ordinance is made, a volunteer patrol program can be established. Staff cannot do anything further with the fire code since that is already specific. Moreover, information regarding the maintenance program would be readily available to realtors and buyers. Lastly, City Attorney Highsmith pointed out that whatever standards are created regarding property maintenance standards, will apply to any property in Sierra Madre, whether the property is vacant or not.

4. 2016 SENIOR MASTER PLAN

Recommendation that the City Council approve and adopt the 2016 Senior Master Plan.

*Nina Bartolai, Senior Master Plan Committee Chair presented.

Mayor Goss opened for public comment but no input was given.

APPROVAL OF 2016 SENIOR MASTER PLAN

Moved: Council Member John Harabedian

Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi

Ayes: Mayor Gene Goss, Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi, Council Members John Capoccia, John Harabedian and Denise Delmar

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

5. KERSTING COURT RENOVATION CONCEPT AND RELATED USE OF ART IN PUBLIC PLACES FUNDING

Recommendation that the City Council approve the project in concept as well as to approve a commitment not to exceed \$30,000 of Art in Public Places funding for sculptural/art components. It is further recommended that the City Council direct the Community Services Commission to work with Sierra Madre Community Foundation and other interested groups to obtain plans and costs for subsequent review.

*Ryan Baker, Director of Library and Community Services presented.

* Karma Bell, Civic Club President, explained that the concept of updating Kersting Court came together when the club wanted to spend some surplus funds on the community,

and therefore, ended up meeting with other group leaders such as the Community Foundation who was also interested in doing something as a community project at Kersting Court.

*Mark Meahl, Garden View Landscaping, commented on the possible concept and design for Kersting Court.

Mayor Goss opened for public comment.

- Carol Canterbury, Chamber of Commerce, indicated that an anonymous person donated a \$10,000 Christmas tree that is 25 feet for Kersting Court. The signs should consider businesses on East Montecito and further West Sierra Madre Ave.
- Pat Alcorn suggested a call for artists to do some of the work.
- Barabara Lee Cline suggested to replant the Pepper Trees and call for artists. She would like ideas for the concept to be open to everyone in the community.
- Mr. McGuire indicated that Kersting Court is iconic and is a great idea.
- Michelle Keith, Community Foundation Chair stated that this was their idea. Kersting Court will keep it's character and remain a place of gathering.
- Karma Bell indicated that the idea for the public art comes from the idea that Kersting Court is the center of our universe, our town, therefore the sign is indicating to what makes our town.
- Rob Stockley likes the concept and promotes spending the entire money from the Public Arts Fund on the Kersting Court concept.
- Bart Doyle would like Council to approve staff recommendation as presented and agrees with Mr. Stockley.

Mayor Goss closed public comment.

*Direction was given to staff to move forward with the Kersting Court concept by unanimous consensus by City Council.

6. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MASTER PLAN REPORT AND ATTACHMENT

Recommendation that the City Council receive and file the IT Master Plan and instruct City staff to work on implementing the objectives in the IT Master Plan as the budget allows.

*Postponed for City Council meeting on September 13, 2016.

7. IMPROVING COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Recommendation that the City Council instruct staff to upgrade the City's emergency alert system to Nixle 360 and to prepare a Request for Proposals for additional banner poles at Sierra Madre Blvd. and Lima Street.

*Postponed for next City Council meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Delmar requested to place the topic of leaf blowers on a future agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi requested the Planning Commission look at the legal non-conforming codes and place on a future agenda.

ADJOURNMENT at 10:35 p.m.

Moved: Council Member John Harabedian

Seconded: Council Member John Capoccia

Ayes: Mayor Gene Goss, Mayor Pro Tem Rachele Arizmendi, Council Members John Capoccia, John Harabedian and Denise Delmar

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None



Gene Goss, Mayor

Minutes taken and typed by:



Melinda Carrillo
City Clerk