

**MINUTES OF THE  
LAWDALE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
May 4, 2020**

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Pullen-Miles called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall council chamber, 14717 Burin Avenue, Lawndale, California.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor Pro Tem Bernadette Suarez, Councilmember James H. Osborne, Councilmember Pat Kearney, Councilmember Daniel Reid

Other Participants: City Clerk Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, City Manager Kevin M. Chun, City Attorney Tiffany J. Israel, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Captain Duane Allen, Community Services Director Mike Estes, Assistant to the City Manager/Human Resources Director Raylette Felton, Municipal Services Director Michael Reyes, Finance Director Marla Pendleton, Community Development Director Sean Moore, Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos.

**B. CEREMONIALS**

Councilmember Reid led the flag salute.

**C. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT**

Captain Allen summarized recent law enforcement activities.

**D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

- Pam London, Resident, spoke about and in opposition to "Project Roomkey" happening in Lawndale.

**E. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL**

The City Council responded generally to the comments, but did not request placement of any issues on a future meeting agenda.

**F. CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. **Motion to read by title only and waive further reading of all ordinances listed on the Agenda**  
Recommendation: that the City Council approve.
2. **Notice of Completion for Inglewood Avenue Improvement Project**  
Recommendation: that the City Council (a) accept the Inglewood Avenue Improvement Project; (b) direct Staff to file the Notice of Completion; and (c) direct staff to begin the Thirty-Five (35) day claims period and release the project retention.

3. **Routine Records Destruction**  
Recommendation: that the City Council adopt Resolution No. CC-2005-023, approving the requests from Administrative Services/Human Resources for Authorization to destroy routine records as listed in exhibits of the Resolution.
4. **Accounts Payable Register**  
Recommendation: that the City Council adopt Resolution No. CC-2005-022, authorizing the payment of certain claims and demands in the amount of \$193,361.81.
5. **Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Regular Meeting – April 20, 2020**  
Recommendation: that the City Council approve.
6. **Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Special Meeting – April 23, 2020**  
Recommendation: that the City Council approve.

Councilmember Kearney inquired about the cost and savings involved with the Completion for Inglewood Avenue Improvement Project.

A lengthy dialogue ensued between staff and Council regarding future projects, the reasons for the limited cost savings on the Inglewood Avenue Improvement Project, and roadwork on shared streets.

**A motion by Councilmember Reid to approve the consent calendar was seconded by Councilmember Kearney and carried by a vote of 5-0.**

**G. PUBLIC HEARING**

7. **Adopting the 2020 Los Angeles County Fire Codes by Reference**  
Recommendation: that the City Council approve the second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 1171-20, adopting the 2020 Los Angeles County Fire Codes by Reference.

Community Development Director Sean Moore reported on the proposed adoption of the 2020 Los Angeles County Fire Codes by Reference.

Mayor Pullen-Miles opened the public hearing at 6:52 p.m.

The public hearing was opened and closed immediately at 6:52 p.m.

**A motion by Councilmember Kearney to approve the second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 1171-20, adopting the 2020 Los Angeles County Fire Codes by Reference was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Suarez and carried by a vote of 5-0, following City Attorney Israel's reading of the title of Ordinance No. 1171-20.**

**H. ADMINISTRATION**

8. **South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) Appointment – Business Private Sector Representative**

Recommendation: that the City Council (a) review the submitted Statement of Interest from Mr. Frank Rodriguez, as supported by the SBWIB; (b) re-affirm the SBWIB's nomination of Mr. Frank Rodriguez as the City of Lawndale's SBWIB representative on the Business Private Industry Council for a term of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024 and direct staff to provide that name to the SBWIB for the Inglewood Chamber of Commerce' final approval; or Options (c) and (d) as follows; (c) direct staff to open up nominations for additional applications including advertising the opening on the City website and City social media platforms; and (d) bring the nomination applications to an upcoming City Council meeting and provide direction to staff to provide a name to the SBWIB for the Inglewood Chamber of Commerce' final approval, to fill the upcoming vacancy on the City of Lawndale's SBWIB Business Private Industry Council seat for a term of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024.

City Manager Kevin M. Chun reported on the proposed South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) Appointment.

**A motion by Mayor Pullen-Miles to re-affirm and appoint the SBWIB's nomination of Mr. Frank Rodriguez as the City of Lawndale's SBWIB representative on the Business Private Industry Council for a term of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024 and direct staff to provide that name to the SBWIB for the Inglewood Chamber of Commerce' final approval was seconded by Councilmember Kearney and carried by a vote of 5-0.**

**9. Billboard Subcommittee Selection for Consideration of Two Billboard Sign Proposals by Lawndale Media, LLC**

Recommendation: that the City Council (a) determine that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines; and (b) appoint two (2) City Councilmembers to a Billboard Subcommittee to review two billboard proposals.

Community Development Director Sean Moore reported on the proposed Billboard Subcommittee Selection for Consideration of Two Billboard Sign Proposals by Lawndale Media, LLC.

Councilmember Kearney and Councilmember Reid both volunteered to serve again on this particular subcommittee.

**City Council appointed Councilmember Kearney and Councilmember Reid to serve on the Billboard Subcommittee for Consideration of Two Billboard Sign Proposals by Lawndale Media, LLC, via unanimous consent.**

**10. Budget Update for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2020**

Recommendation: that the City Council receive and file the Quarterly Budget Report as of March 31, 2020.

Finance Director Marla Pendleton reported on the proposed Budget Update for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2020.

Mayor Pullen-Miles inquired as to how the point-of-purchase was identified on an online sale. Director Pendleton responded that it was dependent on the endpoint of the delivery or package.

**A motion by Councilmember Kearney to receive and file the Quarterly Budget Report as of March 31, 2020 was seconded by Councilmember Reid and carried by a vote of 5-0.**

**11. Considerations of Further Modifications to City Operations Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Recommendation: that the City Council (a) provide direction to staff regarding conducting as usual, modified, postponement, or cancellation of the Memorial Day Ceremony scheduled for May 25, 2020, and the Health, Safety and Pet Fair scheduled for June 6, 2020; and (b) approve the suspension of the Lawndale Beat Transit Service as of May 4<sup>th</sup> until further notice, and reinstate the Lawndale Special Transit Service as soon as possible subject to the installation of safety equipment and protocols for rider safety.

City Manager Kevin M. Chun reported on the consideration of Further Modifications to City Operations Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mayor Pro Tem Suarez inquired about legislation regarding COVID-19 and any protections from lawsuits if a City holds an event. City Attorney Tiffany Israel responded that legislation and direction was ongoing.

A lengthy dialogue ensued between Council and staff regarding potentially modifying, postponing or cancelling the Memorial Day Ceremony scheduled for May 25, 2020, and the Health, Safety and Pet Fair scheduled for June 6, 2020. The discussion shifted to revisit potential modifications, postponements or cancellation for the Memorial Day Ceremony and the Health, Safety and Pet Fair at the May 18<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

A lengthy dialogue ensued between Council and staff regarding suspension of the Lawndale Beat Transit Service, potential reallocation of transportation funding, and other transit related improvements.

**A motion by Councilmember Reid to revisit potential modifications, postponements or cancellation for the Memorial Day Ceremony and the Health, Safety and Pet Fair at the May 18th City Council meeting and approve the suspension of the Lawndale Beat Transit Service as of May 4th until further notice, and reinstate the Lawndale Special Transit Service as soon as possible subject to the installation of safety equipment and protocols for rider safety was seconded by Councilmember Kearney and carried by a vote of 5-0.**

**12. Update on the Use of the Best Western Hotel as a Temporary Homeless Shelter through "Project Roomkey"**

Recommendation: that the City Council receive and file this report, and provide direction to staff as appropriate.

Municipal Services Director Micheal Reyes provided an update on the use of the Best Western Hotel as a Temporary Homeless Shelter through "Project Roomkey".

A lengthy dialogue ensued between Council and staff regarding "Project Roomkey".

**A motion by Mayor Pullen-Miles to receive and file the Update on the Use of the Best Western Hotel as a Temporary Homeless Shelter through "Project Roomkey" was seconded by Councilmember Kearney and carried by a vote of 5-0.**

**I. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Kevin M. Chun had nothing to report.

**J. ITEMS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS**

**13. Mayor/City Councilmembers Report of Attendance at Meetings and/or Events**

Councilmember Osborne had nothing to report.

Councilmember Reid had nothing to report.

Councilmember Kearney spoke about Lawndale residents who recently passed away.

Mayor Pro Tem Suarez had nothing to report.

Mayor Pullen-Miles attended an emergency conference with Los Angeles County on "Project Roomkey". Mayor Pullen-Miles explained what transpired during the meeting.

**K. CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:08 p.m. the City Council entered into closed session.

**14. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4), because the City is considering whether to initiate litigation in one case against Best Western Plus South Bay Hotel and the County of Los Angeles.

At 9:09 p.m. the City Council entered back into open session.

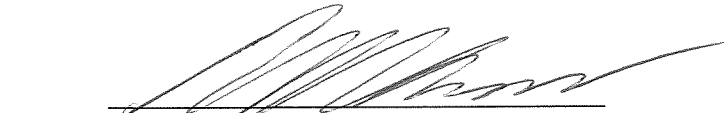
**City Attorney Tiffany Israel reported the City Council met in Closed Session to discuss the one item listed on the Closed Session agenda. The City Council was updated on item number 14 and there was no reportable action taken.**

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

  
Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, City Clerk

Approved: 5/18/2020

