

**MINUTES OF THE
LAWNDALE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
May 18, 2020**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Pullen-Miles called the meeting to order at 6:45 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, and Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos.

B. CEREMONIALS

Councilmember Kearney led the flag salute.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Captain Allen summarized recent law enforcement activities.

D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- Randall Abram, Resident, spoke about COVID-19 cases in Lawndale, testing, and inquired about the City's actions to prevent the spread.
- Pam London, Resident, spoke about "Project Roomkey" and inquired about potential impacts in the future.

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. **Cooperation Agreement for the City of Lawndale to Continue its Participation in the Los Angeles County Urban Community Development Block Grant Program**
Recommendation: that the City Council adopt Resolution No. CC-2005-025 authorizing the execution of the Cooperation Agreement for the City of Lawndale to Continue its

Participation in the Los Angeles County Urban Community Development Block Grant Program with Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA).

2. **Accounts Payable Register**

Recommendation: that the City Council adopt Resolution No. CC-2005-024, authorizing the payment of certain claims and demands in the amount of \$805,724.43.

3. **Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Regular Meeting – May 4, 2020**

Recommendation: that the City Council approve.

Mayor Pro Tem Suarez inquired about the benefits or drawbacks in paying by ACH vs. Check. Finance Director Marla Pendleton responded that this would be looked into.

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

G. ADMINISTRATION

4. **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 Michael Reyes provided the update on the Use of the Best Western Hotel as a Temporary Homeless Shelter through “Project Roomkey”

Councilmember Kearney, spoke about observed increased homelessness on all the major arteries in Lawndale. Municipal Services Director Michael Reyes responded regarding an influx of homelessness

Mayor Pro Tem Suarez spoke about her attendance in the Steering Committee meeting for the South Bay City Council of Governments and inquired if Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach hotels are participating. A lengthy dialogue ensued regarding other hotel participation in “Project Roomkey” and Motel 6 motels becoming “Project Roomkey” shelters.

Mayor Pullen-Miles inquired about if any other cities who have challenged L.A. County’s “Project Roomkey” and have been successful. City Attorney Tiffany Israel responded no City has been successful in any challenge presented.

A dialogue ensued between Council and staff regarding the lack of communication about the project from L.A. County and the “Project Roomkey” exit strategy presented by L.A. County.

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

5. **Consideration of Further Modifications to City Operations Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Recommendation: that the City Council (a) cancel the Memorial Day Ceremony scheduled for May 25, 2020, and direct staff to proceed with plans for a virtual ceremony by video production; and (b) cancel the Health, Safety & Pet Fair scheduled for June 6, 2020, and direct staff to pursue a possible vaccination and licensing clinic by appointment only, on a date to be determined.

City Manager Kevin M. Chun reported on the proposed further Modifications to City Operations Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Councilmember Osborne inquired about potentially having the Health, Safety & Pet Fair if the COVID -19 situation improves. City Manager Kevin M. Chun responded accordingly.

A motion by Mayor Pro Tem Suarez to cancel the Memorial Day Ceremony scheduled for May 25, 2020, and direct staff to proceed with plans for a virtual ceremony by video production and cancel the Health, Safety & Pet Fair scheduled for June 6, 2020, and direct staff to pursue a possible vaccination and licensing clinic by appointment only, on a date to be determined was seconded by Councilmember Osborne and carried by a vote of 5-0.

6. Reconsideration of Administrative Paid Leave Status for Part-Time Employees during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Recommendation: that the City Council direct staff to (a) discontinue paid administrative leave for all employees; (b) review its current allocation of part-time staff members and determine which employees should continue to be employed; and (c) initiate lay-off procedures for those employees without work in compliance with City Personnel Rules and Regulations and applicable Memorandum of Understanding.

Assistant to the City Manager/Human Resources Director Raylette Felton reported on the proposed reconsideration of Administrative Paid Leave Status for Part-Time Employees during the COVID-19 Pandemic report.

Councilmember Osborne, inquired about how many part-time employees would be effected by the proposed changes. Director Felton responded that 14 part-time employees would continue to be employed and explained the impacts.

A lengthy dialogue ensued between Council and staff regarding the fiscal year 20-21 budget and part-time employees.

A motion by Councilmember Reid to discontinue paid administrative leave for all employees, review its current allocation of part-time staff members and determine which employees should continue to be employed, and initiate lay-off procedures for those employees without work in compliance with City Personnel Rules and Regulations and applicable Memorandum of Understanding was seconded by Councilmember Kearny and carried by a vote of 5-0.

H. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Kevin M. Chun reported on the return back to normal hours of operation for City employees.

I. ITEMS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Councilmember Osborne had nothing to report.

Councilmember Reid attended a virtual California Contract Cities Association meeting.

Councilmember Kearney attended virtual Sheriff's Liability Trust Oversight Committee, a virtual California Contract Cities Association meeting, participated in handing our C.A.R.E. packages in Lawndale, and noted the passing of Lawndale resident Faye George.

Mayor Pro Tem Suarez attended the virtual South Bay Cities of Government steering committee meeting

Mayor Pullen-Miles attended the City Selection Committee. The Mayor then spoke about revisiting street sweeping enforcement on major corridors and discussed the cleanliness of the streets.

Councilmember Kearney spoke about the cleanliness of the street, street sweeping citations for residents, and other solutions to improve the cleanliness of streets. Mayor Pullen-Miles requested the City Manager look into reestablishing street sweeping enforcement.

Mayor Pullen-Miles requested the addition of an item to create a Business Revitalization Subcommittee be placed on June 1, 2020 City Council meeting agenda.

J. CLOSED SESSION

At 7:59 p.m. the City Council entered into closed session.

8. 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 8:29 p.m. the City Council entered back into open session.

City Attorney Tiffany Israel reported that 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 8 and there was no reportable action taken.

K. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.



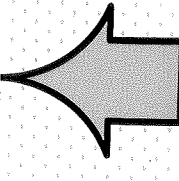
Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:



for Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, City Clerk

Approved: 6/1/2020



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Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, City Clerk

Approved: 6/1/2020