

**MINUTES OF THE
LAWNDALE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
January 19, 2021**

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 Pat Kearney, Councilmember Bernadette Suarez, Councilmember Rhonda Hofmann-Gorman, Councilmember Sirley Cuevas

Other Participants: Newly Appointed City Clerk Erica Harbison, 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, Public Works Director Julian Lee

B. CEREMONIALS

Councilmember Bernadette Suarez led the flag salute.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Captain Duane Allen summarized the recent law enforcement activities.

Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles commended the enforcement officers for handling the situation he witnessed on Sunday morning.

D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Dr. Howard Ho, Leuzinger High School Principal, provided an update on distance learning.

E. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

No comments provided.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2020

Recommendation: that the City Council receive and file the Quarterly Investment Report for the quarter ended December 31, 2020.

2. Disposal of Surplus Property – Community Services Department 2006 Saturn Vue Hybrid Minivan

Recommendation: that the City Council approve the sale of the 2006 Saturn Vue Hybrid Minivan via public auction to be facilitated by Ken Porter Auctions in Carson, California.

3. **First Amendment to the CleanStreet Sweeping Service Agreement**
Recommendation: that the City Council approve the First Amendment to the Sweeping Service Agreement with CleanStreet to revise the contract term to three years for a contract expiration date of February 28, 2023.
4. **Statement of Costs for Property located at 14412 Mansel Ave.**
Recommendation: that the City Council receive and file the report.
5. **Accounts Payable Register**
Recommendation: that the City Council adopt Resolution No. CC-2101-001, authorizing the payment of certain claims and demands in the amount of \$1,656,131.34.
6. **Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Regular Meeting – December 7, 2020**
Recommendation: that the City Council approve.
7. **Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Special Meeting – January 11, 2021**
Recommendation: that the City Council approve.

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

G. PUBLIC HEARING

8. **Selection of Projects for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (47th Program Year) of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)**
Recommendation: that the City Council (a) conduct a Public Hearing to receive testimony regarding the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG); (b) adopt the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget for the CDBG Program; (c) adopt Resolution No. CC-2102-002, approving the City's participation in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 CDBG Program

Community Development Director Sean Moore reported on the selection of projects for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (47th Program Year) of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Mayor Pro Tem Pat Kearney inquired about the \$1,500 surplus.

Community Development Director Sean Moore responded it will be applied to the following year.

Mayor Pullen-Miles opened and closed the public hearing immediately at 6:43 p.m., there being no one wishing to testify.

A motion by Mayor Pro Tem Kearney to adopt the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget for the CDBG Program and adopt Resolution No. CC-2102-002, approving the City's participation in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 CDBG Program, was seconded by Councilmember Cuevas and carried by a vote of 5-0.

H. ADMINISTRATION

9. City of Lawndale Website Redesign

Recommendation: that the City Council receive and file the report and demonstration.

Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos presented the City of Lawndale Website Redesign.

Councilmember Cuevas inquired if reports of the request for services can be exported or downloaded.

Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos responded yes and that he would confirm.

Councilmember Suarez inquired if the service request can be submitted with a photo attached.

Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos responded he will look further into that and follow up.

Councilmember Hofmann Gorman requested the Sheriff's department be included in the gang related graffiti reports sent through the service request system.

Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos responded it is currently assigned to staff email and will look further to add additional recipients of the service requests.

City Manager Kevin Chun commended all staff who handled the website migration and design.

The Council reached a unanimous consensus to receive and file the report and demonstration.

10. Authorize the Purchase and Installation of Touchless Automatic Sliding Doors at Various City Facilities

Recommendation: that the City Council (a) authorize the purchase of touchless automatic sliding doors from Vortex Industries for an amount not-to-exceed \$34,000 (\$33,243.92 proposed cost plus \$756.08 contingency); and (b) authorize the General Fund budget appropriation transfer of \$34,000 from County Sheriff's Department Services to Building Improvements.

Public Works Director Julian Lee reported on the authorization to purchase and install touchless automatic sliding doors at various City Facilities.

Mayor Pro Tem Pat Kearney inquired if the Sheriff's Department continues to monitor "Project Roomkey" residents and what is the cost.

City Manager Kevin M. Chun responded the officers are no longer closely monitoring the hotels as there have been no disorder therefore there's been no cost.

Mayor Pro Tem Pat Kearney inquired the timeline of the door installations and which departments are included.

Public Works Director Julian Lee and City Manager Kevin Chun responded City Hall, Municipal Services and Public Works buildings will have the sliding doors but not the Community Services building due to electrical constraints which would require great electrical rewiring however the handicap button can be used.

A motion by Councilmember Sirley Cuevas to authorize the purchase of touchless automatic sliding doors from Vortex Industries for an amount not-to-exceed \$34,000 (\$33,243.92 proposed cost plus \$756.08 contingency) and authorize the General Fund budget appropriation transfer of \$34,000 from County Sheriff's Department Services to Building Improvements, was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Pat Kearney and carried by a vote of 5-0.

11. City Council Subcommittees

Recommendation: that the City Council review the list of subcommittees and direct staff on their dissolution, continuation due the need to complete outstanding or future tasks, modify the focus or scope of the current subcommittee, and where appropriate appointment, replacement, or modification of members.

Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos presented the City Council Subcommittees review.

A lengthy dialogue ensued between the City Council and staff regarding the differences in ad hoc committee and Standing and Subcommittees' subject to Brown Act.

The following appointments were made:

Standing Committees (Brown Act Body)

- Business Revitalization Standing Committee (Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles & Councilmember Bernadette Suarez)
- City/School District Standing Committee (Mayor Pro Tem Kearney & Councilmember Hofmann Gorman)

Subcommittees (Ad Hoc):

- Billboard Subcommittee {project specific} (Mayor Pro Tem Kearney & Councilmember Hofmann Gorman)
- City/School District Park Maintenance and Joint Use Subcommittee (Mayor Pro Tem Kearney & Councilmember Cuevas)
- FY 21-22 Budget Subcommittee (Mayor Pro Tem Kearney & Councilmember Cuevas)

Public Comment

Betsy Hamilton, Superintendent Lawndale Elementary School District, proposed a meeting with City Council subcommittee, the School District and board members for a partnership.

The appointments to the subcommittees and standing committees were approved with unanimous consensus of the Council, without objection.

12. Safe and Sane Fireworks Sales

Recommendation: that the City Council discuss the future of safe and sane fireworks sales in Lawndale and provide direction to staff as appropriate.

Public Comment

Rebecca Mendez, Iglesia Casa de Refugio, spoke in opposition of banning fireworks and expressed the profits of selling legal fireworks support the needs of the community.

Marc Gebauer, Lawndale Resident, spoke about his concerns regarding the misuse of fireworks and is in favor of banning all fireworks.

George Pelzl, Lawndale Resident, spoke in opposition of banning legal fireworks.

Dyan M. Davis, Executive Director of the Lawndale Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of continuing to allow safe and sane legal fireworks.

Randal Abram, Lawndale Resident, spoke about the sale plus the use of safe and sane fireworks contributions to the use of illegal fireworks and was in favor of banning all fireworks.

John Kelly, TNT Fireworks Vice President, spoke in support of use and sales of safe and sane fireworks.

Pam London, Lawndale Resident, spoke in favor of banning all fireworks.

Johnny London, Lawndale Resident, spoke of safety concerns with fireworks and believes non-profit organizations can raise community funds beyond fireworks.

Johnny Martinez, Lawndale Resident, spoke in support of safe and sane fireworks to aid the Lawndale Little League.

A lengthy dialogue ensued between the City Council and staff regarding not penalizing the safe and sane fireworks over the illegal fireworks and will later discuss how to ban illegal firework use.

The Council reached a unanimous consensus to continue with safe and sane fireworks in Lawndale.

13. Filling the Vacancy in the Office of City Clerk

Recommendation: that the City Council (a) interview the applicants and determine who to appoint to the Office of City Clerk (b) direct staff to fill in the blank in Resolution No. CC-2101-03 Filling a Vacancy in the Office of City Clerk by Appointment with the appointees' name and (c) adopt the Resolution as amended.

Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos presented the vacancy in the office of City Clerk.

City Council interviewed applicants Erica Harbison and Jessica Martinez.

A motion by Councilmember Hofmann-Gorman to appoint Erica Harbison to the Office of City Clerk was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Pat Kearney and carried by a vote of 5-0

Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos administered the oath of allegiance to appointed City Clerk Erica Harbison.

I. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Kevin Chun formally introduced the new Public Works Director Julian Lee.

J. ITEMS FROM CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Councilmember Suarez had nothing to report

Councilmember Sirley Cuevas participated in a meeting call with South Bay City Council of Government Health Department discussing South Bay possibly holding a Health Department apart from Los Angeles County, attended a virtual meeting with California Contract Cities Association, was present for the Southern California Association of Governments public hearing then commended Director of Community Development Sean Moore for greatly representing Lawndale. Ms. Sirley went on welcoming the newest Public Works director.

Councilmember Rhonda Hofmann-Gorman had nothing to report.

Councilmember Kearney attended the Sherriff's Liability Trust and Oversight Committee meeting and requested staff place a performance elevation review for City Manager on 02/01/2021 Council Meeting.

Mayor Pullen-Miles attended two County Sanitation District No 5 of Los Angeles County meetings, attended the South Bay Council of Government legislative breakfast. Mr. Pullen-Miles mentioned he had seen a great deal of graffiti around the City and requested that it be looked into.

K. CLOSED SESSION

At 9:17 p.m. the City Council entered into closed session.

15. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d) (1), to confer with legal counsel regarding litigation to which the City is a party. The title of such litigation is as follows: Lawndale vs. Metropolitan Transportation Authority; Case Number 20STCP02875; L.A. County Superior Court.

16. Public Employee Appointment

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b), to consider the appointment of an employee to the position of City Attorney.

At 10:27 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 two items listed on the Closed Session agenda. The City Council was updated on both items and there was no reportable action taken.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 10:27 p.m.

Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erica Harbison, City Clerk

Approved: 02/01/2021