

**MINUTES OF THE
LAWNDALE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
February 2, 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: 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 Sirley Cuevas led the flag salute.

C. PRESENTATIONS

1. Retirement – Thomas M. Strickfaden II, Cable Television Supervisor

Mayor Pullen-Miles recognized the service and retirement of Thomas M. Strickfaden II, retired Cable Television Supervisor.

Thomas M. Strickfaden II, retired Cable Television Supervisor, thanked the Mayor and City Council and reflected on his time working at the City of Lawndale.

2. Retirement – Chandra Phipps, Accounting Specialist

Mayor Pullen-Miles recognized the service and retirement of Chandra Phipps, retired Accounting Specialist.

Chandra Phipps, retired Accounting Specialist, thanked the Mayor and City Council and reflected on her time working at the City of Lawndale.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Captain Duane Allen summarized the recent law enforcement activities.

E. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Randall Abram, Resident, spoke opposition to the City's stance and recent continuation of legal fireworks.

F. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

No comments were provided by the Council.

G. CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Accounts Payable Register

Recommendation: that the City Council adopt Resolution No. CC-2102-004, authorizing the payment of certain claims and demands in the amount of \$679,895.22.

4. Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Regular Meeting – January 19, 2021

Recommendation: that the City Council approve.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kearney noted one minor correct to be made to the January 19, 2021 Minutes.

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

H. ADMINISTRATION

5. Award Contract for Solid Waste Consulting Services

Recommendation: that the City Council (a) award the contract for the Solid Waste Consulting Services to HF&H Consultants, LLC in the amount of \$293,097 for the 29 month service period from February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023; (b) authorize an increase in AB939 contract services appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020-21 in the amount of \$44,289.

Public Works Director Julian Lee reported on awarding the contract for Solid Waste Consulting Services.

Mayor Pro Tem Kearney inquired why staff did not go with the lowest proposal. Public Works Director Lee explained that the consultant was selected based on other considerations and not specifically cost.

Councilmember Cuevas inquired as to the vast discrepancy in the audit fee when comparing two different consultant proposals and suggested negotiating it down. Public Works Director Lee explained the audit fee and selection process.

Mayor Pullen-Miles inquired as to when the City had to go with the lowest responsible bid.

Tiffany Israel explained that in Public Works Construction bidding the agency must award to the lowest bidder and in a professional services contract it isn't mandatory to go with the lowest proposal.

Public Works Director Lee explained the staff review that went into the selection of HF&H Consultants, LLC.

Mayor Pullen-Miles inquired about the stark difference in auditing fees between Go2Zero and of HF&H Consultants, LLC. Public Works Director Lee explained that he felt one of the proposers lacked understanding of the scope of the audit.

Councilmember Suarez recommended getting clarification from Go2Zero on their low auditing fee.

Councilmember Hofmann Gorman recommended getting clarification on the auditing fee before they voted on it. Mayor Pullen-Miles advised that it could be tabled unless it had a timing consideration.

Public Works Director Lee and City Manager Kevin Chun noted there was no timing issue and the audit fee could be negotiated by staff with HF&H Consultants, LLC, the item would be brought back at a subsequent meeting.

Without objection, the City Council tabled Item No. 5 to be heard at a subsequent meeting.

6. Approval of City Attorney Services Agreement

Recommendation: that the City Council (a) approve the Legal Services Agreement with Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP for providing City Attorney services; (b) appoint Gregory M. Murphy as the new City Attorney.

City Manager Kevin Chun reported on the City Attorney Services Agreement.

A lengthy dialogue ensued between Mayor Pro Tem Kearney and Gregory M. Murphy regarding the attached agreement, contract term and termination, clarification on the rate structure, reimbursed travel time for a substitute City Attorney, and evaluation/review periods.

A motion by Mayor Pro Tem Kearney to approve the Legal Services Agreement with Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP for providing City Attorney services and appoint Gregory M. Murphy as the new City Attorney, was seconded by Councilmember Cuevas and carried by a vote of 5-0.

Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos Administered the Oath of Allegiance to newly appointed City Attorney Gregory M. Murphy.

I. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

No comments were provided.

J. ITEMS FROM CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Councilmember Suarez attended the South Bay Cities Council of Governments Board of Directors meeting and thanked former City Attorney Tiffany J. Israel for her service and support.

Councilmember Sirley Cuevas attended a webinar about LGBTQ Small Business Administration resources and thanked former City Attorney Tiffany J. Israel for her service and support.

Councilmember Rhonda Hofmann-Gorman attended the League of California Cities virtual New Mayors and Councilmember Academy and thanked former City Attorney Tiffany J. Israel for her service and support.

Mayor Pro Tem Kearney thanked former City Attorney Tiffany J. Israel for her service and support.

Mayor Pullen-Miles thanked former City Attorney Tiffany J. Israel for her service and support and spoke about the recent Kobe Bryant mural. The Mayor then spoke about exploring an arts program in the future.

K. CLOSED SESSION

At 7:01 p.m. the City Council entered into closed session.

8. Public Employee Performance Evaluation

The City Council will hold a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b), to conduct an employee evaluation concerning the City Manager.

At 8:32 p.m. the City Council entered back into open session.

City Attorney Gregory M. Murphy reported that the City Council met in Closed Session to discuss the one item listed on the Closed Session agenda. The City Council gave unanimous direction to continue the item at a subsequent in-person special meeting.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the Mayor adjourned the meeting in memoriam of Chuck Rundle at 8:32 p.m.

Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erica Harbison, City Clerk

Approved: 02/16/2021