

**MINUTES OF THE  
LAWNDALE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
October 18, 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 Manager Kevin M. Chun, City Attorney Gregory M. Murphy, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Lieutenant Christopher Lio, Community Services Director Mike Estes, Assistant to the City Manager/Human Resources Director Raylette Felton, Municipal Services Director Michael Reyes, Community Development Director Sean Moore, Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos, Public Works Director Julian Lee

**B. CEREMONIALS**

Councilmember Rhonda Hofmann Gorman led the flag salute and Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles provided the inspiration.

**C. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT**

- a. L.A. County Sheriff's Department Updates
- b. L.A. County Fire Department Updates

Lieutenant Christopher Lio summarized the recent law enforcement activities.

Battalion Chief Wesley Anzai provided the Fire Department report.

**D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (Public Comments)**

Deena Sopka, Resident, spoke about illegal parking and stopping near Lawndale High School on Inglewood Ave.

Gary White, Resident, spoke about the homeless issues in the City and surrounding cities and inquired how Los Angeles County responded. Mr. White went on and spoke about the issues with Inglewood Avenue and Manhattan Beach Boulevard, traffic crossing, and illegal trash dumping.

Randal Abram, Resident, spoke about the impact and enforcement of short term rentals in Lawndale.

Fariha Solemani, Manager of South Bay Enterprises, spoke about gang activity, homeless camps, drug use and violence in the area of a strip mall she owns and operates.

Susan Partovi, Dental Office Staff, spoke about the dangers homeless individuals near her place of employment.

**E. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL**

Councilmember Bernadette Suarez requested staff to draft a comprehensive homeless plan to clean encampments and provide beds.

Councilmember Sirley Cuevas would like to have a commission or committee to mitigate the homeless issues. Councilmember Sirley Cuevas added there are staff near the Lawndale High School traffic location issuing citations and noted she's also called Republic Services for the illegal dumping on the railroad tracks.

Councilmember Rhonda Hofmann Gorman noted City Council will meet with the new School Superintendent to resolve the traffic issues near the school. Councilmember Hofmann Gorman wanted everyone to know she will attend a meeting covering homelessness for more information and she requested more information on the Airbnb listings throughout the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Kearney inquired if the center with the homeless encampments has contacted staff and requested Sheriff's patrol the area more often.

Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles spoke about the safety hazard of student drop-offs and vehicle traffic near the schools and intends to communicate with the school district to resolve. Mayor Pullen-Miles requested Public Works staff work with Metro to eliminate and mitigate the illegal dumping in the railroad areas. Mayor Pullen-Miles continued to speak about the homeless issues in the City and requested a report of Measure H with Lawndale activities.

**F. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Items 1 through 5, will be considered and acted upon under one motion unless a City Councilmember removes individual items for further City Council consideration or explanation.

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. **Approve the Plans and Specifications, and Authorization to Bid for the Redondo Beach Boulevard Street Improvement Project from Artesia Boulevard to Prairie Avenue, Project No. 2020-02**  
Recommendation: that the City Council approve the project plans and specifications and authorize staff to solicit bids for the construction contract. The plans and specifications are filed with the City Clerk's Office.
3. **Accounts Payable Register**  
Recommendation: that the City Council adopt Resolution No. CC-2110-043, authorizing the payment of certain claims and demands in the amount of \$88,912.75.
4. **Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Special Meeting – September 28, 2021**

Recommendation: that the City Council approve.

**5. Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Regular Meeting – October 4, 2021**

Recommendation: that the City Council approve.

Councilmember Suarez inquired about funding agreement for item F.1. Public Works Director Julian Lee responded accordingly.

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

**G. ADMINISTRATION**

**6. Change Order No. 1 for FY 2020-21 Annual Street Improvements Project**

Recommendation: that the City Council (a) approve Change Order No. 1 for FY 2020-21 Annual Street Improvement Project to Sequel Contractors Inc., in the amount of \$547,030; (b) approve Change Order No. 1 for Inspection Services for FY 2020-21 Annual Street Improvement Project to SA Associates in the amount of \$36,000; (c) approve contingency in amount of \$82,060 for Change Order No. 1 for FY 2020-21 Annual Street Improvement Project and (d) approve allocation of 2009 TAB Fund in the amount of \$600,000 to the account number 100-310-700.279 Street Improvements.

Public Works Director Julian Lee provided a report on the Change Order No. 1 for FY 2020-21 Annual Street Improvements Project.

Mayor Pro Tem Kearney inquired on the difference in dollar amount of the original bid and the Change Order. Public Works Director Julian Lee and staff responded accordingly.

**A motion by Councilmember Suarez to approve Change Order No. 1 for FY 2020-21 Annual Street Improvement Project to Sequel Contractors Inc., in the amount of \$547,030, approve Change Order No. 1 for Inspection Services for FY 2020-21 Annual Street Improvement Project to SA Associates in the amount of \$36,000, approve contingency in amount of \$82,060 for Change Order No. 1 for FY 2020-21 Annual Street Improvement Project and approve allocation of 2009 TAB Fund in the amount of \$600,000 to the account number 100-310-700.279 Street Improvements, was seconded by Mayor Pro Team Kearney and carried by a vote of 5-0.**

**7. Updates to the Purchasing Policy**

Recommendation: that the City Council (a) adopt Ordinance No. 1181-21 amending sections 3.08.040, 3.08.100 and 3.08.130 of Chapter 3.08, updating the purchasing/contracting thresholds and (b) adopt Resolution No. CC-2110-044, updating City Council Policy No. 53-00 incorporating the updated purchasing/contracting thresholds.

Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos provided the Updates to the Purchasing Policy.

Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles requested clarification on the State of Emergency terminology.

Staff responded that the language means an emergency proclaimed by the State of California, Los Angeles County, or the City of Lawndale as well as an unanticipated emergency that doesn't meet the level of being proclaimed, similar to the prior flooding of the Council Chamber.

Councilmember Suarez inquired on transaction denoted as "City Manager Award" in amounts over \$15,000.

City Manager Kevin Chun responded that there was an estimate of over 50 of expenditures over \$15,000.

A lengthy dialogue ensued between staff and City Council regarding the threshold amounts.

**A motion by Councilmember Suarez to approve adopt Ordinance No. 1181-21 amending sections 3.08.040, 3.08.100 and 3.08.130 of Chapter 3.08, updating the purchasing/contracting thresholds and adopt Resolution No. CC-2110-044, updating City Council Policy No. 53-00, incorporating the updated purchasing/contracting thresholds with the updates to the Emergency threshold to "City Manager Award" of up to \$50,000 and up to \$15,000 "City Manager Award" for the normal course of business, was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kearney and carried by a vote of 5-0.**

**8. Potential Cancellation of the Upcoming City Council Meetings**

Recommendation: that the City Council cancel the following City Council meetings: Monday, December 20, 2021 and Monday, January 3, 2022.

Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles presented the Potential Cancellation of the Upcoming City Council Meetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Kearney recommended December 20, 2021 City Council meeting continues.

Councilmember Suarez inquired if the agendas are expected to be light in items to present to the City Council.

City Manager recommended to go over small business items.

**City Council reached a general consensus, without objection, to cancel the following City Council meetings: Monday, December 20, 2021 and Monday, January 3, 2022.**

**9. Metro C Line Extension Update**

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

City Manager Kevin Chun reported on the Metro C Line Extension Update.

Councilmember Cuevas inquired if there will be any stops in Lawndale. City Manager Kevin Chun responded it was proposed by Metro but there will not be a station in Lawndale.

A lengthy dialogue ensued between staff and City Council on the history of Metro with Lawndale and the previous and current proposed designs.

**City Council reached a unanimous consensus to receive and file the report.**

**H. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Kevin Chun announced an Interim Finance Director had been selected and the City is working with a recruiting firm, Koff and Associates, to recruit a permanent Finance Director.

**I. ITEMS FROM CITY COUNCILMEMBERS**

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

Councilmember Suarez attended the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority Conference and a meeting with South Bay Cities Council of Governments.

Councilmember Sirley Cuevas requested staff place signs or dog waste bags along Grevillea Avenue near the County Library and Lawndale City Hall.

Councilmember Hofmann Gorman had nothing to report and wanted to remind everyone to join Lawndale's Halloween Haunt event on October 30<sup>th</sup> with the safety of mask.

Mayor Pro Tem Kearney also attended the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority Conference and a meeting with Sherriff's Liability Trust and Oversight Committee.

Mayor Pullen-Miles attended the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority Conference and the Board of Directors meeting, Boys and Girls Club in Carson.

**J. CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:17 p.m. the City Council entered into Closed Session.

**11. Conference with Labor Negotiator**

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6, with the City Manager Kevin M. Chun, the Assistant City Attorney Christina M. Burrows, and the City's negotiators, Assistant to the City Manager/Human Resources Director Raylette Felton and Special Counsel/Labor Attorney Katy Suttorp, regarding labor negotiations with Local 1895, Council 36, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, representing the City's mid-management and classified employees.

**12. 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 (1) case.

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

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code sections 54956.9(d)(2) and (d)(3), because there is a significant exposure to litigation in one (1) case. The facts and circumstances giving rise to exposure to litigation are unknown.

At 9:21 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 three items listed on the Closed Session agenda. The City Council was updated on the items and there was no reportable action taken.**

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

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Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Erica Harbison, City Clerk

Approved: 11/01/2021