

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CERRITOS CITY COUNCIL AND THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE CERRITOS REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY HELD ON OCTOBER 27, 2016, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CERRITOS CITY HALL, 18125 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, CERRITOS, CALIFORNIA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Invocation

The invocation was given by Dr. Bill Ebling, First Baptist Church of Fullerton.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by "The Little Raiders."

4. Roll Call

The following members of the City Council/Successor Agency were in attendance:

Council/Agency Member Carol Chen
Council/Agency Member Jim Edwards
Council/Agency Member Mark E. Pulido
Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair Naresh Solanki
Mayor/Chair George Ray

5. Presentations/Appointments

None.

6. Public Comments and Suggestions

Victor Manolo, Mayor of the City of Artesia, provided an update report on the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) activities.

Anantha Narayanan spoke regarding the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) that are posted to the City's website and inquired as to the amount required to maintain the revenue infrastructure for the auto square and the mall.

Gail Grossman requested the City Council hear Item 8C on the agenda prior to Items 8A and 8B and to vote separately on each item.

Josh Nass requested the City Council hear Item 8C on the agenda prior to Items 8A and 8B and to vote separately on each item.

Marty Grossman encouraged the City Councilmembers to not delay decision-making on the items appearing on the agenda.

MOTION: It was moved by Pulido, and seconded by Solanki, to consider Agenda Item 8C prior to Items 8A and 8B on the agenda and to consider each item independently (COUNCIL). The motion carried (5 – 0) as follows:

AYES: Chen, Edwards, Pulido, Solanki, Ray
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

7. Consent Calendar

Items under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council/Agency Member or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

7A. Approval of the City Council/Successor Agency Special Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2016 (COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY).

MOTION: It was moved by Chen, and seconded by Edwards, to approve the City Council/Successor Agency Special Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2016 (COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY). The motion carried (5 – 0) as follows:

AYES: Chen, Edwards, Pulido, Solanki, Ray
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

7B. Approval of the Register of Demands for the City of Cerritos dated October 27, 2016 (COUNCIL).

MOTION: It was moved by Chen, and seconded by Edwards, to approve the Register of Demands for the City of Cerritos dated October 27, 2016 in the amount of \$4,782,140.17 (COUNCIL). The motion carried (5 – 0) as follows:

AYES: Chen, Edwards, Pulido, Solanki, Ray
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

8. Public Hearings

8A. Review and consideration of potential budget expenditure reduction measures (COUNCIL)

A staff report was given by Ryan Carey, Budget Manager. A PowerPoint Presentation was displayed.

The Mayor opened the public hearing and public comments.

Josh Nass inquired as to how the City Council can vote on placing a sales tax measure and approving a museum when potential budget savings analysis on the CCPA, water utility, and power plant has not yet been completed.

Marlene Rofe inquired as to whether the funds received from the Aria and Sage projects will be adequate to support road use maintenance and repair costs.

Jay Gray inquired if the City Council had addressed cuts in their benefits and expressed concerns with the privatization of the water utility. He also suggested developing empty parcels of land to raise revenue and encouraged the City Council to make a final decision on the public hearing items tonight.

Anantha Narayanan expressed that the City has not taken measures to address the structural deficit and that the City has an actual \$20 - \$30 million deficit. He suggested the City provide a 5-year plan to solve the structural deficit before placing a sales tax measure.

8. Public Hearings (continued)

8A. (continued)

Seema Gupta stated that the City must make changes to address the budget deficit before placing a sales tax measure.

George Shy expressed support for the community survey and encouraged the City to focus on the top results. He also expressed concerns with a "sunset clause" on the potential sales tax measure.

Charles Sooter submitted a document for the record. He suggested a method by which to evaluate the City's choices in addressing the budget deficit.

Marty Grossman inquired as to the City's public comment procedure and expressed concerns regarding Council travel. He expressed concerns with the Council's lack of response to the public comments and a petition that was submitted at a previous meeting.

Deepak Jhaveri expressed concern with the degree of budgetary oversight provided by the City Council. He stated that safety and security are the prime concerns of the community and there should be more policing on the streets.

Gail Grossman expressed concern that the first budget meeting was not televised and that the City Council has not yet made decisions on addressing the budget deficit. She made suggestions for budget cuts including cutting several of the Commissions, cutting hours at community centers and the library, reducing the amounts spent for City-sponsored events, and reducing management staff at the Sheriff's station.

Mel Cortez stated that he would support the sales tax measure under certain conditions such as getting rid of the museum and theatre, and for the City to stop buying properties. He also suggested a tree maintenance fund, rather than continuing to support the Art in Public Places program and the museum.

Robert Buell expressed support for the proposed sales tax measure, citing the amount he and other businesses, such as the auto dealers, pay in sales taxes which go to support City services. He also expressed that closing the CCPA would result in reduced revenue from local businesses and that homeowners will see the effects of closing the Sheriff's station as increases on their homeowners insurance bill.

Dileep Thakur expressed concern regarding the proposed sales tax measure and encouraged the City Council to work on reducing City expenses wisely and make major strategic decisions soon to balance the budget.

Dr. Afshan Abbasi expressed support for the quality of life services including the schools, library, parks and public safety. She suggested forming a community committee to address the budget deficit.

Anju Garg expressed her support for public safety and suggested various ways the City could raise revenues other than a sales tax, including renting buildings owned by the City and increased fees for use of City facilities.

Noting there were no further individuals who elected to speak, the Mayor closed public comments and the public hearing.

8. Public Hearings (continued)

8A. (continued)

MOTION: It was moved by Ray, and seconded by Pulido, to give direction to staff to eliminate the car allowance for the City Council and any members of staff that receive the allowance and replace it with the IRS-approved mileage reimbursement (COUNCIL). The motion carried (5 – 0) as follows:

AYES: Chen, Edwards, Pulido, Solanki, Ray
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION: It was moved by Ray, and seconded by Chen, to direct staff to eliminate all Commissions and Committees effective July 1, 2017, excluding the Planning Commission and the Property Preservation Commission (COUNCIL). The motion carried (3 – 2, Edwards, Pulido “no”) as follows:

AYES: Chen, Solanki, Ray
NOES: Edwards, Pulido
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

CONSENSUS (Chen): Review each item presented in the staff report for Agenda Item 8A and provide direction, pursuant to a roll call vote, to eliminate/reduce these items in the Fiscal Year 17-18 City budget in the event a sales tax measure is not placed or does not pass.

MOTION: Direction to eliminate/reduce the following items:

Cost Center 121 City Manager’s Office
- Elimination of golf towel give away to community golf events - \$3,000
- Elimination of employee holiday event - \$5,000 (COUNCIL).

Item carried (5 – 0) as follows:

AYES: Chen, Edwards, Pulido, Solanki, Ray
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION: Direction to eliminate/reduce the following items:

Cost Center 422 Senior Center
- Reduction in Program Expenses and Supplies thru reduction in scope of programs - \$11,200
- Eliminate senior fitness/wellness series an senior health fair - \$9,700 (COUNCIL).

Item carried (3 – 2, Edwards, Pulido “no”) as follows:

AYES: Chen, Solanki, Ray
NOES: Edwards, Pulido
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

8. Public Hearings (continued)

8A. (continued)

MOTION: Direction to eliminate/reduce the following items:

Cost Center 441 Recreation Services

- Reduction staff expenses thru the closure of CPE, Heritage and Library one day/week - \$21,528
- Eliminate Festival of Friendship event - \$14,370
- Eliminate Volunteer Recognition Program - \$19,100
- Eliminate Easter Egg Hunt - \$6,400
- Reduce scope of Community Spring Festival - \$32,000
- Eliminate Swim Center Safety Expo - \$4,150
- Eliminate support for Kid's Fishing Derby - \$800
- Reduce scope of Let Freedom Ring Festival - \$47,500
- Eliminate 9/11 Evening of Remembrance - \$7,150
- Eliminate Community Bike Ride Event - \$10,000
- Eliminate Halloween Festival - \$28,500 (COUNCIL).

Item carried (3 – 2, Edwards, Pulido "no") as follows:

AYES: Chen, Solanki, Ray
NOES: Edwards, Pulido
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION: Direction to eliminate/reduce the following items:

Cost Center 451 Community Safety

- Eliminate Sky Knight Program - \$290,000
- Cerritos Sheriff's Station conversion to Local Area Station - \$3,042,000 (COUNCIL).

Item carried (3 – 2, Edwards, Pulido "no") as follows:

AYES: Chen, Solanki, Ray
NOES: Edwards, Pulido
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION: Direction to eliminate/reduce the following items:

Cost Center 571 Library

- Reduce Library operating hours and/or materials, databases, and other services - \$282,325 (COUNCIL).

Item carries (3 – 2, Edwards, Pulido "no") as follows:

AYES: Chen, Solanki, Ray
NOES: Edwards, Pulido
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

8. Public Hearings (continued)

8A. (continued)

MOTION: Direction to eliminate/reduce the following items:

Cost Center 611 Theatre Department
- Eliminate CCPS Subsidies to community groups - \$35,000
- Reduce scope of CCPA subsidy for City events - \$56,100 (COUNCIL).

Item carried (4 – 1, Edwards “no”) as follows:

AYES: Chen, Pulido, Solanki, Ray
NOES: Edwards
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

CONSENSUS (Chen): Directed staff to research whether the City can charge impact fees for vehicles impacting Cerritos roadways.

MOTION: It was moved by Ray, and seconded by Solanki, to bring back a report to Council on alternatives for the Cerritos Astor Museum and learning center including information about the building, the facility, and the impact of obligations going forward if the project were to stop. The motion carried (5 – 0) as follows:

AYES: Chen, Edwards, Pulido, Solanki, Ray
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

8B. Review and consideration of a proposal for the development of a ballot measure that would place before the Cerritos electorate at the March 2017 General Municipal Election the question of whether to approve a local sales tax increase (COUNCIL).

A staff report was given by Ryan Carey, Budget Manager. A PowerPoint Presentation was displayed.

The Mayor opened the public hearing and public comments.

Anantha Narayanan suggested researching other methods of increasing revenue, such as an increase in the document transfer tax and, in the event the sales tax measure is placed, to institute an oversight committee to make recommendations as to how the funds will be spent.

Jay Gray spoke in opposition to the proposed sales tax measure stating that the proceeds would be used to subsidize the CCPA, museum, power utility, and law enforcement at the mall/auto square rather than on the deferred maintenance items. He suggested development of the open pads at the Towne Center.

Josh Nass inquired as to why the \$15 million in deferred maintenance was not included in the budget and suggested that it be included. He also suggested determining final costs on cost center items that were listed “TBD” in the report prior to placing a sales tax measure.

George Shy referred to the on-line survey which stated that residents are in support of law enforcement and maintenance services. He suggested making those the priority and to make cuts in other areas.

8. Public Hearings (continued)

8B. (continued)

Charles Sooter presented options for methods by which the Council can make budget priority decisions and urged the Council to consider the social costs and other impacts of each cut.

Deepak Jhaveri spoke in opposition to the one-percent (1%) sales tax expressing concerns that maintaining the suggested cuts will not be a priority for future City Councils and the City will return to its original deficit position.

Noting there were no further individuals who elected to speak, the Mayor closed public comments and the public hearing.

MOTION: It was moved by Pulido, and seconded by Edwards, to place an up to one-percent (1%) sales tax measure, with the conditional language suggested by the City Attorney, and with a twenty-year (20) sunset clause, on the ballot for the March 7, 2017 General Municipal Election (COUNCIL). The motion carried (4 – 1, Solanki “no”) as follows:

AYES: Chen, Edwards, Pulido, Ray
NOES: Solanki
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

8C. Review and consideration of an informational report of the results so far generated from the community budget priorities survey (COUNCIL).

A staff report was given by Laurie Kajiwara, Public Information Manager. A PowerPoint Presentation was displayed.

The Mayor opened the public hearing and public comments.

Tracy Winkler referenced that individuals could have submitted the survey through one source, such as at the Library or at the schools.

Josh Nass spoke regarding the mathematical distribution of the votes.

Jay Gray spoke about focusing on the “quality of life” enhancements due to Cerritos services versus increases to home values and made several other suggestions regarding the community survey.

Dileep Thakur inquired as to how the City proposes to provide services in a cost-effective manner.

Noting there were no further individuals who elected to speak, the Mayor closed public comments and the public hearing.

MOTION: It was moved by Chen, and seconded by Pulido, to receive and file the report. The motion carried (5 – 0) as follows:

AYES: Chen, Edwards, Pulido, Solanki, Ray
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

8. Public Hearings (continued)

- 8D.** Review and consideration of the 2017 City of Cerritos General Municipal Election dates including the potential adoption of resolutions to call the March 7, 2017 election and a proposed one-time consolidation with the Los Angeles County March 7, 2017 special election or introduce an ordinance to change the current scheduled date of the election (COUNCIL).

A staff report was given by Vida Barone, City Clerk. A PowerPoint Presentation was displayed.

The Mayor opened the public hearing and public comments. Noting there were no individuals who elected to speak, the Mayor closed public comments and the public hearing.

MOTION: It was moved by Pulido to approve Option One, consolidating the March 7, 2017 election with Los Angeles County.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: It was moved by Solanki, and seconded by Chen, to introduce **Ordinance No. 1009, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CERRITOS, CALIFORNIA, MOVING THE DATE OF THE CITY'S GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION FROM THE FIRST TUESDAY AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY IN MARCH OF ODD-NUMBERED YEARS TO THE SECOND TUESDAY OF APRIL IN ODD-NUMBERED YEARS** (COUNCIL). The motion carried (4 – 1, Pulido "no") as follows:

AYES: Chen, Edwards, Solanki, Ray
NOES: Pulido
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

9. New and Old Business

- 9A.** Review and consideration of playground equipment at Brookhaven Park (COUNCIL).

A staff report was given by Sherre Titus, Recreation Services Superintendent. A PowerPoint Presentation was displayed.

The Mayor opened public comments. Noting there were no individuals who elected to speak, the Mayor closed public comments.

MOTION: It was moved by Pulido, and seconded by Edwards, to approve the "Nature" color palette for the playground equipment at Brookhaven Park (COUNCIL). The motion carried (5 – 0) as follows:

AYES: Chen, Edwards, Pulido, Solanki, Ray
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

9. New and Old Business (continued)

- 9B.** Review and consideration of a utility agreement with the California Department of Transportation establishing the responsibilities and financial liabilities related to the relocation of the sanitary sewer line on Valley View Avenue in connection with the I-5 Corridor Improvement Project within the City of Cerritos (COUNCIL).

A staff report was given by Kanna Vancheswaran, Director of Public Works.

The Mayor opened public comments. Noting there were no individuals who elected to speak, the Mayor closed public comments.

MOTION: It was moved by Chen, and seconded by Solanki, to authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute the Utility Agreement with CalTrans establishing the responsibilities and financial liabilities for the relocation of the sanitary sewer line on Valley View Avenue within the City of Cerritos (COUNCIL). The motion carried (5 – 0) as follows:

AYES: Chen, Edwards, Pulido, Solanki, Ray
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

10. Legislative Items

- 10A.** Report on pending legislation

None.

- 10B.** Review and consideration to support or oppose specific legislation in the State or Federal Legislature or in the State or Federal Executive Office for signature.

11. City Council Communications/Committee Reports/Report on Meetings

Reports were provided by Councilmember Edwards and Mayor Ray.

12. Closed Session

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 a.m., Friday, October 28, 2016, to an adjourned regular meeting and a special meeting on November 21, 2016.

/s/ Vida Barone
Vida Barone, City Clerk/Agency Secretary

/s/ George Ray
George Ray, Mayor/Chair

APPROVED: **November 7, 2016**