

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the La Mesa City Council
Monday, September 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa, California

This meeting was conducted utilizing teleconferencing and electronic means consistent with State of California Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Arapostathis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Arapostathis; Vice Mayor Weber; Councilmembers Alessio, Baber, and Parent.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: City Manager Humora; City Attorney Sabine; Assistant City Manager Tomaino; City Clerk Wiegelman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments.

Councilmember Parent announced he had a potential conflict of interest due to the applicant having made a prior philanthropic donation to his nonprofit employer, Circulate San Diego. Councilmember Parent stated that upon the advice of the Fair Political Campaign Commission and to avoid any appearance of conflict he would recuse himself from the meeting.

SPECIAL MEETING

OPEN SESSION

- 1. JOINT APPLICATION BY THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AND AFFIRMED HOUSING INCORPORATED TO CONVERT THE HOLIDAY INN HOTEL LOCATED AT 8000 PARKWAY DRIVE INTO TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS**

Councilmember Parent recused himself from the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

City Manager Humora provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the County Homekey Program, the Homekey Program application process, the East County 2020 Point-in-Time count of the homeless population, the City of La Mesa's actions to address homelessness, and the next steps in the Homekey Program process as it relates to the joint application by the County

of San Diego and Affirmed Housing Incorporated to convert the Holiday Inn Hotel into transitional housing for the homeless

Council questions and comments ensued.

David Estrella, Director, County of San Diego Housing and Community Development Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the County Homekey Program, the application process, and the County housing strategy.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Jeff Edgren, Heather Pollock, and Jimmy Silverwood, Affirmed Housing Incorporated, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Affirmed Housing Incorporated, examples of completed supportive housing developments, the site selection of the Holiday Inn Hotel (“Hotel”) for the proposed project, an overview of the proposed Hotel conversion project, the timeline of the proposed Hotel conversion project, the resident selection and eligibility requirements of the proposed project, California’s Housing First Law, the interim and permanent housing rules of the proposed project, the supportive services that would be offered to the residents of the proposed project, the safety of the community and residents, and the benefits the proposed project would bring to the City of La Mesa.

Council questions and comments ensued.

The following members of the public spoke in opposition of the joint application by the County of San Diego and Affirmed Housing Incorporated to convert the Hotel into transitional housing for the homeless:

Mike Jeffs
Connie Follis
Greg Follis
Leslie McEwan
Dee

Mayor Arapostathis called a recess at 8:12 p.m to allow staff to arrange the emailed public comments into three categories: support, oppose, and neutral. The meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m. with Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Weber, Councilmember Alessio, and Councilmember Baber present and Councilmember Parent absent.

For each category, City Clerk Wiegelman and Executive Assistant to the City Manager Mackey read aloud the names of the individuals that submitted an emailed public comment.

The following members of the public submitted comments in opposition of the joint application by the County of San Diego and Affirmed Housing Incorporated to convert the Hotel into transitional housing for the homeless:

Rebekah Hermsmeier
Art Madrid
Nancy Meade
Jenn Gallo
Andra M. Greene

Judi Duff
Tom Inklebarger
Stephanie Maras
Tammy Huntress
Patty Angulo
Robert Angulo
Sherry Lenke
Sharilyn Jenkins
Sharonne Ketels
Sandy Hull
Ronda
Robert Siegel
Kevin Cullen
Rhonda Loe
Regina Stadler
Ray Humphrey
Priscilla Evangelista
Pete Ceccherini
Patrick Giovengo
Patricia Peterson
Mykael Richards
Mindy Timer
Miriam Pollack
Mike Blood
Michael Barletta
Mercy Graef
Chuck Hoffman
Colleen Jones
Angel Flores
Jessyka Heredia
Jennifer Venter
Jenna Sweeney
Jan Farley
Jamie Pyle-Knochenhauer
Jim Becher
Iva Nanusevic
Ilan Zuk
John Hoyt
Gerald Bailey
Norma Bailey
Charles Pierce
Charlotte Hans
Cela Nash
Cathy Alvarado
Carolyn Choate
Bonnie Baranoff
Carol Schmidt
Carmen Rafferty Howlett
Caitlin Jeffs

Cheryl Lendvay
Aaron Amerling
Brian Meyers
Brian Lewis
Nathan Hannig
Brad Wilson
Rober Halvin
Barbara Stevens
Anthony Aleto
Ann Eckel
Amanda Gonzales
Alex Clarke
Alba Pilcher
Abigail Fleisner
Abby Novelle
Lon Schmidt
Cheryl Schmidt
Elisia Baumann
John Sylvia
Jodie Monteleone
Jim Jeske
Joni Lewis
Joyce Purcell
Karen Knott
Judith Daigle
Julia Hoh
Julie Pickrel
Patrick Byrne
Stacey Rivera
Peter Hoss
William Field
William Twardy
Todd Eckel
Suzy MacLachlan
Tina Truong
Dorcas Hermsmeier
Diana Hernandez
Dianne Osterling
Deborah Doucet
Dan O'Dell
Dias Leonardo
Dorit Harari
Drake Garvin
Michael Lund
Arlene Lund
Elizabeth Hileman
Emily Shirazi
Campbell
Ernie Valdez

Ernesto Valdez
Frederick Novella
Gabrielle Hoffman
Carrie DuBois
Kourtney DuBois
Presley DuBois
Steve Secviar
Melody Follmer
Marcia Tolin
Lynn Grady
Stephanie Murphy
Steven Asaro
Lou Brito
Karen Rakestraw
Kathleen Argerake
Kathy Wackrow
Kelly Breckenridge
Khiirsten Klein
Laura Maturo
Lauren Hogue
LeAnn Fitzgerald
MaryAnn Fowler
Mary Meza
Mary England
Marvin Alvarenga
Leighton Whitehurst
Linda Vaccani
Mary Webb
Cathleen Tiner
Shannon Rohrer
Mark Haberstroh
Caroline Massey
Roberto Ornelas
Francine Bush
Dave Sheppard
Marilyn Barker
Lisa Belitz
Todd Levy
Carlos Munoz

The following members of the public submitted comments in support of the joint application by the County of San Diego and Affirmed Housing Incorporated to convert the Hotel into transitional housing for the homeless:

Brain Woods
Puett Willcox
Jack Shu
Pia Piscitelli
Michelle Sites

Mick Rabin
Ryan Fallica
Matt Davis
Tamera Kohler
Melissa Walter
Sasha Jonestein
Sharon Smith
Zachary Schlagel
Angela Deegan

The following members of the public submitted comments in neither support nor opposition, but provided recommendations, considerations, questions and/or concerns regarding the joint application by the County of San Diego and Affirmed Housing Incorporated to convert the Hotel into transitional housing for the homeless:

Jim Gogek
Sabrina Garcia
Nick Marinovich
Janet Hafner
Ursula Egan
Larry Randall
Gina Randall
Michael Watson
Jennifer Leich
Lois Knowlton
Roger Knowlton
Anna Marie Piconi Snyder
Luis Garcia Meza

City Clerk Wiegelman and Executive Assistant to the City Manager Mackey read aloud thirty of the emailed comments: ten comments in opposition, ten comments in support, and ten comments in neither support nor opposition.

Council questions and comments continued.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Baber and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to: (1) direct staff to draft and deliver a letter to the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors (“Board”) requesting the joint application by the County of San Diego and Affirmed Housing Incorporated to convert the Holiday Inn Hotel located at 8000 Parkway Drive into transitional housing for homeless be withdrawn; and (2) approve Mayor Arapostathis’ request to address the Board on behalf of the entire City Council at the September 22, 2020 Board meeting regarding the same.

Vote: 4-0-1

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Weber, Councilmember Alessio, and Councilmember Baber
No: None
Abstained: Councilmember Parent
Absent: None

Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Arapostathis adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Megan Wiegelman, CMC
City Clerk