

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the La Mesa City Council  
Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 6:00 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.

The City Council minutes are prepared and ordered to correspond to the City Council Agenda. Agenda Items can be taken out of order during the meeting.

The Agenda Items were considered in the order presented.

Mayor Arapostathis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mayor Arapostathis; Vice Mayor Shu; Councilmembers Baber and Parent.

ABSENT: None.

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

**INVOCATION – MAYOR ARAPOSTATHIS**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION – CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney Sabine announced there were no reportable actions.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

City Manager Humora reported on the COVID-19 vaccination distribution process and provided an update on the reopening of City facilities.

**COMMUNITY BULLETIN REPORTS**

The Mayor, Council and staff made announcements and reported on various events taking place in the City. No action was taken.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **PROCLAIMING MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> AS “WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER LA MESA” DAY**

Councilmember Baber read aloud the proclamation proclaiming May 31<sup>st</sup> as “Working Together for a Better La Mesa” Day.

Vice Mayor Shu reflected on the events of May 31<sup>st</sup> and the community’s efforts in moving forward and making La Mesa a stronger and more inclusive community.

### **PROCLAIMING JUNE 2021 AS LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH**

Mayor Arapostathis read aloud the proclamation proclaiming June 2021 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

### **2021 COMMUNITY SURVEY PRESENTATION**

City Manager Humora provided a brief background on the history of the Community Survey and introduced Dr. Timothy McLarney, President of True North Research, who provided a PowerPoint presentation on the purpose, methodology and results of the La Mesa Community Survey study. Dr. Timothy McLarney, President of True North Research, highlighted the findings related to the La Mesa Police Department, safety, traffic, customer service, and City communications.

Council questions and comments ensued.

City Clerk Wiegelman read aloud the first 300 words of the emailed public comments submitted by 4:00 p.m. the day of the Council meeting.

Dianne Osterling submitted a comment regarding the methods and results of the 2021 Community Survey.

Bonnie Baranoff submitted a comment regarding the 2021 Community Survey results as they pertained to homelessness.

Following Council questions and comments, no action was taken.

## **ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)**

Wendy Mihalic spoke regarding a building electrification ordinance that would require all-electric heating systems and appliances in all new buildings and major reconstructions.

Marie Chen spoke regarding the benefits of moving to all-electric in the construction of new commercial and residential buildings.

Mairs Ryan spoke regarding the adoption of the Resolution declaring a Climate Emergency.

City Clerk Wiegelman read aloud the first 300 words of the emailed public comments submitted by 4:00 p.m. the day of the Council meeting.

Alena Student submitted a comment regarding issues and concerns with Alibi Bar.

Christopher Rodgers submitted a comment regarding issues and concerns with Alibi Bar.

Evgenia Nakhoumovski submitted a comment regarding issues and concerns with Alibi Bar.

Kristen Miller submitted a comment regarding the Mayor and Council's response to the allegations against the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District.

Marcia Tolin submitted a comment regarding issues and concerns with Highwood Park.

Mike Pasamonik submitted a comment regarding issues and concerns with Alibi Bar.

Odell Robinson submitted a comment regarding issues and concerns with Alibi Bar.

Bobbie Williams submitted a comment regarding issues and concerns with Alibi Bar.

### **CONFLICT DISCLOSURES**

Councilmember Parent announced he would recuse himself for Item 7 because he had a potential conflict of interest under Government Code Section 87100 due to a Principal of Chen Ryan Associates, Inc., being on the Board of Directors of his employer, Circulate San Diego.

Councilmember Baber announced he would recuse himself for Item 8 because he had a potential conflict of interest under Government Code Section 87100 due to the proximity of his home to Collier Park.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

(Items 1 through 8)

City Clerk Wiegelman read aloud the first 300 words of the emailed public comments submitted by 4:00 p.m. the day of the Council meeting.

Aaron Amerling submitted a comment on Item 5 regarding the mix-used component and community benefits of the proposed development.

Dianne Osterling submitted a comment on Item 7 regarding the community outreach component of the proposed project.

1. **APPROVAL OF MOTION TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE TEXT OF ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS AT THIS MEETING**

Approved.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021**

Approved.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021**

Approved.

4. **A. RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE ORLANDO AND MARIE JOHANN RESIDENCE LOCATED AT 4511 MIRAMONTE STREET AS A HISTORIC LANDMARK; AND**

Resolution No. 2021-052 was adopted.

- B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A HISTORIC LANDMARK PROPERTY PRESERVATION AGREEMENT WITH THE OWNERS OF THE HISTORIC LANDMARK KNOWN AS THE ORLANDO AND MARIE JOHANN RESIDENCE LOCATED AT 4511 MIRAMONTE STREET**

Resolution No. 2021-053 was adopted.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE FINAL MAP FOR LA MESA TRACT 20-01 (CITY VENTURES), A ONE-LOT SUBDIVISION FOR A 60-UNIT CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPMENT AT 7601-7675 UNIVERSITY AVENUE IN THE C-D-MU (GENERAL COMMERCIAL / URBAN DESIGN OVERLAY / MIXED USE OVERLAY) AND R3 (MULTIPLE UNIT RESIDENTIAL) ZONES**

Resolution No. 2021-054 was adopted.

6. **RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING CORPORATION FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE UNIVERSITY AVENUE CORRIDOR – BIKE NETWORK AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

Resolution No. 2021-055 was adopted.

7. **RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT TO CHEN RYAN ASSOCIATES INC., DBA CR ASSOCIATES FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SERVICES FOR THE LA MESA BOULEVARD COMPLETE STREETS PLAN, SEGMENT 1**

Resolution No. 2021-056 was adopted.

**8. RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO NV5 FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR COLLIER PARK RENOVATION PROJECT, PHASE 2**

Resolution No. 2021-057 was adopted.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Vice Mayor Shu to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 through 6.

Vote: 4-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, Councilmember Baber, and Councilmember Parent

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Vice Mayor Shu to approve Consent Calendar Item 7.

Vote: 3-0-1

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, and Councilmember Baber

No: None

Abstained: Councilmember Parent

Absent: None

Motion passed.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Vice Mayor Shu to approve Consent Calendar Item 8.

Vote: 3-0-1

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, and Councilmember Parent

No: None

Abstained: Councilmember Baber

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**ORDINANCE: FIRST READING**

**9. CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MESA ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE LA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE TO DISSOLVE THE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD AND TO DELEGATE THE FUNCTIONS THEREOF TO THE CITY DEPARTMENTS FORMERLY REPRESENTED ON THAT BOARD**

City Attorney Sabine read the title of the Ordinance.

Community Development Director Kusiak provided an overview of the proposed Ordinance and explained the purpose for dissolving the Development Advisory Board.

Council questions and comments ensued.

**ACTION:** Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Parent to approve the introduction and first reading of the Ordinance.

**Vote:** 4-0

**Yes:** Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, Councilmember Baber, and Councilmember Parent

**No:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** None

Motion passed.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **10. CONSIDERATION AND APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBERS TO THE RECENTLY VACATED OUTSIDE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES, AND COUNCIL AD HOC AND STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES**

Council discussion ensued regarding their interests in filling the vacancies on the outside boards, commissions, and committees and Council ad hoc and standing subcommittees.

**ACTION:** Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Parent to appoint: (1) Vice Mayor Shu as the primary representative on the Harry Griffen Park JPA; (2) Mayor Arapostathis as the primary representative and Vice Mayor Shu as the alternate representative on the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System Board of Directors; (3) Councilmember Baber as the second alternate representative on the San Diego Association of Governments Board of Directors; (4) Mayor Arapostathis to the Future of MacArthur Park Standing Subcommittee; and (5) Mayor Arapostathis to the Civic Center Maser Plan Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

**Vote:** 4-0

**Yes:** Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, Councilmember Baber, and Councilmember Parent

**No:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** None

Motion passed.

## 11. VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT FUND PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE AND COUNCIL CONSIDERATION TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM

Senior Management Analyst Dedmon provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Village Enhancement Fund Pilot Program (“Program”), highlighting the history, guidelines, qualifications, and funding allocations of the Program. Senior Management Analyst Dedmon reviewed the available funding for the Program if it were to continue in Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

The following members of the public spoke in support of continuing the Program:

Laurel McFarlane  
Wes Troy

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Parent and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to: (1) continue the Village Enhancement Fund Program (“ VEF Program”) and consider it on an annual basis; (2) approve a one-time allocation from the parking district reserves to match the first year VEF Program funds of \$99,440 and return to the original allocation policy of fifty percent of budgeted surplus parking district revenues for proceeding years; and (3) direct staff to look into if and how the parking district funds could be used to support a La Mesa gateway sign.

Vote: 4-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, Councilmember Baber, and Councilmember Parent

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

## 12. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT UPDATE

Assistant City Manager Tomaino and Finance Director Royales provided a PowerPoint presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”), highlighting the eligible uses, proposed program categories, the latest guidance from the Federal Treasury, ARPA Phase 1 expenditures and programs, and the future outlook for ARPA funding.

City Clerk Wiegelman read aloud the first 300 words of the emailed public comments submitted by 4:00 p.m. the day of the Council meeting.

Marcia Tolin submitted a comment regarding concerns with the proposed allocation of ARPA funds.

Council questions and comments ensued.

**ACTION:** Motioned by Councilmember Parent and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to approve the ARPA Phase 1 funding allocations and direct staff to return to Council at a future date with a detailed proposal on the allocation of the \$1.6 million for mortgage, rental, and economic development program business grants.

**Vote:** 4-0

**Yes:** Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor Shu, Councilmember Baber, and Councilmember Parent

**No:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** None

Motion passed.

### **COUNCIL INITIATED**

#### **13. DISCUSSION ON THE CITY'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AND UPCOMING STAFF REPORT ON THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – VICE MAYOR SHU**

City Clerk Wiegelman read aloud the first 300 words of the emailed public comments submitted by 4:00 p.m. the day of the Council meeting.

James Wang submitted a comment regarding carbon emissions and building electrification.

Suzanne Hume submitted a comment regarding the Climate Emergency Resolution and the harms of fossil fuels and air pollution.

Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret spoke regarding implementing and enhancing the City's climate action efforts.

Vice Mayor Shu commented on the City's actions following the adoption of the Climate Emergency Resolution and the need to make immediate changes.

Following Council questions and comments, no action was taken.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS (3 MINUTE LIMIT)**

The Mayor and Council reported on various outside boards, commissions and committee meetings they attended. No action was taken.

### **AB 1234 REPORTS (GC 53232.3(d))**

There were no reports.



**CITY ATTORNEY REMARKS**

There were no remarks.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Arapostathis adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Megan Wiegelman, CMC  
City Clerk