

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the La Mesa City Council
Tuesday, October 26, 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 Government Code Section 54953, as amended by Assembly Bill 361, in relation to the COVID-19 State of Emergency and recommended social distancing measures.

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

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

There were no comments.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN REPORTS

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

PRESENTATION

PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER AS RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH PREVENTION MONTH

Mayor Arapostathis read the proclamation proclaiming November as Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention Month.

ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)

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 deregulation and government transparency.

CONFLICT DISCLOSURES

Councilmember Baber announced he would recuse himself for Item 9 due to him being a Board Member of the County of San Diego Countywide Redevelopment Successor Agency Oversight Board.

BOARD AND COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

1. INTERVIEW OF APPLICANTS FOR UNSCHEDULED VACANCIES ON THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND VETERANS COMMISSION

City Clerk Wiegelman briefly explained the interview process. City Clerk Wiegelman stated that Nancy Sierra was not able to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment but had submitted a written statement expressing her interest in being considered for appointment.

The following applicants spoke regarding their qualifications and interest in being appointed to the Community Relations and Veterans Commission:

Allan Durden
Debbie Kinsinger

Following the interviews, no action was taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR

(Items 2 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.

Dianne Osterling submitted a comment on Item 6 regarding public recognition and awareness of opportunities to support the homeless.

Bonnie Baranoff submitted a comment on Item 6 regarding the progress in services for the homeless and encouraging community members to contact the HOME Team directly when they know someone is experiencing homelessness or on the brink of losing their home.

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

Approved.

3. RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953, AS AMENDED BY ASSEMBLY BILL 361, AND RE-AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUED USE OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE CITY OF LA MESA FOR THE 30-DAY PERIOD BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2021 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2021

Resolution No. 2021-129 was adopted.

4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO FUND THE SPRING STREET TRANSIT STATION MULTIMODAL ACCESS PLAN, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS; AND APPOINTING THE CITY MANAGER, OR DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE ALL AGREEMENTS AND ANY AMENDMENTS FOR THE PROJECT

Resolution No. 2021-130 was adopted.

5. RESOLUTION AWARDED THE PURCHASE OF FOUR FORD TRUCKS FOR THE FIRE AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS TO PENSKE FORD

Resolution No. 2021-131 was adopted.

6. HOMELESS OUTREACH AND MOBILE ENGAGEMENT (HOME) PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT (JULY 2021 – SEPTEMBER 2021)

Received and filed.

7. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF A GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY TO CONDUCT A LOCAL TRAFFIC SAFETY, PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY PROGRAM BY APPROVING THE ADDITION OF THE GRANT FUNDS TO THE FY 2021-2022 BUDGET

Resolution No. 2021-132 was adopted.

8. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF A GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY TO CONDUCT A LOCAL TRAFFIC SAFETY, DUI ENFORCEMENT AND AWARENESS PROGRAM BY APPROVING THE ADDITION OF THE GRANT FUNDS TO THE FY 2021-2022 BUDGET

Resolution No. 2021-133 was adopted.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Baber and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to approve Consent Calendar Items 2 through 8.

Vote: 4-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

ORDINANCE: SECOND READING

9. CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MESA AMENDING THE ZONE MAP TO CLASSIFY THE PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 8181 ALLISON AVENUE (APN 470-572-22-00) WITH THE DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL (CD) ZONING DESIGNATION

Councilmember Baber left the dais at 6:17 p.m.

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 in support of adopting the Ordinance.

City Attorney Sabine read the title of the Ordinance.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Parent to approve the second reading and adoption of the Ordinance.

Vote: 3-0-1

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

No: None

Abstained: Councilmember Baber

Absent: None

Motion passed. Ordinance No. 2021-2890 was adopted.

Councilmember Baber returned to the dais at 6:20 p.m.

HEARING

10. CONSIDERATION OF AN APPEAL OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S DETERMINATION TO UPHOLD THE APPROVAL BY THE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD OF PROJECT 2020-16 (CITYMARK COMMUNITIES, LLC), A SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR A 49-UNIT MIXED-USE APARTMENT

DEVELOPMENT AT 5220 WILSON STREET, APN 490-660-31-00 IN THE RB-D-MU (RESIDENTIAL BUSINESS/URBAN DESIGN OVERLAY/MIXED USE OVERLAY) ZONE

Notice of the hearing was given in accordance with legal requirements, and the hearing was held on the date and at the time specified in the notice.

Mayor Arapostathis opened the hearing for Item 10.

Community Development Director Kusiak explained the purpose of the hearing and described the subject property and proposed project. Community Development Director Kusiak discussed the site development plan and the City's response to the key issues raised in the appeal.

The following members of the public spoke in opposition to the proposed project and in support of the appeal:

Felix Tinkov, appellant representative
Kiley Wallace, appellant representative

The following members of the public spoke in support of the proposed project and in opposition to the appeal:

Richard Schulman, applicant
Garrett Root, applicant representative
John Keating, applicant representative
Marsha McDonald on behalf of the La Mesa Woman's Club
Betsy Quinn on behalf of the La Mesa's Woman's Club

Jennifer Trujillo spoke regarding efforts to reclaim the wood of the La Mesa Woman's Club building.

Allan Durden spoke on increasing the number of affordable units of the proposed development.

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

Guy Halgren submitted a comment regarding concerns with the impact the proposed development would have on parking.

Dianne Osterling submitted a comment recommending a traffic light be installed at the intersection of Grossmont Drive and Wilson Street.

Todd Pitman submitted a comment regarding concerns with the review process for the proposed development.

The following members of the public submitted comments in opposition to the proposed project and in support of the appeal:

Terra Colt
Betty Lou Murray

John Rochfort
Jennifer Killion
Cheryl Gleghorn
Randy Engel
Amie Hayes on behalf of Save Our Heritage Organisation
Calvin Borchardt
Judith Cole on behalf of St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Mike Calandra
Bob Barnard
Tudor Sabie
Nina Silguero

The following members of the public submitted comments in support of the proposed project and in opposition to the appeal:

Kim Purchase
Marla Hovland
Brett Wray
Patricia Kelly

Council questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Parent to close the hearing since there was no one else in the audience who wished to speak.

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 Councilmember Parent and seconded by Vice Mayor Shu to adopt the Resolution approving a Categorical Exemption for Project 2020-16, a proposed 49-unit mixed-use apartment development at 5220 Wilson Street, APN 490-660-31-00 in the RB-D-MU (Residential Business/Urban Design Overlay/Mixed Use Overlay) Zone.

Vote: 3-1

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

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2021-134 was adopted.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Parent and seconded by Vice Mayor Shu to adopt the Resolution approving Project 2020-16 (CityMark Communities, LLC), a proposed site development plan to construct a 49-unit mixed-use apartment development at 5220 Wilson Street, APN 490-660-31-00 in the RB-D-MU (Residential Business/Urban Design Overlay/Mixed Use Overlay) Zone, thus denying the appeal.

Vote: 3-1

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

Motion passed. Resolution No. 2021-135 was adopted.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Parent and seconded by Vice Mayor Shu to ratify the Design Review Board's approval of Project 2020-16.

Vote: 3-1

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

Motion passed.

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 8:29 p.m.

Megan Wiegelman, CMC
City Clerk