

MINUTES
LAWNDALE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
July 17, 2023

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Pullen-Miles called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 14717 Burin Avenue, Lawndale, California.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor Pro Tem Sirley Cuevas, Councilmember Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, Councilmember Pat Kearney

Councilmembers Absent: Councilmember Bernadette Suarez

Other Participants: City Manager Sean M. Moore, City Attorney Gregory M. Murphy, City Clerk Erica Harbison, Assistant City Clerk Yvette Hall, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Justin Smith, Municipal Services Director Michael Reyes, Finance Director Hrant Manuelian, Community Development Manager Jared Chavez, Public Works Director Lea Reis, Community Services Director Mike Estes

B. CEREMONIALS

Councilmember Hofmann Gorman led the flag salute. Jose Gutierrez, Youth Leader of Restoration Life Church, provided the inspiration.

C. PRESENTATION

1. Presentation of Plaque from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, South Los Angeles Station

In Recognition of the City of Lawndale's Support of the 2023 Baker to Vegas Relay Run.

Sergeant Smith presented a Plaque from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to the City for their participation in the 2023 Baker to Vegas Relay Run.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

a. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update

Sergeant Smith summarized the recent law enforcement activities and stated that the Sheriff's Department adjusted patrol hours to help reduce crime.

Lieutenant Jose Salgado introduced himself as the new Detective Lieutenant and direct contact for the City of Lawndale.

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

Michelle Pino, Library Manager, provided information on the upcoming library activities.

Norman Masson, Resident, commented on the increase in car noise at night and security lights that face his property.

Carol Smith, Resident, asked how many illegal fireworks citations were issued and stated that she does not support fireworks in the City.

Deena Sopko, Resident, commented on the status of the City purchasing automated license plate reader cameras.

Jean Mendoza, Resident, commented that the City needs beautification and stated that she does not support fireworks in the City.

Joi Richardson, District Representative for Senator Steven Bradford's Office, introduced herself as the new representative and announced the services being offered at a community resource fair event.

Bruce Milligan, Resident, commented that the following items need repair and replacement at Hogan Park: lights, sprinkler system and trash receptable. Mr. Milligan indicated that a stop sign at Osage Avenue and 167th Street is blocked when large vehicles park in front of it. He provided pictures.

F. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Councilmember Hofmann Gorman thanked Michelle Pino, Library Manager for the updates and addressed all residents' comments.

Sergeant Smith addressed the increase in car noise at night and commented that the Sheriff's Department will pursue the issue more diligently.

Councilmember Kearney commented that he will volunteer at Senator Bradford's community resource fair event, thanked the residents that spoke, and stated that the issues at Hogan Park will be addressed.

Mayor Pro Tem Cuevas thanked the residents that spoke and requested the City schedule a meeting of the Homeless Solutions Standing Committee. She asked that the sprinkler heads be checked at the park and that a red zone at the curb of Osage Avenue and 167th Street be considered.

Mayor Pullen-Miles thanked the residents, speakers, and District Representative Richardson of Senator Bradford's Office, and commented that all concerns will be addressed by the appropriate City staff.

G. CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Motion to read by title only and waive further reading of all ordinances listed on the Agenda

Recommendation: that the City Council approve.

3. **Accounts Payable Register**

Recommendation: that the City Council adopt Resolution No. CC-2307-027 authorizing the payment of certain claims and demands in the amount of \$2,866,554.85.

4. **Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Regular Meeting, June 5, 2023**

Recommendation: that the City Council approve.

5. **Resolution Approving the Execution of a Cooperation Agreement with the Los Angeles Urban County Community Development Block Grant Program for Fiscal Years 2024-2026**

Recommendation: that the City Council adopt Resolution No. CC-2307-030 authorizing and approving the execution of a Cooperation Agreement with the Los Angeles Urban County Community Development Block Grant Program for the next three-year funding cycle, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

6. **Consideration of Claims for Damage against the City**

Recommendation: that the City Council reject the claim filed by Barbara Denczek and April Mayberry and instruct staff to process the appropriate correspondence to the claimant.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cuevas and seconded by Councilmember Kearney to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Councilmember Suarez absent.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. **Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance No. 1202-23 for the allowance of residents to keep chickens, hens, and/ or fowl in residential areas**

Recommendation: that the City Council accept Ordinance No. 1202-23 which allows residents to keep chickens, hens, and fowl so long as they meet the standards and practices set forth by the Los Angeles County Health and Safety Code and follow the guidelines added by the Lawndale City Council.

By City Council Consensus, Mayor Pullen-Miles continued Item H.7. to a date certain of August 7, 2023. Councilmember Suarez absent.

I. ADMINISTRATION

8. **Preliminary Results for the Illegal Fireworks Suppression Plan for 2023**

Recommendation: that the City Council receive and file this Staff Report regarding Preliminary Results for the Illegal Fireworks, Suppression Plan for 2023.

Municipal Services Director Reyes presented the staff report.

Mayor Pullen-Miles opened the public comment period.

Randall Abram, Resident, commented that there were not enough patrol vehicles on duty on July 4th, and that illegal fireworks were not reduced in his neighborhood.

Deena Sopko, Resident, commented that illegal fireworks were not reduced in her neighborhood on July 4th.

Ray Hollar, Resident, commented on the firework incident that occurred in the City of Torrance.

Councilmember Hofmann Gorman stated that she is interested in discussing a moratorium on fireworks to address the issue and commented on the firework incident that occurred in Torrance. She commented on a letter that a local landlord provided his tenants regarding illegal firework usage.

Councilmember Kearney commented that there are new training classes for deputies.

City Manager Moore commented that additional deputies were needed to monitor the use of illegal fireworks during the July 4th holiday.

Lieutenant Salgado stated that the entire County of Los Angeles faced the issue of high usage of illegal fireworks with limited deputy resources to respond to incidents.

Mayor Pullen-Miles asked how many deputies would be ideal to suppress the illegal fireworks issue and commented that he supports a fireworks moratorium. He thanked staff for working during the July 4th holiday.

Mayor Pro Tem Cuevas thanked staff for patrolling the City during the July 4th holiday.

Councilmember Hofmann Gorman requested that a moratorium on selling safe and sane fireworks by organizations be agendaized for a future meeting.

Discussion ensued among the City Council and staff regarding putting a fireworks moratorium and the timeline for consideration.

City Manager Moore commented that he will review the Lawndale Municipal Code to ensure the correct steps are taken when considering a moratorium on fireworks.

Mayor Pullen-Miles requested background information on implementing a moratorium on fireworks.

By consensus, the City Council requested a report at a future meeting to consider a fireworks moratorium. Councilmember Suarez absent.

9. Designation of Voting Delegate and Alternate(s) to the League of California Cities Conference & Expo – Sacramento - September 20-22, 2023

Recommendation: that the City Council a.) Select a Voting Delegate and Voting Alternate to represent the City of Lawndale at the 2023 League of California Cities Annual Conference; and b.) direct staff in the City Clerk Department to forward the appropriate formal minute action of such designation to the League of California Cities and the City Manager Department; and c.) determine if additional Councilmembers will attend the conference, including the funding account; and, if yes, d.) direct the Finance Director/City

Treasurer to identify and appropriate the additional funding required, and make the appropriate transfer of funds to the City Council Travel/Meetings fund.

Assistant City Clerk Hall presented the staff report.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cuevas and seconded by Councilmember Hofmann Gorman to select Mayor Pro Tem Cuevas as the Voting Delegate and Councilmember Suarez as the Voting Delegate Alternate to represent the City of Lawndale at the 2023 League of California Cities Annual Conference; and direct staff in the City Clerk Department to forward the appropriate formal minute action of such designation to the League of California Cities and the City Manager Department. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Councilmember Suarez absent.

10. Adopt Resolution No. CC-2307-029 of FY 2023-24 Budget List of Projects Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 – Senate Bill 1 (SB 1)

Recommendation: that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution No. CC-2307-029 approving the project list of streets as attached herein Exhibit A- Project Description/ Location.

Public Works Director Reis presented the staff report.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kearney and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cuevas to adopt the attached Resolution No. CC-2307-029 approving the project list of streets as attached herein Exhibit A- Project Description/ Location. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Councilmember Suarez absent.

11. FY 2023-24 Recreation Class Instructor Agreements

Recommendation: that the City Council approve the attached agreements which have all been signed by each business entity for: 1) Chapala Dance Academy, LLC; 2) Duncan's Soo Bahk Do, LLC; 3) Elysian Arts and Events, LLC; and 4) Just Dance Company, LLC totaling \$84,000.00, and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreements.

Community Services Director Estes presented the staff report.

Mayor Pro Tem Cuevas inquired about the class fees.

Community Services Director Estes responded that the business entities do accommodate the City by keeping the class fees affordable.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cuevas and seconded by Councilmember Hofmann Gorman to approve the attached agreements which have all been signed by each business entity for: 1) Chapala Dance Academy, LLC; 2) Duncan's Soo Bahk Do, LLC; 3) Elysian Arts and Events, LLC; and 4) Just Dance Company, LLC totaling \$84,000.00, and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreements. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Councilmember Suarez absent.

12. Elderly Nutrition Program Agreement

Recommendation: that the City Council approve the attached Contract Services Agreement for Elderly Nutrition Program Services agreement between the City of Lawndale and City of Gardena for a term beginning Monday, July 2, 2023 through June 28, 2024.

Community Services Director Estes presented the staff report.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Cuevas' question, Community Services Director Estes stated that there is no class fee assistance available.

Community Services Director Estes responded to questions from City Councilmembers regarding donations, possible name changes to the City's senior citizen programs and securing partnerships with non-profit organizations to provide senior citizen resources.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kearney and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cuevas to approve the attached Contract Services Agreement for Elderly Nutrition Program Services agreement between the City of Lawndale and City of Gardena for a term beginning Monday, July 2, 2023 through June 28, 2024. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Councilmember Suarez absent.

13. Introducing an Ordinance Adopting the 2023 Los Angeles County Fire Codes and Finding of Exemption from CEQA

Recommendation: that the City Council 1. Find the Project to be categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines; 2. Introduce Ordinance No. 1203-23 updating fire codes; and 3. Order a public hearing to be held at second reading on August 7, 2023.

Community Development Manager Chavez presented the staff report.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kearney and seconded by Councilmember Hofmann Gorman to find the Project to be categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, introduce Ordinance No. 1203-23 updating fire codes; and order a public hearing to be held at second reading on August 7, 2023.

City Attorney Murphy read the ordinance by title only and waived further reading of the ordinance.

The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Councilmember Suarez absent.

14. American Rescue Plan Act Funds Use Update

Recommendation: that the City Council receive and file the American Rescue Plan Act Funds Use Update.

Finance Director Manuelian presented the staff report.

City Manager Moore informed the City Council that City infrastructure improvement projects will be presented to the City Council for consideration at a future meeting.

By consensus, the City Council received and filed the American Rescue Plan Act Funds Use Update. Councilmember Suarez was absent.

15. Annual Investment Policy- Resolution CC-2307-028

Recommendation: that the City Council adopt resolution CC-2307-028, reaffirming City Council Policy Number 80-04 pertaining to the City's Investment Policy, without revisions, changes, or edits.

Finance Director Manuelian presented the staff report.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kearney and seconded by Councilmember Hofmann Gorman to adopt resolution CC-2307-028, reaffirming City Council Policy Number 80-04 pertaining to the City's Investment Policy, without revisions, changes, or edits. The motion passed 4-0-1, with Councilmember Suarez absent.

16. Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter ended June 30, 2023

Recommendation: that the City Council receive and file the Quarterly Investment Report for the quarter ended June 30, 2023.

Finance Director Manuelian presented the staff report.

By consensus, the City Council received and filed the Quarterly Investment Report for the quarter ended June 30, 2023. Councilmember Suarez absent.

J. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Moore introduced the new Public Works Director, Lea Reis, and welcomed her to the City. City Manager Moore reported that the Sheriff's Department arrested suspects for grand larceny committed at a local business.

K. ITEMS FROM CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

17. Consider Modifying City Council Advisory Committee - Business Revitalization Standing Committee

Recommendation: that the City Council a) Consider the request from Mayor Pullen-Miles; and b) Modify the Business Revitalization Standing Committee from a standing committee to an ad hoc subcommittee; and c) Rename the Business Revitalization Standing Committee to Business Revitalization Ad Hoc Subcommittee; or d) Provide further direction to staff.

City Manager Moore presented the staff report.

A motion was made by Mayor Pullen-Miles and seconded by Councilmember Kearney to consider the request from Mayor Pullen-Miles; and modify the Business Revitalization Standing Committee from a standing committee to an ad hoc subcommittee; and rename

the Business Revitalization Standing Committee to Business Revitalization Ad Hoc Subcommittee. The motion passed 4-0-1, with Councilmember Suarez absent.

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

Councilmember Hofmann Gorman attended the Lawndale Little League Closing Ceremony, South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) meeting, Lawndale Employees/Public Safety Employees Appreciation Lunch and announced that Clean Up Week will be held on September 16 – 24, 2023, and that staff look into assisting with the recognition of Firefighter and Sheriff's Deputy of the year.

Councilmember Kearney attended the Lawndale Little League Closing Ceremony, two Liability Trust Fund Oversight Committee meetings with one being held virtually, Lawndale Employees/Public Safety Employees Appreciation Lunch, and Road Tour with Los Angeles County Fourth District Supervisor Janice Hahn.

Mayor Pro Tem Cuevas attended the Lawndale Little League Closing Ceremony, City/School District Park Maintenance and Joint Use Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting, 45th Annual Ho'olaule'a hosted by Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, asked when Coffee with a Cop will be scheduled, reminded residents not to park in front of fire hydrants and handicapped areas, and requested City staff cite vehicles parked in unauthorized spaces.

Municipal Services Director Reyes announced that the City will be hosting National Night Out on August 1, 2023.

Mayor Pullen-Miles attended two Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts Meetings, Seniors 4th of July Lunch Program, Metro Mayors Roundtable, and the Lawndale Little League Closing Ceremony.

L. CLOSED SESSION

19. Conference with Labor Negotiator

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6, with the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the City's negotiators, 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.

City Attorney Murphy read the aforementioned Closed Session matter by title only.

The City Council convened into closed session at 8:29 p.m.

The City Council reconvened from closed session at 9:44 p.m.

City Attorney Murphy announced that there was no reportable action for Closed Session Item No. L.19.

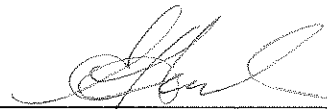
M. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.



Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:



Erica Harbison, City Clerk

Approved: 8/7/2023