



CITY OF LAWNDALE

14717 Burin Avenue, Lawndale, California 90260
Phone (310) 973-3200 – www.lawndalecity.org

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING LAWNDALE CITY COUNCIL

TO: Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles
Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Hofmann Gorman
Councilmember Pat Kearney
Councilmember Bernadette Suarez
Councilmember Sirley Cuevas

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lawndale City Council will conduct a special meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, in the Lawndale City Hall Council Chamber, 14717 Burin Avenue, Lawndale, California 90260.

Said special meeting shall be for the purpose of conducting the business described in the attached agenda.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2022

Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

I, Matthew Ceballos, Assistant City Clerk of the City of Lawndale, do hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the aforementioned notice of special meeting was delivered to each member of the Lawndale City Council, and sent by e-mail to each member in the aforementioned notice at least 24 hours prior to the time set for the special meeting.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2022

Matthew Ceballos, Assistant City Clerk



CITY OF LAWDALE

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AGENDA

LAWDALE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.

Lawndale City Hall Council Chamber

14717 Burin Avenue

Any person who wishes to address the City Council regarding any item listed on this agenda or any other matter that is within its subject matter jurisdiction is invited, but not required, to fill out a [Public Meeting Speaker Card](#) and submit it to the City Clerk prior to the oral communications portion of the meeting. The purpose of the card is to ensure that speakers' names are correctly recorded in the meeting minutes and, where appropriate, to provide contact information for later staff follow-up. You are still eligible to submit comment via the [Temporary eComment Policy for Public Meetings](#), the comments will be read verbatim into the record.

How to observe the Meeting:

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can now observe the meeting in person, with limited capacity, while strictly adhering to the [City Facilities Entry Protocols](#). Members of the public are still be able to view the meeting on [YouTube "Lawndale CityTV"](#), the [City Website](#), or Lawndale Community Cable Television on Spectrum & Frontier Channel 3.

Copies of this Agenda may be obtained prior to the meeting in the Lawndale City Hall foyer. Copies of this Agenda packet may be obtained prior to the meeting outside of the Lawndale City Hall foyer or on the [City Website](#). Interested parties may contact the City Clerk Department at (310) 973-3213 for clarification regarding individual agenda items.

This agenda is subject to revision up to 24 hours before the meeting.

- A. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- B. **CEREMONIALS** (Flag Salute)
- C. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA** (Public Comments)
- D. **COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL**
- E. **ADMINISTRATION**
 - 1. **Discussion and Possible Adoption of a Resolution to Allow City Council Meetings to be held remotely, consistent with Assembly Bill 361**

Recommendation: that the City Council (a) Discuss the use of teleconferencing or videoconferencing for Brown Act-covered public meetings of the City Council and City commissions; and (b) Either adopt attached Resolution No. CC-2201-001 to authorize the use of such technology for meetings for a period of 30 days or take no action.

F. CLOSED SESSION

2. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code sections 54956.9(d)(2) and (d)(3), because there is a significant exposure to litigation in one (1) case. The facts and circumstances giving rise to exposure to litigation are unknown.

3. 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.

4. Public Employee Appointment

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b), regarding the appointment of a City Manager.

G. ADJOURNMENT

City Hall will be closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on the next regular meeting date. Therefore, the next meeting of the City Council will be held at 6:30 p.m. on TUESDAY, January 18, 2022 in the Lawndale City Hall council chamber, 14717 Burin Avenue, Lawndale, California.

It is the intention of the City of Lawndale to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, we will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the City Clerk Department (310) 973-3213 prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible. Please advise us at that time if you will need accommodations to attend or participate in meetings on a regular basis.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the agenda for the special meeting of the City Council to be held on January 11, 2022 was posted not less than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Matthew Ceballos, Assistant City Clerk



CITY OF LAWDALE

14717 BURIN AVENUE, LAWDALE, CALIFORNIA 90260
PHONE (310) 973-3200 ♦ www.lawndalecity.org

DATE: January 11, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Gregory Murphy, City Attorney
Raylette Felton, Interim City Manager
Matthew Ceballos, Assistant City Clerk

SUBJECT: **Discussion and Possible Adoption of a Resolution to Allow City Council Meetings to be held remotely, consistent with Assembly Bill 361**

BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill 361 was recently signed by the Governor of the State of California and went into effect immediately upon signature by the Governor.

The bill amends the Brown Act to allow local legislative bodies to continue having purely virtual meetings using teleconferencing and virtual meeting technology as long as there is a gubernatorial “proclaimed state of emergency,” with (1) state or local officials imposing or recommending measures that promote social distancing or (2) the legislative body finding that meeting in person would present an imminent safety risk to attendees.

The key differences between previous Executive Order N-08-21, which expired September 30, 2021, and AB 361 is that AB 361 imposes particular requirements with respect to public comment and viewing of deliberations. Additionally, the City must make findings and adopt via resolution by majority vote that the state of emergency still exists and continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person every 30 days.

STAFF REVIEW

The City Council is requested to consider the safety and procedural issues involved in authorizing a return to remote or even “hybrid-remote” meetings pursuant to AB 361 and, if the facts so require, to adopt Resolution No. CC-2201-001 to authorize the Council, Commissions, and Committees to meet virtually through February 10, 2022.

As of December 28, 2021, the community transmission in the County ranked as “high” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Omicron variant remains a variant of concern. The rate of community transmission level increase from 108.23 per 100,000 on December 6, 2021 to 519.51 per 100,000 on December 27, 2021. California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health are concerned about a winter surge especially following the Christmas and New Year holidays. Los Angeles County experienced a surge of cases following the Thanksgiving holiday and an even higher surge is taking place now after the Christmas and New Year’s holidays. On January 4, the Interim City Manager made the difficult decision to return to “by appointment only” services at City facilities due to the impacts of the Omicron variant on staffing levels.

Special City Council Meeting – January 11, 2022

Discussion and Possible Adoption of a Resolution to Allow City Council Meetings to be held remotely, consistent with Assembly Bill 361

It is important to note that neither AB 361 nor Resolution No. CC-2201-001 would require any particular meeting to be held in an all-virtual or semi-virtual format. Some cities that continue to adopt resolutions pursuant to AB 361 do so to allow a “hybrid” format where council members and staff participate either in person or remotely depending on their individual circumstances. Other cities adopt AB 361 resolutions to allow the public to continue to participate remotely because of space considerations in their council chambers. Failing to adopt Resolution No. CC-2201-001 would require meetings to be held in-person under traditional Brown Act parameters; adopting the resolution would give the City flexibility as it moves forward with meetings over the next thirty days. It may be the case that some meetings are best held virtually while others lend themselves to in-person attendance by Council and some staff but virtual attendance by other staff and the public.

The City Council is asked to consider the safety and procedural issues involved in hold remote meetings pursuant to AB 361 and, if the facts so require, to adopt Resolution No. CC-2201-001 to authorize the Council and Commissions to meet virtually through February 10, 2022.

Please note, the two significant changes from the last time virtual meetings took place are that the cameras of the Councilmembers must be on at all times and public comments are to be taken live virtually or over the phone. Should a “hybrid” format meeting be held where some persons are at City Hall and some participating remotely, then the public may be allowed to comment from the podium in the Council chambers as well as virtually or over the phone.

LEGAL REVIEW

The City Attorney’s office has reviewed Resolution No. CC-2201-001 and has approved it to form.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council:

- (a) Discuss the use of teleconferencing or videoconferencing for Brown Act-covered public meetings of the City Council and City commissions; and
- (b) Either adopt attached Resolution No. CC-2201-001 to authorize the use of such technology for meetings for a period of 30 days or take no action.

Attachments: Resolution No. CC-2201-001

RESOLUTION NO. CC-2201-001

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF LAWDALE, CALIFORNIA
PROCLAIMING THE NEED TO MEET BY TELECONFERENCE**

WHEREAS, the City of Lawndale is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the City of Lawndale's legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the City's legislative bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, a required condition is that a state of emergency is proclaimed and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 the County of Los Angeles put into effect measures requiring social distancing and other public health measures and restrictions to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the State of Emergency and social distancing and other public health measures remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to threaten the health and lives of Lawndale residents notwithstanding the City's vaccination rates, with Los Angeles County considered to have high community transmission as of December 27, 2021 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) due to the likelihood of transmission between communities within the densely-packed Los Angeles region; and

WHEREAS, the Omicron variant is highly transmissible in indoor settings and has contributed to the high community transmission currently being seen in Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS, even with protective shielding in the City Council chambers, the lack of social distancing still creates a risk of transmission should City Council meetings run their normal length of time and be attended by the entire City Council, the normal contingent of City staff, and members of the public; and

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAWNSDALE, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. State of Emergency and Social Distancing. Due to COVID-19, the State of California continues to be in a state of emergency and the County of Los Angeles continues to impose and recommend measures requiring social distancing and other pandemic control activities, which measures make holding in-person City Council and other legislative body meetings difficult due to the orientation of the City Council chambers, the inability to have sufficient public presence at the meetings due to social distancing, and the potential of transmission of COVID-19 at meetings.

SECTION 2. Compliance with Government Code Section 54953. The City Council and other legislative bodies will continue to offer teleconference meetings and access to the public in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e).

SECTION 3. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) 30 days from the date of adoption of this Resolution, or (ii) such time the City Council adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) (3) to extend the time during which the legislative bodies of Lawnsdale may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 54953.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of January, 2022.

Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:

State of California)
County of Los Angeles) SS
City of Lawndale)

I, Erica Harbison, City Clerk of the City of Lawndale, California, do hereby certify that the City Council of the City of Lawndale duly approved and adopted the foregoing Resolution No. CC-2201-001 at a special meeting of said Council held on the 11th day of January 2022, by the following roll call vote:

Name	Voting		Present, Not Voting		Absent
	Aye	No	Abstain	Not Participating	
Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor					
Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, Mayor Pro Tem					
Pat Kearney					
Bernadette Suarez					
Sirley Cuevas					

Erica Harbison, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Gregory M. Murphy, City Attorney



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DATE: January 11, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Matthew Ceballos, Assistant City Clerk *MC*

SUBJECT: Conference with Legal Counsel – The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code sections 54956.9(d)(2) and (d)(3), because there is a significant exposure to litigation in one (1) case. The facts and circumstances giving rise to exposure to litigation are unknown

No public documents were forwarded to the City Clerk Department for this item.



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SUBJECT: 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.

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DATE: January 11, 2022
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Matthew Ceballos, Assistant City Clerk 
SUBJECT: Public Employee Appointment – City Manager

No public documents were forwarded to the City Clerk Department for this item.