

**CITY OF SOUTH GATE**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING CONTINUED FROM APRIL 14**  
**and 15 to APRIL 21, 2020**  
**MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

4/21/2020 - Minutes

**I. Call To Order/Roll Call With Invocation & Pledge**

CALL TO ORDER M. Belén Bernal, Mayor called a Regular Continued City Council meeting at 6:05 p.m.

INVOCATION Randal Davis, Chief of Police

PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE Michael Flad, City Manager

ROLL CALL Carmen Avalos, City Clerk

**II. City Officials**

Mayor M. Belén Bernal, Vice Mayor Denise Diaz, Council Member Al Rios, Council Member Maria Davila and Council Member Bill De Witt; City Treasurer Gregory Martinez, City Manager Mike Flad, City Attorney Raul F. Salinas

**III. COVID 19 Meeting Procedures**

**IV. Meeting Compensation Disclosure**

**V. Open Session Agenda**

**1. Resolution Declaring The Results Of The General Municipal Election Of March 3, 2020**

The City Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2020-11-CC entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of City of South Gate reciting the fact of the General Municipal Election held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, declaring the result and such other matters as provided by law by motion of Council Member De Witt and seconded by Mayor Bernal.

**2. Oaths Of Office For Re-Elected/Newly Elected City Council Members**

The Oath of Office was administered (ballot order) to the newly elected and re-elected City officials elected from the General Municipal Election on March 3, 2020:

- a. City Council Member Maria del Pilar Avalos;
- b. City Council Member Gil Hurtado; and

c. City Council Member Maria Davila.

### **3. City Council Re-Organization: Nomination/Selection Of Mayor And Vice Mayor; And Oaths Of Office**

The City Council re-organized by nominating and selecting a new Mayor and new Vice Mayor for a one-year term; the selection was ratified by a majority vote of the City Council; and

a. The Oaths of Office were administered to the newly selected Mayor and Vice Mayor.

Council Member Avalos nominated Vice Mayor Diaz as Mayor and seconded by Vice Mayor Diaz.

ROLL CALL: Vice Mayor Diaz, yes; Council Member Avalos, yes; Council Member Davila, no; Council Member Hurtado, no; Council Member Rios, Abstain.

The motion dies due to no confirmative vote.

Council Member Hurtado nominated Maria Davila as Mayor and seconded by Council Member Rios.

ROLL CALL: Vice Mayor Diaz, no; Council Member Avalos, no; Council Member Rios, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Davila, yes.

City Clerk Avalos administered the Oath of Office for Mayor of the City of South Gate to Maria Davila.

Council Member Hurtado nominated Al Rios as Vice Mayor and seconded by Mayor Davila.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Davila, yes; Council Member Rios, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Avalos, abstain.

City Clerk Avalos administered the Oath of Office for Vice Mayor of the City of South Gate to Al Rios.

### **4. City Council Appointments To Outside Boards And Agencies**

The City Council unanimously appointed Mayor Davila to the County Sanitation District all other appointments to outside boards and agencies were continued to the next City Council Meeting by motion of Mayor Davila and seconded by Council Member Rios.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Davila, yes; Vice Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Avalos, yes.

### **5. Minutes**

The City Council approved A and B by motion of Vice Mayor Rios and seconded by Mayor Davila.

a. Approved the Special Meeting minutes of March 10, 2020; and

b. Approved the Regular and Special Meeting minutes of March 24, 2020.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Davila, yes; Vice Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Hurtado, abstain; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Avalos, abstain.

## **VI. Comments From The Audience**

Sophie Ryan congratulated the Mayor and Vice Mayor on their appointments.

Adolfo Varas, 10313 Jackson Avenue, is concerned about the current release of inmates and the possibility of crime increasing as a result of COVID-19.

Thomas Buckley requested a copy of the audio of this City Council Meeting.

Virginia Johnson, would like to know why South Gate publishes their legal notices in the "WAVE" newspapers and not more easily accessible newspapers like "The Press Telegram." She has concerns about the various social media pages in South Gate and why a City Council member is getting personal and social media thanks from residents and employees for goodies she is giving out. She believes if one Council Member is receiving thanks all Council Members should. She thanked the City Clerk's Office for their professionalism and all staff members for their hard work.

Ms. Ruiz complimented Council Member Diaz for her service to the community.

John Montalvo complimented Council Member Diaz for her service to the community.

Candice Esquivel commented that just because someone posts on social media the work, they are doing for the community does not mean that others are not also working in the community.

Cindy Esquivel congratulated the City and American Legion for their work with the Senior Citizens but feels that there is a lack of support for the working-class people who have lost their jobs and cannot pay their bills.

## **VII. Reports And Comments From City Officials**

Mike Flad, City Manager updated the Council on the work being done by the City in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also stated that crime has been down during the stay at home order not only in South Gate but in Los Angeles County as well.

Council Member Rios asked if there were any services available to people that need support for mental health issues.

Mike Flad, City Manager stated that at the next City Council Meeting staff is recommending an increase of utilizing the Cares Act Funding including domestic violence treatment/outreach and mental health resources.

Council Member Avalos spoke on the recent loss of a family member and the need for the community to reach out and support our residents with mental health issues. She would like staff to look at getting funding grants and work with private agencies to see about opening a mental health clinic in South Gate. She also requested the City recognize Mental Health Awareness week and that tonight's meeting be adjourned in memory of her brother Leopoldo Avalos Jr.

Vice Mayor Rios stated that it is especially important that the City Council comes together

and face the challenges presented by COVID-19 and the financially situation that the City will inherit as a result. He thanked Bill De Witt and Belen Bernal for their service to the City. He also thanked the staff for their work with the Senior Citizens.

Council Member Diaz stated that South Gate has reached 172 cases of COVID-19 and provided an update on the events going on to provide help to our residents. She thanked the Public Works staff for their work on this year's Virtual Earth Day. She sees the hard work that staff is doing but she realizes that staff also has concerns about the exposure they face in the course of their jobs. She has out of her own pocket provided treats for staff and this also supports small businesses in the community. It is just her way to thank staff for their work. This weekend she asked for volunteers to come out to help with food distribution to our South Gate residents on Saturday at the American Legion.

Council Member Hurtado thanked Bill De Witt and Belen Bernal for their service to the City. Staff is working extremely hard to work through these issues that COVID -19 presents. He thanked City Clerk Avalos for her work during the Council Meetings. We stressed to the community we need to keep working together to keep each other safe.

Mayor Davila thanked Belen Bernal and Bill De Witt for their service to the City. She thanked all staff for their hard work, and she is looking forward to again having meetings in the council chambers. She stated we need to look into taking care of our South Gate families. She thanked Tweedy Mile and the American Legion for sponsoring the food giveaway on the weekend.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Mayor Davila unanimously adjourned the meeting in the memory of Leopoldo "Polito" Avalos Jr., brother of Council Member Avalos and City Clerk Carmen Avalos and former Mayor Henry C. Gonzalez at 9:01 p.m. and seconded by Council Member Hurtado.

**PASSED and APPROVED** this 12th day of May, 2020.

For a signed copy of the minutes for this meeting please contact the City Clerk's Office:  
8650 California Avenue, South Gate, California 90280  
(323) 563-9510 \* fax (323) 563-5411 \* [www.cityofsouthgate.org](http://www.cityofsouthgate.org)