

**CITY OF SOUTH GATE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION
MINUTES
FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Maria Davila called a Special City Council meeting to order at 8:14 a.m.

ROLL CALL Carmen Avalos, City Clerk

PRESENT Mayor Maria Davila, Vice Mayor Maria Belen Bernal, Council Member Jorge Morales and Council Member Denise Diaz; City Manager Michael Flad

LATE Council Member Al Rios arrived at 8:20 a.m. and City Treasurer Gregory Martinez arrived at 12:05 p.m.

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DEPT OVERVIEW The City Council considered receiving and filing presentations from City staff related to department overviews and accomplishments from Fiscal Year 2016/17.

Michael Flad, City Manager began the meeting with an overview of the intent of the meeting and the need to allow the Council to understand the working parts of City Government. He also provided an introduction to the presentations and overview of meeting expectations.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT Joe Perez, Director of Community Development provided information about himself and the various facets of the department. He noted the various divisions and the importance they have in improving the quality of life for South Gate residents.

There are three specific plans, Tweedy, Hollydale and the Gateway District. The Safety Element and Hazard Mitigation Plan are currently under review.

The Planning Division makes certain plans that add value and minimize disasters. The Building and Safety Division review and approves permits, structural amendments according to plans.

Currently there is an RFP for plan checking consultant. As well as one for an electronic imaging company to scan and archive the department's documents.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT CONT'D

In the code enforcement division, the hours for code enforcement officers have been extended thru the weekends. The Administrative citations have been processed via an outside company to be more efficient.

Housing grants involve Section 8, while screening and interviews are done annually with inspection of the programs.

Cal Home- 50K dollar loan one time 0% interest

13k Loan- Residential Rehab Loan

10 K grant- CDBG Home Funds

Minor Home Improvement Program

Councilmember Morales requested information or a cheat sheet regarding the process of items that move from planning division and planning commission to the City Council. He also raised the issue of wanting to review how the affordable housing funds are being allocated.

City Manager Flad noted a new council handbook that is being proposed to address many questions, outside agencies, and general overview of various working parts in government.

Council Member Bernal added that although we have outside consultants and vendors performing work in the City, they are not City employees, yet the public perception is that they are representing the city. Hence, they should have a demeanor that they represent South Gate and always be on their best behavior and show respect for the community.

Council Member Diaz requested that Beautification Awards be brought back to invigorate community pride.

Vice Mayor Bernal requested that there be a balance in terms of the areas targeted for code enforcement sweeps.

City Manager Flad apprised the City Council Members that Assembly Speaker Rendon appointed him to the Strategic Growth Council for cap and trade money. It is a greenhouse gas and emissions committee.

Councilmember Morales mentioned that Governor Brown will make an announcement that he will be appointed to the Rivers and Mountains conservancy.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

DEPARTMENT

Jackie Acosta, Director of Administrative Services provided some information on herself, followed by the overview of her department and

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ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

DEPARTMENT CONT'D various divisions within the department. Noting items of interest to the council included the new upgrades to paying water bills and the new government personnel software. Human Resources changed from five different deferred compensation plans to now just one. Nationwide is the city's deferred compensation provider for all employees. This saved money in administrative fees and provided a higher interest for employees.

PUBLIC WORKS

DEPARTMENT Art Cervantes, Director of Public Works provided information on BePlan, design, operations and maintenance of the City's infrastructure. The water system is operated via the South Gate water department. The Field Operations Divisions include street, sewer, electrical, and the water divisions; the Engineering Division includes the Capital Improvement Projects that enhance the City; the Traffic Engineering Division keeps our roads safe and Grant Writing is an important aspect of how we are able to support projects moving forward.

Mr. Cervantes gave an overview and status of each of the City's Capital Improvement Projects. The City has 16 million in grants. He also noted the various entities that improve the overall infrastructure in South Gate, such as Eco-Rapid, I-710 and others. The COG (Gateway Cities Council of Government) and SCAG (Southern California Association of Governments) assist the City, overall to be more inclusive of South Gate's issue on a regional level.

PARKS & RECREATION

DEPARTMENT Paul Adams, Director of Parks and Recreation provided some of his background and mentioned that Parks and Recreation is really about the quality of life for many people regardless of age. Recreation is something people choose to do.

He discussed some of the new improvements at the park including the Capital Improvement Projects that have been done over the course of several years. In recreation he noted the many courses offered, the new fitness center has over 3,000 members while teen and senior programs have a cost recovery of 15%.

Recruiting for part-time staff is a bit of a challenge for retaining them.

The City's transit program includes a Phone- A- Ride program and there was 6.5 thousand bus passes sold in 2016. We also have a fixed route as well as excursions for our seniors. Prop A monies are being used to fund the transportation division of Parks.

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**PARKS & RECREATION
DEPARTMENT CONT'D**

Mr. Adams elaborated on the new items and areas that will be renovated or improved in this upcoming fiscal year. Many of these projects are grant funded.

RECESS

The City Council recessed at 11:32 a.m. and reconvened at 11:40 a.m. with all 5 Members of Council present.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Randy Davis, Chief of Police provided some information on himself, followed by the overview of the 3 divisions in the police department. The Services Division includes detective, narcotics, parole & probation, and DEA taskforces.

The Operations Division – Patrol includes the uniform sworn, parking enforcement, traffic bureau, crime impact team, and canine program. All of the 911 calls as well as general information, arrest, citation, and parking citations are all part of this division. Priority calls are great on time with 3.35 minutes or less.

The Community Outreach Division includes homeless and mental health outreach which received POLAC Centurion Award for this program, the family violence prevention program, community relations team and youth omission and school collaborative. Internship program, Tweedy Mile patrol, citizens academy, explorer academy are also included in the community outreach.

The Community Program and Events in the Police Department include, the Police Navidad, Santa Cop, Neighborhood Watch, CERT, Family Day in the Park, Explorer Post, Coffee with Cop, Pink Patch Project, and National Night Out.

Accomplishments and Goals include an Emergency Operations Center that will be housed in the Police Department. Business Watch on the upcoming need to get them involved with public safety and lastly the partnerships established with the Department of Children and Family Services as well as the Patrol /Probation partnerships with the County of Los Angeles.

The Top 3 safety issues facing the City are drugs, property and home burglary, parole and probation population.

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BUDGET

The City Council considered receiving and filing presentations from City Staff related to the City's Municipal Budget, Capital Improvement Program and economic development efforts.

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BUDGET CONT'D

The budget process was explained by Jackie Acosta, Director of Administrative Services.

Director Acosta provided an overview of the General Fund explaining the variety of expenditures for the account. She noted that 50% of tax dollars are allocated to public safety. From the General Fund Balance \$46,127,575 is unassigned (not earmarked for a specific item.) Areas of concern are CalPERS which is expected to continue to increase over a 5 year period. Health insurance premium to increase 5% as well as the ICRMA suffered a loss and now cities in the pool need to contribute approximately 289K per year for the next 10 years.

Other funds are restricted for specific items such as water and sewer funds, as well as special revenue funds including gas tax, street sweeping, road repair, SB1 Fund, Prop A , and Prop C etc.

Some of the challenges for the funding are costing more than we are collecting for example the lighting assessment district.

Scheduled budget updates include a public hearing and the schedule will be provided to all within the next week.

Joe Perez, Director of Community Development provided an overview of Economic Development efforts of the City

- Altamed (8627 Atlantic Avenue) was approved this week with 80 employees.
- New construction in the pipeline for some of the various areas in the city.
- Jordan Downs area will get redone with new business development.
- 10920 Garfield Avenue will be replaced from a Swap Meet to apartments.
- Funding for East Los Angeles College Center to do design build however all things are still moving at a slow pace.
- Crossroads at Garfield Avenue will have some new shops.
- The Adelpia site will be redone to include Crunch fitness and smaller shops.
- Corner of Atlantic Avenue and Tweedy Boulevard market rate 91 apartment units at the former Adohr Farms site.
- Kipp will be building a 3 story school building on Long Beach Boulevard
- At 5610 Imperial Highway, PATH for veterans' administration will incorporate mental health and other county services for people moving from homelessness to home stability.

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BUDGET CONT'D

- International Learning Center will be building a new campus. 3 buildings, 2 story library /classroom building.

EXCUSED FROM
MEETING

At 3:07 p.m., Greg Martinez, City Treasurer, was excused from the meeting and departed from the Banquet Room.

Mr. Perez continued his overview of Economic Development efforts.

- 9530 Garfield Avenue, Sanitation District transfer station. They plan on closing it down and looking for ways to improve the area with other opportunities.
- Rancho Market site Paramount Boulevard and Gardendale Street. Is an alternative education site for LACOE attempting to assist to reassign the area to convert it into a possible retail site.
- World Oil to convert part of the unused area to be redone as a possible additional retail area.
- 4800 Firestone Boulevard and Vossler Avenue looking to sell as a block which could increase the opportunity for retail.
- Daily Saw as a possibility for opportunity on Firestone Blvd.
- 900 Long Beach Boulevard for Habitat for Humanity's Housing project off Willow Place and Glenwood Place, former Fort Knot's.
- Hollydale Specific Plan as well as Tweedy Mile Specific Plan

Art Cervantes, Director of Public Works provided an overview of the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). The CIP total is 46 projects for all current projects. Many include street projects such as the 3 lane project for Firestone Boulevard. Imperial Highway will be redone including sidewalks and streets from the highway safety improvement grant. In 4 years all of the main corridors will be fully redone which include beautification and efficiency to all main streets (Long Beach Boulevard, Firestone Boulevard, Garfield Avenue, and Imperial Highway). There is no current CIP 5-year program. He noted that there are many grants available but the City needs to look and think about matching funds in order to compete and bring projects to fruition.

Items 3, 4 and 5 of the agenda were not discussed and moved to the Special Meeting of May 16, 2017.

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ADJOURNMENT


Mayor Davila unanimously adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m. and seconded by Vice Mayor Bernal.

PASSED and **APPROVED** this 23rd day of May, 2017.

ATTEST:



Maria Davila, Mayor



Carmen Avalos, City Clerk