

**CITY OF SOUTH GATE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER Denise Diaz, Vice Mayor called a Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

INVOCATION Pastor Bobby Scott, Community of Faith Bible Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Ivonne Loucel, South Gate resident

ROLL CALL Carmen Avalos, City Clerk

PRESENT Vice Mayor Denise Diaz, Council Member Al Rios, Council Member Maria Davila and Council Member María Belén Bernal; City Manager Michael Flad, City Attorney Raul Salinas

LATE City Treasurer Gregory Martinez

ABSENT Mayor Jorge Morales

**1
PROCLAMATIONS** The City Council will issue a Proclamation declaring the month of April as Autism Awareness month to encourage residents to become aware of autism indicators, seek early intervention and support those living with autism.

This item was moved to the next City Council meeting of May 28, 2019.

**2
PROCLAMATIONS** The City Council issued a Proclamation declaring the week of May 19 through 25, 2019 as “National Public Works Week.”

**3
PROCLAMATIONS** The City Council issued a Proclamation declaring May 27, 2019, as Memorial Day in honor of the men and women who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

**4
PRESENTATIONS** The City Council presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ivonne Loucel for being selected as Woman of the Year for the 63rd Assembly District for her continued dedicated volunteered service to the South Gate community.

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BUDGET

The City Council approved A, B, C and D by motion of Council Member Rios and seconded by Council Member Davila.

- a. Opened the continued Public Hearing;
- b. Received an overview of the Fiscal Year 2019/20 Municipal Budget from the City Manager and Director of Administrative Services;
- c. Heard presentations from the City Manager, the Director of Administrative Services and the City Clerk on their proposed Fiscal Year 2019/20 departmental budgets; and
- d. Took public testimony and continued the Public Hearing to May 28, 2019.

Mike Flad, City Manager gave an overview on the Administration Department Budget.

Virginia Johnson, 5751 McKinley Avenue, commented on the condition of Imperial Highway.

Julio San, 3113 Century Boulevard, noted he is happy to see the City working with ELAC and would like to see more resources available for students.

Julie Hernandez-Chan, Hollydale Library, thanked the Council for their support of the Libraries.

Council Member Bernal thanked the City Manager for his hard work and is happy to hear that we meet the 20% reserve. She asked if we can follow up with live streaming of the City Council Meetings and also thanked the City Attorney for his work and commitment to the City.

Council Member Rios is excited to see South Gate grow and thanked staff for their hard work.

Council Member Davila asked when Imperial Highway is scheduled to start construction.

Art Cervantes, Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works said that the City is in the final stages of approval for grant funding and construction could begin within three to four months.

Council Member Davila stated that there are a lot of projects going on in South Gate and thanked staff for their hard work.

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BUDGET CONT'D

Jackie Acosta, Director of Administrative Services gave an overview on the Administrative Services Department Budget.

Council Member Bernal asked about the contract position in Accounting.

Ms. Acosta said that there is an accounting consultant, provided by MV Chang, firm.

Council Member Bernal is concerned with the amount of money that we spend on this position and doubts that a full time employee would cost that amount of money. She would also like to see this be open as a promotional opportunity for employees first.

Ms. Acosta said that she is planning to fill this position and hopefully start the hiring process soon.

Council Member Rios asked Ms. Acosta to give a brief summary of what is to come with the next budget.

Ms. Acosta said that this will be discussed at the next meeting with the budget wrap up but mentioned that CalPERS cost is an issue and is the one thing that is concerning our City and all Cities throughout the State. We will also be negotiating new labor contracts and this will not be as easy as it was in the past because of the financial concerns.

Mr. Flad added that the only other dark cloud that is out there is the fact that we do not know what the State is going to do in regards to local control or tapping into local revenues.

Council Member Bernal asked about the trust fund that was incorporated for CalPERS.

Ms. Acosta said that we have not officially started a trust fund but we have set aside money in the reserves. PARS and PERS provide trust funds and we are looking into which one to go with. This item will come back before the City Council with staff's recommendations.

Council Member Davila asked about putting funds aside for emergencies.

Ms. Acosta reported that the City over the last two years set aside \$10 million in this specific emergency reserve plus also set aside additional money in other reserves. We have not made a recommendation for what we will do at the close of this year's fiscal year.

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BUDGET CONT'D

After June 30th when we have our final numbers for this fiscal year we will bring a recommendation to Council to determine where these funds be placed.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk gave an overview on the City Clerk's Department Budget.

Council Member Davila asked if the City Clerk's Office has the proper equipment to scan documents.

Ms. Avalos answered that we do have scanners in our office but it basically requires staff to go to the vault, pull documents and scan each single document one at a time. We are current with the past five years of documents and then we continue to move back with older documents. We also closely follow the City's retention policy. This allows us to minimize liability to the City and make room for new documents.

Council Member Davila congratulated Ms. Avalos on bringing in new programs, especially the passport program.

Council Member Rios asked if any other item would be included on the ballot besides the local City Council seats.

Ms. Avalos stated that 2020 will be a big year. It will be a Presidential Election and we will be aligned with both the primary for the Presidential Election and the State offices. You will see the national items, Senate, and Congress races.

Council Member Rios asked about the process for digital voting.

Ms. Avalos said that she has asked the County to come to a City Council Meeting to give a presentation on what digital voting will look like going forward. This gives the opportunity for many people with disabilities to actually vote for themselves. Ms. Avalos is proud of the work that the County has done and the support they have provided for the items that the City Clerks have brought to their attention. Ms. Avalos is lobbying for the City to be a vote center. We are one of the most highly used facilities for the County.

Council Member Rios asked what we are doing as a City to promote voter turnout.

Ms. Avalos said that we do provide voter registration in our office and have conducted three events this past year but a lot of younger people do not like to fill out paper copies. They prefer electronic formats online.

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BUDGET CONT'D

As we look at redesigning our web page we want to add some of the quick links. One of the things the county is looking at legislatively is lowering the voting age to 16. Currently you can register at 16 but cannot vote until 18.

Council Member Bernal thanked the City Clerk for her hard work and dedication to the City. She then asked how requests for records are processed when a resident goes to another department.

Ms. Avalos stated that staff directs people back to the City Clerk's Office. We do have a process in place. Everything comes to the Clerk's Office. This way we are able to respond and follow the laws that we need to abide by. Once the request is received, we route the request to the various departments, compile the records and send them to the City Attorney's Office for review. We make sure that we limit the liability to the City.

Council Member Bernal asked if Ms. Avalos was looking at Edgesoft the same vendor that did work for Community Development with their document project.

Ms. Avalos answered yes and that we are fortunate because Edgesoft is trying to grow their spectrum of services that are available to other municipalities and the City Clerk's Office will be part of their users group. We will be getting a discount for what we will be utilizing. It will allow us the opportunity to hone in on what is important for the City.

Council Member Bernal asked if these documents will include elected officials' campaign forms.

Ms. Avalos stated yes these will be included and that all of these documents can be uploaded now but because we are going through an update phase for the website this is not currently online.

Vice Mayor Diaz said that she saw on Facebook for Mayor Garcia (Long Beach) a "Did You Know" flyer that educated the public on the voting power of the Council and would like to see us design something similar.

Council Member Bernal asked that if Council Members had additional comments on the budget this is the time to bring it up.

Mr. Flad responded that if it is an item that was already discussed during the budget hearings staff will bring it back at the next City Council Meeting. If it is a new comment that has not been discussed now would be the time to mention it.

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BUDGET CONT'D

Vice Mayor Diaz wants staff to look into the youth employment program that the City has provided over that past two years.

Mr. Flad responded that it is included in the Parks and Recreation budget.

Council Member Bernal stated that she has noticed other cities opening up their pools for free. Realizing that we are at capacity at our pool, she's concerned if a heat wave occurs during the summer she would like to see the Parks offer at least extended pool hours to our community. She would like staff to look at different ways to provide similar services.

Mr. Flad recommended that we quickly try to cost this out as a onetime cost and this summer we try it out. We can get it included in the budget. If it is temperature driven we have a little more time to plan for options for extended hours, free hours or if the temperature is over 100 degrees. In terms of the budget we will plug in a number and then return to Council with a plan for the program.

Council Member Bernal said that a mother with three children would spend over \$20.00 to go to the pool. She realizes that we have to charge to cover the lifeguard and the costs of the pool but would like staff to look for ways to lower prices in our parks.

Council Member Bernal also suggested that, as we look to replace playground equipment in the future, can we check into water features for the park. She did notice that the azalea shopping center has their water play area off and asked staff to check into seeing if they can get that back on.

Paul Adams, Director of Parks and Recreation stated that the water play area at the azalea is operational but it only operates on a seasonal basis so it will be on again as weather warms up. For the price of the pool, we have set the cost specifically to drive people towards membership. It is \$4.00 to swim but for \$8.00 you can swim the whole month.

Council Member Bernal shared that for the past five months she along with Vice Mayor Diaz participated in the WELL or Water Education for Latino Leaders. She noted that as Council Members, they are limited in their interaction because of Brown Act Violations, so she appreciated getting to know Vice Mayor Diaz at a different level and learn about water policy throughout the state. We are tasked with the project to bring back some of that education and share with our other local leaders. She would like staff to look into water programs (low flow shower heads and toilets) for low income cities and the possibility of hosting a water fair in the summer. The City would have to put the money up front but it is a definite reimbursement from Central Basin.

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BUDGET CONT'D

Council Member Rios suggested staff looking into a synesthetic track for the Park's running trail.

Mr. Adams mentioned that there are options for this included in the plans for Hollydale Community and Hollydale Regional Parks. We have water features included for Circle Park and with the swimming pool renovation.

Council Member Rios toured the Slauson Educational Center and would like Staff to see if they would qualify for CDBG funds to allow for scholarships for South Gate students.

RECESS

The City Council recessed at 8:38 p.m., and reconvened at 8:44 p.m., with four (4) Members of Council present.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Miya Walker, Cerritos College, updated the community about the 2-year free college and other programs offered to potential students. Cerritos College offers many career technical programs, where students can receive either a certificate or 2-year degree to receive excellent wages moving forward. Cerritos College also offers summer programs for youth as well professional development for adults.

Mario Dominguez Jr., 10607 San Miguel Avenue, stated that the fountain in front of the Edwards Theater is not working and wanted to Council to see if they can get that fixed. He also thanked staff for their informative budget presentations. Mr. Dominguez is concerned with large projects and the debt it could leave the City with.

Nick Godoy, 8611 San Gabriel Avenue, spoke about speeding on San Gabriel Avenue, he would like to see "do not block the intersection" near Sam's Club and the azalea, and add delineators on the north side of the 710.

Eloisa De La Torre, 8931 California Avenue, spoke about the homeless situation in South Gate.

Virginia Johnson, 5751 McKinley Avenue, stated that there will be a neighborhood watch at Hollydale Regional Park Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. and this unfortunately coincides with the homeless meeting at the park. Many of the residents from Area 5 have talked to representatives from several homeless organizations and the representatives have all confirmed that the units are for the homeless. It is all free, brand new homes and the veterans will probably have to pay about \$300.00 because veterans receive a stipend. Most of the representatives claim that this is not free it is termed general relief. General relief of course is welfare, so that is free.

COMMENTS FROM

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THE AUDIENCE CONT'D These homeless will be getting three meals a day, free air conditioning, free heating, free plumbing, there will be no curfew, and they will be allowed to have alcohol and drugs in their permanent homeless housing. In terms of the programs that the State is promoting, none of the residents has to go to career or social programs offered. The taxpayers are going to have to pay to clean up after them and this is all because of the 2028 Olympics. California and Los Angeles County want the people off the street. If something is free what is the motivation to improve their personal situation.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

FROM CITY OFFICIALS Joe Perez, Community Development Director stated that the Homeless Community Forum will be on Saturday, May 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the South Gate Park Auditorium. There will be a panel of speakers there from various aspects that address the homeless issue.

Paul Adams, Parks and Recreation Director said that on May 25th we will be holding our Memorial Day Ceremony at the Memorial Fountain at South Gate Park at 10:00 a.m.

Randy Davis, Chief of Police said that the Police Department has a two part program for the homeless situation. We have outreach that provides services to the homeless. We do coordinate with PATH and LASA in addition to enforcement efforts. We have a very good partnership with UPR and Public Works. We are very aggressive in the City of South Gate with our approach but as you know it is not just a citywide issue it is both a State and national issue.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk provided City Council with an update on the LAUSD District 5 election.

Council Member Rios is sorry that he will be missing the Homeless Forum but he will be attending a conference. It is important to be educated on the homeless situation. There is also a workshop that the SELA Collaborative is doing on May 17th on how to start a nonprofit organization. Regional Coordination Meeting regarding the Census on May 29th in South Gate.

Council Member Bernal attended the ICA Board Meeting and they are planning their Summer Workshops. She will also be attending the Contract Cities Conference May 18th so she will not be able to attend the Homeless Forum. She asked Mr. Perez if one of his staff members or community volunteers to record each workshop with Facebook Live because she would like to see it documented. Council Member Bernal also attended Spring Fit and it was great event.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

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FROM CITY OFFICIALS
CONT'D

Council Member Davila attended the SCAG conference and the County Sanitation Meeting. The County Sanitation tours are starting enrollment and will bring the information back to the City to see if any of the residents would like to join. She thanked PMA, PMMA and volunteers for their help with the Dia de Niños event. Council Member Davila attended the STEAM event at Legacy High School. Some of the parents are concerned with Measure EE from the Los Angeles Unified School District. The parents feel that the District is telling them one thing and then they hear another story from another source. She would like to be able to get impartial information for the parents.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk responded that the Voter Guides should be going out if not received by the voters. By law these guides should go out a month in advance. Another reason for voter confusion is that there are several elections being held within weeks of each other.

Council Member Bernal understands the confusion of the parents over Measure EE. There are many senior citizens in our City and they no longer have children in school which means they are going to have to opt out every year. She would like to see an impartial informational article to be placed on the website regarding Measure EE, since the books have already come out maybe we can link to the County's website and have the information available at the City Clerk's Office.

Vice Mayor Diaz attended a press conference for First Five and there are 13 schools in South Gate that depend on the First Five program. She attended the WELL conference with Council Member Bernal in Bakersfield and there is one more conference that will be held in Sacramento. She attended the League's Legislative Day and the main focus was on SB50.

Vice Mayor Diaz was informed by Graciela Ortiz candidate for District 5 member of the Los Angeles Unified Board of Education that when she went to LA County that they found over 300 ballots were not counted due to voter confusion. She said that she was running along the river on Monday and noticed that the homeless encampment is back. She is concerned because she is seeing more bikers and runners. It is a safety issue and important to get the correct information to the homeless. Also, there is homeless living along the railroad tracks and is asking if there is any way to have a regional meeting with the railroad and surrounding cities to try to solve this problem.

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CONSENT CALENDAR Agenda Items 6, 7, and 8 were approved to be signed by Vice Mayor Diaz in order to meet the timelines of these items by motion of Vice Mayor Diaz and seconded by Council Member Bernal.

Agenda Items 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 were approved by motion of Council Member Davila and seconded by Council Member Bernal.

6

CIRCLE PARK

The City Council approved A, B, C, and D during consent calendar.

- a. Adopted Resolution No. 7861 entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, approving the application for Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program grant funds for the Circle Park Renovation Project, in an amount to cover all costs;
- b. Directed Staff to take steps necessary to complete the application process on behalf of the City;
- c. Authorized the Director of Parks & Recreation to execute, on behalf of the City, all documents required to apply for, accept and implement said grant as approved by the City Attorney; and
- d. Directed Staff to return with the grant award for formal acceptance, approval of funding agreement and budget appropriation thereof, when awarded.

7

HOLLYDALE PARK

The City Council approved A, B, C, and D during consent calendar.

- a. Adopted Resolution No. 7862 entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, approving the application for Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program grant funds for the Hollydale Community Park Renovation Project, in an amount to cover all costs;
- b. Directed Staff to take steps necessary to complete the application process on behalf of the City;
- c. Authorized the Director of Parks & Recreation to execute, on behalf of the City, all documents required to apply for, accept and implement said grant as approved by the City Attorney; and
- d. Directed Staff to return with the grant award for formal acceptance, approval of funding agreement and budget appropriation thereof, when awarded.

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WATER PLANNING

The City Council approved A and B during consent calendar.

- a. Adopted Resolution No. 7863 entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, to meet the requirements of the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation for the "WaterSMART: Small-scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2019" Grant Program for the Civic Center Drought Tolerant Landscaping Project in the amount of \$75,000; and
- b. Directed Staff to return with the grant award for formal acceptance, approval of funding agreement and budget appropriation thereof, when awarded.

9

WALNUT AVE RESTROOM

The City Council approved A, B, C and D during consent calendar.

- a. Approved an Agreement (Contract No. 3523) with Fleming Environmental, Inc., for the construction of the Walnut Avenue Restroom Building No. 5, City Project No. 628-PRK (Project), in the amount not-to-exceed \$75,654;
- b. Appropriated \$50,867 from the unassigned Building & Infrastructure Maintenance (BIM) Fund balance to Account No. 311-790-61-9212 to fully fund the Project;
- c. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney; and
- d. Approved the Notice of Exemption for the site construction of the Project and direct the City Clerk to file it with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's Office.

10

FIRESTONE CAPACITY

The City Council A and B during consent calendar.

- a. Approving Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 3368, in the amount of \$249,000, with Biggs Cardosa & Associates, Inc., to provide additional professional services related to construction management and construction support for The Boulevard Project, resulting in a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$1,509,027 and extend the term of the contract two additional months from October 31, 2019 to December 31, 2019; and
- b. Authorizing the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

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PERSONNEL

The City Council approved A and B during consent calendar.

- a. Approved Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 3504, Professional Services Agreement with Interwest Consulting Group, Inc., for continued consulting services for Interim Senior Planner services in an amount not to exceed \$50,000; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

12

CITY COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS

The City Council approved A, B, C, and D during consent calendar.

- a. Approved an Agreement (Contract No. 3524) with RSG, Inc., to prepare a Nonprofit & Community Based Organization Development Plan (Study) to increase the capacity of nonprofit and community-based organizations to better serve the community, in the amount not to exceed \$25,000;
- b. Appropriated \$25,000 from the restricted UDAG Fund balance to Account Number 262-401- 61-6101 (UDAG Fund - Parks Administration - Professional Services) to fund the cost of this Agreement;
- c. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney; and
- d. Authorized the Director of Parks & Recreation to execute any additional documents as may be required to properly implement and manage this Study.

13

POLICE DEPART

The City Council approved A and B during consent calendar.

- a. Accepted completion of construction of the South Gate Police Department Restroom Repair and Maintenance Project, City Project No. 598-ARC, effective May 2, 2019; and
- b. Directed the City Clerk to file a Notice of Completion with the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office.

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14 MINUTES

The City Council approved the Regular Meeting minutes and Special Meeting minutes of April 23, 2019 during consent calendar.

15 ANIMAL CONTROL

The City Council approved A and B by motion of Council Member Bernal and seconded by Council Member Davila.

- a. Approved an Agreement (Contract No. 3525) with the Southeast Area Animal Control Authority for Animal Control Services for Fiscal Years 2019/20 through 2020/24; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

16 CENSUS

The City Council appointed Council Member Rios as the Chairperson of the Complete Count Committee by motion of Council Member Bernal and Council Member Davila. Council Member Rios abstained.

- a. Appointed a City Council Member to serve as the Chairperson of the Complete Count Committee and to work with the City Manager and/or his designee to establish a proposed list of committee members that are representative of various community stakeholders; and
- b. Directed the Chairperson and City Manager to present a proposed list of committee members to the City Council for consideration at a future City Council meeting.

17 SALE OF PROPERTY

The City Council directed staff to present at a future City Council meeting, in a public hearing to reconsider the Disposition and Development Agreement with ASI Real Estate Investments, LLC for the sale of City-owned property located at 5821 Firestone Boulevard by motion of Council Member Rios and seconded by Council Member Davila.

ROLL CALL: Vice Mayor Diaz, yes; Council Member Rios, yes; Council Member Davila, yes; Council Member Bernal, yes; Mayor Morales, absent.

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WARRANTS

The City Council approved the Warrants and Cancellations for May 14, 2019 by motion of Council Auditor Bernal and seconded by Council Member Rios.

Total of Checks:	\$3,243,396.56
Voids:	\$ 55,049.41
Total Payroll Deductions:	<u>\$ 643,907.68</u>
Grand Total:	\$2,544,439.47

Cancellations: 81846, 82209, 82238, 82304, 82306, 82308, 82518, 82380

ADJOURNMENT

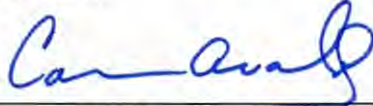
Vice Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting in memory of Councilwoman Davila's nephew Osbaldo Davila, Jr., Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works Arturo Cervantes' grandmother Rafaela Magaña Nuñez and Ricardo Pineda, long time South Gate resident at 9:32 p.m., seconded by Council Member Davila.

PASSED and **APPROVED** this 28th day of May, 2019.

ATTEST:



Jorge Morales, Mayor



Carmen Avalos, City Clerk