CITY OF SOUTH GATE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER Maria Davila, Mayor called a Regular City Council meeting to order at

6:36 p.m.

INVOCATION Reverend Sean Pica, Redeemer Lutheran Church

PLEDGE OF

ALLEGIANCE Dave Lopez, Retired KCBS Reporter

ROLL CALL Carmen Avalos, City Clerk

PRESENT Mayor Maria Davila, Vice Mayor Al Rios, Council Member Maria del

Pilar Avalos, Council Member Denise Diaz and Council Member Gil Hurtado; City Treasurer Gregory Martinez, City Manager Mike Flad, City

Attorney Raul F. Salinas

PROCLAMATIONS

1

The City Council issued a Proclamation to Dave Lopez in recognition and appreciation for his 48 years as a distinguished award winning journalist

and to wish him the best in his retirement.

PROCLAMATIONS

The City Council issued a Proclamation declaring July 2020 as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month to encourage citizens to learn about mental health disorders, treatments and services.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk read into the record the comments of Stephanie Corcios and Oscar Corcios in support of the South Gate Police Department.

Mr. Godoy believes that City Hall should close again due to the increase in COVID-19 cases. He also wants to see the flag back up by the City water tower.

Virginia Johnson, stated that Ms. Avalos didn't list her name as being someone that requested to speak and that she had sent an email to the City Clerk's Office within the time allowed. She said that she hopes that the City is recovering costs for staff time, DVD's, copies and requests that have been submitted for personal vendettas. California law states that City's should be compensated for all the time and supplies for Public Records Request. She thanked the Police Department for the work and volunteerism that they do for the community.

COMMENTS FROM
THE AUDIENCE CONT'D

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk addressed Ms. Johnson's statement and stated that staff knew she was on the line. We had her request to speak and that is why she was not called out publicly, however we did acknowledge her and allow her to speak. She appreciates the way that Ms. Johnson does things early and let's her office know but we never tried to limit her opportunity to participate.

Alicia Flores spoke in support of the South Gate Police Department.

Andrea Paulino, spoke on the appointment of Diego Sepulveda and how she believes that the City Clerk and Council Member Diaz did not do their jobs properly in this matter.

Raul F. Salinas, City Attorney responded to Ms. Paulino's comments and stated in California there is a law which allows non-citizen residents to participate in City Commissions. This is no longer a criteria that would prevent someone from sitting on a City Commission.

Bobbie Thompson spoke in support of the South Gate Police Department.

Brigette Ramirez said that she would like Council to remove Jovanna Laborin from her position as a City Commissioner due to her conduct and attacks on the mental illness Ms. Ramirez suffers from.

Jim Torres stated that he also turned in comments that were not read during the meeting and that he is in support of the South Gate Police Department.

Daniela spoke in support of mental health programs needed in South Gate and the need for more non-profit resources. She would like to see the funding cut from the Police Departments budget.

Edward Singleton is in support of cutting a percentage of the Police Departments budget and use those funds to improve resources for the City.

Amanda Tapia is in support of a 50% reduction of General Fund monies being issued to the Police Department, a freeze on all new hires, a 10% pay cut to the top ten City Officials (8 of which are from the South Gate Police Department), no pay increases for all City Officials, a halt on purchasing the police scanner and regulation on overtime for the Police Department. If the city is facing a seven million dollar deficient shouldn't you be looking at what the greatest expenditure is. That expenditure is the South Gate Police Department.

Lucy Lucano spoke in favor of defunding the Police Department.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE CONT'D

Adolfo Varas spoke in support of South Gate Police Department. He spoke on how the City partners with nonprofit organizations to provide services to the community.

Jessica spoke in favor of defunding the Police Department.

Diego Sepulveda, Planning Commissioner stated that because of his immigrant status it does not make him any less able to serve the City. He deserves the same opportunity to serve the City as anyone else. He has worked on many political campaigns but has not had the opportunity to vote. He is excited to serve as a commissioner because he is a representative of what South Gate is.

Marialena is in support for defunding the Police Department and would like to see the money go to educational programs for the community.

Claudia Cardenas spoke in support of the South Gate Police Department.

Joe Strummer spoke in support of the South Gate Police Department and thanked the City Council for making July Mental Health Awareness Month.

John Montalvo spoke about the behavior of a South Gate Commissioner regarding her comments about mental health and would like the Council Member that appointed them to review her behavior. He also believes that the recent appointment to the Tweedy Mile Advisory Board is questionable.

Edgar spoke about defunding the Police Department and would like to see general funds go to programs that would benefit the community.

Patty spoke in support of the South Gate Police Department.

Kay spoke in favor of defunding of the South Gate Police Department and she has seen cases of Police harassment.

Candice Esquivel spoke in support of the South Gate Police Department and spoke on the behavior of Commissioners.

Jose stated that South Gate has the seconded highest COVID cases in the area. He continued to share statistics on the community of South Gate and that South Gate is lacking in health, recreation and employment while the Police Department uses City Funds to provide meals for their employees with City Credit Cards.

Susana Corcios spoke in support of the South Gate Police Department.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE CONT'D

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk read into the record the comments received by emails prior to the City Council Meeting in support of defunding the Police Department sent by the following:

Sammy Monarrez	Leslie Ruvalcaba	Giana Saucedo
Cinthia Zavala	Antonio Avalos	Jessica Barajas
Andres Mier	Brian Lopez	Brandon Aguirre
Veronica Trujillo	Marianna Cid	Marco Tapia
Adan Erazo	Isa Ortega	Amiee P.
Ariana Preciado	Vanessa Sanchez	Brandy Diaz
Jazmin Doredo	Veronica Hernandez	Christopher Beltran
Jacqueline Valezeula	Alex Sanchez	Valeria Barragan
Lucy Lucano	Marilyn Gomez	Kayla
John Rodriguez	Amber Rivera	Helen Marie
Evelyne Limon	Melissa Movene	Kimberly Morales
Magdalena Chavez	Liliana Preciado	Yesenia Garcia
Liliana Calvillo	Genesis Olague	Sheryl Desir
Miguel Moran	Crystal Esparza	Jacqueline Gomez
Tommy Briceño	Victoria Little	Michelle Razo
Jessica Iniguez	Andrea Soria	Diana Torres
Roxanna Andrade	Oswaldo Gomez	Daniela Soto

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk read into the record the additional comments of Amanda Tapia in favor of defunding the Police Department.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk read into the record the comments of Sylvia Leon, Georgina Diaz, and Richard Hall in support of the South Gate Police Department.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk read into the record the comments of Krystopher Hall, Candice Corcios, Janet Smith and Jose Urita in support of the South Gate Police Department.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk read into the record the comments of Sandra Lozano expressing her concerns with regards to the lack of resources for those with mental health issues and families in need.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk read into the record the comments of Alonzo Urita expressing his concerns with regards to criminal activity in the Parks and supports the South Gate Police Department.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk read into the record the comments of Mary Castillo in support of the South Gate Police Department.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk read into the record the comments of Renee Acero in support of the South Gate Police Department.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE CONT'D

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk read into the record the comments of lbvranch@roadrunner.com expressing his concerns with regards to criminal activity in the Parks and supports the South Gate Police Department.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk read into the record the comments of Victor Manalo expressing his concerns with regards to the lack of resources for South Gate families in need.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk read into the record the comments of Georgina Contreras and Silvia Leon in support of the South Gate Police Department.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk read into the record the comments of Christian Machuca, Alberto Avalos, Jessica d'Entremont and Andres Gonzalez in support of defunding the Police Department.

Chief Randy Davis, South Gate Police Department spoke on the duties and funding for the South Gate Police Department. He stated that he has been with the Police Department for over 30-years and has not worked for an agency that values the community more than South Gate Police Department. South Gate has the lowest officer ratio in the State of California. He welcomes substantive conversations regarding change.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Steve Costly, Acting Parks and Recreation Director stated that the Parks Department hosted drive-in swim lessons with about 160 kids taking part. There was also a drive-in rabies clinic on the weekend with over 80 cars. The Parks Department has reinstituted the call center for the seniors of the community. Staff has been working with Los Angeles County Health Department to bring a COVID-19 testing center to South Gate Park and could possibly start within the next couple of weeks. If approved they will be looking to hire some South Gate residents to assist with the site.

Joe Perez, Community Development Director stated that restaurants are allowed to continue to serve out doors and staff has developed a very stream lined process for a no fee permit. Currently, we have 5 restaurants that have been approved for outdoor dining and 4 restaurants where the applications are pending but are expected to be approved within a few days. By the end of the week the Community Development Department is planning on going live with a new appointment scheduling system. This will enable the public to schedule appointments using an app on their phone and computers to meet with staff.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS CONT'D

Mike Flad, City Manager reported that City Hall is operating under limited walk-in operations from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and we are monitoring this daily to see if there could be changes in how we handle this. Within the last 24 hours 73 people died as a result of COVID-19 and South Gate is at a cumulative total of over 2,400 cases. He reminded everyone to wear your mask, social distance, wash your hands and only take those trips that are absolutely necessary. The vast majority of transactions for City Hall can be done online or over the phone.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk stated that the City Clerk's Office is taking appointments to facilitate Passport applications. She reported that the wait time from the Department of State is 2 to 4 months to return the passport with no expediting of applications at this time.

Greg Martinez, City Treasurer stated that he was tested for COVID. He was exposed to COVID by a coworker and out of an abundance of caution he decided to self-quarantine. He hopes we are able to get a testing facility here in South Gate. The Homeless Shelter that he has been working with has been extended due to the pandemic.

Council Member Hurtado encouraged everyone to fill out the Census. There are currently 2,432 confirmed cases and 38 deaths of COVID. He thanked everyone that has been working to get food out to the community. It is hard to find the resources now. He said that times are hard but we need to focus on how to make the community better. The political attacks need to stop so we can focus on the community. He believes that we must fight for equality for all people. People are saying that Council Member Hurtado voted against Diego Sepulveda because he is gay but if you check the record you will see it was a 5 to 0 vote. He never raised an issue with the LGBTQ community. He hopes to not have to bring these issues up again as the community needs 100% of our support during these times.

Council Member Diaz thanked everyone that called in to voice their concerns. Council Member Diaz stated that she has been tested twice now for COVID and is also in a self-quarantine. She has been working with local officials to get more testing centers in the South East Area and is hopeful that this is going to be addressed. She asked Mr. Costley about the parking situation at the Hollydale Parks.

Mr. Costley responded that the City has closed all the parking lots for all the City parks. Before the 4th of July, staff was noting that there were huge increases in numbers at all of our parks. As the number of COVID-19 cases continue to rise in South Gate we closed the parking lots to slow down the number of people using the playgrounds and picnic areas.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

CONT'D

Council Member Diaz responded to Council Member Hurtado comments regarding Mr. Sepulveda and the LGBTQ community. She also hopes that these issues can be put behind them and continue working together to support the community.

Council Member Avalos also thanked everyone that called in to voice their concerns. She congratulated Mayor Davila for becoming Chair for the COG and congratulated Council Member Diaz for advocating for South Gate and the South East Cities with Representative Hilda Solis in making sure that South Gate has a center for COVID. She also thanked the City Clerk for her work at the Council Meetings. She suggested that all of the Council Members talk to their commissioners and remind them that they do represent the City Council and everyone should be mindful of how comments affect a person. Council Member Avalos would like to adjourn tonight's meeting in memory of the South Gate residents that have passed away from COVID. She thanked the City Treasurer for all his work volunteering with-in the community.

Vice Mayor Rios thanked the residents for their input and is happy to see the younger residents get involved. He thanked Council Member Diaz for her work on getting COVID testing for our community. The Vice Mayor reported that the Resilience Project with HUB Cities received a grant for 1.2 million to support undocumented families that have been impacted by COVID. HUB Cities have given 500 families \$2,000.00 to help with rent, health and security. He stated that the college will be continuing with online learning and the Gateway Cities Metro Council will be doing some route changes to our bus routes.

Mayor Davila announced that with the Gateway Cities Metro Council there will be a hearing on the 105 express on July 15th via Zoom. The Mayor thanked everyone that participated tonight and called in with their concerns. She was appointed Chair for the COG and is looking forward to working towards bringing more resources to our community. She requested setting up a call with the Chief of Police to discuss creating an adhoc Committee to find ways to help our residents. She feels that this is not the time for defunding but for finding solutions.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Items 3, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 17 were unanimously approved by motion of Vice Mayor Rios and seconded by Council Member Hurtado. Items 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 13 and 15 were pulled for separate discussion.

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

PARK FACILITIES

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

- a. Adopted Resolution No. <u>2020-28-CC</u> entitled a Resolution of City of South Gate authorizing the application and accepting grant funds in the amount of \$200,000 from the California Natural Resources Agency to complete Deferred Maintenance Projects at South Gate Park; and
- b. Authorized the City Manager to execute and submit the State of California Natural Resources Agency Grant Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

4 HOUSING

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

- Adopted Resolution No. <u>2020-29-CC</u> entitled a Resolution of City of South Gate authorizing application, submittal and receipt of grant funding in the amount of \$721,320 from the California Department of Housing and Community Development's Permanent Local Housing Allocation Program;
- Increased the Fiscal Year 2020/21 revenue projection in Account Number 265-4675 (Permanent Local Housing Grant Fund -Affordable Housing) by \$721,320 from \$0 to \$721,320;
- c. Appropriated \$721,320 to Account Number 265-608-41-6670 (Permanent Local Housing Grant Fund Affordable Housing); and
- d. Authorized the City Manager to execute and submit the Standard Agreement for this grant, including amendments, in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

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

5 COMMUNITY PROMOTION

The City Council unanimously approved A and B by motion of Council Member Avalos and seconded by Council Member Hurtado.

- a. Agreement (Contract No. <u>2020-51-CC</u>) with the South Gate Chamber of Commerce for Community Promotion Activities for Fiscal Year 2020/21 and Fiscal Year 2021/22, retroactively effective July 1, 2020, in the amount of \$50,000 per year; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

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

6 COMMUNITY PROMOTION

The City Council unanimously continued this item to the meeting of July 28, 2020 during Consent Calendar.

- a. Approving Amendment No. 2 to Contract No. 3562 with Tripepi Smith and Associates, Inc., for additional Marketing and Economic Development Design Support Services on an as-needed basis, in the amount of \$10,000;
- b. Authorizing the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City attorney.

7 BUILDING

The City Council unanimously continued this item to the meeting of July 28, 2020 during Consent Calendar.

- a. Approving Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 3360 Interwest Consulting Group to continue providing plan check and building inspection services for an additional two-year term, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, or \$250,000 annually; and
- b. Authorizing the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

8 ANIMAL CONTROL

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

- a. Approved Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 3525 with the Southeast Area Animal Control Authority for animal control and sheltering services, retroactively effective July 1, 2020, for an amount not to exceed \$627,538 for Fiscal Year 2020/21; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

9 WATER FACILITY CHLORINATION

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

- a. Agreement (Contract No. 2020-52-CC) with MNS Engineers, Inc., for construction management and inspection services for the Water Facility Chlorination System Upgrades Project, City Project No. 586-WTR, in an amount not-to-exceed \$399,580; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

10 INDUSTRIAL WASTE

The City Council considered:

- a. Approving an Agreement with John L. Hunter and Associates, Inc., for the management of the Industrial Waste Program and the Fat, Oil, and Grease Control Program, for a three-year term, in an amount not to exceed \$167,940, or \$55,980 annually; and
- b. Authorizing the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

Art Cervantes, Director of Public Works spoke to Mr. Hunter about lowering his fees at the request of Council Member Avalos. Mr. Hunter agreed to lower his fee to \$54,435.00 to match the lowest proposal received by the City. City Council directed Mr. Cervantes to see if Mr. Hunter would accept a yearly contract instead of a three-year term.

The City Council unanimously continued this item to the meeting of July 28, 2020.

Item 10 was reconsidered after the conclusion of Item 18.

10 INDUSTRIAL WASTE CONT'D

The City Council approved an Agreement (Contract No. <u>2020-53-CC</u>) with John L. Hunter and Associates, Inc., for a three-year term at \$54,435.00 annually by motion of Council Member Avalos and seconded by Mayor Davila.

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

11 CHAKEMCO ST

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

- a. Agreement (Contract No. <u>2020-54-CC</u>) with Engineering Resources of Southern California, Inc., to provide construction management and inspection services for the Chakemco Street Improvement Project, City Project No. 593-ST, in an amount not-to-exceed \$55,372; and
- b. Authorizing the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

12 CITY PROJECT 413-ST/496-ST

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

- a. Approved an Agreement (Contract No. 2020-55-CC) with Southstar Engineering & Consulting, Inc., for construction management and inspection services for the construction of street improvements on Garfield Avenue from South City Limit to Jefferson Avenue and Imperial Highway from West City Limit to East City Limit, City Project No. 413-ST, Federal Project No. STPL 5257(030), the Firestone Boulevard and Otis Street Improvements, and the Imperial Highway Center Median, City Project No. 496-ST, Federal Project No. HSIPL-5257(032), in an amount not to-exceed \$428,136;
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

13 ENGINEERING

The City Council unanimously continued this item to the meeting of July 28, 2020 during Consent Calendar.

- a. Approving an Agreement with Kimley-Hom and Associates, Inc., to provide traffic engineering and staff augmentation services for a two-year term with an option for a one-year extension, for an annual amount not to exceed \$105,000; and
- b. Authorizing the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

14 TRUCK IMPACT

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

- a. Amendment No. 5 to Contract No. 2796, Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority retroactively extending the grant funds lapsing date from February 28, 2019 to February 28, 2020, for the Firestone Boulevard Regional Corridor Capacity Enhancement, Metro Project ID No. F3124, City Project No. 476-TRF, for the 2009 Call for Projects Program grant funds; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 5 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

EXCUSED FROM ITEM 15

At this time, Council Member Hurtado recused himself on this item.

15 URBAN REFORESTATION

The City Council approved the Trust for Public Land to pursue private donor opportunities to raise funds for the Urban Orchard Project, City Project No. 539-PRK, and to offer naming opportunities to project donors dependent on the amount of the donation by motion of Mayor Davila and seconded by Council Member Avalos.

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

16 PARKING

The City Council unanimously rescheduled consideration to approve the Citywide On-Street Parking Management Plan and the Priority Tool Kit to an in-person City Council Meeting after the COVID-19 pandemic during Consent Calendar.

17 MINUTES

The City Council unanimously approved the Regular and Special Meeting minutes of June 23, 2020 during Consent Calendar.

18 CHLORINATION SYSTEM

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

- a. Agreement (Contract No. <u>2020-56-CC</u>) with Pacific Hydrotech Corporation to construct the Water Facilities Chlorination System Upgrades (Project), City Project No. 586-WTR, in an amount not-to-exceed \$3,333,600;
- b. Authorized the City Manager to approve up to \$200,000 in construction change orders to be funded with budget contingency funds;
- Authorized the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney; and
- d. Approved the Notice of Exemption for the construction of the Project and directing the City Clerk to file it with the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder's Office.

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

19 WARRANTS

The City Council approved the Warrants for July 14, 2020.

 Total of Checks:
 \$2,552,318.10

 Voids:
 \$ (930.60)

 Total of Payroll Deductions:
 \$ (420,561.69)

 Grand Total:
 \$2,130,825.81

Cancellations: 85801, 86867, 87953, 87968, 88292, 88699

The Warrants for FY 2019/2020 were unanimously approved with the exception of #89157, #89186, #89299 by motion of Council Auditor Avalos and seconded by Mayor Davila.

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

19

WARRANTS CONT'D

Jackie Acosta, Director of Administrative Services stated that there are actually two registers (FY 2019/2020 and FY 2020/2021) and the FY 2020/2021 Warrants did not get listed on the Agenda. She asked the City Attorney for clarification since it was attached to the staff report but not posted on the Agenda.

Raul F. Salinas, City Attorney explained that one way to handle this is to walk the item on if it can not wait for the next City Council Meeting or it can just be ratified. Mr. Salinas recommends that since the item was attached to the staff report and posted the City Attorney believes it can be approved without a walk on vote.

Mike Flad City Manager agreed that the item is in compliance with the Brown Act as long as the warrants were reviewed and the Auditor approves.

The City Attorney and the City Manager requested that at the next posting of the agenda the FY 2019/2020 warrants be reposted.

The City Council approved Check #89167 and Check #89318-#89329 in the amount of \$244,122.47 and repost the FY 2020/2021 on the agenda of the next regular City Council meeting by motion of Council Auditor Avalos and seconded by Mayor Davila.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Davila unanimously adjourned the meeting in memory of the 38 South Gate residents that have passed from COVID-19 at 10:50 p.m. and seconded by Council Member Avalos.

ATTEST:

PASSED and APPROVED this 28th day of July 2020.

Maria Davila Mayor

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk