

CITY OF SOUTH GATE  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

11/23/2021 - Minutes

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

CALL TO ORDER Al Rios, Mayor called a Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

INVOCATION Bishop Juan Carlos Mendez, Centro Cristiano Bet-El Church

PLEDGE OF

ALLEGIANCE Chris Jeffers, Interim City Manager

ROLL CALL Carmen Avalos, City Clerk

**II. City Officials**

PRESENT Mayor Al Rios, Vice Mayor Maria del Pilar Avalos, Council Member Denise Diaz; and Council Member Gil Hurtado; Interim City Manager Chris Jeffers, City Attorney/Special Legal Counsel Raul F. Salinas

ABSENT Council Member Maria Davila

LATE City Treasurer Gregory Martinez

**III. Meeting Compensation Disclosure**

**IV. Proclamations, Certificates, Introductions And Ceremonial Actions**

**1. Certificate Of Appreciation To Arthur Loya, WWII Veteran**

The City Council issued a Certificate of Appreciation to Arthur Loya commemorating his bravery and self-sacrifice while serving in the Armed Forces during World War II and receiving the Bronze Star.

**2. Proclamation Declaring Small Business Saturday**

The City Council issued a Proclamation declaring Saturday, November 27, 2021, as Small Business Saturday to encourage the community to shop locally.

**3. Introduction Of New And Promoted Employees**

The City Council will allow staff to introduce the new and promotional full-time employees hired or promoted during October 2021.

## **V. Public Hearings**

### **4. 2021-2022 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program Grant Funds From State Of CA OTS**

The City Council conducted a Public Hearing and approved A, B, C, D, E, and F by motion of Vice Mayor Avalos and seconded by Council Member Hurtado.

Roll Call: Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Vice Mayor Avalos, yes; Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Davila, absent.

- a. Authorized the utilization of the 2021-2022 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant funds from the State of California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for overtime, equipment, and training expenses;
- b. Authorized the utilization of the 2021-2022 Traffic Records Improvement Project Grant funds from the State of California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for traffic records improvements related to the California Highway Patrol Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) program;
- c. Approved Grant Agreement (Contract No. 2021-144-AC) with the OTS, Grant Number PT22083 in the amount of \$100,000;
- d. Approved Grant Agreement (Contract No. 2021-145-CC) with OTS, Grant Number TR22009 in the amount of \$25,000;
- e. Authorized the Mayor to execute the two Grant Agreements in a form acceptable to the City Attorney;
- f. Increased the Fiscal Year 2021/22 OTS (STEP) Grant Fund budget by \$28,000, from \$72,000 to \$100,000, as follows: (\$4,000) in Account No. 231-556-21-5110; (\$78,176) in Account No. 231-556-21-5111; (\$1,191) in Account No. 231-556-21-5220; (\$15,188) in Account No. 231-556-21-6204 and (\$1,445) in Account No. 231-556-21-6340; and
- g. Increased the Fiscal Year 2021/22 OTS (TRIP) Grant Fund budget by \$25,000, from \$0 to \$25,000.

Lt. James Chaves provided the staff report for this item.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Dominguez asked if grants are available to assist officers with training and not only equipment.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Chief Arakawa reported on the various trainings provided to the officers.

Council Member Hurtado asked about driving education programs for the members of the public.

Chief Arakawa stated that he can look into driving safety programs but currently it is usually court appointed traffic school to avoid a strike on a person's license.

Lt. Chaves also explained several programs that are currently being provided by the City.

### **5. Ordinance Amending Section 11.51.050 (Administrative Permits And Approvals) Of Chapter 11.51 (Permits And Procedures) Of Title 11 (Zoning) Of The SGMC**

The City Council approved the Zoning Code Amendment No. 171 and introduced Ordinance No. 2021-13-CC entitled - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, amending Section 11.51.050 (Administrative permits and approvals) of Chapter 11.51 (Permits and Procedures) of Title 11 (Zoning) of the SGMC, to clarify the City's administrative plan review and administrative permit process by motion of Council Member Hurtado and seconded by Council Member Diaz.

Roll Call: Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Vice Mayor Avalos, yes; Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Davila, absent.

Yalini Sivapathasundaram, Senior Planner provided the staff report for this item.

The Mayor opened and closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Avalos asked if any members of the Planning Commission were online as she would like to hear their viewpoint on this item.

Fabiola Inzunza, Planning Commissioner explained her viewpoint on the change.

Chris Jeffers, Interim City Manager explained the amendment in regard to the permit application process.

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

Virginia Johnson, 5751 McKinley Avenue spoke on the meeting hosted by the South Gate Police Department and the Los Angeles Sheriff Department working on mental health issues. She was disappointed in the attendance by the public and City leaders.

Mr. Arroyo presented a letter to the City Council to be read into the record regarding an accident with a City employee.

Mr. Salinas explained the process for filing the claim and his request.

Robert Montalvo, spoke on the upcoming softball clinic to get toys for the Santa Cop giveaway and his concerns about the City not following the Brown Act. Lastly, he felt that it was disgraceful that Vice Mayor was not present to honor Arthur Loya for his service to this country especially as she stated that he was a friend of hers.

Brittany Rivas spoke on the California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Program.

Mr. Dominguez spoke on the meeting with the Chief of Police and LA County Sheriff, and he would like to see more cameras for street surveillance.

Thomas Buckley also has concerns with the City following the Brown Act and would like to see more consistency with the conduct of the Council during the meetings. It would also be nice to see the City Council focus more on the community like Augustin Perez who was highlighted by ABC news.

Cindy also encouraged the City to participate in the California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Program.

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

Raul F. Salinas, City Attorney stated that he will go back and listen to the last City meetings recording to hear the concerns that were brought up during tonight's public comments. He reaffirmed that it is a commitment of the City Council and staff to do everything possible to make our meetings as transparent as possible.

Chris Jeffers, Interim City Manager suggested hosting an educational meeting pertaining to the Brown Act as it can get convoluted as a process. He invited both Mr. Montalvo and Mr. Buckley to speak to him about the specific item they had concerns with, and he will be happy to discuss it with them.

Mr. Salinas also wanted to address the matter of not all members of the Council being present at the dais. The executive orders by the governor have allowed not all the Council Members to be present due to the pandemic. Due to privacy laws, we cannot address why particular council members elect not to be present or to be present at the dais.

Steve Costley, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation stated that Congresswoman Nanette Barragan will be holding a legislative summit in the park on December 4th, the tree lighting ceremony will be on December 2nd, and virtual Pageant of the Trees will be December 4th.

Chief Darren Arakawa reported that the Police Department is still collecting toys to give away during the holidays and there will be a promotion ceremony for 3 officers on November 30th.

Mr. Jeffers provided an update on the City's Website and the food insecurity programs.

Greg Martinez, City Treasurer reminded everyone that when the weather gets colder there is an increased risk for COVID and urged people to stay safe during the Holidays. He also said that he was very proud of his Boy Scout Troop and their families that provided breakfast for a homeless shelter. Lastly, he spoke on the impact of social media and

effect it has on the youth committing crimes because they want to imitate what they see on TikTok.

Council Member Diaz reported on her meetings with the Los Angeles County Library Commission, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and Vector Control.

Council Member Diaz stated at this point she will join the City Council meeting via Zoom instead of being present at the dais.

Council Member Hurtado reported on his meetings with the Independent Cities Finance Authority. He spoke on the choice of receiving the COVID vaccine and booster. He believes the City needs to do a better job on removing graffiti and the fundraising efforts of the JAA and community members.

Vice Mayor Avalos stated that she visited three local schools to deliver gift certificates for families in need and thanked the volunteer organizations for their donations.

Mayor Rios stated that the number of COVID cases are rising a little so let's be safe. Crime is also up and asked everyone be safe. He updates the progress of the HUB Cities move to Tweedy Boulevard and updated the public on the redistricting maps.

## **VIII. Consent Calendar Items**

Agenda Items 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 were approved by motion of Council Member Hurtado and seconded by Council Member Diaz. Items 12 and 15 were pulled for separate discussion.

Roll Call: Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Vice Mayor Avalos, yes; Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Davila, absent

### **6. Ordinance No. 2021-12-CC Amending Title 13 (Franchises) And Adding Title 14 (Waste Handling And Recycling) To Comply With Senate Bill 1383**

The City Council waived the reading in full and adopted Ordinance No. 2021-12- CC entitled - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, amending the South Gate Municipal Code to add a new Title 14 (Waste Handling and Recycling); revising Section 13.100.160 (Authorization by City Council and Resolution of Conflicts) to add new subsection C.23; deleting in their entirety Sections 13.100.220 through 13.100.390, inclusive, and replacing them with the revised version thereof contained in the new Title 14 to comply with the mandatory organic recycling provisions of SB 1383 during Consent Calendar.

### **7. Resolution Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings**

The City Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-58-CC entitled - Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the City Council, all City subordinate bodies, and all City non-profit corporation Boards and their subordinate bodies, for the period of December 12 - January 11, 2022 during Consent Calendar.

## **8. Resolution Extending The Local Emergency Within The City Due To The Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic**

The City Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-59-CC entitled - Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, extending the Local Emergency within the City as a result of the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic (COVID-19 Pandemic) during Consent Calendar.

## **9. Resolution Approving Recruitment Bonus Program And Referral Bonus Program**

The City Council approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

- a. Resolution No. 2021-60-CC entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, approving a recruitment bonus program for hiring critical positions along with a referral bonus by City Employees for new employees; and
- b. Authorized the City Manager to execute documents necessary to effectuate the actions, including employee agreements and any amendments thereto, as approved by the City Attorney.

## **10. Settlement Agreements For The Participation Of The National Opioid Settlements By The State Of CA**

The City Council approved A, B, C, D, and E during Consent Calendar.

- a. The Subdivision Settlement Participation Form electing to participate in the Distributor Settlement Agreement, dated as of July 21, 2021;
- b. The California State - Subdivision Agreement Regarding Distribution and Use of Settlement Funds - Distributor Settlement;
- c. The Subdivision Settlement Participation Form electing to participate in the Janssen Settlement Agreement, dated as of July 21, 2021;
- d. The California State - Subdivision Agreement Regarding Distribution and Use of Settlement Funds - Janssen Settlement; and
- e. Delegated and authorized the City Manager to (i) execute, in place and in lieu of the City Mayor, the Distributor Settlement Agreement and the Janssen Settlement Agreement and all related documents, and (ii) take any additional actions as may be required to allow the City of South Gate to participate in the receipt of such funds, in a form approved by the City Attorney.

## **11. Resolution Approving Transfer Agreement No. 2021RPLLARO5 With LA County Flood Control District For Safe, Clean Water Program Funds, Regional Program (Measure W)**

The City Council approved A, B, C, D, E, and F during Consent Calendar.

- a. Resolution No. 2021-61-CC entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, to approve the Transfer Agreement No. 2021RPLLARO5 (Contract No. 2021-146-CC) between the City and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for the Safe, Clean Water Program-Regional Fund Program ("Transfer Agreement") to receive the \$5,438,000 awarded for the Urban Orchard Project;
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Transfer Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney;
- c. Appropriated \$5,438,000 in Measure W Regional Grant Funds to Account No. No. 311-790-61-9214 to fund construction, water quality monitoring, and operations and maintenance for the Urban Orchard Project;
- d. Transferred \$3,150,000 in General Funds from the Urban Orchard Project (Account No. No. 311-790-61-9214) to the Assigned for Capital Project General Fund Balance;
- e. Transferred \$816,725 in General Funds from the Urban Orchard Project (Account No. No. 311-790-61-9214) to the General Funds Reserve; and
- f. Authorized the Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works or designee as agent of the applicant to submit all documents pertaining to the Transfer Agreement including, but not limited to, budget plans, payment requests, progress reports, annual reports, and monitoring reports, operations and maintenance plans and other documents, which may be necessary for the completion of the Urban Orchard Project.

## **12. Agreement With BKF Engineers, Inc., For Design Services For The Citywide Residential Resurfacing Project**

The City Council approved A and B by motion of Council Member Hurtado and seconded by Mayor Rios. Council Member Diaz recused herself from participating in this item.

Roll Call: Council Member Diaz, recused; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Vice Mayor Avalos, yes; Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Davila, absent.

- a. An agreement (Contract No. 2021-147-CC) with BKF Engineers, Inc., to provide engineering plans, specifications and estimates for the Citywide Residential Resurfacing Project, Phase I, II and III, City Project No. 662-ST and the Citywide Sidewalk Improvement, Phase VIII, City Project No. 659-ST, in an amount not-to-exceed \$275,158; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

## **13. Amendment No. 2 To Contract 3153 With Fiesta De Carnival**

The City Council approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

- a. Amendment No. 2 to Contract No. 3153 with Fiesta de Carnival extending the

Concession Agreement for the Production of Special Event Carnivals for one (1) year; and

b. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 2 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

#### **14. Amendment No. 1 To Contract No. 2020-106-CC With Chris Jeffers Extending Employment Agreement**

The City Council approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

a. Amendment No. 1 to Contact No. 2020-106-CC extending the current Employment Agreement with Chris Jeffers as Interim City Manager to December 31, 2022; and

b. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

#### **15. Purchase Order With National Auto Fleet Group For 3 Patrol Vehicles And Equipment**

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

a. A Purchase Order with National Auto Fleet Group for the purchase of three patrol vehicles for the Police Department in the total amount of \$112,554.02;

b. Approv a Purchase Order with West Coast Lights & Sirens, Inc., for the purchase and installation of necessary emergency equipment for the three patrol vehicles in the amount of \$47,906.89;

c. Approving a Purchase Order with Northstar Graphics for the purchase and installation of decals/graphics for two patrol vehicles in the amount of \$715.00 (the slick top vehicle does not require decals/graphics); and

d. Approving a Purchase Order with CDCE, Inc., for the purchase of Mobile Data Computers to outfit the three patrol vehicles in the amount of \$20,703.31.

Roll Call: Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Vice Mayor Avalos, yes; Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Davila, absent.

#### **16. Notice Of Completion For Long Beach Blvd Water Lateral Replacement, City Project No. 638-WTR**

The City Council approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

a. Accepted completion of construction of the Long Beach Boulevard Water Service Lateral Replacement Project City Project No. 638-WTR, constructed by J. A. Salazar Construction and Supply Corporation, effective October 19, 2021; and

b. Directed the City Clerk to file a Notice of Completion with the Los Angeles County



Registrar Recorder's Office.

## **17. Minutes**

The City Council approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

- a. The Special Joint Budget Meeting minutes of July 12, 2021; and
- b. The Regular and Special Meeting minutes of October 26, 2021.

## **IX. Reports, Recommendations And Requests**

### **18. Review Off-Site Parking Distance Regs SGMC Section 11.33.060 Parking Lot Standard (Table 11.33-3)**

The City Council considered:

- a. The request by Mayor Rios and Council Member Hurtado direct to research possible changes to the South Gate Municipal Code Section 11.33.060 Parking Lot Standard (Table 11.33-3); and
- b. Providing direction on what elements to study or consider.

This item was continued to the City Council meeting of December 14, 2021.

### **EXCUSED FROM MEETING**

At this time, Council Member Diaz, was excused from the remainder of the City Council meeting.

### **19. Warrant Register For November 23, 2021**

The City Council approved the Warrant Register for October 26, 2021, by motion of Vice Mayor Avalos and seconded by Council Member Hurtado.

Total of Checks:                      \$3,086,783.97

Voids:                                      \$        (703.00)

Total of Payroll Deductions      \$ (379,235.92)

Grand Total:                              \$2,706,845.05

Cancellations: 94029, 94819

Roll Call: Council Member Diaz, excused; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Vice Mayor Avalos, yes; Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Davila, absent.

## **X. Adjournment**

Mayor Rios adjourned the meeting at 9:34 p.m. in memory of Antonio Rodriguez, resident and Antonia Juarez Reyna, mother-in-law of Mayor Rios and seconded by Vice Mayor Avalos.

**PASSED** and **APPROVED** this 14th day of December 2021.

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)