

CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES
Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers

1. ROLL CALL

Mayor Olmos called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember(s): Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Retamoza, and Mayor Olmos

STAFF PRESENT: Anthony R. Taylor, City Attorney; Rachel Barbosa, City Manager; William Fox, Interim Finance Director; Colby Cataldi, Community Development Director (Via teleconference); Donna G. Schwartz, City Clerk and Robert Molina, Interim Deputy City Clerk

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Councilmember Hector Delgado led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. INVOCATION Mayor Olmos offered the invocation.

4. PRESENTATIONS - NONE

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND WAIVER OF FULL READING OF ORDINANCES

A motion was made by Councilmember Angel, seconded by Councilmember Delgado to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmember(s): Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Retamoza and Mayor Olmos.
NAYS: None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Olmos opened public comment.

1. Mayor Olmos read a public comment received December 9, 2020, via email from Linda Benavidez. A petition in support of building a skating rink in the City of South El Monte, same request was sent to City of El Monte. Mayor Olmos disclosed she spoke with Ms. Benavidez regarding her request.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Olmos closed public comment.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 7.a. Approved Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held December 8, 2020.
- 7.b. Adopted Resolution No. 21-01, authorizing payment of City expenditures for the period of December 9, 2020 through January 12, 2021 totaling \$1,388,312.44.
- 7.c. Adopted Resolution No. 21-02, approving a new agreement with John L. Hunter for environmental services and the management of the MS4 NPDES regulatory permit.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 8.a. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 21-03, APPROVING THE PROGRAMMING OF THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2021-2022**

Provide the City Council with recommendations for the use of the City's estimated FY 2021-2022 CDBG allocation, keeping in mind the priority of need and eligibility.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Staff Recommends City Council review and approve Resolution No. 21-03, approving the recommendations for the proposed FY 2021-2022 CDBG projects and budget, and authorizing the City Manager to adjust the project budgets, as necessary, to take into account the final CDBG allocations and any amounts unexpended at the close of FY 2020-2021.

Mayor Olmos announced the item.

City Manager Rachel Barbosa introduced Community Development Director Colby Cataldi who presented the staff report.

A motion was made by Councilmember Delgado, seconded by Councilmember Angel to continue item to the next regular city council meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. Motion passed 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmember(s): Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Retamoza and Mayor Olmos.
NAYS: None.

Mayor Olmos closed public hearing.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

9.a. UPDATE ON COVID-19

Discussion, receive and file.

Mayor Olmos introduced the item.

City Manager Rachel Barbosa provided Council with updated information related to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

No action was taken. Council concurred to receive and file item.

9.b. SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Mayor Olmos introduced the item and thanked Mayor Pro Tem Gracie Retamoza for all her support during her 2020 term.

A motion was made by Councilmember Acosta, seconded by Councilmember Delgado to appoint Councilmember Richard Angel as Mayor Pro Tem for a one-year term or until City Council selects a successor. Motion passed 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmember(s): Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Retamoza and Mayor Olmos.

NAYS: None.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS, INCLUDING AB 1234 REPORTS

Councilmember Acosta wished everyone a Happy New Year and hopes 2021 brings more hope and a happier era. He announced his attendance at the following events in December: City's Senior Christmas Drive Thru and the City Employees Holiday Luncheon noting social distancing was followed.

Mayor Pro Tem Angel announced his attendance at the following events: City of South El Monte's Christmas Wish Toy Drive and the Senior Christmas Drive Thru. Mayor Pro Tem Angel acknowledged staff and all their hard work and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Delgado – nothing to report.

Councilmember Retamoza commented on the Employees Holiday Luncheon and how it was nice to do something for the staff and noted social distancing was followed.

Mayor Olmos announced her attendance at the following events: City of South El Monte's Christmas Wish Toy Drive, the Senior Christmas Drive Thru and the City Employees Holiday Luncheon. Mayor Olmos thanked staff for all their support and all they do.

11. CORRESPONDENCE – None.

12. COUNCILMEMBERS' AGENDA

12.a. COUNCILMEMBER HECTOR DELGADO

1. Discussion on mid-year budget review sessions.

Councilmember Delgado concerned with decisions that will need to be made, funds for programs, priority for street projects and a date for the mid-year budget review.

City Manager Rachel Barbosa informed Councilmember Delgado staff has been focusing on cutting costs, identifying revenue sources to offset general fund while continuing to take care of the city with the same high-quality standards to continue operations. An update on the budget will be provided at the next council meeting.

Councilmember Delgado directed staff to contact the State lobbyist to find out how to obtain some of the funds the State has for one-time assistance.

2. Update on potential revenue projections for 2021-2022.

Councilmember Delgado asked to continue this item.

City Manager Rachel Barbosa noted State Officials like Senator Susan Rubio and State Superintendent Tony Thurmond that support the City can also be contacted.

12.b. MAYOR GLORIA OLMOS

1. Reminder to support local South El Monte Businesses, many are struggling and are still open.

Mayor Olmos reminded the public to continue to support the South El Monte's businesses.

2. Remind South El Monte Businesses that there are still Business Assistance Grants to help during COVID, please contact Angie Hernandez.

Mayor Olmos reminded the public the assistance that the City is offering.

3. Remind South El Monte Residents that there are still Rental Assistance Grants to help during COVID, please contact Angie Hernandez.

Mayor Olmos announced that renters are still protected and urged landlords to understand.

Discussion ensued regarding rental assistance and eligibility. City Manager Rachel Barbosa encouraged the public to apply and be patient with the process. Councilmember Delgado's concern is with the difficulty of applying for the assistance and asked if anything can be done to make it easier. City Attorney suggested partnering with others to help fill out the paperwork, legal aid groups and will investigate other means. Councilmember Delgado would like City Attorney Taylor to inquire if CDBG funds can be utilized to assist residents or businesses in anyway. Mayor Olmos recommended sponsorship of businesses by other businesses. Mayor Pro Tem Angel would like a letter sent to landlords reminding them of the protection renters have. Mayor Olmos provided City Managers info regarding letter: Rachel Barbosa at rbarbosa@soelmonte.org and Angie Hernandez's info regarding rental and business assistance at ahernandez@soelmonte.org

13. CLOSED SESSION

At 7:14 p.m. City Attorney Anthony Taylor recessed Council into closed session.

13.a. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR Government Code Section 54957.6

City Negotiator: City Manager

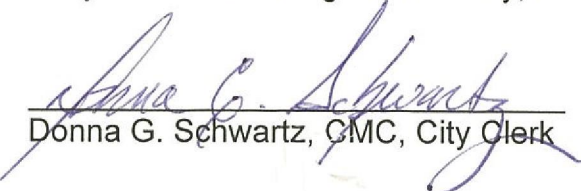
Employee Organizations: South El Monte Employees Association and the
South El Monte Executive Management Team
Association

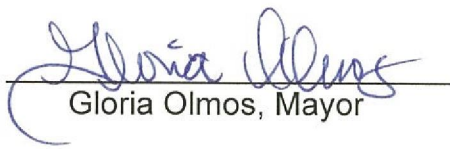
At 7:44 p.m. Mayor Olmos reconvened the meeting with all Councilmembers present.

City Attorney Anthony Taylor announced Council discussed closed session, no reportable action at this time.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business coming before this body, at 7:46 p.m. Mayor Olmos adjourned the meeting in memory of Mrs. Ermalinda "Lee" Reyes, longtime resident of South El Monte and mother of former City Clerk Rose Juarez; Mr. Ronnie Duran, longtime resident of South El Monte, brother of Mayor Gloria Olmos and Ruben Gracia, son of former Mayor of the City of South El Monte to a Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.


Donna G. Schwartz, CMC, City Clerk


Gloria Olmos, Mayor