

**CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 26, 2020 6:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1415 N. SANTA ANITA  
SOUTH EL MONTE, CA 91733**

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

PRESENT: Councilmembers: Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Olmos, and Retamoza.

Also Present: (City Attorney) Anthony R. Taylor, (Assistant City Attorney) Christy Lopez, (City Manager) Rachel Barbosa, (City Clerk) Rose Juarez, (Public Works Director) Rene Salas, (Interim Finance Director) William Fox, (Deputy City Clerk) Paola Lara, and (Assistant Planner) Ian McAleese.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953, Subdivision (B) and Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20, dated March 12, 2020, and Executive Order N-29-20, dated March 17, 2020, Teleconference Participation Was Utilized By All City Councilmembers and the City Attorney's Office.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Delgado led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. INVOCATION**

Deputy City Clerk, Paola Lara, offered the Invocation.

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**a. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL**

Deputy Rosales presented an overview of the Part I Crime Statistics and Target Crimes for the month of April, Year to Date 2020 Part I Crime Statistics, 2019 Part I Crimes, February Arrests 2019-2020, and Year End 2018-2019 Part I Crimes.

In response to Mayor Olmos' question, Deputy Rosales confirmed the Bail Deviation Commissioner can increase the bail amount for an individual who has been arrested multiple times and have the individual remain in custody instead of being released.

Mayor Olmos requested the Sheriff's Department provide the City Manager with a template that supports increasing the bail amount for the City Council's signatures which will then be sent to the Commissioner as a means to increase bail amounts and thereby prevent more crime in the City.

In response to Councilmember Acosta's questions, Deputy Rosales stated although individuals committing crimes are released from custody within a few hours, the Deputies track the cases for the District Attorney's office for filing when the courts are fully operational again. Also, the Deputies are conducting high visibility patrols and are recommending to businesses targeted for commercial burglaries to install security measures and security camera systems.

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

A motion was made by Acosta, seconded by Angel and carried ( 5 - 0 ) to approve the agenda and waive full reading of ordinances.

AYES: Councilmembers: Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Olmos, and Retamoza.

NAYS: None.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Olmos opened public comment.

Mayor Olmos announced public comments were submitted via email in support of Project Room Key, Item 12.b.1., from Teresa Eilers, Francisco and Rosa Mendez, and Beatriz Camargo.

Mayor Olmos closed public comment after determining there was no one wishing to speak.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

a. **MINUTES**

**Staff seeks City Council approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 28, 2020.**

b. **WARRANTS**

**Authorizing payment of City expenditures for the period of May 13, 2020 through May 26, 2020 totaling \$363,511.79.**

c. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-48, APPROVING AMENDMENT NO. 5 AMENDING THE LOWER TIER SUBAWARD AGREEMENT BETWEEN HUNTINGTON CULINARY AND THE CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE FOR THE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM**

**Staff seeks City Council approval to authorize an amendment to the Lower Tier Subaward Agreement with Huntington Culinary, Inc. to extend the term of the Agreement by one year, for an amount not to exceed \$235,654.20 for FY 20-21, matching the FY 19-20 award amount of \$235,654.20, to provide culinary services for the Elderly Nutrition Program.**

d. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-49, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COOPERATIVE, INC., D.B.A. FIESTA TAXI COOPERATIVE, INC. TO**

**PROVIDE DIAL-A-RIDE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND MEAL DELIVERIES TO SENIORS AND DISABLED RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE FOR A NOT-TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$19,000**

On March 18, 2020, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, City staff were instructed to shelter in place at their place of residency and not to report to work until further notice. To prevent any gap in transportation and nutrition delivery services, the City Manager reached out to neighboring agencies to evaluate their transportation programs and evaluate whether these options would be temporarily viable until staff could safely return to work. To provide these services, Staff is requesting the City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Administrative Services Cooperative, Inc. d.b.a. Fiesta Taxi Cooperation, Inc. to provide Dial-A-Taxi transportation services to seniors and disabled residents and to deliver meals to the homes of seniors.

**e. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-50, APPROVING AMENDMENT NO. 8 TO THE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR THE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM SERVICES**

On July 1, 2016, a four-year agreement between the County of Los Angeles through its Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (the "County") and the City of South El Monte (the "City") was entered into to assist with the funding for the City's Elderly Nutrition Program Services (the "Agreement"). This Amendment will increase the allocated baseline funding from \$229,361 to \$260,361 resulting in an increase of \$31,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 only. The \$31,000 will be allocated through Families First Coronavirus Response Act ("FFCRA") funding.

A motion was made by Angel, seconded by Acosta and carried ( 5 - 0 ) to approve the Consent Calendar.

AYES: Councilmembers: Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Olmos, and Retamoza.

NAYS: None.

**8. PUBLIC HEARINGS None.**

**9. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**a. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM - CONSIDERATION OF PROGRAM BUDGETS FOR FY 2019-20 (REVISED), FY 2020-21, AND CDBG-CV ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (FUNDING SOURCE: CDBG & CDBG-CV FUNDS) FOR BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

The Public Works Director presented the staff report.

In response to Councilmembers' questions, the Public Works Director confirmed Staff has received phone calls inquiring about the grant program and its guidelines; \$250,000 is available for the grants and HUD guidelines are being followed for small businesses; CDBG guidelines for businesses with more than 5 employees; the City Council has the discretion to set a 12 month minimum requirement for the length of time a business must have been operating in the

City; Staff will advertise the grant program, inform the public who they must contact to make an appointment to obtain an application, appointments will be scheduled on a first come first serve basis at 30 minute intervals, a waiting list will be created if necessary, and the County will make the funds available as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Acosta, seconded by Angel and carried ( 5 - 0 ) to 1) Approve the proposed CDBG program budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year (revised) and the CDBG-CV program; 2) Approve the funding and program guidelines for the proposed COVID-19 South El Monte Emergency Rental Assistance Program; and 3) Approve the funding and program guidelines for the proposed COVID-19 South El Monte Emergency Small Business Grant Program.

AYES: Councilmembers: Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Olmos, and Retamoza.

NAYS: None.

b. **2020 FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS STAND PERMITS**

The Public Works Director presented the staff report.

Mayor Olmos allowed public comment.

Steve Bennett, TNT Fireworks, stated each organization would be responsible for enforcing and monitoring social distancing at their fireworks stands.

Councilmember Angel voiced concern with the lack of social distancing and safety precautions due to the space available inside and outside of the fireworks stands.

Mayor Olmos stated she too is concerned that social distancing inside the fireworks stands will not be followed.

Mayor Pro Tem Retamoza recommended, staff monitor the fireworks stands and shut them down if social distancing is not implemented.

Councilmember Angel recommended, staff meet individually with the organizations who will be operating fireworks stands to discuss the monitoring of social distancing.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Retamoza's question, Public Works Director stated he would meet with the organizations to discuss social distancing and protective measures and advise them the fireworks stands can be shut down for non-compliance.

A motion was made by Acosta, seconded by Angel and carried ( 5 - 0 ) to allow the Knights of Columbus #13011, Faith Tabernacle Men's Ministry, South El Monte National Little League, South El Monte High School Football, and Bobby Salcedo Memorial Foundation to operate a fireworks stand in conjunction with the Fourth of July 2020, with the amendment to require the enforcement and monitoring of social distancing with the possibility of being shut down for non-compliance.

AYES: Councilmembers: Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Olmos, and Retamoza.

NAYS: None.

c. **FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 FINANCIAL UPDATE**

The Interim Finance Director presented the staff report.

Councilmember Delgado requested staff provide the City Council a copy of the reserve accounts including general fund, special revenue funds, and all capital project funds.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Retamoza's question, Interim Finance Director stated the Local Agency Investment Fund will not penalize the City for pulling money out with one day notice but the interest rate is high.

A motion was made by Acosta, seconded by Angel and carried ( 5 - 0 ) to to receive and file the report.

AYES: Councilmembers: Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Olmos, and Retamoza.

NAYS: None.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS, INCLUDING AB 1234 REPORTS**

Councilmember Delgado acknowledged the compliments he received on the City Council's Memorial Day video messages on the City's Facebook page.

Mayor Olmos provided a report on her teleconference meetings with SEAACA, Valle Lindo School District's Opposition of Project Room Key, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, City of Pomona Councilmember COVID-19 Action Committee, and Greater El Monte Hospital.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE None.**

12. **COUNCILMEMBERS' AGENDA**

a. **COUNCILMEMBER MANUEL ACOSTA**

1. **South El Monte Homeless Services Committee**

Councilmember Acosta suggested a committee be created to help the homeless as the number of homeless will likely increase due to the loss of jobs caused by COVID-19 and stated the committee would work together with the community to find preventative and proactive solutions for homelessness.

The City Manager stated the City's consultant applied and received a \$1.1 million grant to combat homelessness in the cities of Baldwin Park, El Monte and South Monte, outreach programs are currently being designed, South El Monte will benefit from sharing the resources and services among the two other cities and part of the process is to establish a City-Wide Homeless Committee. Although there has been a lot of opposition expressed for Project Room Key there has also been much concern shown for helping the homeless in the City, therefore, if Councilmember Acosta would like to move forward with establishing a committee, two Councilmembers could be appointed to serve on the committee.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Retamoza's question regarding the type of services the committee would establish; Councilmember Acosta stated he would like both short and long term solutions explored that would sustainably get the homeless off the streets.

Mayor Olmos stated, she has been working with the City Manager to implement a Women's Shelter possibly at Loma School site for homeless women and their families and victims of domestic violence.

The City Manager provided an status update on Measure H, homeless prevention, and renter's assistance program grant, and stated the goal of the homeless committee can be to identify revenue sources that are not restricted to Measure H conditions.

Mayor Olmos announced, Pastor Charlie Corum provides food baskets by appointment to the community on Wednesdays and the County also provides food baskets on a daily basis by appointment only and there is no proof of residency required.

2. **Update on Celebrating the Class of 2020**

Mayor Olmos stated on June 4th a Class of 2020 backdrop will be placed in front of City Hall for graduates from the local schools to take pictures. Additionally, the parents of South El Monte High School Class of 2020 are still interested in purchasing group banners to honor the graduates and are requesting donations from the community to pay for the cost of the banners as well as for the installation and removal of the banners.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Retamoza's question, the City Manager stated the Class of 2020 backdrop cost \$1,000.

Councilmember Acosta recommended that the backdrop also be made available on June 5th and that schools be notified it is available for their use.

Mayor Olmos stated there will not be a photographer on site to take photos, however, she would look into the cost but it would not be at the City's expense.

b. **COUNCILMEMBER HECTOR DELGADO**

1. **Status Update on Project Room Key**

The City Manager stated at this time she is not aware of any potential Project Room Key leases in the City.

2. **Discussion on Saturation Patrol for SEM Team Deputies and Uniform Allowances for Team**

The City Manager stated \$23,000 is available in the current fiscal year budget for saturation patrol and can be applied to the upcoming 4th of July saturation patrol.

Councilmember Delgado requested that the information regarding the issuance of \$1,000 citations for illegal fireworks be posted on the City's social

media and website and stated he would like a portion of available funds to be used to address commercial burglaries.

The City Manager stated she would discuss the firework suppression and scheduling with the Sheriff's Department and confirmed, with regard to the \$3,000 available in the special department supplies account for uniforms, there has been no reimbursement requests for uniforms or supplies and no reimbursements are expected.

Councilmember Delgado requested that the City Manager meet with Deputy Rosales to discuss what resources the Sheriff's Department needs to utilize the available funds, saturation patrol around the City, and the enforcement of social distancing at the fireworks stands.

The City Manager suggested that funds from the public safety grant received from Senator Rubio be utilized for saturation patrol instead of the general fund.

3. **Update on Budget Regarding Reserve Accounts. General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, (All 16 Accounts) Capital Project Funds**

Councilmember Delgado stated this item was addressed during discussion of Item 9.c. and requested that an email or handout with the information regarding the reserve accounts including general fund, special revenue funds and capitol projects be provided to the City Council.

c. **MAYOR GLORIA OLMOS**

1. **Graffiti Control and Putting Signage to Show Fines for Violators**

Mayor Olmos directed staff to place signs around the City regarding the issuance of fines for graffiti and enforce the fines, requested the public keep the City clean, and if a picture can be safely taken of someone drawing graffiti to send it to the Public Works Director who will then provide it to the Sheriff's Department.

Councilmember Angel recommended that Code Enforcement contact and request businesses make every attempt to use paint that matches the building color when covering graffiti.

Mayor Olmos suggested contacting business owners to determine if they would allow murals painted which may deter people from drawing graffiti on murals and walls.

Councilwoman Retamoza stated murals are beautiful, however, if it is covered with graffiti it would be ruined and the artist would have to repaint the entire mural and agreed that when painting over graffiti the color should match the building.

Councilmember Angel stated he concurred with Mayor Pro Tem Retamoza and murals should be a last resort.

Councilmember Delgado spoke against vandalism and graffiti in the City, requested that businesses color match the building color to cover the graffiti,

and although the graffiti is not the property owners fault they should take care of it within a reasonable time.

2. **Efficient Cost Cutting Measures**

Mayor Olmos directed staff to review its agreements to determine if any costs can be renegotiated and if the best deal was made based on the services being provided to the City.

13. **CLOSED SESSION**

a. **PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT/APPOINTMENT GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957**

Title: City Clerk

b. **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**

The Assistant City Attorney announced, City Council would recess to closed session to discuss the two items identified on the agenda.

The City Council recessed to closed session at 8:19 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 9:07 p.m.

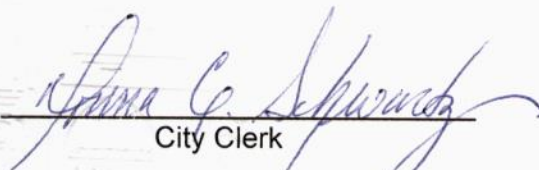
The Assistant City Attorney announced, City Council discussed the two items identified on the agenda and no reportable action was taken.

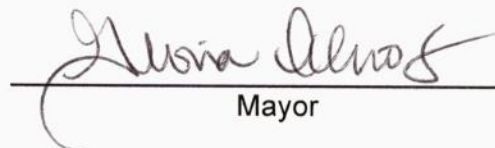
14. **RECESS COUNCIL MEETING**

The meeting was recessed at 9:08 p.m. and reconvened at 9:13 p.m.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business coming before this body, Mayor Olmos adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m. In Memory of Long Time South El Monte Resident Maria Teresa Mondragon and in Honor of the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War.

  
City Clerk

  
Mayor