

**CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2020 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1415 N. SANTA ANITA AVENUE
SOUTH EL MONTE, CA 91733**

1. ROLL CALL

Mayor Olmos called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

Also Present: (City Attorney) Anthony R. Taylor, (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.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Angel 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 Delgado, seconded by Angel and carried (5 - 0) to approve the agenda.

AYES:Councilmembers: Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Olmos, and Retamoza.
NAYS:None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Olmos opened public comments.

Mayor Olmos announced TNT Fireworks submitted a letter in reference to Agenda Item 12.b.3. and Ismael Mayans submitted petitions in reference to Agenda Item 12.b.1., and read into the record the petition titled "Petition to Stop the Ramada Hotel in South El Monte from Becoming a Homeless Shelter".

Emails in Opposition of Project Room Key submitted by: AlwaysAHundred8, Andrea Aguilar, Tommy Banh, Toucan Bee, Johnny Castillo, Vicky Castillo, Elizabeth Chavez, Mok Chhay, Lydia Dia, Gus Frias, Alyssa Gaytan, Lauren Guevara, Vincent Han, Wendy Ho, Nan Huang, June Hy, Huy Lem, Caihong Li, Giovanni Licea, Ofelia Licea, Maria Mendez, Rose Mary Moncada, Lucy and Desiree De La Torre, Juan Carlos Nunez, Orellana Odelisa, Juan Orellana, Odelisia Orellana, Irma Peniche, Aracely Ramirez, Rose Rodriguez, Nilda Rosales, Juanita Sanabria, Alicia Sanchez, Ofelia Sanchez, Anna Tang, Yvette Trujillo, Priscilla Villa, Christine Villegas, Tubao Yang, and Spring Yup.

Emails in Support of Project Room Key submitted by: Abigail Aceves, Teresa Eilers, Eilman Farooqui, and Merced Stratton.

Emails in Neutral position for Project Room Key submitted by: Cesar Hernandez and Maria Mendez.

Maria Mendez, South El Monte Resident, requested that the City Council do everything possible to protect the safety of the youth, seniors and community and questioned who will be providing added security to the community, if the Sheriffs department will be obtaining additional resources, and how Project Room Key will successfully exit at the end of three months.

Cesar Hernandez, South El Monte Resident, inquired if the public can contact the County Supervisor and Representatives to ask questions about Project Room Key, asked for clarification to the response the City Council received from the County, and requested the transcript of the City Council meeting.

Florencio Briones, El Monte Union High School District Board of Trustees, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, read a letter in support of Project Room Key.

Joseph Kay, South El Monte Resident, stated a better location should be found for Project Room Key, he is concerned of the impact it will have on the youth and seniors, and requested that the City Council continue to support the community.

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

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. MINUTES

Staff seeks City Council approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 7, 2020.

b. WARRANTS

Authorizing payment of City expenditures for the period of April 29, 2020 through May 12, 2020 totaling \$866,583.08.

c. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-45 APPROVING A COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE LOS ANGELES URBAN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The Los Angeles County Development Authority ("LACDA") has requested that all cities participating in the Los Angeles Urban County Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") program sign new Cooperation Agreements with the County. The request by LACDA is precipitated by their formal agency name change that became effective on May 16, 2019.

- d. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-46 AUTHORIZING THE ALLOCATION OF \$13,542.62 FROM AQMD FUNDS AND \$26,318.26 IN GENERAL FUND BALANCE FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN ELECTRIC MOWER AND A HYDRAULIC GAS MOWER**

The City's existing mowers, the Mean Green electric CXR-60 mower and Exmark D902 diesel mower, were purchased in 2014 and need to be replaced due to wear and tear. Both mowers are used weekly to mow the landscape and ball fields at our City Parks and Civic Center. Continued use will result in more maintenance repair costs.

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. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-44 ADOPTING CITY-WIDE FINANCIAL POLICIES**

The Interim Finance Director presented the staff report.

In response to Councilmember Delgado's question, the Interim Finance Director stated the City Council must review and adopt the investment policy once a year and it was moved from June to January to space out the timing throughout the year.

A motion was made by Angel, seconded by Acosta and carried (5 - 0) to adopt Resolution No. 20-44, approving the City-wide financial policies.

AYES: Councilmembers: Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Olmos, and Retamoza.
NAYS: None.

- b. **COVID-19 UPDATE BY CITY MANAGER INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF TIMING OF RE-OPENING CITY HALL AND IMPACTS ON CITY SERVICES**

The City Manager presented the staff report and announced beginning May 18, 2020, City Hall will reopen to the public with modified hours, Monday and Wednesday from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and the other City facilities and parks will remain closed to the public.

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

AYES: Councilmembers: Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Olmos, and Retamoza.
NAYS: None.

c. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-43, EXTENDING THE PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

The City Attorney presented the staff report.

In response to Councilmember Acosta's question, the City Attorney stated State Law requires a 60 day review period of a proclamation of a local emergency which is the purpose of extending the City's proclamation before the 60 day deadline.

A motion was made by Olmos, seconded by Angel and carried (5 - 0) to adopt Resolution No. 20-43, extending the proclamation of a local emergency in response to COVID-19.

AYES: Councilmembers: Acosta, Angel, Delgado, Olmos, and Retamoza.
NAYS: None.

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

Mayor Olmos provided a report on her participation via teleconference meetings with Greater El Monte Hospital and Sanitation District.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PARENTS OF SOUTH EL MONTE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020 AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF THE CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE**

The City Manager announced Mrs. Mesa withdrew her request for the City's assistance.

12. **COUNCILMEMBERS' AGENDA**

a. **COUNCILMEMBER MANUEL ACOSTA**

1. **Discussion on South El Monte High School's Class of 2020 Banner Program**

Councilmember Acosta stated it has been determined that the banner program project is too costly and asked the City Council to provide alternate ways to celebrate the Class of 2020.

Mayor Olmos suggested a drive-by diploma pick up and stated the City will be placing large street banners on Santa Anita Avenue, Durfee Avenue, and at South El Monte High School to congratulate the Class of 2020.

Mayor Pro Tem Retamoza suggested all the student's names be placed on the City's marquee and included in the City's newsletter.

The City Manager stated she would speak with the City's Communications Coordinator about placing the names on the marque, and confirmed the June newspaper will include a centerfold special on the graduates from the local schools and street banners congratulating the Class of 2020 will be placed on Santa Anita Avenue and Durfee Avenue.

Councilmember Angel suggested balloons and a banner be placed on the front lawn of City Hall congratulating the Class of 2020.

Councilmember Delgado suggested the June newsletter be dedicated to the graduates from all the local schools and include their picture and the college they will be attending.

The City Manager stated due to the decrease in reporting of community events there is a savings in the newspaper account which can be applied to the June issue and she would coordinate with the school districts to obtain the students information for the newsletter.

b. **COUNCILMEMBER HECTOR DELGADO**

1. **Status Update on Project Roomkey**

The City Manager stated she has not received any updates on Project Room Key aside from the City receiving an outpouring of opposition for the project.

The City Attorney stated he discussed with the Attorney that represents Los Angeles County the questions posed by the City Council and Residents, and at this time he is not aware of any agreements being in place.

Mayor Olmos stated she has been working directly with the owner of the Ramada who assured her that he turned down Project Room Key, however, there is the possibility he may be negotiating something else with the County.

2. **CDBG Update on Small Business Loans**

The City Manager stated the City explored all options for reallocating available CDBG funds and with the additional \$128,000 received from the County for COVID-19 recovery, a total of \$250,000 will be allocated for business and residential assistance programs.

The Public Works Director stated \$250,000 is available for the following three programs: (1) \$100,000 for Micro-Enterprise Assistance Program - \$10,000 grants for small business owners with 5 or fewer employees, the business owner must have a household income at 80% or less of the area median income; (2) \$100,000 for Special Economic Development - \$20,000 grants for businesses that have a maximum of 40 employees, at least 51% of the jobs created or retained will be held by or made available to persons who's household income is at 80% of area media income; and (3) \$50,000 for Home Owners and Renters - \$2,000 grants per applicant which must be used for mortgage, rent, or utilities, and applicants must be at a household income at or below 80% of the area median income. The selection process can be through a lottery system or on a first come first serve basis, and the

application process is being formalized and will be brought back at the next meeting for the City Council's consideration.

Councilmember Delgado recommended that the grant amounts be reduced in half so that double the amount of families and businesses can receive assistance.

Mayor Olmos spoke in support of the selection process being on a first come first serve basis and cutting the grants in half in order to assist more residents and businesses.

3. **Fourth of July Fireworks Stand Discussion/Action**

Councilmember Delgado stated local nonprofits and sports organizations depend on the funds generated from the fireworks stands, more families will be at home this year which is an opportunity for them to bond and purchase safe fireworks, and he is in full support of allowing fireworks stands if the COVID-19 protocol provided by TNT is followed.

Mayor Olmos stated her concern is the enforcement of social distancing inside the stands but allowing the stands would be beneficial for the organizations and for the families who will be home, and suggested if the fireworks stands are not allowed that donations be made to the organizations.

In response to Councilmember Angel's question, the City Manager stated the fireworks companies submit the applications on behalf of the stand operators and the City has not yet received any applications requesting a fireworks stand.

The Assistant Planner stated TNT will be submitting fireworks stand applications and Phantom has submitted two fireworks stand applications.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Retamoza's question, the Assistant Planner stated he had not discussed the managing of social distancing with TNT, however, the City received an email from TNT regarding their COVID-19 protocol.

Councilmember Delgado requested Staff follow up with the organizations to determine if they are interested in operating a fireworks stand and that a report be brought back to the City Council for their consideration.

Staff was directed to bring back a staff report on the fireworks stands for the City Council's consideration at the next meeting.

13. **CLOSED SESSION**

a. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

Discussion of potential for initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) - 1 potential case.

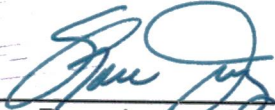
The City Attorney announced City Council would recess to closed session to discuss the item listed on the agenda.

The City Council recessed to closed session at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 7:43 p.m.

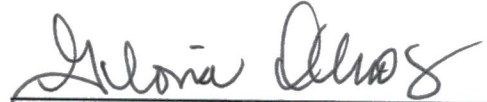
The City Attorney announced the City Council met in closed session to discuss the item listed on the agenda and there was no reportable action taken.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business coming before this body, Mayor Olmos adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.



Rose Juarez, City Clerk



Gloria Olmos, Mayor