

**CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE
ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 25, 2020 5:30 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 5:37 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, and (Deputy City Clerk) Paola Lara.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Angel, seconded by Delgado and carried (5 - 0) to approve the agenda.

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

NAYS:None.

Items 3., 4., and 5., were taken out of order and discussed in the following order: Public Comment, Sheriff's Department Update and Presentations.

3. PRESENTATIONS

a. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO SOUTH EL MONTE MAIL CARRIER, MARK RODRIGUEZ

The Mayor and City Council presented a plaque to Mr. Rodriguez for his heroic action in saving the life of a South El Monte resident.

The meeting was recessed at 6:29 p.m. and reconvened at 6:34 p.m.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Olmos opened public comment.

Wilson Chen, representing the U.S. Census Bureau, provided information on the upcoming census and available job opportunities as a volunteer and paid worker with the Census Bureau.

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

5. **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

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

Deputy Comparan presented an overview of the January Part I Crime Statistics, Year to Date Comparison, Target Crimes, Arrests for 2018-2019, Year End 2018-2019 Comparison, Burglary, Crime Suppression Strategy, Calls for Service, Reports and Response Times, participation and assistance in Fugitive Task Force and Parolee Operation, and extended an invitation to the City Council and community to attend the Area Watch meeting on February 27, 2020.

The Mayor and City Council presented a plaque to Deputy Beatriz Comparan in recognition of her eight years of dedicated service to the City.

The Mayor and City Council presented a plaque to Deputy Ricardo Catano in recognition of his ten years of dedicated service to the City.

Sergeant Lewis introduced Crime Prevention Deputy Gabriel Gonzalez, the newest member of the South El Monte Special Assignment Team.

6. **CODE ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS**

a. **DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2020**

The Code Enforcement/Public Safety Supervisor presented an overview of the January Calls for Service, Open Cases, Report on Bulk Items, and provided an update on the increase of graffiti on City and private property.

In response to Councilmember Acosta's questions, the Code Enforcement/Public Safety Supervisor stated the number of bulk items fluctuates weekly, bulk items previously found in industrial areas are now found in residential areas, and an increase in bulk items is anticipated due to the tax season and people replacing their old items.

Mayor Pro Tem Retamoza recommended that staff drive through the City on trash days to advise residents they have to call Athens in order to have their large items picked up, and she spoke of the need to remove the items left on the street for up to a week on Santa Anita near the borderline of the City of El Monte.

The Code Enforcement/Public Safety Supervisor confirmed staff patrols on trash days and hand out the bulk item flyer, advise residents they must put bulk items not picked up back on their property, and call Athens to schedule a pickup.

Councilmember Delgado stated the dumping of bulk items on Santa Anita, Central, Rush, and Durfee is a problem, as well as outside storage, and code enforcement must have these businesses clean up their properties.

The Code Enforcement/Public Safety Supervisor stated code enforcement will issue a notice of violation that allows time for voluntary compliance and confirmed last week staff issued notice of violations for properties on Troy, Lee and Loma.

Councilmember Angel stated Athens has been selective on which items they pick up on trash days and he requested that the City Manager make sure favoritism is not occurring and to obtain a list of the people who have paid for the pick up of bulky items.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Retamoza's question, the Code Enforcement/Public Safety Supervisor stated residents are provided a flyer that contains information on the fee for the pick of bulk items and on the issuance of a \$1,000 citation for violators.

Councilmember Angel stated that in their meetings with Athens it was agreed items would be picked up at no cost for seniors who are on a low or fixed income.

The City Manager stated the bulk item task force initiated a process where an Athens Supervisor identifies bulk items not connected to a specific address but mostly in the commercial area. Code enforcement has been lenient and provided the opportunity to take care of an issue before a citation is issued, however, staff will soon move forward with issuing the \$1,000 citation.

In response to Councilmember Angel's comment regarding the placement of a bin at City Hall, the City Manager stated the cost is still being explored, as well as the cost to have a quarterly bulky item pickup or drop off event.

Mayor Olmos suggested a fine for graffiti be implemented and that staff review cameras from businesses in an attempt to identify the person or persons who graffiti in the City.

The Code Enforcement/Public Safety Supervisor confirmed staff has approached adjacent businesses to view their cameras, have reached out to the School Resource Deputy in an attempt to identify the graffiti and request that businesses cover the graffiti as soon as possible.

In response to Councilmember Acosta's question, the City Manager confirmed the City's Spring Clean Up will be held April 13-17, staff is also looking into options for rotating a container around the City on a quarterly basis, and staff will include in its next report a list of the addresses that have prepaid for the pick up of bulk items.

Staff was directed to obtain from Athens a list of the people who have paid to have their bulk items picked up; begin implementing fines for graffiti; and check businesses cameras to help identify who is doing the graffiti.

7. CLOSED SESSION

The City Council did not recess to 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) - 2 potential cases.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business coming before this body, Mayor Olmos adjourned the meeting to 7:01 p.m.



Rose Juarez, City Clerk



Gloria Olmos, Mayor