

**CITY OF SOUTH GATE  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, April 23, 2019**

4/23/2019 - Minutes

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

CALL TO ORDER Jorge Morales, Mayor called a Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

INVOCATION Reverend Sean Pica, Redeemer Lutheran Church

PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE Mohammad Jibawi, South Gate Police Officer

ROLL CALL Carmen Avalos, City Clerk

**II. City Officials**

PRESENT Mayor Jorge Morales, Vice Mayor Denise Diaz, Council Member Al Rios; Council Member Maria Davila and Council Member María Belén Bernal; City Treasurer Greg Martinez, Acting City Manager/Director of Community Development Joe Perez, City Attorney Raul F. Salinas

ABSENT Michael Flad, City Manager

**III. Meeting Compensation Disclosure**

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

**1. Proclamation Declaring April 14 - 20, 2019, As National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week**

The City Council:

a. Issued a Proclamation declaring the week of April 14-20, 2019, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; and

b. Presented Certificates of Appreciation to South Gate Police Dispatchers in recognition of their dedicated service to the South Gate community.

**2. Proclamation Declaring May As Older Americans Month**

The City Council issued a Proclamation declaring the month of May as Older Americans Month and will present it to Toni Martinez, this year's honoree.

**3. Introduction Of City's New And Promotional Full-Time Employees**

The City Council allowed staff to introduce the new and promotional full-time employees hired or promoted between January 1, 2019 and March 31, 2019.

**V. Public Hearings**

#### **4. Ordinance Amending Certain Subsections Of The Municipal Code Pertaining To The “Authorized Uses Of City Seal” Will Be Continued To The City Council Meeting Of May 28, 2019**

The City Council opened the public hearing, and took public testimony concerning the proposed Ordinance amending certain Sections of the South Gate Municipal Code regarding the use of the City Seal, and unanimously continued the Public Hearing to the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting of May 28, 2019 by motion of Council Member Davila and seconded by Council Member Bernal.

Mayor Morales opened the Public Hearing at 7:13 p.m. and asked if anyone in the audience wishes to speak on this item. Seeing no one step forward; Mayor Morales closed the audience portion.

#### **5. Resolution Approving The Disposition And Development Agreement With ASÍ Real Estate Investments, LLC, For The Sale Of City-Owned Property Located At 5821 Firestone Boulevard**

The City Council opened the Public Hearing and unanimously approved A and B by motion of Council Member Bernal and seconded by Council Member Davila.

a. Accepted the determination that this project is Categorically Exempt under Class 32 (In-Fill Projects) Section 15332 of the California Environmental Quality Act; and

b. Adopted Resolution No. 7854 entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, approving the Disposition and Development Agreement (Contract No. 3519) with ASÍ Real Estate Investments, LLC for the sale of City-owned property located at 5821 Firestone Boulevard and authorizing the Mayor to execute said Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

Joe Perez, Director of Community Development gave a brief presentation on this item.

Mayor Morales stated that when he joined the Council eight years ago we were unable to entice national businesses to come into the City. However, after Primestor built the azalea it proved people wrong.

He also mentioned he is unsatisfied when developments are facing inwards, he would like to see the backsides more pleasant looking dressed up a little bit for the people driving by. They did a great job on the azalea even though it is the backside it doesn't look like it is.

Mayor Morales opened the Public Hearing at 7:21 p.m. and asked if anyone in the audience wishes to speak on this item. Seeing no one step forward; Mayor Morales closed the audience portion.

Council Member Bernal is excited to see new development coming in to compliment this long standing center. She agrees with the Mayor's statement about dressing up the backside of the business.

Vice Mayor Diaz would like to see the new businesses hire local as was done in the past when working with Primestor.

#### **6. Fiscal Year 2019/20 Municipal Budget Departmental Presentations From The Director Of Parks & Recreation And Chief Of Police; And Continuance Of The**

## **Public Hearing To The Special City Council Meeting Of May 7, 2019**

The City Council approved A and B by motion of Council Member Davila and seconded by Council Member Bernal. Vice Mayor Diaz did not vote on this item as she stepped away from the dais.

- a. Heard presentations from the Director of Parks & Recreation and the Police Chief on their proposed Fiscal Year 2019/20 departmental budgets; and
- b. Opened the Public Hearing, took public testimony, and continued the Public Hearing to May 7, 2019.

Paul Adams, Director of Parks and Recreation gave a presentation of the 2019/20 Parks and Recreation Budget.

Randy Davis, Chief of Police gave a presentation of the 2019/20 Police Department Budget.

Mayor Morales opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone in the audience wishes to speak on this item.

Linda Parsonson, 5780 Main Street spoke about the gopher problem at Hollydale Park.

Greg Martinez, 2603 Ohio Avenue spoke about crime in the area and the possibility of filing police reports online.

Seeing no one else step forward; Mayor Morales closed the audience portion.

Council Member Bernal agrees that an online reporting system for the Police Department would benefit residents. She would like to see the Chief look into this.

Chief Davis responded that they have had discussions and researched other police departments that have started components where you can report certain crimes, small thefts, identity theft and things of that nature. The information we get with our uniform crime recording staff go to the FBI and we need to be sure they are accurate, but we have talked about this for the last several months. It's not a matter of if it's a matter of when we will have something available technology wise.

The benefit of this matter is that it does not have to be decided on during budget, as it can be discussed any time of the year. The cost is something that can be absorbed during the course of the year.

Council Member Bernal asked if once Vital Medical Services takes custody are they fully liable?

Chief Davis responded that they are vested and insured. They would absorb all liability once they take possession of the body. In addition, any medical service that they provide at the police department they also incur the liability. It would require a minor transformation of a cell that is currently not being used and then they would provide all the medical equipment that would go into the cell, the medical personal that are licensed to do the operations and are self-insured for any liability issues that come up.

Council Member Bernal thanked Mr. Adams for continuing to incorporate the youth program and expanding it to a full year program. She believes the program would have three (3) youths and would rotate every three (3) months.

Mr. Adams stated that he would be asking for four (4) part-time positions and they would rotate on a regular basis, so we would actually get more kids through during the course of the year. This is not only going to provide us support for our park maintenance program but will also provide vital training and staff development tool for us to start bringing these kids in when we have full-time positions.

Council Member Bernal said that she would like to continue Council's commitment to work force development for our local youth. She envisions having a fair with HUB Cities, Long Beach Conservation Corp, California Latino Leadership and other non-profits to be the leader for these programs. She knows that we did not include funding for the California Latino Leadership Group but would like to see us reach out.

Mr. Adams also stated that gophers are a huge issue. One of the byproducts of cleaning up our environment and making our Cities healthier is not only making it healthier for us it is making it healthier for the wildlife. We are having issues with coyotes and we have placed new signs around some of our parks. Gophers are everywhere. On top of having more gophers in the parks, County health has cut back on some of the ways that we are allowed to treat them. We have tried a few new things and funding for that is in the budget, including the contract service.

Council Member Davila asked Mr. Adams where the funding for the replacement of the ten (10) vehicles is coming from and is the 2 million dollars to put aside coming from the General Fund.

Mr. Adams replied that it is coming from the vehicle replacement fund, the remainder is from the General Fund.

Vice Mayor Diaz asked about the ground maintenance of the park.

Mayor Morales talked about Hollydale Park and how money from outside sources are going into the river projects and we need to continue to address the maintenance of our parks.

Mr. Adams said that the majority of the staff works Monday – Thursday and this is because if you are driving around mowing the park you want to have as few people as possible. We do have two full-time park grounds maintenance workers working on the weekends. Their primary responsibility is keeping the trash cans empty and addressing any emergencies that come up. We also have two park facility maintenance workers that are on duty on the weekend. One being the senior facility maintenance worker who manages all the room setups and events that go on but they are also out cleaning the restrooms twice a day. That's really a skeleton crew. A couple years ago we were able to help supplement that. The council approved a three quarter time recreation 4 position, which is our part-time person that is allowed to supervise other part-time employees. Every weekend we get about 15 volunteers from the courts and they pick up trash. The biggest impact that this has made for us is that it not only helps makes that parks look a little bit better on the weekends except for Easter. Easter is our biggest trash day at the parks ever. We don't have as many people as the 4th of July but they bring a lot more stuff with them.

We have Hollydale listed in our ten year master plan. We have a problem in park renovations that cost coincides with the number of acres that we have. Hollydale Regional Park is 56 acres and the renovation plan is estimated at close to 50 million dollars. We are working on this, as we have concept plans and have it broken down in sections as we did with South Gate Park. We are definitely looking at the river activity to help bring funding to those different sections. It will correspond to the different projects with the type of funding that is available.

During these past couple of weeks we have experienced challenges with graffiti. The small quad area where JAA practices has been targeted every night. We clean it up every morning and then the next morning it's there again.

Mayor Morales inquired about reporting it to the Police Department.

Mr. Adams responded that Parks works closely with the Police Department as well as the graffiti crew. Additionally, the graffiti crew reports this to the Police Department.

Council Member Rios acknowledged both the Recreational and Police departments. These departments stand out because they are out at most events day in and day out. He believes that both departments' requests are reasonable and thanked them for their presentations.

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

Virginia Johnson, 5751 McKinley Avenue said that she went on the West Santa Ana Branch Rail tour a few weeks ago. She thought it was very informative and the train was long and fast. She thought the brick structures in the Pasadena area were nice and would look nice in Hollydale, near the 105 freeway line but not necessarily at the Gardendale line. The Culver City section had a lot of constructions, the density level to her was very sad and there were sound walls at every station. She thought the best was Westwood because they didn't make any changes which is not what happened with Area 5. Metro's response was that it was up to our Council leaders. It was a very good trip but the 4ft handicap scooter her son was on did not fit on the bus or the rail line very well.

Ms. Johnson said that she saw that there was another cancellation for the Planning Commission on April 16th for lack of a quorum. This is the fourth time since January out of the ten meetings posted. If this is one single person, maybe they should consider stepping done to give another person the chance to contribute in their community.

Ms. Johnson stated that she was remiss last Council when she congratulated incoming Mayor and Vice Mayor when she neglected to mention that the outgoing Mayors accomplishments. She thought that the Mayor was very professional and her performance as Mayor is to be commended.

John Montalvo, 9815 Virginia Avenue congratulated the Mayor and Vice Mayor on their appointments. He invited everyone to attend the Comic Con that they are having in two weeks. They are anticipating about 400 people with all the proceeds going to the local Boy Scout Troop. He requested that if the Council can help the Boy Scouts with a merit badge in public speaking and would like to see if they can set something up for the next City Council meeting that they can do their 3 minute speech.

Melissa Alvarado, 10316 Hunt Avenue stated that the running trail in South Gate Park is run down and the sprinklers are flooding the path.

Nick Godoy, 8611 San Gabriel Avenue spoke about the delineators near the 710 freeway, as well as the issue of roaming dogs from neighbors and traffic concerns at the azalea center.

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

Paul Adams, Director of Parks and Recreation reminded everyone that May 4th is JAA opening day and May 11th is the health fair and 5K run.

Raul Salinas, City Attorney said that he wanted to applaud the request for the Boy Scouts to come in and do public speaking. He was a merit badge counselor for public speaking and the City Attorney's Office does have a practice that if a Boy Scout would like to sit next to him at a meeting, he could be an acting City Attorney for a night.

Greg Martinez, City Treasurer stated that he was at the Treasurer's Conference in San Diego. He said that Earth Day was a great event and he worked on the west side. He also gave out about another 1,500 light bulbs at the event.

Council Member Bernal attended the Well on Tap session in San Jose learning about the Delta and the issues that they face. There are two more sessions with the program. In regards to the budget, she would like staff to look into recording our meetings. We record them voice by voice but she would like the City to have visuals, whether it be Facebook Live or finding some type of program or company that can provide service to physically see the meetings online.

Council Member Bernal thanked Virginia for always being honest and candid with her, but please be assured that her comments at the last meeting were not political. It was just her thinking of ways to give our community leaders the opportunity to grow and be successful.

Council Member Davila attended the County Sanitation Meeting and they are finally bringing a contract to the board for review. She also attended Eco Rapid and Earth Day was a wonderful event.

Council Member Davila requested that for the next agenda we add a recognition item honoring a member of South Gate who was chosen as Women of the Year.

Council Member Rios received many compliments on the Earth Day. He attended Tweedy Elementary School today with the Mayor to visit their arts program. He acknowledged Toni Martinez on being singled out today for Older Americans Month and as he is probably the oldest member of the City Council, and would like to see how we can continue to support our seniors.

Vice Mayor Diaz attended MS4 Public Works workshop in Culver City. She spoke at the Public Hearing on small cities where the compliance price tag is so high and that Measure W is a small step forward but not enough. She also attended the WELL Conference with Council Member Bernal. She sits on the South East Community Development Commission and this Friday Mayor Morales is going to be speaking with Charter Communication and SUDC in regards to the digital divide that we face in the South East. At Vector Control there was a discussion on the warmer weather and how mosquito season is popping up.

Mayor Morales said that the Tweedy Elementary event today was phenomenal and that this is part of the Frank Gehry program. As Mayor he went to the Hollywood Walk of Fame

to see Cypress Hill (Latino American Hip Hop group from South Gate) get a star on the Walk of Fame. Through the Frank Gehry project the Mayor had learned about sensory restaurants and an APP called "Just Be" that lets families find friendly places for children with autism. This is also autism awareness month and would like to have the City recognize this. He attended Earth Day and will be in Sacramento with the League of California City for the Board Meeting.

## **VIII. Consent Calendar Items**

### **7. Resolution Preliminarily Approving The Engineer's Report For The Annual Levy Of Assessments Within The Street Lighting And Landscaping Maintenance District No. 1; And Resolution Declaring The City's Intention To Levy And Collect Assessments And Setting A Public Hearing For May 28, 2018**

The City Council considered approved A and B during the consent calendar.

a. Adopted Resolution No. 7855 entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, preliminarily approving the Engineer's Report for the proceedings of the Fiscal Year 2019/20 Annual Levy of Assessments within the Street Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District No.1; and

b. Adopting Resolution No. 7856 entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, declaring the City's intention to levy and collect assessments under the Fiscal Year 2019/20 annual levy and collection of assessments within the Street Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District No. 1, and setting a Public Hearing for May 28, 2019.

### **8. Resolution Initiating Application For The Formation Of The Lower Los Angeles River Recreation And Parks District**

The City Council approved A, B, C, D and E during consent calendar.

a. Adopted Resolution No. 7857 entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, initiating the application to the Los Angeles Local Area Formation Commission for the formation of the Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Parks District;

b. Directed staff to take steps necessary to complete the application process on behalf of the City;

c. Appropriated \$15,000 from the unassigned General Fund balance to Account No. 100-401-61-6101 (Professional Services) to fund the \$7,500 application fee and up to \$7,500 of consultant services as required;

d. Authorized the Director of Parks & Recreation to execute, on behalf of the City, all documents required to submit, process and implement said application in a form acceptable to the City Attorney; and

e. Approved the Categorical Exemption for the proposed annexation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 20, as a change in the organization of local agencies.

### **9. Resolution Reclassifying The Senior Traffic Engineer To City Traffic Engineer And Assistant City Engineer To Deputy City Engineer; Updating Job**

## **Specifications And Salary Pay Tables**

The City Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 7857 entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, amending Resolution No. 6454 (Salary Resolution and Position Classification Plan) to reclassify the positions of Senior Traffic Engineer to City Traffic Engineer and Assistant City Engineer to Deputy City Engineer, to approve the corresponding job specifications and to update the appropriate salary pay tables by motion of Council Member Davila and seconded by Vice Mayor Diaz.

## **10. Resolution Updating Job Specifications Of The Water Service Representative 1 And II Positions In The Public Works Department**

The City Council adopted Resolution No. 7859 entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, amending Resolution No. 6454 (Salary Resolution and Position Classification Plan) to update the job specifications of the Water Service Representative I and Water Service Representative II positions in the Public Works Department to bring them up to date during consent calendar.

## **11. Agreement With Stephen Doreck Equipment Rentals, Inc., For Construction Of The Chakemco Street Water Main Project**

The City Council approved A, B, and C during consent calendar.

- a. Approved an Agreement (Contract No. 3520) with Stephen Doreck Equipment Rentals, Inc., to construct the Chakemco Street Water Main, City Project No. 606-WTR (Project), in the amount not-to-exceed \$269,835;
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney; and
- c. Approved the Notice of Exemption for the replacement of the Water Main and direct the City Clerk to file it with the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office.

## **12. Request From LAUSD To Waive Permit Fees For Installation Of 24 Banners**

The City Council approved A, B, and C during consent calendar.

- a. Received and filed a proposal from the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to install 24 banners on Tweedy Boulevard between Truba Avenue and Elizabeth Avenue, for the purposes of promoting student achievements at South East High School and Victoria Elementary School;
- b. Approved LAUSD's request to waive Public Works Encroachment Permit Fees for the installation of 24 banners, in the amount of \$3,672; and
- c. Approved LAUSD's request to waive Banner Permit Fees for the installation of 24 banners, in the amount of \$4,200.

## **13. Notice Of Completion For The Automatic Water Meter Reading Upgrade, Phase 2**

The City Council unanimously approved A and B by motion of Council Member Bernal and seconded by Council Member Davila.

- a. Accepted completion of construction of the Automatic Water Meter Upgrade Project, City Project No. 573-WTR, effective March 4, 2019; and

b. Directed the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion with the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office.

#### **14. Minutes**

The City Council approved the Regular Meeting minutes and Special Meeting minutes of March 26, 2019 and April 9, 2019 during consent calendar.

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

#### **15. Resolution Approving And Modifying Conditional Use Permit No. 833 To Allow An Unmanned Telecommunications Facility At 8912 Madison Avenue**

The City Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 7860 entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, approving and modifying Conditional Use Permit No. 833 to allow an unmanned telecommunications facility at 8912 Madison Avenue by motion of Mayor Morales and seconded by Vice Mayor Diaz.

#### **16. Formation Of A Sister Cities Subcommittee Composed Of Two City Council Members**

The City Council formed a Sister Cities Subcommittee composed of two City Council Members, to guide the development of a Sister Cities policy and program.

Council Member Rios and Council Member Bernal were unanimously appointed selected to serve on the Sister Cities Subcommittee by motion of Mayor Morales and seconded by Council Member Davila.

City Treasurer Greg Martinez asked if he could also attend these meetings.

Mayor Morales thought it would be fine, with the City Manager's approval, since Mr. Martinez is a member of the elected administration.

ROLL CALL: Council Member Davila, yes; Council Member Rios, abstained; Council Member Bernal, abstained; Vice Mayor Diaz, yes; Mayor Morales, yes.

#### **17. Mid-Year Budget Report For Fiscal Year 2018/19 And Budget Adjustments**

The City Council unanimously approved 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 by motion of Council Member Bernal and seconded by Council Member Davila.

1. Receive and file the mid-year budget report for Fiscal Year 2018/19.
2. Appropriated \$10,000 from the unassigned General Fund Balance to account no. 100-503- 21-6701 for the refurbishment of one parking enforcement vehicle.
3. Appropriated \$24,000 from the unassigned Gas Tax Fund Balance to account no. 212-713-31-5110 for overtime for the remainder of the fiscal year necessitated by the unusually wet winter and the need to address potholes and tree maintenance.
4. Appropriated \$34,000 from the unassigned Gas Tax Fund Balance to account no. 212-713-31-9005 for the purchase of two SASE Concrete Grinders.
5. Appropriated \$32,716 from the unassigned Prop A Fund Balance to account no. 221-480-33-6304 for payment of the Eco-Rapid Transit Annual Membership Dues.

6. Appropriated \$20,000 from the unassigned Building & Infrastructure Maintenance Fund Balance to account no. 524-415-61-6704 for the emergency repair of lateral lines at the Patricia G. Mitchell Swim Stadium.

7. Appropriated \$20,000 from the unassigned Building & Infrastructure Maintenance Fund Balance to account no. 524-415-61-9100 for emergency repairs to the skylights at the Patricia G. Mitchell Swim Stadium.

8. Appropriated \$175,000 from the unassigned Building & Infrastructure Maintenance Fund Balance to account no. 524-710-21-9100 for required repairs to the underground fuel tank at the Police Department.

9. Appropriated \$15,000 from the unassigned Building & Infrastructure Maintenance Fund Balance to account no. 524-710-21-9100 for required repairs to 4-inch sewer line in the women's restroom at the Police Department;

10. Increased revenue projections by \$203,595 in the Water Fund, account no. 411-4999, for the annual reimbursement from the Sewer Fund for its share of the annual debt service payments on the 2012 Water Revenue Bonds; and

11. Appropriated \$203,595 from the unassigned Sewer Fund Balance to account no. 412-732- 52-7999 to reimburse the Water Fund for the Sewer Fund's share of the annual debt service payments on the 2012 Water Revenue Bonds.

#### **18. Warrant Register For April 23, 2019**

The City Council unanimously approved the Warrants for April 23, 2019 by motion of Council Auditor Bernal and seconded by Council Member Davila.

Total of Checks: \$2,516,695.49

Total Payroll Deductions: \$ 336,035.23

Grand Total: \$2,180,660.26

#### **X. Adjournment**

Mayor Morales unanimously adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m., seconded by Council Member Davila.

**PASSED and APPROVED** this 14th day of May, 2019.

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)