

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

**Tuesday, April 28, 2020**

4/28/2020 - Minutes

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

CALL TO ORDER Maria Davila, Mayor called a Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Bobby Scott, Community of Faith Bible Church

PLEDGE OF

ALLEGIANCE: Jackie Acosta, Director of Administrative Services

ROLL CALL: Carmen Avalos, City Clerk

**II. City Officials**

PRESENT: Mayor Maria Davila, Vice Mayor Al Rios, Council Member Maria del Pilar Avalos, Council Member Denise Diaz and Council Member Gil Hurtado; City Treasurer Gregory Martinez, City Manager Mike Flad, City Attorney Raul F. Salinas

**III. COVID 19 Meeting Procedures**

**IV. Meeting Compensation Disclosure**

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

1.

The City Council issued a Proclamation declaring the week of April 12-18, 2020, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators' Week.

2.

Council Member Avalos was unanimously appointed as Council Auditor to review and verify the validity and accuracy of all warrants by motion of Mayor Davila and seconded by Vice Mayor Rios.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Davila, yes; Vice Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Avalos, yes.

**VI. Public Hearings**

3.

The City Council unanimously approved A-N by motion of Council Member Hurtado and seconded by Vice Mayor Rios.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Davila, yes; Vice Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Avalos, yes.

- A. Opened the public hearing and adopted Resolution No. 2020-013-CC entitled - Resolution of the City Council of City of South Gate, California, approving Substantial Amendment No. 1 to the City of South Gate Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan reallocating CDBG funds and allocating CDBG-CV funds in accordance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations;
- B. Authorized an amendment of \$874,841 in CDBG-CV to the FY 2019/20 Annual Action Plan;
- C. Increased the FY 2019/20 revenue projection in Account Number 243-4692 (CDBG-CV Funds) by \$874,841;
- D. Authorized the reprogramming of FY 2019/20 CDBG (Code Enforcement) funds in the amount of \$375,000;
- E. Adopted Resolution No. 2020-14-CC entitled – Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, approving the Small Business Job Retention and Creation Grant Program to assist qualified South Gate Businesses with Economic Development Assistance;
- F. Appropriated \$200,000 to Account Number 243-607-43-6664 for the Small Business Job Retention Program;
- G. Appropriated \$175,000 to Account Number 243-607-43-6645 for the Workforce Development Program;
- H. Appropriated \$124,968 to Account Number 243-607-43-6101 for CDBG-CV Admin;
- I. Appropriated \$286,200 to Account Number 243-607-43-6660 for the Senior Food Distribution Program;
- J. Appropriated \$62,500 to Account Number 243-607-43-6662 for COVID-19 Assessment and Testing;
- K. Appropriated \$45,000 to Account Number 243-607-43-6634 for the Homeless Services Program;
- L. Appropriated \$45,000 to Account Number 243-607-43-6656 for the Homeless Prevention and Counseling Services Program;
- M. Appropriated \$20,000 to Account Number 243-607-43-6622 for the Family Violence Prevention and Education Program; and
- N. Authorized the City Manager or his designee to enter into agreements with eligible sub-recipients, make all conforming modifications and edits, submit Substantial Amendment No. 1 to the FY 2019/20 Annual Action Plan to HUD; and execute all ancillary documents required by HUD.

Mike Flad, City Manager and Joe Perez, Director of Community Development provided a brief overview of the item.

Council Member Hurtado added that for the small business loan, staff indicated it was based on a first come first served basis. He would like to look into business necessity as an alternative. Is there any programs available to address the needs of people that have lost their jobs?

Mr. Perez responded that staff can provide a needs based criteria and report back to Council. The workforce development program will assist those that have lost their jobs. CDBG Funds have certain guidelines that the City needs to follow, being a senior or having a disability is easier to qualify for the funds. These programs have already been discussed with HUD and approved but we are required to amend our action plan as we are providing more funding to these programs.

Council Member Diaz inquired about programs that assist with food for those in need, the status of the testing and asked how many people we would be able to help with the \$45,000.

Steve Costley, Acting Parks and Recreation Director updated Council on the food distribution program.

Mr. Perez stated that these are recommendations and everything can be modified and there is also more funding available that we will be bringing back to the City Council.

Council Member Hurtado asked if any of these programs are overlapping any existing programs.

Mr. Perez explained that even though there is funding available from other sources sometimes there are gaps in the coverage and not all applicants can get the funding.

Council Member Avalos asked if these are additional funds to Koo's manufacturing contribution and can our residents get tested even without showing symptoms.

Mr. Flad stated that it is assessment testing. This is not open to anyone that is asymptomatic currently. These protocols are constantly changing. We as a state do not have the capacity to have everyone tested that is asymptomatic.

Vice Mayor Rios asked about how much money has been spent on the food distribution and offering help for the unemployed. He is also concerned with the first come first serve policy and would to see a different selection process.

Mayor Davila opened the public hearing and asked if anyone in the audience wishes to speak on this item.

Jenny Carrillo, Altamed representative updated the Council on the testing center. They have opened up testing for COVID-19 to anyone who would want a test even if they are not showing symptoms. As of March 1st they have tested 2,174 at the South Gate evaluation center. 503 are South Gate residents and 86 people have tested positive. 217 have tested positive in South Gate with seven deaths. Currently, Altamed has lost 10.7 million dollars and at the end of the year we are estimated to lose 125 million dollars in revenue. Within the next three months many testing centers will close due to lack of funding and that is why partnerships with Cities is so important.

Council Member Avalos asked if Altamed is receiving federal or county funding. She

also asked what the turnaround is when an individual is tested.

Ms. Carrillo responded that they have not received any federal or county funding for testing. We did receive funds for job loss. The county has been supporting Altamed with the test kits. The turnaround for results is about four to five days.

Council Member Hurtado asked if we know how many have recovered

Ms. Carrillo does not have that information but will get back to the City Manager with an answer.

Council Member Diaz stated that she has heard from residents that the number for Altamed is not an appointment line but they have to go online to make an appointment. Her concern is that many of our residents do not have internet and are unable to schedule an appointment online.

Ms. Carrillo stated that she would get back to our City Manager on this issue as well but it is Altmeds practice not to turn anyone away. So even if they do not have an appointment they will be seen.

Council Member Rios asked what happens when a person tests positive.

Ms. Carrillo stated that it depends on what stage the patient is in. Sometimes they get sent directly to urgent care. If they get a positive but are asymptomatic they get a not from the doctor to stay home for two weeks.

Mr. Flad asked if Ms. Carrillo could explain the assessment process that Altamed provides.

Ms. Carrillo provided an overview of the process.

Cynthia Esquivel, spoke on the funding for the Workforce Development.

Virginia Johnson, thanked staff for their work on this report and the Bell Shelter for their work with the homeless. She heard that a lot of the food that was being distributed contains a lot of unhealthy sodium.

Liz Ruiz thanked Council Member Diaz for her work on the food drive this weekend. She would like to see more funding set aside for those people that lost their jobs due to COVID-19. Is there a limit to how many time a person can be tested or are there any plans for an anti-body test?

Jennifer Cypert, thanked staff but stated that COVID-19 is ever evolving and there are people who have been out of work for three to four months while the average check for unemployment is taking a month to process. She like to see some sort of program that helps the people that are not seniors or part of the LAUSD food program.

Steve Lytle, Salvation Army thanked the City for their support and explained what services they can provide the community.

Candice Esquivel, would like to see more funding opportunities for the families that have lost jobs and income due to COVID-19.

John Montalvo, spoke on the criteria for the funding for the small businesses and the possibility of working with non-profits.

Jeff Farber, Helpline Services, thanked the City for their support and explained what services they can provide the community.

Luz Ruiz, thanked Council Member Diaz for working with Altamed and going through the testing process to better inform residents. She encourages Council Members to go out into the community to see firsthand what the residents need.

Seeing no come forward, Mayor Davila closed the public hearing.

**4.**

The City Council conducted a public hearing and unanimously approved A and B by motion of Vice Mayor Rios and seconded by Mayor Davila.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Davila, yes; Vice Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Avalos, yes.

a. The recommended Citizen's Advisory Committee's list of propose projects and allocations for Community Development Block Grant funds for fiscal year 2020/21; and

b. Determined the amounts to be appropriated per project from the estimated \$1,400,000 Community Development Block Grant funding for fiscal year 2020/21.

Mike Flad, City Manager and Joe Perez, Director of Community Development provided a brief overview of the item.

Council Member Avalos asked how many South Gate residents are assisted by organizations.

Mr. Perez stated that many of the organizations are in the audience and will be able to answer that question specifically.

Council Member Hurtado asked how the amount of money is distributed to the various organizations and if any organizations that specialize in mental health applied for the funds.

Mr. Perez explained the criteria the Citizen's Advisory Committee Members follow and noted that it is based on the area that the organization is in. As for the organizations that specialize in mental health, Helpline has a whole mental health division that is provided to the community.

Mayor Davila opened the public hearing and asked if anyone in the audience wishes to speak on this item.

Virginia Johnson, is hoping that the City Council will accept the recommendation of the Citizen's Advisory Committee Members.

John Montalvo, was concerned with the way that application from Volunteers of America was processed. He also asked the Council Member Hurtado recuse himself from this item for a conflict with Mr. Montalvo that is a member of Volunteers of

America.

Cynthia Esquivel, is hoping that the City Council will accept the recommendation of the Citizen's Advisory Committee Members. She also stated the Committee went with the recommendation of staff and that staff's recommendation was the denial of the Volunteers of America.

Candice Esquivel, stated that the Citizen's Advisory Committee approval was based on staff's recommendation.

Jeff Farber, Helpline Services, thanked the City for their support and explained what services they can provide the community.

Steve Lytle, Salvation Army thanked the City for their support and explained what services they can provide the community.

Laura Maldonado, South Gate Police Department Domestic Violence Program, thanked the City for their support and explained what services they can provide the community.

Jovanna Laborin, spoke on the review process that is conducted by the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Davila closed the public hearing.

## **5.**

The City Council conducted a Public Hearing and approved A, B and C by motion of Council Member Hurtado and seconded by Council Member Diaz.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Davila, yes; Vice Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Avalos, yes.

a. Authorizing utilization of 2020 U.S. Department of Justice-Bureau of Justice Assistance Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding grant funds, in the amount of \$143,013, for the purchase of equipment and facility renovations for the Police Department;

b. Increasing the Fiscal Year 2019/20 revenue projection in account 231-4630 (Police Grant DOJ-BJA Coronavirus ESF) by \$143,013; and

c. Amending the Fiscal Year 2019/20 Police Grants Fund budget by appropriating \$3,396 to account number 231-561-21-6202, \$6,925 to account number 231-561-21-6208, \$22,842 to account number 231-561-21-9006, and \$109,850 to account number 231-561-21-9100.

Mike Flad, City Manager and Randy Davis, Chief of Police provided a brief overview of the item.

Council Member Avalos asked about supporting the employees that work at City Hall due to the COVID-19 outbreak there is limited access to areas where employees can take lunch.

Raul Salinas, City Attorney asked if we could bring that question back during Council Comments as it does not directly relate to this item.

Mayor Davila opened the public hearing and asked if anyone in the audience wishes to speak on this item.

John Montalvo is in support of this item.

Thomas Buckley is in support of this item and commended the Police Department for all they do for the community.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Davila closed the public hearing.

**6.**

The City Council opened the public hearing regarding the proposed Americans with Disabilities Act Self Evaluation and Transition Plan, City Project No. 538-ARC, and unanimously continued said public hearing to the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting of May 26, 2020 by motion of Vice Mayor Rios and seconded by Council Member Hurtado.

**VII. Comments From The Audience**

Jorge Lopez, South Gate Part-Time Employee asked about a fund withdrawal from employee's retirement accounts.

Virginia Johnson, thanked staff for their patience during teleconferencing of the City Council meeting and voiced her opinion on Council Member Diaz.

Consuelo Godoy, requested that Section 8 be brought back.

Nick Godoy, commented on the senior wellness check. He added that the American Legion voted that there would be no Memorial Day event.

Thomas Buckley spoke about the most recent article in the Patch about a City Council power struggle.

Jimmy Hugar, supports the current Mayor and Vice Mayor.

Jovanna Laborin, supports the current Mayor and Vice Mayor.

John Montalvo voiced his opinion on Council Member Hurtado and Mayor Davila lack of support for the community.

Luz Ruiz voiced her opinion on Mayor Davila and the current City Council.

Irami, requested an assessment of traffic San Carlos Avenue and Liberty Boulevard

**VIII. Reports And Comments From City Officials**

Mike Flad, City Manager spoke on how the City is working on allowing employees to have access to their retirement funds without penalty as the guidelines from the federal government are developed.

Joe Perez, Director of Community Development stated that The Small Business

Administration held a call for businesses to discuss loan opportunities through the SBA and there is another opportunity on April 29th for Spanish speaking business owners.

Steve Costley, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation announced that the City has cancelled the in person Memorial Day Event but staff is working on a virtual ceremony.

Greg Martinez, City Treasurer would like to see City Staff find a way to honor the Veterans at a Memorial Day tribute.

Council Member Avalos stated that she would like to see Council Members put aside their bias and work together to collaborate on the behalf of the people. She requested that we adjourn this meeting in honor of Hector Fernandez, South Gate Resident and all residents that have passed away due to the COVID-19 virus.

Council Member Diaz said that she agrees with Council Member Avalos and would like to adjourn the meeting in honor of the residents that have passed away due to the COVID-19 virus. She also reported on the actions in the community due to this virus. The League of California Cities is requesting a letter of support to our Assembly Member and Governor releasing CDBG funds and she requested that the City Manager look into this. She spoke about a rumor on social media about her wanting to bring in the Sheriff Department and wants this to stop.

Council Member Hurtado reminded everyone to fill out there Census forms. He stated that in the community there has been confusion on the citation process regarding street sweeping. He would like the City Attorney to set up an appointment to meet with Council Member Diaz and an appointment to meet with Mr. Montalvo. We have to put our differences behind us and represent the families of South Gate. He also agrees with Mr. Martinez that the City needs to honor our Veterans.

Vice Mayor Rios stated that we have to focus on the challenges of the community and move forward.

Mayor Davila thanked the callers for their opinions. She thanked Council Member Diaz for her work with these community food drives. We need to come together as a Council and work for the best interest on the community. On May 9th there will be food distribution at South Gate Park and she invited everyone to come out and volunteer.

## **IX. Consent Calendar Items**

Agenda Items 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Davila and seconded by Vice Mayor Rios. Items 7, 9, 10 and 16 was pulled for separate discussion.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Davila, yes; Vice Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Avalos, yes.

### **7.**

The City Council approved A and B by motion of Mayor Davila and seconded by Council Member Hurtado.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Davila, yes; Vice Mayor Rios, abstain; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Avalos, yes.

a. Adopted Resolution No.2020-15-CC entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of City of South Gate preliminarily approving the Engineer's Report required for the proceedings of the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Annual Levy of Assessments within the Street Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District No.1; and

b. Adopted Resolution No. 2020-16-CC entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of City of South Gate declaring the City's intention to levy and collect assessments under the Fiscal Year 2020/21 annual levy and collection of assessments within the Street Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District No. 1, and setting a Public Hearing for May 26, 2020.

**8.**

The City Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2020-17-CC entitled - A Resolution of the City Council of City of South Gate adopting the Local Streets and Roads Funding Program Project List for Fiscal Year 2020/21 to program \$1,800,000 in Senate Bill 1 funds to the Citywide Sidewalk Improvements Project Phase VII, City Project No. 659-ST; the Alameda Street Complete Streets, City Project No. 660-ST; and the Citywide Residential Resurfacing Project Phase II, City Project No. 661-ST, in compliance with Senate Bill 1 requirements during Consent Calendar.

**9.**

The City Council unanimously approved Amendment No. 2 to Contract No. 3068 with Harris & Associates to fund additional engineering design services to add receptacles and to up light trees on Garfield Avenue, under the Garfield Avenue and Imperial Highway Street Improvements, City Project No. 413-ST, Federal Project No. STPL-5257(030), in an amount not to exceed \$12,034 by motion of Council Member Hurtado and seconded by Vice Mayor Rios.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Davila, yes; Vice Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Avalos, yes.

**10.**

The City Council approved A and B by motion of Vice Mayor Rios and seconded by Mayor Davila.

a. Approved an Easement Agreement Including Soundwall Maintenance Obligations (Easement Agreement) with AVMGH Six - Thunderbird Villa Limited Partnership for the construction of the I-710 Corridor Soundwall Project, City Project No. 547-ST, in the amount of \$121,000; and

b. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Easement Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Davila, yes; Vice Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, abstain; Council Member Avalos, yes.

**11.**

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

a. Approved Amendment No. 4 to Contract No. 3368 with Biggs Cardosa & Associates, Inc., for additional construction management services necessary to close-out the Firestone Boulevard Regional Corridor Capacity Enhancements Project, in an amount not to exceed \$54,093; and

b. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 4 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

**12.**

The City Council unanimously approved A, B, and C during Consent Calendar.

a. Approved Amendment No.1 to Contract No. 3562 with Tripepi Smith and Associates, Inc., for additional Marketing and Community Outreach Services on an as-needed basis to enhance the City's public communication outlets, in the amount of \$38,000.00;

b. Appropriated \$38,000.00 from the unassigned balance of the General Fund to Account Number 100-601-42-6101 (General Fund - Community Development Administration - Professional Services) to fund the cost of this Amendment No. 1; and

c. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

**13.**

The City Council unanimously approved A, B, and C during Consent Calendar.

a. Approved Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 3483 with Kosmont Companies, Inc., for Gateway District Real Estate Advisory Services for the area located in the vicinity of the future West Santa Ana Branch light rail station at Firestone Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue, in the amount not to exceed \$20,000.00;

b. Appropriated \$20,000.00 from the unassigned General Fund balance to account number 100-603-41-6101 (General Fund Community Development-Planning-Professional Services) to fund the Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 3483; and

c. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

**14.**

The City Council unanimously approved A, B, C, and D during Consent Calendar.

a. Approved Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 3407 with Avant-Garde, Inc., for as needed administrative services for the CDBG and HOME Programs in an amount not to exceed \$110,000;

b. Appropriated \$60,000 from the unassigned General Fund balance to account number 100- 601-42-6101 (Professional Services) to fund the unbudgeted amount for the Amendment No. 1; and

c. Appropriated \$50,000 from unassigned CDBG-CV administrative funds to account number 243-607-43-6101 (Professional Services) for additional administrative services related to the COVTD-19 pandemic;

d. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

**15.**

The City Council unanimously approved A, B, and C during Consent Calendar.

a. Approved Purchase Order with Miracle Recreation Equipment Company for the purchase and renovation of the post and deck playground equipment located at Cesar Chavez Park in the amount of \$150,000, which includes \$144,449 for equipment and installation and \$5,551 for grounding;

b. Authorized the City’s Purchasing Division to issue a Purchase Order for this project in accordance with the City’s purchasing ordinance and policies; and

c. Authorized the Interim Director of Parks & Recreation to execute any additional documents as may be required to properly implement and manage this purchase and installation.

**16.**

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

a. Approved the Continued Regular Meeting minutes of April 14, 2020; and

b. Approved the Special Meeting minutes of April 15, 2020.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Davila, yes; Vice Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Avalos, yes.

**X. Reports, Recommendations And Requests**

**17.**

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

a. Ratified the Warrants for April 14, 2020; and

Total of Checks	\$2,621,526.06
Less: Voids	(\$ 7,538.55)
Less: Total Payroll Deductions	(\$1,042,777.06)
Grand Total	\$1,571,210.45

Cancellations: 87314, 87341, 87350, 87368, 87422

b. Approved the Warrants and Cancellations for April 28, 2020.

Total of Checks	\$2,586,036.59
Less: Voids	(\$ 2,475.00)
Less: Total Payroll Deductions	(\$ 298,459.66)
Grand Total	\$2,285,101.93

Cancellations: 87181, 87256, 87388

ROLL CALL: Mayor Davila, yes; Vice Mayor Rios, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Avalos, yes.

## **XI. Adjournment**

Mayor Davila unanimously adjourned the meeting in memory of Hector Fernandez, South Gate Resident at 11:12 p.m. and seconded by Vice Mayor Diaz.

**PASSED** and **APPROVED** this 26th day of May 2020.

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)